



## Message from the FEPS President

Dear readers,

Wishing you and your students a successful examination time.

As a student in the UK, it seemed our best summer weather occurred at peak revision time. Once exams were finished the clouds arrived. And as students we never spared a thought for our teachers having to mark our barely legible, physiology essays. Today we have larger classes, to teach, but a degree of automated marking, and legible electronic scripts to mark. It's good to remind ourselves that our teaching inspires the next generation of physiologists, and keeps the discipline alive within biomedical centres. Now back to the marking!

I am grateful to our colleagues in Estonia who have spared the time to tell us more about their society and activities, and preparation for the SPS-FEPS conference in 2023, in Tallinn. If you would like your society to feature, please just email me. Markus Hecker has written an engaging account of his career and time served as FEPS President. He ends by looking forward to IUPS in Germany in 2025, for which FEPS will be host. Europhysiology 2022 draws closer and abstracts should be submitted now.—see the message from Bill Louch and Helle Prætorius. Finally we look forward to meeting with society representatives, in a series of meetings in June.

Susan Wray



## Executive Board of FEPS

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## News & Events

We welcome all news & events from the FEPS member societies to publish in the Newsletter also at the web page ([www.feps.org](http://www.feps.org)). Please send all information to the FEPS secretariat at [info@feps.org](mailto:info@feps.org)

## EUROPHYSIOLOGY 2022

**COPENHAGEN, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Europhysiology 2022 meeting will be organised on 16-18 September 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Early registration is open, and extended abstract submission will be closing on **30th May 2022**.

A strong scientific program has been prepared. Details of the plenary and keynote speakers and symposia are listed on the web page.

<https://europhysiology2022.org/>



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## Meeting Preview: Europhysiology 2022

16 –18 September 2022 Tivoli Congress Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

For many of us, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a serious toll. As physiologists, we miss our physical presence in the laboratory, hands-on supervision and, not least, in-person exchanges with our local and international colleagues. Now, as we eye the end of the pandemic, we look forward to rebuilding these connections. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that Europhysiology 2022 will proceed as an in-person event. Finally, we will be able to meet and share our enthusiasm for physiology with real coffee, biscuits, paper posters, laser pointers, and post-symposium drinks with our new-found collaborators.



Europhysiology 2022 marks the continuation of an ongoing and successful partnership between The Physiological Society, The Scandinavian Physiological Society, The German Physiological Society, and the Federation of European Physiological Societies. This series of meetings kicked off in London in 2018, with a dynamic congress that was widely praised by attendees. Set in beautiful Copenhagen, this year's meeting promises to continue this tradition. We are proud to present a high-calibre and diverse scientific programme featuring worldclass invited lecturers and symposia. The structure of the meeting will also give ample opportunity to showcase attendees' research with over 100 slots for oral communications and poster sessions placed centrally in the meeting programme.

To complement the main meeting, Europhysiology will be supplemented with a pre-meeting programme. This will importantly include a Young Physiologists' symposium focused on scientific career building, and critical themes for early career physiologists. For those craving greater insight into their favourite areas of physiology, the pre-meeting programme also includes seven thematic meetings in the fields of neuroscience, skeletal muscle, cardiac, vascular, renal, comparative, and human and exercise physiology. We often hear from our colleagues that these smaller, focused meetings provide an excellent opportunity for scientific networking.

Science aside, a great argument for attending Europhysiology 2022 is Copenhagen itself! As the cosmopolitan capital of Denmark, København never disappoints. Our local organising committee has cut no corners in delivering an optimal meeting setting, which is sure to facilitate engagement and interaction in a cosy atmosphere. Indeed, the entire programme is set within walking distance of the conference centre, with easy access to Copenhagen living, bicycles, cafés, a creative melting pot of classical and modern architecture and, of course, Danish design. To top it off, the conference dinner will take place in Tivoli Gardens, one of the oldest amusement parks in the world, known for its ambience, concerts, excellent dining and artistic fireworks. We look forward to welcoming you all, whatever your career stage, in Copenhagen at Europhysiology 2022. Let's meet for real! Find the programme and registration details at [europhysiology2022.org](https://europhysiology2022.org)



**Professor William E. Louch**, Chair of Organising Committee  
and Secretary General of the Scandinavian Physiological Society, University of Oslo, Norway

**Professor Helle Praetorius**, Chair of Programme Committee  
and President-elect of the Scandinavian Physiological Society, Aarhus University, Denmark



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## FEPS Travel Awards for Europhysiology 2022



# FEPS Travel Awards

for early career physiologists

## Europhysiology 2022 in Copenhagen

The deadline for applications is **30th June 2022**



### FEPS Travel Awards for Europhysiology 2022

- FEPS will provide 10 travel grants (250 Euro each) for early career physiologists to support their active participation in the Europhysiology 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Preference will be given to master and PhD students and those in their first postdoctoral position.
- Applicants should have a poster or oral presentation at the meeting and provide the following documents by **30th June 2022** to the Secretary General of FEPS, Professor Bayram Yilmaz by e-mail ( [info@feeps.org](mailto:info@feeps.org) ).
- Required documents include:
- 1) CV
- 2) Accepted abstract to be presented at the meeting
- 3) Registration
- 4) Support letter from the supervisor or department head indicating the need for travel support

Details can be found at the FEPS web page ([www.feeps.org](http://www.feeps.org))



## FEPS Travelling Fellowship launched!

### FEPS Travelling Fellowship

- The FEPS executive committee is delighted to announce the launch of an annual FEPS Travelling Fellowship (FTF).
- There will be up to 2 awards each year of up to 1,500 euros each.
- The awards can be used flexibly in travelling to and staying in another European country, to further an applicant's career in physiology. The country should be an in good-standing member of FEPS.
- This fellowship could be to support and develop research or exceptionally teaching. These awards are targeted at those who are postdoctoral workers, or in their first tenured position.
- Given the need to focus our limited funds and being aware of regional differences in the capacity of FEPS national society members, we will prioritize applications from those in regions where local funds are particularly restricted.
- These awards are not open to undergraduate or postgraduate students or senior scientists.
- These awards are not intended to cover meeting attendance – FEPS has a separate funding scheme for attendance at its meetings, including Europhysiology.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will benefit from the FTF. They must have a host, clearly developed plans, aims and a timetable for their visit. The availability of any other supporting funds or benefits in kind (e.g. free accommodation), should be mentioned in the application.
- Applications will be judged primarily on the potential of the candidate and, the strength of their case.
- Successful candidates should also provide a short report on their FTF, suitable for the FEPS webpage and newsletter after their visit.
- Successful applicants must make their own arrangements for the visits and submit receipts after their visit. If necessary, e.g. to purchase travel tickets and other reservations, the financial support can be provided in advance, with the necessary supporting documentation.

### To apply please:

- ◆ fill in the attached [application form](#) (available at the FEPS web page: [www.feps.org](http://www.feps.org))
  - ◆ send a file, (labelled with your name) giving the project description, limited to 1,500 words
  - ◆ Provide a CV, limited to 3 pages
  - ◆ Provide a letter from your host confirming their agreement to your visit
  - ◆ Both the application form and files should be sent to <[info@feps.org](mailto:info@feps.org)>
  - ◆ We will acknowledge receipt of your application. Decisions will be announced in September 2022
- Any queries should be addressed to the FEPS General Secretary, Professor Bayram Yilmaz <[bayram2353@yahoo.com](mailto:bayram2353@yahoo.com)>.

## MEET THE PAST PRESIDENT: Professor Markus Hecker

Dear Fellow Physiologists,



Some of you may ask yourself: “Who is this guy? He’s not a listed member of the FEPS Executive Committee.” Well, to say it with Charles Dickens, I am the Ghost of Christmas Past, or, using FEPS terminology, the Federation’s Past President, or, after my statutory departure from office following the appointment of our esteemed colleague Fabio Benfenati to the FEPS ExCo as President Elect, more precisely past Past President. Since

I am no longer a member of the Board, I was a little surprised, but, admittedly, I also felt a bit flattered and of course very honored when FEPS President Susan Wray asked me to contribute a few notes to this newsletter – perhaps intended as some sort of swan song, who knows...

So, following Fabio Benfenati’s example in the previous issue of this newsletter, I would like to give you a brief sketch of my professional background. I studied biology at the University of Konstanz, Germany, where I also received my post-graduate training, working on prostaglandin biosynthesis and metabolism. After completing my PhD, I moved to Georgetown University, Washington, USA, to investigate the vascular activity of polycations and basic amino acids. From 1989 to 1991 I continued my work on the role of basic amino acids, nitric oxide, and various other modulators of endothelial cell function at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College, London, UK, first as a postdoc, then as a senior scientist and honorary lecturer.

In London, I had the privilege to work at the William Harvey Research Institute led by the Nobel laureate Sir John Vane, who, at the time, was very interested in the production of nitric oxide by and its effects on blood vessels. Sir John, as we used to call him, was a truly inspiring mentor and the most influential person during my scientific career. Because of the gold rush-like working atmosphere at the institute with several subsequently highly esteemed colleagues of various nationalities, it was also the most productive period in my life as a scientist and an unrivalled socializing experience. In the course

of 1991, I was awarded a fellowship by the German Research Council (DFG) that offered me and my family the opportunity to return to the German academic system and complete my state doctorate, which at the time was a prerequisite to eventually get a professorship.

So, in the fall of that year, we bid farewell to the City of London and moved to beautiful Freiburg at the foothills of the Black Forrest. There, I joined forces with Rudi Busse to continue my research on the control of endothelial nitric oxide synthesis that I had started in London. Rudi Busse, who unfortunately died way too soon, was undoubtedly the most influential cardiovascular physiologist in Germany at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With his razor-sharp mind, profound knowledge but also barely concealed hot temper, he was quite an alternative draft to Sir John Vane but fun to discuss with and swap ideas. Whereas Sir John Vane introduced me to pharmacology and its narrower mechanistic focus, it was Rudi Busse who acquainted me with physiology and its often bird’s eye view on mechanisms against the backdrop

of a cell,  
an organ  
or a  
whole



*Sir John Vane, on the occasion of his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday, at a small reception in the library of the William Harvey Research Institute in London, in the spring of 1991.*

## MEET THE PAST PRESIDENT: Professor Markus Hecker

continued



*Rudi Busse and myself in his office at the Department of Cardiovascular Physiology in Frankfurt in the spring of 1994, after presenting me with the certificate of appointment as Assistant Professor at the Goethe University Frankfurt.*

After two years as a lecturer at the Department of Applied Physiology, University of Freiburg, in which I expanded my research on signalling pathways in the cardiovascular system, I moved, together with Rudi Busse, who had just been appointed as chair in physiology and director, to the Department of Cardiovascular Physiology at Frankfurt University, where I took on a position as Assistant Professor and subsequently established my own research group, again with the support of the DFG. In the spring of 1996, it was time to move on to the University of Göttingen, where I had been awarded a full professorship as Head of the Division of Cardiovascular Physiology. Some eight years later, in the fall of 2004, I accepted the offer of a directorship at the Institute of Physiology and Pathophysiology and Head of the Department of Cardiovascular Physiology at Heidelberg University. Picturesque Heidelberg is not only the epitome of German romanticism but also harbours the oldest university in Germany, founded in 1386 with four faculties including medicine. Today it is one of Europe's leading research institutions, particularly in the natural and life sciences. We have the privilege of teaching some 500 students of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy in physiology and pathophysiology. Current research activities in my department focus on signalling pathways in cardiovascular (patho)physiology, biomechanical phenotype regulation in vascular and cardiac cells, especially those

involving zyxin and other members of the LIM domain family of proteins, shear stress-dependent regulation of expression of endothelial nitric oxide synthase in the context of genetically determined coronary heart disease, endothelial cell-platelet-leukocyte interactions in the early phase of atherosclerosis, reactive oxygen species as signalling molecules in diabetes, and the development of nucleic acid-based therapeutics for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

In addition to my research and, of course, teaching activities, I had the privilege to hold offices in a number of learned societies, including President of the German Physiological Society and Member of the Council of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). My longest stint, however, were the eight years as a member of the FEPS Board, and, I may add, my most memorable one, at least for me. My personal highlight: In a great and most enjoyable team effort and in close cooperation with our friends of The Physiological Society in the UK, the Scandinavian and the German Physiological Society, we managed to establish Europhysiology as a new conference format, with the first meeting held under that name in London in 2018. Quite sadly, and for reasons we all know too well, the second congress in Berlin had to be cancelled, but we all are now looking forward to Europhysiology 2022 in Copenhagen this September – in real life! This brings me to my legacy for FEPS – which some may call a challenge, some a burden, but only time will tell: Following the, what most of those involved considered a promising start of Europhysiology, FEPS, together with the societies that had already collaborated in that endeavor, plus the physiological societies of Austria, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland, have put together a proposal to organize the 2025 IUPS Congress. The final vote will be held at this year's (on-line) congress in Beijing, but to our knowledge our draft is the only one submitted, so chances are fairly high that we will win the bid. I realise that now that I no longer hold an office with FEPS, it is easy for me to say that planning and pre-financing an international conference of such a caliber is a worthwhile effort. I sincerely hope, though, that I can still somehow be part of the process and contribute to its success. It would be a real pleasure to collaborate again with an international team of physiologists on this project, especially since there is a good chance that this will be an in-person meeting again. With this pleasant prospect in mind I look forward to seeing many of you in Munich in 2025, and of

## Featured National Society:

### Estonian Physiological Society

#### Overview of the Estonian Physiological Society

*Biomedicum in Tartu*

Estonian Physiological Society (EPS) was founded in 1953 and has since united scientists and medical doctors interested in physiology. Most of our members come from universities in 2 Estonian cities: Tallinn University, Tallinn University of Technology, University of Tartu and Estonian University of Life Sciences.

All members of the EPS spend some of the time teaching physiology to undergraduate or graduate students. Last decades have changed the teaching a lot, with numerous options of virtual simulations, recording options, face-to-face communications via the internet and so on. It was fun if you had freedom of either use these options or not – but everything changed in March 2020 when everybody had to use distance learning. Hopefully, meeting students in a classroom and conducting real measurements still remains as a main option for teaching physiology.

Currently the research projects linked to the EPS are mostly neuroscience and clinical physiology oriented. In 2001 the PhD course on neuroscience was established and since then 35 PhD dissertations have been commenced. The research topics in neuroscience involve application of transgenic technology for psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry. We have generated several transgenic mouse and rat models. Most valuable is the Wolfram syndrome rat model reflecting precisely the rare disease in humans. Also neural growth regulator1 (Negr1) deficient mouse is instrumental in terms of neuropsychiatric disorders. NEGR1 gene is strongly connected to major depressive disorder and obesity in humans. Besides that, we have strong collaboration with psychiatrists in order to establish the pathophysiological mechanisms of first episode psychosis in humans.

In the field of clinical physiology members of our society are involved in projects connected with blood pressure and lung function measurements and also exercise testing.

In the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tartu teaching and science is conducted in the Biomedicum located in close vicinity to university hospital and also to Chemicum and Physicum (you can visit the virtual tour of the science park: <https://virtualtour.ut.ee/>)



*Department of Physiology, University of Tartu*



## Featured National Society:

### Estonian Physiological Society

Estonian Republic regained the independence in 1991 and this meant we could travel in Europe: we had a whole bus full of physiologists attending the first FEPS Congress in Maastricht (1995) and a bit smaller number flying to the 2nd congress in Prague (1999). In later years, members of our society have taken part in different physiology meetings supported by FEPS and/or Scandinavian Physiological Society (SPS). In cooperation with these two international societies we hope to host a FEPS/SPS meeting in Tallinn in September 2023. Read more about visiting Tallinn: [www.visittallinn.ee/eng](http://www.visittallinn.ee/eng)



Data recording during the step-test

#### President / FEPS delegate

Eero Vasar

e-mail: [eero.vasar@ut.ee](mailto:eero.vasar@ut.ee)

#### Head of the Executive Committee

Jana Kivastik, MD, PhD

e-mail: [jana.kivastik@ut.ee](mailto:jana.kivastik@ut.ee)

#### Secretary / Treasurer

Kersti Jagomägi

e-mail: [kersti.jagomagi@ut.ee](mailto:kersti.jagomagi@ut.ee)

#### All 3 are from:

Department of Physiology

Institute of Biomedicine and Translational Medicine

University of Tartu

19 Ravila Str 50411 Tartu, Estonia



At the physiology meeting in Bergen (from left to right: J. Kivastik, K. Jagomägi, R. Raamat)





## Meetings of FEPS Member Societies & Related Organisations

### 8th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference, 29 May - 2 June 2022

8th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference will be organised in Dubrovnik, Croatia on 29 May - 2 June 2022.

IBRO, FENS and FEPS will be represented at the meeting.

Details of the program and registration can be found at:

[www.mns2022conference.org](http://www.mns2022conference.org)



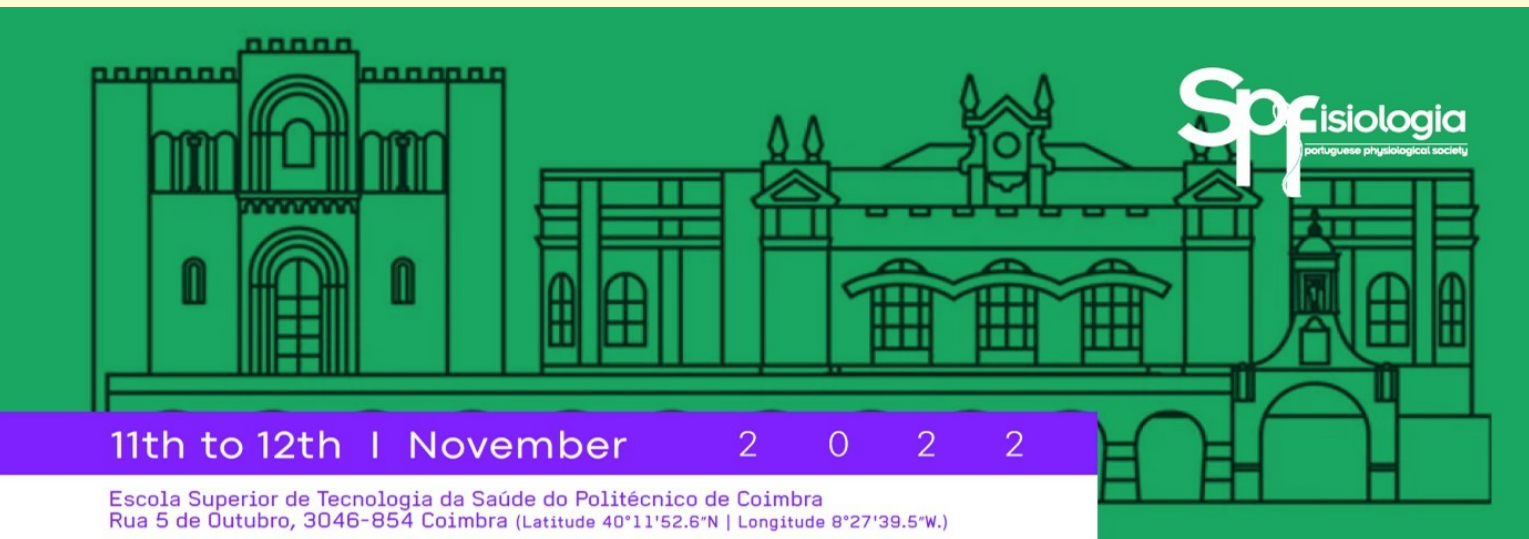
### 3rd Regional Congress of Physiological Society and the 5th Congress of Croatian Physiological Society will take place on September 22 – 25, 2022 in Plitvička jezera, Croatia.

Details for the program and registration can be found at the meeting web page: [www.hdf.hr/html/indexeng.htm](http://www.hdf.hr/html/indexeng.htm)



### 2nd International Physiology Congress of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Fisiologia will take place on November 11 – 12, 2022 in Coimbra, Portugal.

Details for the program and registration can be found at the meeting web page: [www.sociedadefisiologia.pt](http://www.sociedadefisiologia.pt)



11th to 12th | November 2022

Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde do Politécnico de Coimbra  
Rua 5 de Outubro, 3046-854 Coimbra (Latitude 40°11'52.6"N | Longitude 8°27'39.5"W.)