

Message from the FEPS President

Dear Members and Friends of FEPS,

I take the opportunity of this mid-year newsletter to update you on the ongoing FEPS activities scheduled for 2026.

Most of the FEPS activities are focused on two important initiatives: the launch of the European Accredited Physiologist (EURAP) initiative, led by Luis Monteiro Rodriguez, which will involve seven Member Societies, and the organization of the 2026 European Congress of Physiology "Physiology shaping the future" that will be held in Brescia (Italy) from September 8 to September 11 by FEPS in collaboration with the Italian Physiological Society (SIF) and with the active participation of The Physiological Society (website: <https://feeps-sif2026.azuleon.org/>). The scientific program is very rich, with 8 Plenary lectures, 20 Symposia, 2 Prize lectures, 12 oral communications, poster sessions, and a roundtable for young physiologists on the first day, dedicated to the European Research Council initiatives and applications. We expect a very wide attendance of young and senior European physiologists, also given. To emphasize this event and foster the participation of young physiologists, registration fees have been kept as low as possible, and FEPS has made a call for 20 travel awards of 300 € each, in addition to the call for the prestigious FEPS Rising Star Award, which accepts nominations for young physiologists who have substantially advanced their field through groundbreaking research. The Prize consists of an endowment of €1,500, and the winner will give a lecture at the 2026 FEPS Congress in Brescia.

The FEPS website, which is regularly updated, is not sufficient for an efficient dissemination of the calls for applications among young physiologists, and each of us should contribute to informing young lab members about these and other opportunities that FEPS provides to the Member Societies. This recommendation also extends to the open call for Traveling Fellowships, which supports research by young physiologists in FEPS member societies outside their home country, and to the open call for support in conference participation for early-career researchers. I also remind Member Societies to consider and populate the webpages dedicated to Society-owned journals and to Job Opportunities for PhD and postdoctoral positions.

I extend my best wishes to all FEPS members for an active, productive, and successful 2026 and firmly hope to meet many of you at the Brescia meeting next September.

Regards,

Fabio Benfenati



Executive Board of FEPS

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News & Events

We welcome all news & events from FEPS member societies to be published in the Newsletter and on the website (www.feeps.org). Please send all information to the FEPS secretariat at info@feeps.org

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FEPS-SIF BRESCIA 2026 Meeting (September 8th—11th)

Physiology Shaping the Future

Plenary Lectures

(to [Meeting website](#))



ALICE ASSINGER

Medical University Vienna, Austria

"Liver regeneration: the role of platelets and the immune system"

FEPS Lecture • Wednesday, 9 September - 11:30



EGIDIO D'ANGELO

University of Pavia, Italy

"Multiscale brain models and digital twins"

SIF Ruzzier Lecture • Wednesday, 9 September - 17:30



HANNAH MONYER

Heidelberg University, Germany

pH Lecture - "Space cognition, from Kant to contemporary neuroscience"

pH Lecture • Friday, 11 September - 14:30



CARLO REGGIANI

University of Padua, Italy

"In the world of skeletal muscle fibers: new insights from omics investigations"

SIF Herlitzka Lecture • Friday, 11 September - 11:30



PIETER ROELFSEMA

The Netherlands Institute of Neuroscience, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

"Visual perception, visual consciousness and restoring it in blindness"

FEPS Lecture • Thursday, 10 September - 17:30



SILVANO SOZZANI

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

"Defining the boundary between immune system physiology and pathology"

SIF Lecture • Thursday, 10 September - 11:30



SUSAN WRAY

University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

"The science and future of the uterus"

Opening Lecture • Tuesday, 8 September - 16:00



LUCA ZAMPAGLIONE

EU-LISA, European Union, Tallinn, Estonia

Dinner speech - "How cyber security can be dealt in multinational critical infrastructures"

Dinner speech • Thursday, 10 September

Message from The Italian Society of Physiology (Società Italiana di Fisiologia (SIF)) Host of the FEPS-SIF Brescia 2026 Meeting

The Italian Society of Physiology ([Società Italiana di Fisiologia, SIF](#)) is a non-profit scientific society founded in 1947 with the mission of promoting the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in the field of Physiology. The Society brings together approximately 400 members, including researchers, educators, clinicians, and students working in all areas of physiological sciences. Its members investigate the molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, and systemic mechanisms underlying the functions of animals and humans, thereby contributing to the understanding, prevention, and treatment of human diseases.

The SIF was established in the aftermath of World War II, when the Italian physiological community recognized the need to rebuild and modernize scientific research in Italy. Since its foundation, the Society has played a central role in fostering scientific excellence, promoting collaboration among physiologists, and supporting the development of physiology as a scientific and academic discipline.

The Society is governed by an Executive Board elected for a three-year term, consisting of a President, a Secretary General/Treasurer, and six Board Members, in accordance with its Statute.

The primary mission of the SIF is to promote Physiology as a scientific, educational, and professional discipline and to increase awareness of its importance for biomedical research, healthcare, and society. To achieve these goals, the Society develops and supports numerous scientific, educational, and outreach initiatives.

The **Annual National Congress** of the Italian Society of Physiology represents the principal scientific meeting for Italian physiologists and has been held every year for several decades. It provides a forum for presenting and discussing the latest advances in basic, translational, and clinical physiology while fostering collaborations among researchers from different institutions and disciplines.

The Society also promotes scientific exchange through the organization and sponsorship of workshops, symposia, seminars, and educational events covering all fields of modern physiology.

Supporting the next generation of physiologists is one of the Society's major priorities. The SIF organizes the **Young Researchers in Physiology Congress**, dedicated to undergraduate students, PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career investigators, providing opportunities to present their work and interact with established scientists. In addition, the Society organizes the **School of Physiology and Biophysics**, an advanced training program that combines lectures by internationally recognized experts with discussions on emerging concepts and state-of-the-art experimental methodologies.

The Society actively promotes scientific excellence through several awards, including the **SIF Award** for outstanding researchers under the age of 40, as well as prizes recognizing the best scientific contributions presented by early-career investigators during the Society's meetings.

The SIF also contributes to scientific dissemination through the publication of **pH**, a biannual journal that presents physiology from multidisciplinary perspectives, highlighting not only scientific advances but also the historical, philosophical, and cultural dimensions of physiological research.

At the national level, the SIF is a member of the Italian Federation of Life Sciences (FISV). Internationally, it is an active member of the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS) and the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), contributing to initiatives that strengthen scientific cooperation, education, and the international visibility of physiology.

For nearly eighty years, the Italian Society of Physiology has represented the leading scientific organization for physiologists in Italy, promoting excellence in research, education, and scientific dissemination while fostering collaboration among scientists across disciplines and generations.

Message from the FEPS Treasurer Nina Ullrich

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

At the heart of FEPS' scientific activities, the treasurer acts as a guard of scientific progress, ensuring that financial resources are managed in a responsible way, while enabling researchers and especially early-career scientists to thrive. The position is far more dynamic than simply looking after the money. It combines financial oversight, diplomacy, strategic planning, and a strong commitment to supporting the scientific community.

One of the treasurer's central responsibilities is the continuous surveying and monitoring of the society's accounts. This involves maintaining a clear overview of income, expenditures, reserves, and ongoing financial commitments. Accurate bookkeeping and transparent reporting are essential, not only to comply with legal and organisational requirements, but also to build trust among society members and governing bodies. In many ways, the treasurer serves as the financial compass of the society, helping the executive committee make informed and sustainable decisions.

A particularly important aspect of the role is the administration of membership fees from participating member states. FEPS is federation of national physiological societies, and membership contributions are tailored according to the gross domestic product (GDP) of each country and the number of members of each national society. This system reflects the principle of fairness and inclusivity: wealthier countries contribute more, while countries with lower economic resources pay reduced fees, ensuring that scientific participation remains accessible across regions. These contribution scales are typically reviewed and updated approximately every 10 years to reflect changes in economic strength and global financial conditions. The treasurer therefore not only manages invoices and incoming payments but also contributes to maintaining a balanced and equitable funding structure for the society. Annual membership fees contributed by a total of 30 member countries amount to €17,274 and provide financial support for annual meetings, travel awards, and travel fellowships.

Collecting membership fees requires persistence and tact. The treasurer is responsible for issuing payment requests, tracking incoming contributions, and sending reminders when payments are delayed. While this administrative task may appear routine, it often involves maintaining constructive communication with representatives from different countries and institutions, balancing firmness with diplomacy to ensure that the society's financial stability is preserved without straining professional relationships.

Beyond administrative duties, the treasurer also plays a major role in shaping the scientific opportunities offered by the FEPS. One of the most rewarding responsibilities is participating in the decisions on the allocation of travel awards and travel fellowships, particular-

ly for early-career researchers. These grants allow young scientists to attend congresses, present their work, build collaborations, and establish themselves within the international scientific community. In this context, the treasurer does not merely distribute funds but helps to invest in the next generation of physiological scientists and contributes directly to the future of the field. In the last two years alone, FEPS has awarded €6,600 in Travel Awards to young scientists, thereby facilitating their participation in FEPS scientific meetings by partially covering travel-related expenses.

The treasurer is likewise closely involved in planning and approving budgets for congresses and scientific meetings. Conferences are often the flagship events of a physiological society, requiring careful financial coordination to balance scientific ambition with fiscal responsibility. Decisions must be made regarding venue costs, speaker support, technical infrastructure, social events, and sponsorship arrangements. A successful congress depends not only on scientific excellence, but also on sound financial planning, making the treasurer an indispensable contributor to its success. In the past two years, for example, FEPS has provided financial support for the organization of the joint IUPS–Europhysiology Meeting in Frankfurt (2025) and the Physiology in Action Meeting in Granada (2024), as well as funding a teaching symposium and Early Career Travel Awards. Another practical, but important responsibility concerns the reimbursement of travel expenses for society members, speakers, and committee participants. Ensuring that reimbursements are processed accurately and efficiently demonstrates professionalism and respect for the volunteers and scientists who dedicate their time to the society. The treasurer oversees these processes, verifying claims and ensuring compliance with the society's financial policies.

Finally, the treasurer manages regular financial operations of the society, including collecting invoices, paying bills, and overseeing transactions from the society account. This includes coordinating with banks, accountants, and sometimes external service providers. Attention to detail is crucial, as even small inaccuracies can have broader implications for the organisation's credibility and financial health.

In summary, the role of the treasurer of FEPS is multifaceted and highly influential. It requires financial expertise, organizational skill, diplomatic communication, and a genuine commitment to advancing science. Far from being a purely administrative function, the treasurer helps create the financial foundation that allows scientific exchange, international collaboration, and the development of young researchers to succeed.

Meeting of FEPS Member Societies 101st Physiological Days in Ostrava, Czech Republic



The 101st annual Physiological Days, the joint event of the Czech and Slovak Physiological Societies took place on February 3–5, 2026. The event was organized by the Institute of Physiology and Pathophysiology of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ostrava (the youngest medical faculty in the Czech Republic).

Thematic blocks were focused on neurophysiology, cardiovascular physiology, endocrinology and metabolism, exercise physiology and physiology of the immune system. Traditionally, a section on new approaches to teaching physiology was also included.

The introductory, so-called Purkyně lecture, on the topic Incretins and their role in energetic and metabolic homeostasis was presented by Prof. MUDr. Martin Haluzik, DrSc.

Invited lecture dealing with Exercise physiology was presented by prof. Peter Hofmann (Graz University).

The total number of registered participants was 186. Majority of them came from Slovakia and the Czech Republic; and smaller numbers came from Austria, Iran, Ukraine and Russia. Altogether 67 oral presentations and 70 posters were presented.

An integral part of the congress was also an accompanying program that supported informal meetings and exchange of experiences between participants. It included the Evening of Young Physiologists, tours of teaching laboratories and simulation training center. The traditional Social dinner was held in the historic industrial environment of Dolní Vítkovice.

The complete program proceedings with abstracts and photo galleries are available on the congress website : fyziolog-ickedny2026.cz.

First Dutch Physiology Education Day brings educators together from across the Netherlands



On 3 April, the Dutch Network of Education in Physiology hosted its first Physiology Education Day in Amsterdam, bringing together around 30 physiology educators from universities across the Netherlands. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices and discuss the future of physiology education.

The program focused on innovation and collaboration. It opened with a keynote lecture by Harold van Rijen on the impact of artificial intelligence on higher education, followed by an interactive strategy session on strengthening the position of physiology within medical and biomedical curricula. Participants also explored the use of AI for simulated patient conversations and visited the Amsterdam Physiology teaching laboratories, where they were introduced to branching scenarios as an innovative educational approach.

The enthusiasm and engagement of the participants highlighted the value of a national network dedicated to physiology education. The inaugural Physiology Education Day reaffirmed the central role of physiology as a foundation of medical and biomedical education and demonstrated a shared commitment to addressing educational challenges through collaboration, innovation and the exchange of best practices.

We look forward to building on the success of this inaugural meeting and welcoming even more colleagues to future events to further strengthen our national community of practice. For more information about the Dutch Network of Education in Physiology, opportunities for collaboration, or membership of the network, please contact Elza van Deel [LinkedIn](#) or E-mail: e.d.vandeel@amsterdamumc.nl or find more information here: [Fysiologie Onderwijs - NVMO](#)