



Message from the FEPS President

Dear readers,

On behalf of the FEPS Executive committee we wish you a healthy, happy and productive 2022.



We are all longing for normality and a return to the many things, including our scientific meetings, small and large, that we took for granted. It is therefore a great pleasure to confirm that preparations for Europhysiology 2022, of which FEPS is a full partner, are well advanced and online registration has opened. This in person meeting will be in Copenhagen, 16-18th September.

In this newsletter we have started what we hope will be a regular feature, which is to focus on one of our member national societies. This has been instigated after last year's regional meetings, where a desire to get to know each other better was expressed. I am therefore particularly grateful to Beti Beti Dejanova and colleagues from the North Macedonian Society of Physiologists, for sharing insights about their society. If you would like your society featured, please email us.

I hope you will also enjoy reading about our President-elect, Fabio Benfenati. If you do not know him already, consider this an introduction, and you will also see what he looks like and be able to spot him in Copenhagen!

Susan Wray

Executive Board of FEPS

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News & Events

We welcome all news & events from the FEPS member societies to publish in the Newsletter also at the web page (www.feps.org). Please send all information to the FEPS secretariat at info@feps.org

EUROPHYSIOLOGY 2022

COPENHAGEN, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2022

Europhysiology 2022 meeting will be organised on 16-18 September 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Early registration is now open, and abstract submission will be open in May 2022.

A strong scientific program has been prepared. Details of the plenary and keynote speakers and symposia are listed on the meeting web page.

<https://europhysiology2022.org/>



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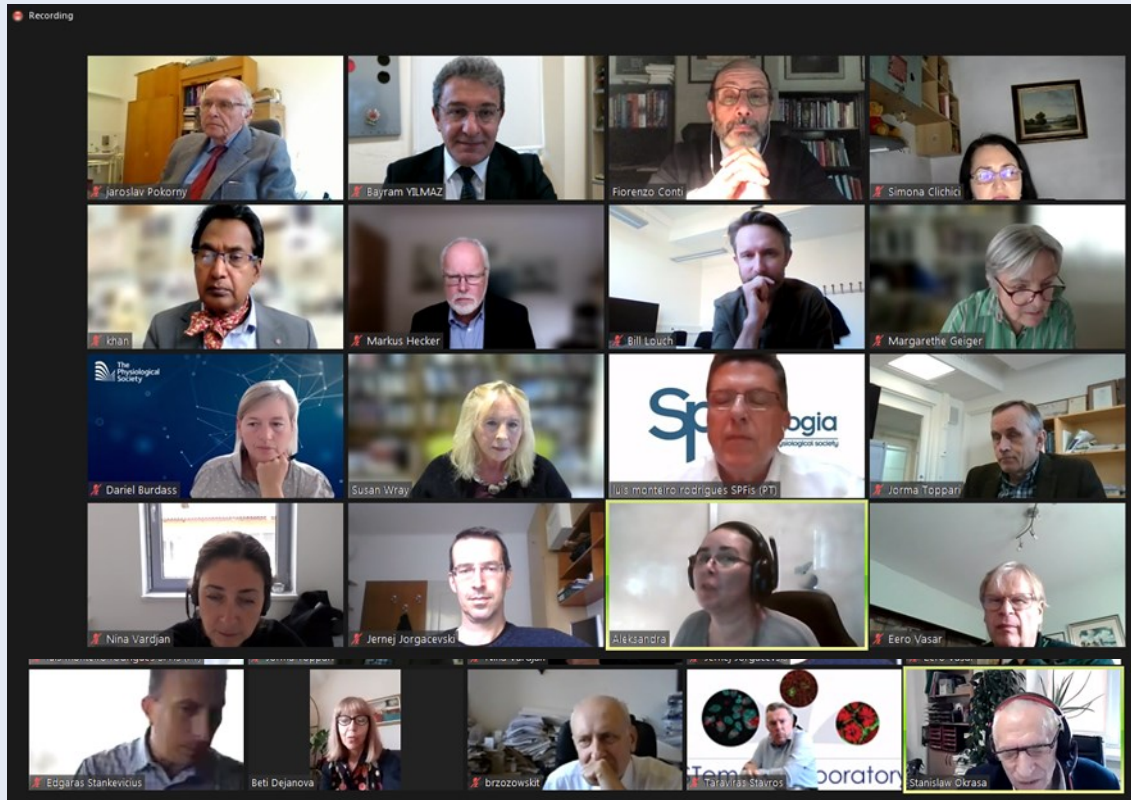
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FEPS General Council Met Online on 12th October 2021

FEPS General Council meeting was held online on 12th October 2021.



The council elected Professor Fabio Benfenati (University of Genova, School of Medicine, Department of Physiology and Research Director at the Italian Institute of Technology) as FEPS President-Elect. We congratulate Professor Benfenati and wish him all the best during his term of office.



Professor Margarethe Geiger (Medical University of Vienna, Center of Physiology and Pharmacology) was elected as the next FEPS Secretary General, starting from October 2022. We congratulate Professor Geiger and wish her all the best during her term of office.



FEPS Announcements

Coming soon- FEPS travelling fellowship scheme for early career stage physiologists will soon be introduced. Keep an eye on our website (www.feeps.org).

FEPS will provide 10 travel grants for early career physiologists towards attending the Europhysiology meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 16-18 September 2022. Details will be available soon.



MEET THE PRESIDENT ELECT: Professor Fabio Benfenati

Dear Members of the Federation of European Physiological Societies,

As you may know, I was recently nominated President Elect of the Society. I am proud and honored for this assignment and I will do my best for serving FEPS and foster its role and activities in the European physiological community.

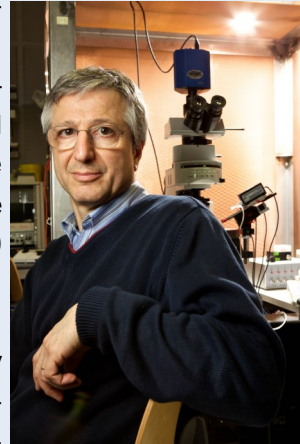
FEPS members might ask who I am and what are the subjects of

my research in Physiology. I am professor of Physiology at the University of Genova School of Medicine, member of the Academia Europæa and Research Director at the Italian Institute of Technology. I was trained in the laboratory of the Nobel laureate Paul Greengard at the Rockefeller University, New York and focused my research on the cellular and molecular mechanisms operating synaptic transmission and plasticity. Over the years, I have identified key players of neurotransmitter release, such as the Synapsins, SNARE and PRRT2 proteins, and characterized the phosphorylation processes regulating their action. More recently, I concentrated my interests on the pathophysiology of synaptopathies and channelopathies leading to epilepsy and autism spectrum disorder, as well as on the generation of light-sensitive neuronal interfaces with advanced opsins and smart materials, with strong impact on the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases of the retina.

During my over 40-year career, I headed several research groups. In 2006, I was the founder of the Department of Neuroscience and Brain Technologies at the Italian Institute of Technology in Genova, with the overall research objective to unravel the mechanisms of neural plasticity *in vitro* and *in vivo*, and pioneer new solutions for neuroprosthetics using neuroelectronic and opto-neural interfaces. I am currently coordinating the Center for Synaptic Neuroscience and Technology where a group of about 40 people are working on the cellular mechanisms of neurological diseases and on the development innovative therapeutic strategies. I was President of the Italian Society for Neuroscience from 2003 to 2005 and President of the Italian Physiological Society from 2009 to 2011. I am also very

passionate about science dissemination: I often give public lectures and I am member of the Scientific Committee of the Genova Science Festival since 2004, actively participating in the definition of the 10-day program of the festival that attracts some 200,000 visitors every year.

I also would like to share with you my vision of Physiology in Europe. Physiology is the spinal cord of Human Sciences, the bridge between “hard” STEM disciplines and “soft” Biomedical Sciences. Nowadays, the landscape of research is rapidly changing. The emergence of new disciplines in biology, such as bioinformatics and “omics” urges the opening of Physiology to the most recent technologies and translational aspects to keep its central role in the educational and scientific fields. In this “Darwinian” evolution, FEPS has a central role in fostering a dynamic European physiological community and giving emphasis to young researchers and gender balance. A live Community should meet and continuously interact. After the dreamed end of the pandemic that confined us in a virtual environment with no empathy and social exchanges, we all are looking forward to going back to interactive science, ready to make a jump ahead toward the future. In the lecture hall of the Alma Mater University of Bologna, where I followed my Physiology courses when I was a medical student, a sentence by Leonardo da Vinci was saying: “*Wisdom is the daughter of experience*”. This is the inspiring principle of Physiology that we will strongly support and disseminate.



Fabio Benfenati with his mentor Paul Greengard.

Featured National Society:

North Macedonian Society of Physiologists

Overview of the North Macedonian Society of Physiologists

The North Macedonian Society of Physiologists was established in 1976 by the professional staff of the Institute of Physiology, Medical Faculty, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Today it counts 55 members, whose educational and scientific background is linked to both, human and comparative physiology. The most of the members are medical doctors with Academic Degree. Colleagues from other departments (anatomists, biochemists, biologists, pathological physiologists as well as other clinicians) interested in basic and clinical physiology are also members of the Society.

The aim of the Society is to bring the physiologists from different institutions together to study, to work, and to discuss different physiology issues, conditions and mechanisms in order to discover cause-consequence states from cell to organic systems. This is provided by organized conference meetings twice a year when together with professors' lectures, also young physiologists usually take place. The usual topics of these meetings present the disciplines of interest such as: Cell physiology and bio-molecules, Neurophysiology and Psychophysiology, Metabolism and Nutrition, Anthropometry, Physiology of Sport and Sport Medicine. The recent conference meetings were held in Berovo by the topics: Basic Metabolism, Nutrition and Health, Physiology of Sport; and in Popova Kula by the topics: Electromyography (EMG) – uses and perspectives, Anthropometric measurements related to different conditions, Endocrine System from Cell Physiology to Clinical Outcomes. Running project are "Psychophysiology and factors related to anxiety in adolescents", "The relation between body composition, level of physical activity and mental health in medical students" with emphasis of the impact of pandemic COVID-19 on mental health in medical students, "Basal Metabolism and Nutrition", "Respiratory System and Sport Medicine", related to several PhD thesis that have to be realized. The two last ones are in progress to be accepted.

The Society has also published the Journal "Acta Physiologica" with an International Editorial Board since 2007. It is edited quarterly and besides physiologists, also clinicians have participated with articles related on experimental and clinical physiology.

President

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Board of the N. Macedonian Society of Physiologists, first row – President Prof. Dr. Beti Dejanova (3rd from left), General Secretary Prof. Dr. Sanja Mancevska (4th from left); second row – Treasure Prof. Dr. Jasmina Pluncevic (in the middle).

Featured National Society:

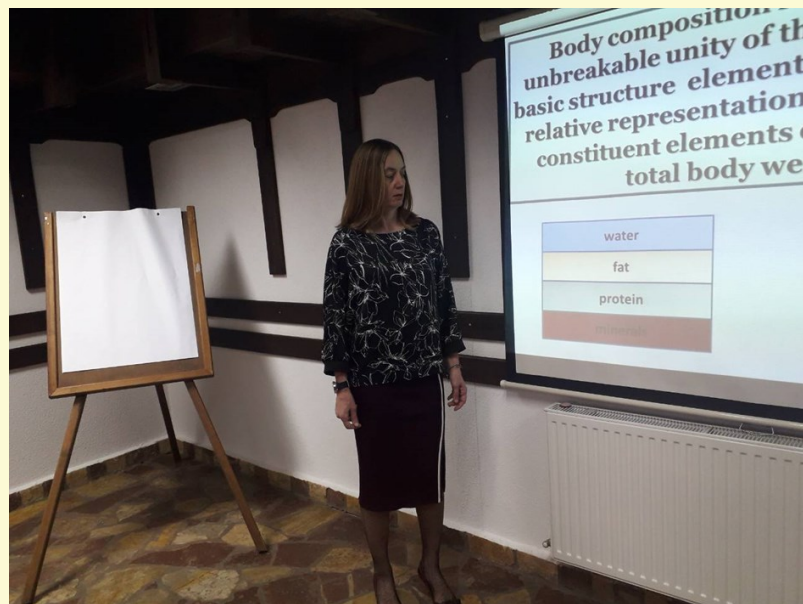
North Macedonian Society of Physiologists



Conference Meeting in Popova Kula, N. Macedonia – part of the participants.



Conference Meeting in Berovo, N. Macedonia – Dr. Michaela Nestorova (presentation title: Basal Metabolism Determination).



Conference Meeting in Berovo, N. Macedonia – Prof. Dr. Jasmina Pluncevic (presentation title: Metabolism and nutrition in athletes).



Meetings of FEPS Member Societies & Related Organisations

39th IUPS Congress, 7 – 11 May 2022, Beijing, China

Marvels of Life – Integration and Translation



39th IUPS Congress will be organized on 7-11 May 2022. The meeting was planned to take place in Beijing, China. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be held as a virtual meeting.

For the program and registration details: www.iups2022.com



12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, 9-13 July 2022, Paris, France

FENS Forum 2022 will be organized in Paris, France on 9-13 July 2022.

Abstract submission and early registration will close on 1st March 2022.

Details of the program and registration can be found at: <https://forum.fens.org>

FENS Forum 2022
9-13 July 2022 | Paris, France

12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience

JOIN US IN PARIS
9-13 JULY 2022

FENS Forum 2022
9-13 July 2022 | Paris, France

European neuroscience meets the world

3rd Regional Congress of Physiological Society and the 5th Congress of Croatian Physiological Society will take place on September 22 – 25, 2022 in Plitvička jezera, Croatia.

Details for the program and registration can be found at the meeting web page: www.hdf.hr/html/indexeng.htm



3rd Regional Congress of Physiological Societies and 5th Congress of Croatian Physiological Society
22 - 25 September 2022, Plitvička Jezera, Croatia

