



# European Society for Pigment Cell Research

www.espcr.org

Orsay, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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(Orsay, France)

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Ghanem Ghanem  
(Brussels, Belgium)

Dear Friend, Dear Colleague, Dear ESPCR member,

This is the first time I am contacting you as ESPCR President, it is an honour and I will try to do my best for this Society. Moreover, I would like to thank all of you for having elected this new board of Directors. The members of the board of Directors belong to various fields of our Society and it is a real chance, they are listed on the left. We will act until the fall of 2013.

Our main goals are to continue promoting the interactions between scientists of our large community and promoting the qualities of pigment cell. The melanocyte is a fantastic integrative tool to better understand in fundamental terms developmental biology, cell biology, immunology, cell-cell interaction, biochemistry, signalling and transcription, classical genetics and structural genetics. In more specialized terms, these various approaches will allow us to get a better grasp on melanoma, melanocyte stem cells, melanosome biogenesis and transport, hyper- and hypopigmentation, melanin chemistry and other aspects of pigment cell biology.

To increase our chance of success, we must continue to generate exciting meetings, to attract young scientists coming from other fields, to keep our members and to support our PCMR (Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research) journal, but we also need to have a clear visibility at the European level and to facilitate exchanges between laboratories.

Some of these challenges are already possible. For instance, the 2009 ESPCR meeting in Münster organized by Markus Böhm and his colleagues was a real success. The pre-program of the 2010 ESPCR meeting to be held in Cambridge and organized by Robert Kelsh is very appealing. The 2011 IPCC (International Pigment Cell Conference of the federation) organized by Alain Taïeb will be held in Bordeaux and will attract a lot of great scientists.

Each year, new scientists belonging to different fields join our society.

Our visibility is also increasing through PCMR; its impact factor is more than 4.6 and continues to rise. Thanks to Colin Goding (Editor-in-Chief) for its fabulous accomplishment from 2005 to 2009. Ze'ev Ronai, associated with Glenn Merlino and Heinz Arnheiter (an ESPCR member) are now in charge of PCMR, and I am convinced they will continue to take PCMR to even greater heights.

Our visibility at the European level is recognized from our administration. Indeed, our society was officially registered on June 23, 2009 in Belgium. It has a registration and a VAT number. This is certainly important and may help the establishment of our network in Europe.

In order to continue, ESPCR invites you to register or renew your ESPCR membership. In other words, the time has arrived for the annual dues for 2010.

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.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

To register or renew and pay your dues, it is simple, please go to the ESPCR web site ([www.espcr.org](http://www.espcr.org)) and follow the indications provided under the "JOIN" menu option. Lluís Montoliu, our webmaster, has made a very friendly tool.

**I would like to inform you about two important points.**

The first point is associated with the new ESPCR **charter**. Please, read and accept the new ESPCR charter as indicated in the ESPCR web site under the "BYLAWS" menu option. If you have any questions on the new ESPCR charter please get back to one of the officers. All ESPCR members must accept the new ESPCR Charter to become effective members of ESPCR.

The second point is associated with the 2010 ESPCR annual membership fee and **PCMR**. Your regular ESPCR membership annual fee includes full access to online PCMR contents through the IFPCS web site ([www.ifpcs.org](http://www.ifpcs.org)). To get the printed copies and the online access of PCMR, as a regular member, it will cost you 175 € or 140 € as a student. To get the online access only of PCMR, as a regular member it will cost you 105 € and as a student 70 €. To join/renew ESPCR in 2010, you must pay your dues before : **December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2009**. This early deadline is due to the link we now have with PCMR.

Before finishing let me briefly remind you some of the benefits of being an ESPCR member.

- 1) Special subscription rate to Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research (PCMR), the highest ranked journal committed to the field of pigment cell biology and the second highest ranked journal committed to the field of dermatology (IF = 4.6 in 2008).
- 2) Application for Travel awards to attend ESPCR meetings (for PhD students and post-docs).
- 3) Membership of the International Federation of the Pigment Cell Societies ([IFPCS](http://www.ifpcs.org)).
- 4) Online access to PCMR through your associated IFPCS membership.
- 5) Reduced registration fees for the ESPCR meetings.
- 6) Access to the members-only section of the ESPCR website where you will find ESPCR membership directory, current ESPCR Bulletins, including regular literature reviews of the field, meeting reports and more.

I thank you very much for your attention. I wish you all the best.

Lionel LARUE