



European Society for Pigment Cell Research

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Dear Friend, Dear Colleague, Dear ESPCR member,

This year ESPCR is 25 years old and so I would like to start by congratulating and thanking all of the former officers and members who guided the society through its early years.

Diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and it is this diversity that allows us to bring together all of the components that will be needed to understand how pigment cells interact with their environments and perform their various functions. Variety after all is the spice of life and our diversity facilitates interactions between scientists that would not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. Over the years this has allowed rapid translation of developments from one field to feed into the others as each discipline passes through its ebb and flow of scientific discovery.

Our maturation reflected by our registration as a legal entity last year. Before that, according to the law we did not exist and were «just a bunch of friends». I am delighted that the spirit of cooperation and interaction developed by that friendly bunch remains a cornerstone of our Society and continues to grow and remains almost tangible at our meetings.

I personally found the ESPCR meeting in Cambridge to have been fantastic scientifically and this view was reinforced by the unsolicited enthusiastic testimonies I received from many of participants. I would like again to give a big thank you to Robert Kelsh for the fantastic job he did dealing with the organisation of the meeting and for dealing with the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre.

ESPCR belongs to a Federation (IFPCS) of pigment cell societies that also includes ASPCR (Asia), JSPCR (Japan) and PASPCR (Pan American). I should just like to remind you that every three years, the Federation organises a joint meeting, the International Pigment Cell Conference or IPCC. In 2011, we have the honour and privilege of hosting this meeting in Europe. IPCC-2011 will be organised by Alain Taïeb and will be held in Bordeaux in September 21th-24th, 2011. Keep the dates free in your diaries because Alain will bring all of his talents and skills to bear to make sure that this meeting is a glorious success for the 800-1000 participants we expect. The preliminary program is already very exciting and can be viewed at <http://ipcc2011.org/>.

Looking further ahead ESPCR-2012, will be organized by Bernhard Wehrle-Haller in Geneva and ESPCR-2013 will be held in Lisbon where Miguel Seabra will be our host.

To finish, I remind you all to renew your ESPCR membership and show your continued support for our superb society. Why not recommend ESPCR to your colleagues.

I look forward to our continued success and to seeing you all at one of our meetings in due course.

As we say, bonne chance and best wishes,

Lionel LARUE

ESPCR created on June 23, 2009 in Brussels - Registration # 817455226 - ESPCR AISBL - VAT number: BE 0817.455.226

President: Dr Lionel Larue, Génétique du Développement des Melanocytes, Institut Curie - Section Recherche, UMR146 CNRS, Bat 110, Centre Universitaire, 91405 Orsay, France. Tel: +33 1 69 86 71 07 E-mail: lionel.larue@curie.fr

Secretary: Prof Alain Taïeb, Hôpital St. André, Dept of Dermatology & Pediatric Dermatology, 1 rue Jean Burguet, 33075 Bordeaux, France, Tel: +33 5 56 79 47 05. E-mail: alain.taïeb@chu-bordeaux.fr

Treasurer: Dr Lluís Montoliu, CNB-CSIC, Dept of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Campus de Cantoblanco, Darwin 3, 28049 Madrid, Spain, Tel +34 91 585 4844. E-mail: montoliu@cnb.csic.es