



European Society for Pigment Cell Research

www.espcr.org

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Dear Friend, Dear Colleague, Dear ESPCR member,

We had the honour and privilege of hosting the federation meeting in Bordeaux, France from the 21st to the 24th of September 2011. This meeting was fantastically organised by Alain Taieb and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his team very much.

I am fully convinced that diversity and exchange, when used positively, generate the energy, motor and even wheels or progress. Diversity is one of greatest strengths of the ESPCR, 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 transfer of developments in one field to the others as each discipline passes through its ebb and flow of scientific discovery.

Acquisition of knowledge is the real source of richness. In time of crisis, Science and research are generally the first targets: it will certainly be financially difficult for the large majority of us, but we will continue to generate the water that will irrigate growth during the coming scientific spring. Thinking of the next generation, the ESPCR will continue to make great efforts to provide travel grants for PhD students and post-docs to facilitate their presence at the next ESPCR meeting.

In 2012, Bernhard Wehrle-Haller will be our host in Geneva between September 11th and 14th. Keep these dates free in your diaries because Berni will bring all of his talents and skills to bear to make sure that this meeting is a glorious success for the 250 participants we expect. The preliminary program will be soon available (<http://www.espcr.org/ESPCR2012>).

Looking further ahead, ESPCR-2013 will be organized by Miguel Seabra and Graça Raposo in Lisbon and we are already planning ESPCR-2015. It will be held in Milan where Luisa Lanfrancone will be our host. ESPCR is a member of the Federation of pigment cell societies (IFPCS) that also includes the ASPCR (Asia), JSPCR (Japan) and PASPCR (Pan American). I just want to remind you that every three years, the Federation organises a joint meeting or IFPCS meeting: thus, in 2014, the Federation will organize a meeting in Singapore.

To finish, I remind you all to renew your ESPCR membership and show your continued support for our excellent society — also, recommend joining the 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, U1021 INSERM, UMR3347 CNRS, Bat 110, Centre Universitaire, 91405 Orsay, France. Tel: +33 1 69 86 71 07 E-mail: lionel.larue@curie.fr

Secretary: Prof Alain Taieb, 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.taieb@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