

## **SBE (Spanish Biophysical Society) summary of activities, October 2006-2010 (President: Alicia Alonso)**

During the last General Assembly held in Zaragoza the Board was changed and Professor Juan Carmelo Gomez Fernandez became the new President. I therefore consider this a good moment to make an evaluation of the last few years. After becoming SBE President in October 2006 I tried to continue the excellent work initiated by my predecessor, Jose Lopez Carrascosa, which was based in three main axes:

- To promote the inclusion of young researchers in this area.
- To consolidate relations with other Biophysical Societies.
- To increase the influence of SBE and its members at both national and international levels.

To summarize, in the last few years we have gone from having 180 members to 350, most of the recent incorporations being related to young members. This, along with the subsidies awarded to IUPAB Committee (closely related to SBE) by MEC (the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture), has improved our work and has allowed us to increase the grants given to members to attend the national and international Meetings and Courses in which SBE has participated. Furthermore, this year we have given for the first time the SBE Award for Young Researchers, which was awarded to Pau Bernardó of IRB (Barcelona). During this phase and thanks to Bruker España Inc, prizes were given to Drs. Jesus Perez Gil of Universidad Complutense (2006), Jose Garcia de la Torre of Universidad de Murcia (2008) and, in 2010, Ex Aequo to Drs. Jose Luis Rodriguez Arrondo of the Biophysic of the Unidad de Biofisica (CSIC-Universidad del País Vasco) and Modesto Orozco of IRB (Barcelona). At an international level, two of our young members have been awarded prizes by the Biophysical Society and by EBSA, given respectively to Dr. Teresa Giraldez of the University Hospital Ntra Sra de Candelaria (Tenerife) and Dr. Mikel Valle of CIC Biogune (Zamudio). Other activities, such as the organization of specific symposia, special grant awards, etc., have been favored by the help of our other two Sponsor Members, Avanti and Beckman-Coulter, with which we hope to cooperate in the future, and to whom we are deeply grateful. However, our acknowledgment of members does not focus exclusively on the new generations; during this period, the title of Members of Honor has been bestowed on Drs. Juan Subirana and Manuel Cortijo, the founders or promoters of the creation of our Society, and Dr. Carlos Bustamante, who has trained in his laboratory a great number of our members and has opened various ways of cooperation with his laboratory.

Regarding our relationship with other Societies, we have kept our traditional collaboration with the Portuguese and the Ibero-Americans, as well as reinforcing relations with the Italians and the British. In fact, from 2006 to this day SBE has organized, directly or as part of the Organizing Committee, two Ibero-American Congresses (Madrid, 2006 and Buzios, Brazil 2009), one Congress with the Portuguese and the British (Lisboa, 2008), one Congress with the Portuguese (Zaragoza, 2010), and two EBSA Congresses (Genoa, 2009 and Budapest, 2011), as well as the future IUPAB Congress (Beijing 2011). Here, I feel the need to express my gratitude to those who participated as local organizers of the Madrid and Zaragoza Congresses, especially Francisco Montero, Federico Moran, Jesus Perez Gil and the entire Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, as well as Javier Sancho, Carlos Gomez Moreno, Milagros Medina and the members of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of IBIF in Zaragoza. I would also like to express my special recognition to the Portuguese Biophysical Society and, in particular to its two Presidents (Carlos Soares and Manuela Pereira) with which we have collaborated in many of these initiatives.

I shall not give a detailed account of the courses we have organized or supported, approximately ten in these four years. Only in 2010, to state the most recent, we held a Course on Protein Structure in Jaca, directed by Drs. Gomez-Moreno and Neira, and aimed mainly at Spanish students, as well as the International Workshop on Membrane Proteins, Signal Transduction and Disease, organized by members of the Department of Biophysics (University of the Basque Country) and CIC Biogune, coordinated by Alvaro Villarroel and held in Bilbao. Furthermore, the First Bilbao Advanced Course on Biophysics was held in the Department of Biophysics with the topic of “Single Protein Mechanics”, and it was given by Dr. Julio Fernandez and his group from Columbia University. It was a theoretical-practical course attended by 20 students from different European countries.

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I rest assured that my successor will improve my work and that this shall be reflected in future reports for IUPAB. Meanwhile, I shall continue my work from the IUPAB Executive Board.

Alicia Alonso