



## International Union of Photobiology

*Perth, Western Australia*

*22 February 2022*

Dear IUPB Member Societies and our wider community of photobiology/photobiochemistry colleagues

We are entering a third year of the COVID-19 pandemic but we still have much to be thankful for, not least the on-site joint congress with the European Society for Photobiology in August 2019. Just 3 months after the close of the joint congress the first reports of the virus were announced. Apart from the restrictions on physical movement, as often happens in critically challenging times, increased human connections and innovations have occurred – both personal and scientific, and with many online conferences, and family and colleague to colleague virtual meetings.

As you know the next big event for IUPB is its 18th International Congress on Photobiology to be held in Perth, Western Australia, 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Several of us in the IUPB Executive Committee and the emerging congress organisational committees have been discussing some interesting ways in which to bring scientists together in the years between the IUPB congresses as well as to be a part of making each congress an outstanding success. I would like to share some of these ideas with you and to ask for your feedback.

### *Firstly, a few immediate items for the 18th International Congress on Photobiology in 2024*

- 1) Your suggestions for symposia in photobiology, photobiochemistry, photomedicine, and associated new photo-technologies, as well as suggestions for potential Chairs would be very much appreciated. See [Appendix](#) for examples of previous themes. Your expert input here will be vitally important for bringing new insights to our core research fields as well as highlighting innovative and emerging photoscience. You may also wish to consider some of the cross-overs among different disciplines and interacting factors that are challenging life on Earth.
- 2) Apart from the symposia topics, I would be very interested to receive ideas for other events or activities that you would like to have within the programme in addition to the Plenary lectures and Symposia.
- 3) Suggestions for the Congress sponsors would also be appreciated.

Please send your suggestions to myself ([Janet.Bornman@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:Janet.Bornman@murdoch.edu.au)) and our Secretary ([Evelyne.Sage@curie.fr](mailto:Evelyne.Sage@curie.fr)) by **10 March 2022**.

## Secondly, the advantages of joining IUPB

### IUPB Membership

Membership is open to Societies and individuals engaged in photobiology, photobiochemistry and photomedicine. Individuals who do not have a regional or national society are very welcome as IUPB members. An 'Individual IUPB members' group in any one country can nominate a contact person/spokesperson to liaise with the IUPB President and Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will assist with circulating the names of the individual members.

We have also made some very beneficial changes to the fee structure to encourage new Societies and individuals to join IUPB and our current members to continue to support IUPB.

Society members	1 year	2 years *	4 years *
<i>Groups or Societies with the following members</i>	EUR	EUR	EUR
up to 100	150	120/year (save 60)	90/year (save 240)
101 - 300	350	320/year (save 60)	290/year (save 240)
Over 300	750	720/year (save 60)	690/year (save 240)
<i>Individual members</i>	40	30/year (save 20)	20/year (save 80)

\*Savings are compared to signing up for only 1 year at a time

### Benefits and rewards of joining IUPB

- 1) Only IUPB members (covered by their Societies or as Individual members) may apply for IUPB Congress student travel awards and other offerings
- 2) Each member Society and group of Individual IUPB members from any one country can each send one delegate to attend the extended Board meeting at the International Congresses
- 3) Nominations of candidates for the Finsen medalists, Finsen lecturer, and Edna Roe lecturer are welcomed  
Travel and accommodation to the associated congress are covered by IUPB for the above awardees
- 4) Nomination of candidates to the IUPB Executive Board for Vice-President
- 5) Member Societies will be listed and identified with their logo on the IUPB website for increasing national and international exposure
- 6) Member Society Executive Boards/Committees are invited to submit news and announcements (e.g., for courses, webinars, regional meetings) for consideration for posting on the IUPB website to reach a larger audience; similarly, noteworthy IUPB activities could be broadcasted through the relevant societies
- 7) A Job Board for posting new positions will be available for contributions and maintained at the IUPB website; please suggest other website features to promote members
- 8) Invitations to Society and Individual members to act as Guest Editors for a biennial special issue on selected topics for publication in the journal Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences within the Springer Nature group
- 9) Organisation, suggestions for topics or participation in international webinars, which will be offered two or three times a year as a way of keeping in touch with the photobiology communities across the world (contact the IUPB Secretary, [Evelyne.Sage@curie.fr](mailto:Evelyne.Sage@curie.fr))

A small committee will be appointed by the IUPB Executive Board to plan and coordinate the above, and act as a point of contact.

***Thirdly, here are some ideas for IUPB in general and for making the 2024 Congress a scientifically productive and personally enriching event (feedback with additional suggestions are welcome)***

Congress

- 1) In addition to the usual symposia, Presidents of the various photobiology, photobiochemistry and photomedical Societies will be invited to organise and chair their Society Symposia or Workshops and be on the Congress Scientific Committee. Chairs will receive a reduced or waived registration fee, depending on available funds.

A 'meet and greet' sundowner/cocktail will be held with the Society Presidents hosted by the IUPB Executive Committee.

- 2) Additional assistance for invited speakers and students with financial difficulties to attend the 2024 Congress may be offered, depending on available finances.

In between congresses

- 3) Special topic webinars during each year to connect photobiologists, photobiochemists and photomedicine researchers (see also under membership benefits), including engagement with industry research departments.
- 4) Webinars specifically for PhD students and organised by them, assisted by an IUPB-appointed coordinator.
- 5) .....

***Concluding remarks***

Some of you will remember these last points from the slides presented at the General Assembly and Executive Board meeting:

**IUPB strategy plans for 2019-2024**

- Successful and representative congress to gather photobiologists and photochemists from around the world
- Providing an international platform for bringing the relevant societies together
- Addressing key global challenges of light, energy, life and the climate crisis
- Promoting the content of the IUPB website among societies to increase all profiles and sharing of information
- Holding of guideline workshops for setting standards of e.g., methodologies
- Maintain a sustainable financial basis
- Continue to offer IUPB awards: Finsen medals, Finsen Lectures, and Edna Roe Lecture
- Foster research collaboration and mutual engagement with industry

Wishing you all the best for 2022 and looking forward to your suggestions, comments and ideas.

Yours sincerely



*Janet F Bornman (IUPB President) and the IUPB Executive Committee*

## **APPENDIX**

Overview of the 6 main themes of the previous *17<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Photobiology* to give some indication of potential content

**Photomedicine and Human Photobiology**

**Photodynamic Therapy**

**Physical and Chemical Photobiology**

**Photosensory Biology**

**Plant Photobiology**

**Environmental Photobiology**