

ESEB Members' Meeting 2017

Groningen, Martiniplaza, Room A - August 25, 2017; 2.10 – 3.00 pm

Attendees:

Officers: Nina Wedell (President, Chair), Ophélie Ronce (President-elect), Laurent Keller (Past President), Jacintha Ellers (Executive Vice-President), Wolf Blanckenhorn (*JEB* Editor-in-Chief), Mike Ritchie (outgoing *JEB* Editor-in-Chief, incoming *EL* Officer), John Pannell (Secretary), Leo Beukeboom (outgoing Congress organizer), Craig Primmer (incoming Congress Organizer)

Excused: Anna-Liisa Laine (Vice-President)

Members: 154 signed the lists attached

NW opened the meeting at 2.10 pm and welcomed everyone.

1. Minutes of the last Members' meeting in Lausanne 2015

NW reported that the minutes have been approved online by the Steering Committee and signed by President and Secretary.

1.1. Recommendation by the Council for the 4th Distinguished Fellow of ESEB

NW explained that the Council suggests a fourth distinguished fellow of ESEB. The Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honour the society can confer to individuals for their outstanding service to the society and their exceptional contribution to the mission of ESEB. In 2016, the Executive Committee suggested to nominate Isabelle Olivieri as Distinguished Fellow, but postponed the nomination due to her sudden death.

OR summarised the contributions made by Isabelle Olivieri to evolutionary biology and ESEB. In particular: she made seminal contributions to the study of dispersal, life-history evolution and metapopulations, and forged links between ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation; she served as Vice-President of ESEB in 1995, as President in 2007-2009, as well as on various ESEB committees; she was Vice-President of SSE in 2007 and pushed for the organization of joint meetings as President of ESEB; she was a recipient of the prestigious Descartes-Huygens Prize, which allowed her to establish strong links with Dutch scientists; she contributed to European science through her service for the ERC, on which she chaired a panel for several years.

On request by NW, the membership unanimously approved to award Isabelle Olivieri posthumously with a Distinguished Fellowship of the Society.

2. Secretary's Report

2.1. Presentation of new Officers and Council members

JP introduced himself as new secretary and presented the new officers (OR, A-LL, WB, MR) elected in 2017. JP briefly introduced the new Council members and pointed out that detailed information about the Council is available at the ESEB website.

2.2. Announcement of the new *EL* Officer position

JP explained that MR was elected by the Council on recommendation of the Steering Committee as *Evolution Letters* Officer (*EL* Officer) and will join the Oversight Committee of *Evolution Letters* as ESEB representative.

2.3. Membership status

The society has a stable membership of about 1400 members. JP invited the membership to actively take part in the society's work. Ideas, suggestions or comments can be sent to the officers at any time.

2.4. Reminder Membership distinctions web page – updates welcome

Updates for the membership distinction web page should be sent to the ESEB Office.

2.5. *Evolution Letters (EL)* – short update

JP reported that the first issue of *EL* was launched in May this year. The aim of this journal is to publish high-profile, letter-type articles. The Editor-in-Chief, Jon Slate, reports to an Oversight Committee, which consists of representatives from both societies. JP pointed out that *EL* is a societies journal, jointly owned by SSE and ESEB, hence any profit will be beneficial for both memberships.

2.6. ESEB initiatives – updates

JP reported briefly on activities of the different ESEB initiatives and pointed out that more detailed information is available at the ESEB website.

- **Conference Travel Awards**

The award supports members from countries with low GDP to attend the ESEB congress or the Evolution conference of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE) in non-ESEB-congress years. In 2017, the committee (M. Egas, J. Hermisson, H. Kokko, and N. Wedell) granted 14 awards to support the visit of the ESEB 2017 congress.

- **Equal Opportunities Initiative**

The initiative, chaired by J. Schroeder and H. Dugdale, aims to ensure equal opportunities in all aspects of our society. The committee establishes “best practice guidelines” and monitors status and progress of underrepresented groups in our society. EO funds are available twice a year and, additionally, Conference Attendance Aid Grants are available to support the visit of ESEB or Joint Evolution conferences.

- **Global Training Initiative**

The committee (T. Kawecki, L. Bacigalupe, S. Barrett, and J. Höglund) is proactively approaching emerging evolutionary communities to offer support for the organization of workshops. In the last two years, workshops were successfully organized in Turkey and Brazil, and future activities are planned in Serbia. Members are welcome to contact the committee for ideas and suggestions.

- **Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Award**

This award is available for young researchers to support field trips or lab visits. Preference is given to candidates with no other funding sources. The committee (R. Butlin, F. Ben-Ami, and M. Ritchie) granted 13 awards in the last two years. The next deadline for applications will be in mid-January 2018.

- **JMS Prize**

The JMS Prize committee chaired by the ESEB Vice-President distinguishes an outstanding young evolutionary biologist with the JMS Prize annually. In 2016, E. Keith Bowers was selected. Amanda Kyle Gibson was awarded the prize in 2017. JP invited all members to the talks of the both winners at ESEB2017. As the number of nominations decreased last year, the prize committee strongly encourages the membership to

nominate more excellent young scientists. The next call will be announced in autumn with a deadline in January 2018.

- **Outreach**

The outreach initiative projects act at the interface between the academic world and the public. The initiative aims at improving the public knowledge of evolutionary biology worldwide. Details about the huge variety of projects (workshops, games, teaching material) are available at the ESEB website. The committee (S. Magalhães, G. Thomas, K. McCoy, and R. Snook) selects new projects twice per year. The next deadline is September 15, 2017.

- **Special Topics Networks (STN) Initiative**

The newly established initiative offers funding for small workshops, summer schools or similar events on specific active, controversial, or developing evolutionary topics organized by networks. Each congress year, the STN committee (R. Butlin, S. Immler, E. Decaestecker) establishes a review panel, which selects two topics from all proposals received, and suggests these two proposals to the Council for funding. The first networks (“European *Drosophila* Population Genomics Network”, and “Linking local adaptation with the evolution of sex differences”) started in 2015 and continue after positive evaluation. The networks “ADAPT – Ancient DNA studies of Adaptive Processes through time” and “Ecological Genomics of coevolutionary interactions” were approved at this year’s Council meeting. The next call for proposals will be announced in 2018 with a deadline in early 2019.

- **JEB-ESEB short meeting**

JP reported that the Council approved the new initiative “*JEB-ESEB* short meetings”. The initiative supports one short conference or workshop on a topical issue in evolutionary biology per year. It will be required that the outcome of the sponsored meeting results in the publication of a Special Issue or a Targeted Review in the society’s *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. The first call and further details will be communicated to the membership by email and via the ESEB website in due course.

2.7. Upcoming congresses

- **Montpellier**

The joint meeting with the American sister societies (SSE, ASN, SSB), organized by Ophélie Ronce and Yannis Michalakis, will take place from 19 – 22 August 2018 in Montpellier, France. Further information is available at the congress website: evolutionmontpellier2018.org.

- **Turku**

The next biannual ESEB congress organized by Craig Primmer, will take place from 19 - 24 August 2019 in Turku, Finland. Further information is available at the congress website: www.eseb2019.fi.

- **Prague**

The Steering Committee received a proposal for the ESEB congress in 2021 to be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The organizing committee will be chaired by Lukáš Kratochvíl. JP explained that Prague is an attractive European city with excellent travel connections and cheap accommodation options. The meeting will take place at the Prague Congress Centre, which offers sufficient capacity. The Council supports the proposal particularly for

the opportunity to further foster communication with Eastern Europe communities. Further meeting details will be presented at the next membership meeting. On request by NW, the membership approved that the organizer Lukáš Kratochvíl will join the ESEB Steering Committee from 2019 - 2021.

Q (Bas Zwaan): Did the society receive alternative bids for 2021. A (JP): As the Council supported both bids, Turku and Prague, the officers did not reach out for more proposals for 2021.

- **Bids**

JP reported that a new proposal from Barcelona has been received. It will be presented to the Steering Committee and Council at the next ESEB congress. The society welcomes further proposals for 2023 and beyond.

3. Executive Vice-President's Report

3.1. Annual reports 2015, 2016 for approval

JE reported that the society is in a healthy and stable state and presented the annual financial reports 2015 and 2016. JE explained that the expenses include office and journal costs, budgets of the society's initiatives, and the conference support, while the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology (JEB)* profit share comprises most of the income. JE pointed out that the society's annual accounts closed with a negative balance in 2015, as this had been a congress year. In 2016, a non-congress year, the annual accounts closed with a positive balance, which compensated for the loss in 2015.

3.2. Presentation of the new policy plan 2017-19

As a non-profit organisation ESEB is obliged to establish a policy plan, which states the goals of the society and describes the activities planned to accomplish them. JE presented the policy plan for 2017-19 and highlighted the following points:

- The society supports ESEB congresses and Joint meetings with 200,000 €
- The Conference Travel Award will have an annual budget of 15,000 €
- The Equal Opportunities Initiative will have an annual budget of 15,000 €
- The Global Training Initiative will have an annual budget of 12,000 €
- The Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Award will have an annual budget of 10,000 €
- The Outreach Initiative will have an annual budget of 20,000 €
- The John Maynard Smith Prize will have an annual budget of 5,000 €
- The Stearns Graduate Student Prize will have an annual budget of 250 €
- The STN initiative will have an annual budget of 40,000 €
- The *JEB*-ESEB short meeting initiative will have an annual budget of 15,000 €

On request of NW, the members approved the presented annual financial reports 2015 and 2016 with no dissenting votes. The members unanimously granted discharge to the officers in duty. The members approved unanimously the policy plan 2017 – 2019.

4. JEB Editor-in-Chief's Report

MR reported about the development of the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology (JEB)* in 2015-2017. The impact factor of the journal remains modest but stable. The journal completed its first year of compulsory double-blind reviewing, which was successfully implemented and has been

positively received in the community. The manuscript submissions decreased slightly, which might be due to the parallel launch of *Evolution Letters* and *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. MR encouraged the members to submit their manuscripts to *JEB* and to cite *JEB* articles whenever appropriate. In addition, MR pointed out that the new initiative *JEB-ESEB* short meetings will support the journal in future years. The membership will be informed about the first call in due course. MR thanked all members, *JEB* editors and reviewers, the publisher, and in particular, the editorial office for their commitment, support and excellent work for the journal during his term as Editor-in-Chief.

The announcement of the Stearns Graduate Student Prize winners of 2015 and 2016 was postponed to the closing ceremony of the ESEB 2017 congress.

5. Other business

NW thanked Hinrich Schulenburg and Mike Ritchie for their excellent work and outstanding commitment as ESEB Secretary and *JEB* Editor-in-Chief, respectively.

NW encouraged the membership to apply for ERC grants, as the proportion of applications in a specific section will define the amount of funding attributed to this section.

Q (Bas Zwaan): Are there plans to lobby on behalf of ESEB and the evolutionary biology community? A (NW): Yes, the officers are currently defining effective ways to lobby for evolutionary biology research. The membership is welcome to participate and send its ideas to the officers.

NW closed the meeting at 3.00 pm and thanked all members present for attending. All participants were asked to sign the participation list.

The minutes have been adopted by the Secretary and the President (Chair).

Location, Date



ESEB President Nina Wedell



ESEB Secretary John Pannell