



Message from the FEPS President

Dear members and friends of FEPS,

As you might know, at the Physiology in Focus Meeting in Tallin, I became the new president of FEPS. It is really a tough job to continue and foster the activities that the former president Susan Wray has accomplished during her presidency. I want to give a special thanks to her for her invaluable effort in strengthening FEPS and its role in the European physiological scene and for initiating me to the FEPS world. Said that, here are a few updates of FEPS activities in the last quarter of 2023.



The *Physiology in Focus* meeting in Tallin (Estonia) was very successful, and we thank the Scandinavian and Baltic Societies for their efforts. Tallinn was a wonderful location, and the meeting was populated by a wealth of young physiologists. The lectures featured by FEPS, by Ole Holger Petersen and Agneta Nordberg were very successful and inspiring, and we congratulate again with the lecturers.

Next, the FEPS/SECF meeting Granada (Spain; <https://www.feps2024.org/>), September 5-6, 2024, is coming up. The Organizing Committee and Local Committee actively started sketching the program. A call for symposia is currently out (deadline January 8, 2024) and we hope to receive several proposals. The preliminary plan includes 2 plenary lectures, 4 keynote lectures, up to 10 symposia and oral communication sessions. There might be a young physiologist pre-meeting on September 4 afternoon possibly enriched by an exciting "physiology quiz" contest organized in collaboration with the Romanian Physiological Society. I hope to see many of you in Granada next year and urge you to visit the website and submit abstracts on your work.

An important update regards the IUPS/Europhysiology 2025 congress (<https://www.iups2025.com/>) that will be held in Frankfurt (Germany) September 11-14, 2025. This will be a fundamental date for the world and European physiological communities. Six FEPS members (Hans Hoppeler, José López-Barneo, Andras Malnasi-Csizmadia, Daniela Puzzo, Anna Moroni and Robert Zorec) are included in the International Scientific Program Committee (ISPC) plus Susan Wray (FEPS past-president and current IUPS president), together with Ulrich Pohl and myself as IPSC co-chairs. Moreover, FEPS participates in the IUPS/Europhysiology Organizing Committee with Susan Wray, Nina Ullrich, Christian Aalkjaer and myself. Plenary, special and keynote lecturers are currently being secured, including Nobel laureates, and the call for symposia is currently out with deadline January 22, 2024. Please, actively participate in this endeavor by submitting proposal for symposia, and later abstract contributions.

We are also pleased to welcome our new FEPS Executive Committee member Laszlo Czernoch from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, and to say a sad farewell to Robert Zorec, stepping down from the Executive Committee. Thanks, Robert, for having been so proactive and full of initiatives and mindful suggestions. We will miss you. We will rely on your continuous contribution being a true FEPS promoter and representing FEPS in the International Scientific Program Committee of IUPS/Europhysiology 2025 congress.

Executive Board of FEPS

Fabio Benfenati / Genova, Italy
President

Susan Wray / Liverpool, UK
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Nina Ullrich / Heidelberg, Germany
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Laszlo Czernoch / Debrecen, Hungary
Member

News & Events

We welcome all news & events from FEPS member societies to be published in the Newsletter and on the website (www.feps.org). Please send all information to the FEPS secretariat at info@feps.org

2024) (November 2023 2023)

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After the successful *consensus* statement on the continuing need for animal experimentation signed by all FEPS society members, FEPS has now become member of the European Animal Research Association (EARA; www.eara.eu). With more than 140 member organizations, EARA communicates and advocates on biomedical research using animals to enhance the understanding and recognition of research involving animals across Europe. To be updated on the EARA activities, the FEPS National Societies can ask to receive weekly News Digests and EARA policy briefings.

In order to tighten the links between FEPS and the National Societies' members and be continuously updated on FEPS initiatives, we also urge the National Societies which have not done it yet to ask their members whether they like to be reached directly by FEPS communications.

The final version of the FEPS research integrity statement contributed by Christian Aalkjaer is now online in the FEPS site and needs to be accepted during the registration to the various FEPS initiatives, starting from the Granada meeting.

Finally, I remind you that since few months, FEPS has issued [Travelling Fellowship Awards](#) for early career researchers to visit a laboratory in another FEPS member national society, as well as [Travel Awards to attend European physiological meetings](#). Since we have not received many applications for these calls so far, we ask the National Societies boards to disseminate these initiatives among their young physiologist communities. The deadline for these calls is open, so please apply!

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a peaceful, exciting, and productive 2024.

Fabio Benfenati

FEPS Traveling Fellowships

In 2022 FEPS has introduced the FEPS Travelling Fellowship. Up to 2 awards per year (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 post-doctoral 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](#).

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](#).



**PHYSIOLOGY
IN FOCUS
2023** Tallinn, ESTONIA
September 14-16



Fig. 1: View from the historic city center to the Viru Conference Center

Physiology in Focus 2023 was the first joint meeting of the Baltic Physiological Societies, the Scandinavian Physiological Society (SPS), and the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS). It was a three-day event (September 14th-16th, 2023) held in the Viru Conference Centre located in the Sokos Hotel Viru. This conference site is very conveniently located within walking distance to the historic city center (Fig. 1).

Over 300 participants from 30 countries joined the event. There were 2 plenary - and 4 keynote lectures, 53 pre-meeting talks and 63 main meeting talks in symposia and oral presentation sessions. In addition, 154 posters were featured throughout the conference. We are happy that many early career researchers could present their recent data at this stimulating conference, and that FEPS was able to support 11 excellent young researchers by travel awards (Fig. 2).

At a fabulous gala dinner at the Seaplane Harbor participants could not only enjoy networking with colleagues and friends, but also the museum, excellent food and drinks, and entertainment by a local folk band.

In addition to an excellent scientific and social event the attendees also enjoyed guided Tallinn city tours and several other excursions. Our thanks go to the organizers and volunteers who helped to make this event such a success.

In Tallinn we also held our annual FEPS council meeting. Among other agenda there were changes in the composition of the FEPS Executive Committee: (i) Susan Wray finished her term as FEPS president; she will continue in the FEPS ExCo as past president for the period 2023-2025. Fabio Benfenati took over as president for the period 2023-2027. Laszlo Csernoch was elected as new member of the ExCo to replace Robert Zorec (Fig. 3) who finishes his term. Our thanks go Susan for her enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership and to Robert for his invaluable input and work for FEPS.



Fig. 2: FEPS travel award winners with FEPS president and treasurer

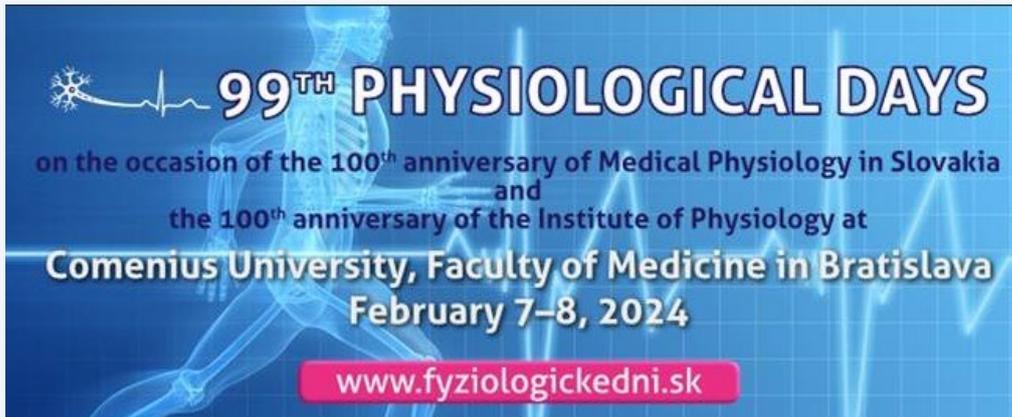


Fig. 3: The FEPS ExCo thanks Robert Zorec and he seems to enjoy (picture taken at the FEPS ExCo dinner)



Upcoming Meetings (for more information click on the pictures)

February 2024: 99th Physiological Days organized by the Slovak Physiological Society together with the Czech Physiological Society



September 2024: Joint meeting of the Spanish Physiological Society and FEPS



September 2025: Joint meeting of IUPS and Europhysiology

40th congress of the international union of physiological sciences

IUPS 2025

a joint meeting with

EUROPHYSIOLOGY

11. – 14. September 2025 | Frankfurt/Main



Featured National Society:

The Spanish Society for Physiological Sciences (SECF)



The SECF is a national scientific society with its own legal personality and non-profit status. It brings together professionals, researchers, and educators in Physiology, and its objective is to promote Physiology as a scientific and professional discipline at all levels and in all areas of society.

The SECF was established in July 1950, at the initiative of José María del Corral y García (then Professor of Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Central University of Madrid), who became its first president, with thirteen members and an annual fee of 100 pesetas (0,6 €). Since its creation, the SECF has maintained its activity to the present day, with approximately 250 regular members (ordinary members), 13 members in training (undergraduate and doctoral students), and 40 emeritus members. The Society is directed by a board of 7 members (president, president-elect, past-president, secretary, treasurer, and 2 vocal members), which is partially renewed every two years in open elections to all members of the Society, in accordance with its statutes.

As previously stated, the fundamental objective of the SECF is to promote Physiology as a scientific, educational, and professional discipline at all levels and to raise awareness of its social value. To achieve these objectives, the SECF develops and participates in multiple activities:

1. Dissemination of Physiology through social networks. <https://www.secf.es/index.php> SECF and participation in social networks through accounts on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/secf.secretaria.3> (secf2020), and Twitter (@SECF_fisiologia).
2. Sponsorship of the SECF Congress. The Society holds a national congress every two years. It has been held since 1953 and in 2024, at the FEPS-SECF joint congress will reach its 41th edition.
3. Promotion and sponsorship of scientific activities related to Physiology. The SECF sponsors and promotes scientific activities, such as courses, meetings, or outreach activities, in the field of Physiology or related fields, offering direct or indirect support.
4. Recognition of scientific and professional activity within Physiology. The SECF recognizes professional activity (both research and teaching) in the field of Physiology through two awards: the National "Antonio Gallego" Prize in Physiology and the international Juan Negrín Prize, sponsored by the Juan Negrín Foundation, and recognizing a researcher who has developed their career mainly abroad and has significantly contributed to the development and promotion of Physiology as a science, with an impact on the training of young Spanish physiologists. It is currently in its 11th edition.
5. Publication of the journal "Fisiología". "Fisiología" is a digital publication started in 1999 that publishes scientific articles and news of interest in the field of Physiology on a biannual basis. The historical archive is accessible through the Society's website.
6. Support for teaching innovation in the field of Physiology Through an award for innovation in the teaching of Physiology, currently in its VII edition.
6. Support for scientific dissemination in the field of Physiology. The SECF directly supports dissemination activities related to Physiology through a scientific dissemination award that is awarded biennially, coinciding with the Society's congress, and is currently in its IV edition.
7. Support for young physiologists. The SECF supports young physiologists through various initiatives: travel grants for participation in the Society's congress, a prize for the best doctoral thesis (awarded biennially, coinciding with the Society's congress), and special conditions as members of the Society.

National and International Relationships

The SECF is integrated into the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE), with the common objective of channeling the initiatives of Spanish scientific societies and representing science to society and public authorities at the national level.

At the international level, the SECF is part of the FEPS and IUPS, actively participating in both societies. The SECF organized the FEPS congress in 2012 and will act again as a host society for the 2024 congress. Similarly, the SECF promotes exchanges with related scientific societies from other countries and international meetings, having held joint congresses with the Physiological Society (UK), the American Physiological Society (USA), the Federation of Experimental Biology Societies (FeSBE, Brazil) and the Brazilian Society of Physiology (SBFis).