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## EuPA achieves visibility — An activity report on the first three years

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Abbreviations: EuPA, European Proteomics Association; EuPA-CCC, EuPA Congress and Communication Committee; EuPA-EC, EuPA-Education Committee; EH-IC, EuPA-HUPO Interactions Committee; EUPA-FC, EuPA Funding Committee.

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## ABSTRACT

Plans for the European Proteomics Association (EuPA) were conceived and established during 2004 and 2005, and culminated in the formal inception of the organisation during the 4th HUPO World Congress held in Munich in 2005. The mission from the outset has been three-tiered and is to: i) strengthen the national Proteomics organizations in their efforts; ii) to co-ordinate and provide educational programs, and iii) to advance the networking of scientists through meetings, workshops and student exchange. Linked to the mission were objectives to emphasise the benefits and contributions of Proteomics to biological and industrial researchers, the general public and science policy makers in Europe. In addition, the EuPA set out to promote scientific exchange for all applications and technology development related to Proteomics, and coordinate joint activities of national Proteomics societies at the European level. To achieve these tasks an organisational structure was conceived whereby four Activity Committees (Conferences/Communications, Education, EuPA-HUPO-Interactions and Funding) were implemented and a General Council consisting of all member countries. The remarkable rise and progress the EuPA has achieved in this small time frame is reported here.

## 1. Introduction

EuPA, the European Proteomics Association, was formally inaugurated on August 29, 2005, on the occasion of the 4th HUPO World Congress in Munich. Delegates of 16 European countries elected Dr. Friedrich Lottspeich, President of the German Proteome Society, as the first EuPA President. The EuPA Board was completed with Prof. Mathias Uhlen as Vice President and Prof. Michael Dunn (Ireland), Prof. Concha Gil (Spain), Dr. Jean-Charles Sanchez (Switzerland) and Prof. Pier Giorgio Righetti (Italy) as Coordinators for the presently defined focus activities of EuPA [1]. The Proteomics community throughout Europe represented by their national organizations with approximately 2300 individual members now have a roof and can speak with one authorized voice, e.g., in relation with EU Research Authorities.

The general objectives of EuPA are to promote proteomic activities throughout Europe, emphasising the benefits and contribution of Proteomics to biological researchers, industry, the general public and politicians. Besides, the organization intends to promote scientific exchanges in all areas of biological research related to Proteomics, and the consolidation and coordination of joint activities of national Proteomics societies on a European level.

EuPA's mission is summarised therefore in the following three central points:

1. Strengthen the national Proteomics organizations in their efforts
2. Coordinate and provide educational programmes
3. Advance the networking of scientists through meetings, workshops and student exchanges.

EuPA runs its activities in a management structure comprising the General Council, the Executive Committee and four Activity Committees, which are:

1. *Conferences/Communications* (Coordinator: Jean-Charles Sanchez)

2. *Education* (Coordinator: Concha Gil)
3. *EuPA-HUPO-Interactions* (Coordinator: Mike Dunn)
4. *Funding* (Coordinator: Steve Pennington).

The main initial activities of EuPA were naturally created to improve the general visibility of the new organization in the Proteomics field. The series of annual EuPA Conferences had a successful start with the 1st EuPA Conference in Valencia (February 10–12, 2007), and will be followed by the 2nd EuPA Conference in Amsterdam (August 16–20, 2008) in combination with the 7th HUPO World Congress. Subsequent EuPA Conferences are scheduled for Stockholm (2009) and Estoril (2010). In a strategic effort, the publication of a dedicated EuPA journal, the *Journal of Proteomics* with Juan Calvete as Editor-in-Chief, has successfully been launched with the current issue. A number of courses and hands-on-workshops at different places could take place with the 1st European Proteomics Summer School in Brixen/Italy, organized by Katrin Marcus and Henning Urlaub in August 2007, as one of the outstanding events. More details will be given in the following sections.

Even though it is a relatively young organization, EuPA has through its initial activities, already demonstrated capabilities in a number of strategically important areas and this has been made possible with the unanimous endorsement and support of the constituent member societies and Proteomics communities.

As a result of the recent elections according to EuPA's statutes, Mike Dunn will take over the post of the EuPA President, starting in January 2009.

In the near future, awards will be granted, starting with the EuPA Senior Investigator and the EuPA Young Investigator Awards at the 2nd EuPA Conference in Amsterdam, fellowships and travelling stipends. Obviously, interactions with HUPO will play an increasingly major role; and pursuing the interests of the European Proteomics research community at the EU in Brussels will certainly become a major task for EuPA.

## 2. EuPA — Congress and Communication Committee (CCC)

The mission of the congress and communication committee is to promote the diffusion and exchange of information among people in Europe interested in Proteomics by any appropriate means (meetings, workshops, discussions, website, news, publication, etc.). The three major missions being:

1. Coordination between EuPA General Council and Proteomics national societies for EuPA congress organization
2. Coordination of EuPA Web site development and maintenance
3. Coordination of EuPA communication projects including flashes, news and journal

The Committee members (2005–2008) are Jean-Charles Sanchez (Chairman, Switzerland), Luca Bini (Italy), Christine Hoogland (Switzerland), Antony Quinn (United Kingdom), Jesus Jorin Novo (Spain) and Dimitrios Noukakis (Switzerland).

The CCC members are divided into three working groups: *EuPA Conferences*: Jean-Charles Sanchez–Luca Bini; *EuPA Web site, Flashes and News*: Christine Hoogland–Antony Quinn–Jean-Charles Sanchez, and *EuPA Journal* (paper or on-line): Dimitrios Noukakis–Jesus Jorin Novo–Jean-Charles Sanchez.

### 2.1. EuPA Conferences

#### 2.1.1. Recommendations for EuPA endorsement

The committee has drawn a number of recommendations for EuPA endorsement at national meetings.

##### 1) General

- The meeting has to be open to all EuPA members.

##### 2) Venue and dates

The organizers of EuPA endorsed meeting will take into consideration the following issues:

- Location of the venue: The venue should be easily accessible for international participants.
- Capacity: It is expected that the venue should offer enough flexibility to host between 250 and 750 participants.
- Accommodation and catering: The accommodation offered should be at a reasonable distance from the meeting venue and have acceptable prices. Particular care should be taken to offer affordable options for students. Catering should be available at the conference venue, or within walking distance.
- Dates: It is of utmost importance that the dates of the meeting do not conflict with other major events in Proteomics.

##### 3) Budget and pricing

- The local organizers bear the entire financial responsibility for the meeting.
- The optional presentation of a draft budget for two possible scenarios of attendance (250 or 750 participants) could be helpful for candidate selection.
- EuPA members will be offered a 10% discount on the registration fees.

#### 4) Advertisement of EuPA endorsement

- Publicise EuPA endorsement in all official documents of the meeting (announcements, invitation and call for papers, programme, abstract volumes, reports). The use of the EuPA logo on these documents is compulsory.
- Provide for EuPA publicity (e.g. display of EuPA poster, distribution of leaflets, etc.) at the meeting.

#### 5) Meeting announcements and reports

- Supply copies of announcements, invitation and call for papers, programme and abstract book to the EuPA Office as soon as issued.
- Publication in the EuPA Journal (or the official publication medium of EuPA) and/or on the EuPA pages on the Internet will be organized as appropriate. In order to ensure fast publication, promotional material should be submitted in electronic form.
- Send a meeting report to the EuPA Office soon after the meeting for publication in the EuPA Newsletter on the Internet.

#### 6) Publication of the meeting proceedings

- Should the organizers decide to organize the publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the form of a special issue in a primary journal, the EuPA “Journal of Proteomics” will be offered first publication right.

Points 2) and 3) are of particular importance for the attribution of the EuPA annual meeting at a national society.

#### 2.1.2. Past and future EuPA meetings

- 2007 SEProt in Valencia
- 2008 Netherlands in Amsterdam (joined with HUPO)
- 2009 Nordic Countries (DK, FL, NO, SW) in Stockholm
- 2010 ProCura in Estoril
- 2011 SPS in Geneva (joined with HUPO)

### 2.2. EuPA Web site

The EuPA website has been designed to serve these objectives, as the main portal to the national Proteomics societies providing information in the Proteomics field. In the different sections of the website one may currently find details about the EuPA itself (statutes, country members, organization, meeting minutes), the structure and activities of each operational committee, as well as a variety of other useful information (links to conferences, courses, resources, job offers, events, etc.). In any case, readers are warmly invited to submit information to be shared with other fellow scientists, thereby helping to improve EuPA's website: <http://www.eupa.org> [2] (Fig. 1).

### 2.3. EuPA Journal

In 2000, Wiley created Proteomics, the first scientific journal dedicated specifically to Proteomics research. Since then, other journals have flourished (i.e. Journal of Proteome Research (ACS) and Molecular and Cellular Proteomics (ASBM) among others) thanks to the boom of Proteomics research. Because of its geographical proximity, Proteomics rapidly became the journal of choice for the publication of special issues containing (peer-reviewed) proceedings of European national meetings. Despite

The screenshot shows the EuPA website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Flash News' section. The main navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, About, News, Conference and Comm, Education, EuPA-HUPO, Funding, Forthcoming conferences, Past conferences, Proteomics courses, Links, Job offers, Events, Sponsors, Contact Us, Advanced Search, News Feeds, and Administrator. Below the navigation menu is a 'Login Form' with fields for Username and Password, a 'Remember me' checkbox, and a 'Login' button. There are also links for 'Password Reminder' and 'No account yet? Create one'. Below the login form are 'Syndicate' buttons for RSS (0.91, 1.0, 2.0) and ATOM (0.3), along with 'OPML' and 'SHARE IT!' buttons.

The main content area features a 'Home' section with a 'Welcome to the EuPA website!' message. Below this is a section titled 'First two articles in Journal of Proteomics' with a sub-section for the '3rd Annual FinnProt Meeting, 10-12 March 2008, Tahko (Finland)'. A banner for the 'Journal of PROTEOMICS' is also present, stating 'Welcomes your papers'. Below the banner are two articles: '3rd Annual FinnProt Meeting, 10-12 March 2008, Tahko (Finland)' and '2nd European Summer School'. Each article has a 'Click here for more information' link.

The right sidebar contains a 'Recently created' section with links to various events and a 'Events Calendar' for January 2008. The calendar shows the following dates: 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. The 24th is highlighted in red. Below the calendar is a 'This month' section.

Fig. 1 – EuPA web page.

the excellent links developed with the Publisher and the Editors of Proteomics, Wiley has recently changed its policy and decided to no longer accept the publication of special issues from national meetings. It was understandable that Wiley had to take this decision due to the high growth of the publication volume Proteomics was experiencing, which has put pressure on the pricing of the journal and at the same time has induced large publication delays. In order for EuPA to count on a *dedicated and fast publication medium*, the EuPA-GCC Congress and Communication came to the conclusion that it had to actively investigate the option of launching another publication alternative. This led EuPA to the creation of the “Journal of Proteomics” in collaboration with Elsevier and made it the Official Journal of the European Proteomics Association. EuPA appointed Juan Jose Calvete as Editor-in-Chief. He then put together a strong executive and editorial board.

### 2.3.1. Scope of Journal of Proteomics

The Journal of Proteomics covers all areas of applied and basic research in Proteomics using multi-disciplinary approaches to unravel biological processes. Emphasis is placed on translational research and biomarker discovery in human, animal,

micro-organism and plant systems. The journal provides a forum for activities in Proteomics and helps strengthen the links between research scientists all over the world.

In addition to original papers, the journal publishes frequent review and update papers, letters to the editor, book reviews, reports and news, as well as Proceedings of EuPA national congresses. The journal also publishes the official EuPA guidelines papers.

## 3. EuPA-Education Committee (EuPA-EC)

The main *missions* of the Education Committee are to promote and enhance the quality of Proteomics knowledge by creating educational programmes, and to initiate European-wide scientific exchange programmes for young Proteomics researchers. These missions can be achieved through the following actions:

1. Coordination of *workshops* and *courses* to promote and enhance the quality of Proteomics knowledge throughout

**Table 1 – EuPA educational activities 2006–2008**

Courses	Basic	<p><b>1. How to analyse 2-DE gels and publishing 2D-data</b> Course Organizer: A ProteoRED-INB-EuPA course Location: Madrid. Date 16–17 May 2006</p> <p><b>2. Proteomics in Life Science</b> Course Organizer: A Minho University-ProCura-EuPA course Location: Braga, Portugal. Date: 27 June–1 July 2006</p>
	Basic “Teaching the Teachers”	<p><b>1. Gel-based Proteomics.</b> Course Organizer: Angelika Görg and Jean-Charles Sanchez (test course) Location: To be determined. Date, 2008</p> <p><b>2. Basic Chromatography-based Proteomics</b> Course Organizer: Klaus Unger and Peter James (test course) Location: University Complutense, Madrid. Date: 22–27 September, 2008</p> <p><b>3. Basic Mass Spectrometry for Proteomics</b> Course Organizer: Peter James (test course) Location and date. To be announced</p> <p><b>4. Bioinformatics for Proteomics</b> Course Organizer: Patricia Palagi (test course) Location: University Geneva, Switzerland. Date: 18–21 June, 2007 and June 2008. Details of the course formats are on the EuPA web pages <a href="http://www.eupa.org">http://www.eupa.org</a> [2]</p>
	Advanced	<p><b>Advanced Proteomics Technologies</b> Course Organizer: Garry Corthals Location: University of Turku, Finland, Date: 8–12 May 2006</p> <p><b>Bioinformatics in mass spectrometry based Proteomics</b> Course Organizer: Ole Norregaard Jensen Location: University of Southern Denmark. Date: 19–21 June, 2007 and 17–19 June 2008</p> <p><b>Mass spectrometry in protein chemistry and Proteomics: analysis of post-translational modifications.</b> Course Organizer: Ole Norregaard Jensen Location: University of Southern Denmark. Date: 24–28, September, 2007 and 22–26 September, 2008 <a href="http://www.protein.sdu.dk/">http://www.protein.sdu.dk/</a></p>
	Summer School	<p><b>1st European Summer School “Proteomic Basics” 2007: “Sample preparation and Separation.</b> Organizers: Henning Urlaub, Katrin Marcus, Eva. Kühn-Hölsken and Thomas Schulenburg. Date: 12–18 August <a href="http://www.proteomic-basics.eu/2007/">http://www.proteomic-basics.eu/2007/</a></p> <p><b>2nd European Summer School “Proteomic Basics” 2008: “Protein Identification”</b> Organizers: Henning Urlaub and Katrin Marcus Location: Brixen/Bressanone, Italy Date: 13–19 July 2008 <a href="http://www.proteomic-basics.eu/2008/">http://www.proteomic-basics.eu/2008/</a></p>
Workshops	Functional PhosphoProteomics and Cell signalling. Madrid (Ole Jensen, Juan Pablo Albar and Concha. Gil). Location: Fundación Ramón Areces. Date: November 2008 Other initiatives are welcome	
Courses at EuPA meetings	Access to and use of public Proteomics bioinformatics resources. Valencia, 10th February, 2007. Peter James and Garry Corthals (coordinators).	
Tutorials	An initiative of Peter James in collaboration with the main Proteomics journals Reviewed educational articles with the companion slides will be available through these journals.	
Educational material At EuPA web page	Slides from EuPA courses, workshops and conferences Links with other educational web pages	
Nordic-QP	Four courses planned each year starting 2008–2011 Course material made available for EuPA courses, workshops and conferences Courses developed on the following key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sample handling, and chemical and biological preparation for quantitation;</li> <li>2. Applications in protein interactions, PTMs, system biology, and molecular medicine.</li> <li>3. Bioinformatics for data analysis, evaluation and preparation;</li> <li>4. MS instrumentation and implementation</li> </ul> More information available a <a href="http://www.nordic-qp.net">http://www.nordic-qp.net</a>	

the biosciences community and among the general public and governmental bodies.

2. Coordinate and promote *European-wide scientific exchange programmes* for young researchers, to enhance their scientific careers and promote cultural exchange and acceptance throughout Europe.
3. *Knowledge transfer of validated and quality assured technologies and procedures* to the life science community via world-wide publicly accessible information resources.

4. Promote knowledge transfer *between academic researchers and the biosciences industries through collaborative research projects.*

The Committee members are Concha Gil (Coordinator, Spain), Juan Pablo Albar (Spain), Garry Corthals (Finland), Peter James (Sweden), Ole Jensen (Denmark), Patricia Palagi (Switzerland) and Deborah Penque (Portugal) [3].

The EuPA-EC is working on different projects including basic and advanced courses, a Summer School, courses at

scientific meetings, workshops and tutorials (summarised in Table 1).

### 3.1. EuPA basic courses — a programme called “Teaching the Teachers”

We have organized four different basic courses whose goal is to train students and researchers in four core areas of Proteomics:

- Gel-based Proteomics
- Basic Chromatography-based Proteomics
- Basic Mass Spectrometry
- Bioinformatics for Proteomics.

These courses are set up with the assistance of different experts in their application areas and technologies. All material related to the course, PowerPoint presentations, guidelines, exercises with the correct results, etc. will be available for teachers. They will also be accessible on non-editable format for all members of EuPA through its website. The idea is that EuPA organizes and coordinates courses for teachers of its various member countries and subsequently the teachers organize the same courses in their respective countries with such material. The details of these courses can be found at <http://www.eupa.org>.

The first initial test of the basic course in Bioinformatics for Proteomics was organized by Patricia Palagi and held in June 18–21, 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland (for more details about the experience of this course see [4]). In addition a test course for students in chromatography-based Proteomics, was held in October 2007 in Lund, Sweden. The course was run by Klaus Unger (Institut fuer Anorganische Chemie und Analytische Chemie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universitaet, Mainz, Germany) and Peter James. The experience of this course will be used to organize the course for teachers. Its will now run in September 2008 in Madrid.

Apart from these basic courses, in 2006 the EuPA-EC organized two EuPA courses that were very successful in collaboration with ProteoRed (Network of Spanish Proteomics Facilities), INB (National institute of Bioinformatics-Spain), and ProCura (Portuguese Proteomics Network).

- *How to Analyse 2-DE gels and Publishing 2D-data. ProteoRED-INB-EuPA Course.* Madrid 16–17 of May, 2006.
- *Proteomics in Life Sciences: an International Postgraduate Programme.* Minho University-ProCura- EuPA course. Braga, Portugal, 27June–1 July, 2006.

### 3.2. EuPA advanced courses

The first EuPA advanced course *Advanced Proteomics Technologies*, organized by Garry Corthals and Anna Rokka, in Turku (Finland), in 2006, was extremely successful. The same thing happened with courses organized by Ole Jensen (University of Southern Denmark) in 2007: *Bioinformatics in Mass Spectrometry based Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry in Protein Chemistry and Proteomics: Analysis of Post-translational Modifications*. A second edition of these courses will be held in 2008.

More Proteomics courses running in other European laboratories and other proposals for basic and advanced courses are

welcome. The guidelines for EuPA courses are on the EuPA web page.

### 3.3. EuPA Summer School

The first Summer School *Proteomics Basics: Sample Preparation and Protein Separation* took place in Brixen/Bressanone, South Tyrol, Italy from 12–18 August, 2007. The Summer School was organized by Henning Urlaub (Max Institute for Biophysical Chemistry Goettingen, Germany) and Katrin Marcus (Medizinisches Proteom-Center Bochum, Germany), and financed by the VW-Stiftung Germany. The aim was to provide a detailed overview of the main analytical techniques to PhD. and young post-doctoral students. Lectures focused on different preparation techniques of different types of proteins and basic principles of chromatography and gel electrophoresis. Applications of these techniques were also addressed in different workshops. The participants, from 16 different European countries, were sponsored by their respective Proteomics Societies. A detailed report of the Summer School can be found in Marcus et al. [5]. In addition, the students' view is detailed in Collins and Little [6]. This year will be the second edition of the European Summer School *Protein Identification*, in the same place, 13–19 July, 2008. More information can be found at <http://www.proteomic-basics.eu/2008> [7].

### 3.4. EuPA courses at scientific meetings

The first course was organized by Garry Corthals and Peter James in collaboration with ProteoRed [8], on the 10th of February 2007 at the first EuPA meeting [9], which took place in Valencia. The aim of this course entitled *Access and Use of Public Proteomic Bioinformatic Resources* was to highlight the use and operation of publicly available bioinformatics resources accessible via the internet. More details of the course can be found in Albar et al. [4].

The Educational Programme in the HUPO 2008, 7th world Congress and 2nd EuPA meeting (16–20 August, Amsterdam), will be jointly organized by EuPA and HUPO Education Committees.

### 3.5. Workshops

Proteomics Workshop will be focused on timely subjects. The members of EuPA's General Council suggest new proposals or list workshops that have already been planned but would like to count on EuPA's support. Subjects focused on outstanding proteomic technical approaches or on a particular biological question to be answered by a combination of proteomic strategies benefiting from the collaboration between the participants, in terms of expertises and/or facilities, are welcome. A workshop on *Functional PhosphoProteomics and Cell Signalling* has already been planned for 2008.

### 3.6. Tutorial Programme

The idea of this programme is to invite scientists to write articles on specific areas of Proteomics and related technologies. These articles will be published in the major Proteomics journals along

with a PowerPoint presentation that will be used for education purposes. These articles will be edited with the goal of providing material for a Proteomics Master. There will be two main sections: (1) core techniques and basics and (2) applied Proteomics aimed at showing how these techniques are used to solve biological questions. This programme has begun in January 2008 and will be led by the joint Education Committee EuPA-HUPO, which has been recently created to combine ideas and efforts for promoting education in Proteomics.

In addition, the organization of a European Masters in Proteomics is being studied by the EuPA-EC.

### 3.7. Financial support

The financial support is a very important issue for developing the EuPA-EC activities. The different sources that can support the educational activities are

- *The National Proteomics Societies or governments of the different European countries.* In Spain, ProteoRed and INB funded by *Genoma España* are supporting some Proteomics courses. The European Summer School is being funded by VW-Stiftung Germany. The Nordforsk [10] has recently funded a consortium to develop and make course material available on quantitative Proteomics [11]; this material will be available to the EuPA and HUPO communities.
- *European Programmes like “Lifelong learning Programme”* that constitutes the legal basis for the support of European associations active at European level in the field of education and training. The EuPA-EC wants to submit an educational proposal for 2009.
- *Other European Institutions like the European Science Foundation.* EuPA-EC and EuPA Funding Committees are studying different financial sources.

## 4. EuPA-HUPO Interactions Committee (EH-IC)

The mission of the EuPA-HUPO Interactions Committee is to ensure effective information exchange between EuPA and HUPO, thereby ensuring that the relatively small National Proteomic Societies within Europe have, through their membership in EuPA, an opportunity to interact with HUPO and influence decision making concerning Proteomics on the worldwide level.

The Committee members (2005–2008) are Mike Dunn (Chairman, Ireland), Thierry Rabilloud (France), Fernando Corrales (Spain), Connie Jimenez (Netherlands), Helmut Meyer (Germany), Steve Pennington (Ireland), Michael Fountoulakis (Greece) and Achim Kraus (Germany). Steve Pennington retired from the Committee when he assumed the position of Chairman of the EuPA Funding Committee.

The primary mechanism for the EHIC to interface with HUPO is via the HUPO Organisational structure (see <http://www.hupo.org/overview/structure/> [12]), in particular with the HUPO Executive Committee, the HUPO Secretariat, and the various HUPO Committees (see <http://www.hupo.org/overview/structure/committees.asp> [12]). From the outset, it was realised that direct interactions with the President of HUPO would be critical and to this end Mike Dunn has had several meetings with the HUPO President, Rolf Apweiler. These discussions and subsequent

Committee meetings have focussed on several important issues as outlined below.

At present the HUPO Annual Congress is held every three years in Europe. The bidding process for the HUPO 2008 Annual Congress took place before the formation of EuPA. The winning bid, which was from Amsterdam and the Congress, Chaired by Albert Heck, Anne-Claude Gavin and Ruedi Aebersold will take place from 16–20 August, 2008. It was subsequently agreed that the Amsterdam event would also be the EuPA Annual meeting in 2008. Subsequently, the EH-IC and the EuPA Congress and Communications Committee (ECC) have been in direct contact with the Amsterdam HUPO Congress Chairs to discuss specific EuPA participation in the meeting. As a consequence, there will be a special scientific session at the Congress dedicated to the EuPA Young Investigator Award, sponsored by Elsevier, and linked to the Journal of Proteomics. This session will be Chaired by Concha Gil, Thierry Rabilloud and Anne-Claude Gavin. The competition will be open to candidates who must be PhD students at the time of HUPO 2008, citizens of a EuPA country, and working in a European laboratory. Candidates must either be nominated by senior researchers or by national Proteomics societies. The EuPA Young Investigator Award together with the EuPA Senior Investigator Award will become annual awards at future EuPA Annual Conferences (see Introduction).

Following negotiations between the EH-IC and the HUPO Executive Committee, it was agreed that in the future EuPA would be responsible for coordinating the bids to host the HUPO Annual Congress in Europe. This task has now become the responsibility of the EuPA EuPA-CCC, and their subsequent call for bids has resulted in the selection of the Swiss Proteomics Society bid. It was decided at the EuPA General Council Meeting in Lausanne in December 2007 and will be proposed to HUPO with Geneva as the venue for the 2011 HUPO Annual Congress.

Interactions between the EH-IC and the HUPO Executive Committee have also resulted in improved accessibility to HUPO Initiative Workshops at the Annual HUPO Congress, with attendance to the Initiative Workshops being open to all delegates since the 2006 HUPO Annual Congress in Long Beach. The EU-IC has also supported HUPO in that in the future, participation and membership of HUPO Initiatives should be a more open process, with scientists in relevant areas being given the opportunity to express an interest and participate in the various existing and future HUPO Initiatives. It was suggested that Initiative web sites should provide a mechanism for individuals to express interest in receiving information and joining a particular initiative.

The EH-IC has also considered ways in which regional Proteomics groupings such as EuPA can be formally represented within the HUPO Organisation. Currently, the only “Members” of HUPO are individual proteomic practitioners who have paid their membership dues. The HUPO Council is the decision-making body; it includes a board of directors and the President, who is elected by HUPO members. Currently, the Presidents of the National Proteomics Societies and Regional Proteomic Organisation such as EuPA sit on the HUPO Council as Observers. Any change to this system to ensure a more structured regional representation on the HUPO Council will require amendment to the HUPO By-Laws. In fact, the President of HUPO, Rolf Apweiler, is presently leading a working group, whose members are Mike Dunn, Richard Simpson and Catherine Fenselau, to undertake a thorough revision of the HUPO By-Laws. The intention is that the revised By-Laws, after

approval by the HUPO Council, can be presented for ratification by the General Assembly of HUPO Members to be held during the Amsterdam HUPO Annual Congress (15th August, 2008).

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