



European Society for Photobiology

Newsletter

Spring 2026



Welcome to ESP Newsletter

Connecting the European photobiology community through science, education and collaboration

Created & curated by Rossella Labarile, Editor in Chief

Dear Friends, dear Colleagues,

The European Society for Photobiology (ESP) continues to thrive thanks to the enthusiasm, scientific excellence, and engagement of its members, and recent activities clearly demonstrate the vitality of our community:

I am delighted to report the successful completion of the 2nd ESP Junior Online Meeting, which showcased the strength, enthusiasm, and high scientific quality of our early-career researchers. The collaborative spirit and excellent presentations are strong indicators of a bright future for photobiology. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the organizers—Martina Mušković Lukić, Carla Arnau del Valle, Rossella Labarile, and Nidia Maldonado-Carmona—for their outstanding work in making this event both scientifically rewarding and smoothly executed.

Several ESP members attended the 43rd ASP Biennial Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona (16–19 May 2026), providing an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and further strengthen the long-standing collaboration between our sister societies, ASP and ESP. With two plenary lectures (Massimo Trotta and Pål Selbo) and the ESP–ASP joint session, Photosensitization: A Tribute to Professor Miguel A. Miranda (chaired by Santi Nonell and Sherri McFarland, with an introduction by Virginie Lhiaubet-Vallet), the ESP presence at the ASP meeting was both strong and highly visible. We enjoyed both the science and the social gatherings.

Preparations are also well underway for the ESP Photobiology School in Brixen/Bressanone (15–20 June 2026). While the deadline for the upcoming edition has passed, we strongly encourage members to consider this unique training opportunity for their students in future editions.

I also encourage all members to review and maintain their ESP membership, which is a key foundation for sustaining our scientific meetings, educational activities, and community engagement. Please also consider Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences (PPS), the official journal of ESP, for your future work.

Finally, again, please mark your calendars for the 22nd ESP Congress, to be held in Kraków, Poland, 22–26 August 2027.

With best regards,
Pål Kristian Selbo
President, European Society for Photobiology

ESP Communication work group

The ESP newsletter is a key tool to keep our community informed about upcoming events and scientific updates in photobiology.

We warmly invite all members and interested researchers to stay connected. For suggestions, contributions, or inquiries, please contact us via the ESP email address: communication@photobiology.eu



**Fabienne
Dumoulin**



**Rossella
Labarile**



**Carla Arnau
del Valle**



**Martina
Mušković**



**Matteo
Grattieri**



**Nidia Maldonado
Carmona**



**Pål
Selbo**

Join Us! Upcoming Events

We're committed to providing valuable insights and opportunities for photobiologists.

Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

JUN 25 8th Photodynamic Day Istanbul, TR

The Photodynamic Days are one-day international congresses organized since 2015 in the framework of the International Day of Light.

The 8th Photodynamic Day will be held on the 25th of June at Acibadem University, with distinguished plenary speakers: Dr. Barbara Ventura, Dr. Tayyaba Hasan, Dr. Martina Vermathen, Dr. Nicolas Loebel and Dr. Başak Findik.

Besides the sharing of the latest updates in the field, the format aims at maximizing the interactions between the audience (max 100 delegates) and the speakers.

A best poster award sponsored by the Springer Nature publishing group in the name of the Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences, the flagship journal of our society.

MORE INFO



Dr. Barbara Ventura

Istituto per la Sintesi Organica e la Fotorreattività
Italy



Dr. Martina Vermathen

Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry & Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Bern
Switzerland



Dr. Nicolas Loebel

President & Chief Technology Officer
Ondine Biomedical



Dr. Tayyaba Hasan

Wellman Center for Photomedicine
Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School
USA



Dr. Başak Findik

Computational Chemistry & Biochemistry
Boğaziçi University
Türkiye



The 8th Photodynamic Day
25 June 2026 at Acibadem University



JUN 22-24 SIFB Annual Congress Brescia, IT

The SIFB Annual Congress 2026 will take place in Brescia from 22 to 24 June 2026, bringing together researchers, students and professionals working across the broad field of photobiology. The scientific programme will feature invited lectures by leading national and international experts, covering topics ranging from photomedicine and photodynamic therapy to photosynthesis and photoresponsive materials.

Stay tuned for further programme updates and announcements.

MORE INFO

OCT 26-30 6th PDT symposium Nancy, FR



On behalf of the organizing committee, we are delighted to welcome you once again to Nancy for the sixth PDT symposium devoted to all aspects of clinical photodiagnostics and photodynamic therapy from October 26 to 30, 2026.

The program committee, local organizers and PROPULS' have worked diligently to put together an outstanding program. Clinical PDT-PD will be discussed in terms of photodynamic diagnosis or therapy, instrumentation, photosensitizers, dosimetry and light monitoring, mathematical modeling, cellular mechanisms and more.

The guiding idea behind the symposium is to keep the spirit of the famous Brixen conferences alive *i.e.* interesting discussions between young researchers, industrialists, seniors, poster presentations, oral communications and invited lectures on academic research but above all on clinical applications of PDT, in a pleasant atmosphere with good wine, good food and music.

The first conference was a great success in Nancy in 2016, as was the second in Kochel am See in 2018. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PDT-PD 2020 organizing committee decided to offer only an electronic conference. This was a real success, with over 450 participants. The fourth conference took place in Nancy in 2022. The fifth PDT-PD symposium was held in Kochel am See in 2024.

We hope you will have a warm and enjoyable time at the symposium, and that you will leave the meeting energized and armed with new insights into photodiagnosis and photodynamic therapy.

MORE INFO

JUN
14-20

Photobiology School Brixen, IT

MORE INFO

The ESP Photobiology School, organized by the European Society for Photobiology, is a unique training initiative designed to provide an in-depth introduction to the science of light and its interactions with living systems. Held biennially, the 8th edition will take place from 14-20 June 2026 in Brixen-Bressanone, Italy, offering a week-long immersive learning experience.

The School brings together leading international experts to deliver a comprehensive programme covering both fundamental principles and cutting-edge applications of photobiology. Topics range from photochemistry of biomolecules and environmental photobiology to photomedicine, photodynamic therapy, and the effects of ultraviolet and blue light. Primarily aimed at PhD students, but also open to MSc students and researchers, the course combines core lectures with specialized sessions, ensuring a solid foundation alongside exposure to advanced topics. Participants are encouraged to present their work in poster sessions, fostering scientific exchange and collaboration within a vibrant, multidisciplinary community.

Beyond academics, the ESP Photobiology School emphasizes networking and professional development. Attendees receive a certificate of participation, with the option of an exam that can contribute to their PhD progression. By blending high-quality teaching with interaction and collaboration, the School continues to serve as a cornerstone for training the next generation of photobiologists.

22nd Congress of the
European Society for Photobiology

Local Chair
Janusz Dabrowski
Jagiellonian University
in Kraków

AUG
22-26
2027

22-26 August 2027, Kraków, Poland | #ESP2027Krakow

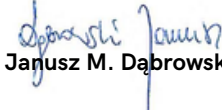
It is a pleasure to invite the international photobiology community to Kraków for the 22nd Congress of the European Society for Photobiology, which will take place from 22-26 August 2027.

The congress will be hosted by the Faculty of Chemistry of the Jagiellonian University, the oldest university in Poland, founded in 1364. The venue is located on the modern Campus of the 600th Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University Revival. The campus is located next to Zakrzówek, a unique landscape of limestone cliffs, turquoise lakes, walking paths, and one of Kraków's most attractive recreational areas.

ESP 2027 will reflect the broad and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary photobiology. The scientific programme will bring together researchers working in photomedicine, plant and environmental photobiology, photopharmacology, photoimmunology, photosynthesis, circadian rhythms, vision research, optogenetics, molecular imaging, photochemistry and photocatalysis, advanced light technologies, as well as emerging applications of artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. The meeting will feature plenary and keynote lectures by internationally recognized experts, thematic symposia, oral and poster presentations, industry sessions, educational activities, and dedicated opportunities for students and early-career researchers. One of the hallmarks of ESP has always been the exchange of ideas across disciplines, creating a forum where chemists, physicists, biologists, clinicians, engineers, and industry representatives can establish new collaborations.

Beyond the scientific programme, participants will have the opportunity to discover Kraków, the former royal capital of Poland and a UNESCO World Heritage city renowned for its history, architecture, and academic traditions. A special highlight of the social programme will be the conference dinner at the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine. Before dinner, delegates will explore the spectacular underground chambers, chapels, and galleries carved in salt within this unique UNESCO-listed monument.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, I warmly invite you to join us in Kraków and celebrate the diversity, innovation, and future of photobiology together.


Janusz M. Dabrowski

MAR
26-27

2nd ESP Junior Meeting

Past Events

After the successful first edition, which gathered around 50 participants, the second edition of the ESP Junior Meeting grew into a vibrant international event, bringing together 110 participants from all over the world for two days of inspiring science, networking, and fun dedicated to young photobiologists. Participants joined from across Europe, as well as the United States, Brazil, Chile, India, and Australia, creating a truly fantastic welcoming atmosphere.

The scientific programme featured two excellent keynote lectures delivered by the 2025 ESP Young Investigator Awardees, Nicoletta Liguori and Antonio Frances-Monerris. Participants also enjoyed an impressive series of 53 flash presentations presented by talented young photobiologists, highlighting the diversity and high quality of current research in the field. One of the highlights of the meeting was the round table discussion featuring the ESP President, Pål Kristian Selbo, the Director of the Photobiology School, Santi Nonell, and the Chair of the Educational and Training Committee, Virginie Lhiaubet. Their discussion offered valuable insights into the opportunities that ESP offers to the young photobiologists. The event also included two inspiring workshops: the first led by Cansu Kaya from Springer and the second by Fernando Gomollón Bel from Agata Communications.

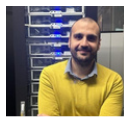
Alongside the scientific programme, participants enthusiastically joined the fun and competitive Photobiology Quiz, where six teams battled for the winning title. The flash presentation awards recognised several outstanding young researchers. The winner was Linda Jernej from the University of Salzburg, while the two runner-up awards went to Lorenzo Gramolini from University of Alcalá, Spain, and Alexandra Barth from North Carolina State University, USA. The presentations were organised into three sessions chaired by Lara Garcia Campa, Celina Pihl, Chanda Bhandari, Jose Quilez Albuquerque, Lorena Tamarit Mayo, and Martina Mušković Lukić.

The meeting was organised by Carla Arnau del Valle, Martina Mušković Lukić, Rossella Labarile, and Nidia Maldonado Carmona. The organisers would like to sincerely thank the European Society for Photobiology, all sponsors, session chairs, and especially all the young photobiologists whose enthusiasm and participation made this event such a success. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone again at the 3rd edition of the ESP Junior Meeting!

Invited speakers



Nicoletta LIGUORI
Keynote speaker



Antonio FRANCES
Keynote speaker



Kaya CANSU
Springer workshop



Fernando GOMOLLON BEL
AGATA workshop

ESP presenters



Pål K. SELBO
ESP President



Virginie LHIAUBET
ESP Officer



Santi NONELL
ESP School President

Organizing committee



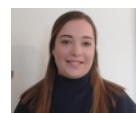
Rossella LABARILE



Martina MUŠKOVIĆ



Nidia MALDONADO



Carla ARNAU

APR
9-10

PanEuCOPT 1st Action Conference, Portugal

[MORE INFO](#)



In April 9-10 took place the PanEuCOPT 1st Action Conference, an event revolving around photoantimicrobials and how the PanEuCOPT consortium will tackle the challenges in the field. Under the premise "Unify, Align and Educate", the consortium presented a vision of the European landscape in photoantimicrobials, where it resulted evident in the need of new and stronger networks of collaboration across countries and continents. The meeting ended with the announcement of the "Shining Through Contest", a scientific art contest taking place at the social networks of PanEuCOPT.

Check the PanEuCOPT website and their social networks to find more about their advances and how your research group can collaborate with them.

MAY
16-19

43rd ASP 2026 Biennial meeting,
Scottsdale, AZ



The 43rd ASP Biennial Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona (16-19 May 2026) brought together a vibrant international community, fostering scientific exchange and collaboration in a stimulating and welcoming environment initiated by the ASP President, Sherri McFarland.

The active participation of ESP members underscored the strong and enduring connection between ASP and ESP, while contributing to a dynamic and engaging program.

The meeting not only highlighted recent advances in the field of photobiology but also offered a valuable space for discussion, new ideas, and future collaborations, all within a friendly atmosphere that made the experience both productive and enjoyable.

See you in Miami!

Our Journal

Kristjan Plaetzer
Editor-in-Chief
(Photobiology)



Dear colleagues,
Dear friends,
Dear readers,

I am delighted to invite you to publish your scientific work in Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences. As the official journal of the European Society for Photobiology and the European Photochemical Association, PPS offers a dedicated and engaged readership for contributions in photochemistry and photobiology. We publish brief reports, research articles, perspectives, reviews, methodology papers, forum articles, comments, and protocols, supported by a constructive peer-review process and efficient publication timelines.

Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences is a hybrid journal. Following acceptance, authors may choose to publish their work Open Access (subject to article processing charges) or via the traditional subscription model (without page charges). Springer Nature maintains agreements with numerous institutions, where Open Access publication costs will be covered by the submitting author's institution at no cost to the authors. Further details and a comprehensive list of participating institutions by country can be found at:

<https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/oa-agreements>

We are pleased to inform you that PPS has increased its Impact Factor in the most recent evaluation period, now standing at 3.2. In the Scopus category rankings, the journal is positioned in Q1 for Radiation and in Q2 for both General Chemistry and Biophysics. If you have any questions regarding Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

I would be very pleased to receive your submissions and would greatly appreciate your consideration of PPS as a venue for disseminating your valuable scientific work.

If you wish to further advance your research field, enhance its visibility within the international scientific community, or foster collaboration with colleagues in your area of expertise, I would be very pleased to invite you to organise a Topical Collection in PPS as a Guest Editor. An overview of the process is provided in the diagram.

Should you have an idea for such a collection,
I would be delighted to hear from you at
kristjan.plaetzer@plus.ac.at

