



## Message from the FEPS President

Dear physiological friends,

I hope that signs of Spring are appearing in your regions. Welcome to our March 2023 Newsletter..

Plans are well advanced for the SPS-FEPS meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. It is shaping up to be a really good meeting. I would like to encourage all of you to submit abstracts and come and enjoy this meeting. Nothing is as good as talking science, face to face, with hundreds of other physiologists. I am also looking forward to visiting Tallinn—it looks to be a wonderful historic town. The local organizers have gone to a lot of trouble to put on a varied and interesting meeting and deserve our support in these troubled times. Registration is now open.

In this Newsletter we are featuring the Scandinavian Physiological Society, (SPS), and I thank Helle Praetorius, President of SPS for sharing some of the history and the goals of her society.

We are pleased to introduce a new member of the Executive Committee, Christian Aalkjaer from Aarhus, Denmark.

If you have visited our website recently, you will have noted it has been refreshed. It is now easier to view content on mobile devices. The content is easier for us to manage and things happen faster on it. We were so impressed by the work that we asked the team behind it to explain a little about their work. You will find this on page 2.

Finally please encourage talented postdocs who would like to visit a laboratory in another FEPS member national society, to apply for our travelling Fellowship award—details inside.

The executive committee has also agreed to make 1-2 travel awards available for early career researchers to attend a physiological society meeting outside their own country, but within Europe. Send us a two page CV and 200 words about why you would like to attend the meeting, and the committee will consider the application —please see our website for details and deadlines.



## Executive Board of FEPS

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**Christian Aalkjær / Aarhus, Denmark**  
Member

## News & Events

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

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## New FEPS website (FEPS.org) launched



Time changes everything. The technological products and software used are also developing and changing day by day according to the needs...

The feeps.org domain name was registered on **24th of February 2000**, and the first FEPS website was launched at the same year. The website that almost everyone would find very ordinary today was quite good and useful at the time it was designed. The main features of the website were that the graphics were limited, the screen resolution was calculated according to the standard monitors of that time (800x600 px) and it was easy to download. Internet bandwidth in those years was about **127kbps** (about 800 times lower than today's speed). In such a world, feeps.org served as a good communication bridge between its users.

In the period since 2000, the number and variety of internet speed, monitor size types, types of devices to access the internet (PC-Tablet-Mobile), internet browsers and internet users have also increased. At the same time, the expectations of users from a website have also changed. **"In less time, more easily accessible, more useful and reliable information..."**

This was our main pain point for the new FEPS.org website that we started to design in **January 2023**. VKM graphic and software experts worked to design a fast, user-friendly and of course modern and corporate-looking website with an interface that automatically changes according to the screen size, which website visitors can easily access from all devices (PC-Tablet-Mobile). While choosing the color tones in the interface, we paid attention to make them compatible with the corporate image of FEPS as well as being useful and distinguishable. Instead of a ready-made plug-and-play software, we have created a **special Content Management System**, which we coded the website software by our own team, so that the site can work quickly and be easily used by the site administrator. And as a result, we created a highly acclaimed website. We hope it will provide many years of trouble-free service.

On behalf of myself and my team, I would like to thank the FEPS organization for giving us the opportunity to make this website.

**Volkan Kerem GÜZEL**  
*IT Manager*  
VKM Creative Team / Ankara - TURKEY  
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## Fellowships and Awards

### FEPS Traveling Fellowships 2023

- ◆ Last year FEPS has introduced the FEPS Travelling Fellowship (FTF). This program will be announced and given every year. Up to 2 awards (1,500 euros each) 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.
- ◆ Successful candidates should also provide a short report on their FTF, suitable for the FEPS webpage and newsletter after their visit.
- ◆ For details and [application forms](#) see the [FEPS website](#).
- ◆ Deadline for applications: **31st May 2023**

### Financial Support for Early Career Researchers

- ⇒ The FEPS executive committee is pleased to announce that FEPS will support conference participation of early career researchers. The grants will be awarded to PhD-students or postdoctoral fellows who are members of a National Physiological Society for active participation (accepted presentation) at a physiological society meeting outside their own country, but within Europe and other than Europhysiology or FEPS meetings.
- ⇒ This support is limited to 10 grants per year, one grant per national society, and € 200.- per person.
- ⇒ For details and deadlines please contact the [FEPS website](#).



## MEET A NEW MEMBER OF THE FEPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

### Professor Christian Aalkjaer

Dear members of the Federation of European Physiological Societies



I was recently elected to the Board of FEPS, which is an honor for me, and I hope I will be able to provide some good service to European Physiology.

I was trained as an MD at Aarhus University, but was right from the start interested in physiology. During my medical studies I started doing research at Department of Biophysics which was led by the Nobel Laureate Jens Chr Skou. My mentor during these years was Professor MJ Mulvany and we worked on the biophysics, physiology and pharmacology of the small arteries important for vascular resistance. Professor Mulvany had developed a myograph which enabled detailed investigation of small arteries with diameters down to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , and this opened a whole new world of possibilities. I concentrated somewhat on changes in resistance artery morphology and function in hypertension. Since we were in the Department of Jens Chr Skou it was natural for me to study ion transport across the membrane of the smooth muscle cells in the wall of the arteries. This led to a description of two new anion transporters – a  $\text{Na, HCO}_3^-$ -cotransporter, important for control of intracellular pH in cells and a cGMP dependent,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activated chloride channel, which is important for the oscillations of blood vessels, i.e. vasomotion. I further found the genes responsible for these new transporters. Under influence by professor Bjørn Folkow from Göteborg I have had an interest in the cardiovascular challenges giraffes experience and in recent years I have studied chronically instrumented giraffes to understand how the brain, heart, kidneys and lower legs cope with the high arterial pressures.

After 10 years at Institute of Biophysics I worked at Department of Pharmacology also 10 years and later Department of Physiology now for 22 years all Aarhus University. In addition, I have been parttime professor at Department of Biomedicine Copenhagen University. I value teaching very much and have been teaching biophysics, pharmacology and physiology to medical students and also been teaching the use of myographs to study small arteries at research courses in Denmark.

For the last 2 years I have been director of Danish Cardiovascular Academy, which provides courses, summer- and winter-schools and networking activities for young basic and clinical cardiovascular researchers in Denmark in addition to distributing PhD and postdoc grants within the cardiovascular field.



Studying giraffes in South Africa

## Featured National Society:

### The Scandinavian Physiological Society



Members of the Scandinavian Physiological Society at the Europhysiology 2022 meeting in Copenhagen

The Scandinavian Physiological Society (SPS) was founded in 1925 and we are about to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Society builds on the substantial Scandinavian legacy in physiology with Nobel Prizes in many of our central topics. The primary goal of the Society is to promote research, interest and education in various fields of physiology and the related life sciences within the Nordic countries. SPS finds this goal is best met through a strong commitment to collaboration with our fellow societies, through bridgebuilding organisations like FEPS and IUPS, and individual scientists throughout the world. Therefore, you will find SPS's future annual meetings in collaboration with our fellow societies in Physiology in Focus (<https://sps-feeps-2023.eu>) in Tallinn, Estonia, with FEPS and the Baltic Physiological Societies, in 2024 with The Physiological Society in New Castle, UK and a combined IUPS-Europhysiology meeting in Frankfurt in 2025 (<https://www.iups2025.com>).

Our vision is to connect researchers in physiology and other life sciences. To this end, SPS has valued the bottom-up process and supports investigator-initiated special interest groups (SIGs) awarded a self-administered sum each year to support activity. Currently, we have SIGs for Cardiac Physiology, Comparative Physiology, Renal Physiology, Skeletal Muscle Physiology and Vascular Physiology, and we are appealing to more scientists to connect around forming new SIGs under SPS. By a strong commitment through our interest groups, we secure that the driving force of the Society comes from the active researchers at all career stages, embracing the diversity in topics, interests and representation present in the individual research groups. The success of the SPS SIGs is seen in them providing the core of the successful pre-meeting for all our larger scientific conferences that SPS contributes to, including Europhysiology 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark hosted by the SPS.



## Featured National Society:

### The Scandinavian Physiological Society

The vision of SPS is to connect researchers in physiology and other life sciences. Therefore, we reach out and include scientists who are not trained in classical physiological environments and might not have considered the benefit of our large community but share interests and methodology.

SPS publishes the journal *Acta Physiologica*, which is one of the oldest physiological journals in the world, and also the official Journal of the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS). Through our engagement in the journal, the Society strives to provide a strong home journal for our members to publish and be recognised for their scientific output. To align the journal with the overall SPS strategy, you will be able to observe a more diverse portfolio for physiology-relevant topic areas and also in the Editorial Board (follow the development at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17481716>). The strategy has been evolved in collaboration with our Editor in Chief to secure a smooth adaptation of *Acta Physiologica* in a changing publishing landscape. These adaptations will ensure that *Acta Physiologica* will continue to be a strong choice for physiologists and life scientists around the world.

Along those lines, we are in the middle of adjusting the membership experience and communication of SPS, kicked off with our newly edited home page (<https://scandphys.org>) and newsletter. The Society is very much a *con amore* society driven by bottom-up engagement, so if you are interested in our work, do not hesitate to contact us.



Please note that the abstract submission for [Physiology in Focus](#) 2023 is now open (deadline May 25th, 2023). To find out more about [Estonia](#) and to get to know its capital [Tallinn](#) please use the links.

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