



European Society for Pigment Cell Research

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Orsay, December 2nd, 2012

Dear Friend, Dear Colleague, Dear ESPCR member,

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ESPCR was created about 25 years, but exists officially and legally since 2009. A new board with new officers will be elected and will take over at the end of the Lisbon meeting in September 2013. I hope that a large number of candidates for the ESPCR board and officers will emerge from the different fields of our society. I strongly encourage young fellows to run for these elections, it is crucial to bring fresh blood and ideas.

One of the major goals of our society is to promote exchanges between all scientists involved in the acquisition of knowledge of pigment cells. Melanocytes are one of them and certainly the most studied, but one should not forget the other pigment cells. The pigment cell is a fantastic model to acquire knowledge in cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, oncogenesis, chemistry, embryonic development, and so forth.

Melanoma research has become very important in the past decade. The number of scientists, the number of articles published in very high profile journals, the number of grants dedicated for melanoma in different countries dramatically increased. This is excellent for all the community, but one must not forget that these successes were based on a solid knowledge of the pigment cell. We MUST continue to work on all aspects of the biology of pigment cell if we want to continue to better understand this disease and to cure melanoma. Melanoma is not the only disorder associated with melanocytes, one must not forget the giant nevus, vitiligo, albinism, Waardenburg syndrome, just to name a few of them.

Such synergy is possible by individual and collective initiatives. ESPCR is there to help as much as possible with all initiatives. Individual initiatives were taken to organize working groups and workshops on vitiligo, pigment biochemistry, melanoma, development, albinism, giant nevus, and cell senescence. You may go to our ESPCR website to get more information. However, individual initiatives must not affect the ESPCR meeting.

The 2013 ESPCR meeting will be held in Lisbon. It will be organised by Miguel Seabra and Graça Raposo. Please go to the website of this meeting for more information (<http://www.espcr.org/ESPCR2013>). After the 2014 IFPCS meeting in Singapore, our next ESPCR meeting will be organised in Milan (2015) where Luisa Lanfrancone will be our host. Liz Patton and Ian Jackson are ready to organize the 2016 ESPCR meeting in Edinburgh.

Coming back to the next generation, 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. We will continue to promote young scientists to present their work as oral presentations.

To finish, I remind you all to renew your ESPCR membership and show your continued support for our excellent society — also, please recommend joining the ESPCR to your colleagues. We will greatly appreciate that all of you renew by 31st December 2012, in order to duly fulfil our contract with the Publisher of PCMR, the scientific journal associated with the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS).

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

I wish you all the best,

Lionel LARUE

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