



International Union of Photobiology

Activities Report 2015-2019

The International Union of Photobiology (IUPB) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1928. Its mission is to stimulate scientific research and international collaboration in photobiological sciences. The membership is open to international and national photobiology groups and to individuals from countries without a photobiology organization. The main activities of IUPB are to promote the organization of the International Congress on Photobiology (ICP) every 4-5 years, to select and award the Finsen Medal in Photobiology, the Finsen Lecture and the Edna Roe Lecture at the ICP, to undertake projects to advance photobiology research worldwide, including in developing countries, and to provide useful information and links on its website to serve the photobiology community (<http://www.iuphotobiology.org/>).

During the period considered, IUPB was registered as a legal entity, increased its visibility thanks to its new website and improved its interaction with member societies by frequent exchanges. An international call was made with the help of its member societies to solicit nominations for the prestigious awards, the Finsen Medal, Finsen Lecture, and Edna Roe Lecture.

Stimulating scientific research and international collaboration, IUPB was responsible for the organization of a successful and representative congress that gathered photobiologists and photochemists from around the world. The 17th International Congress on Photobiology, namely the **2019 ESP-IUPB World Congress on Light and Life**, was co-organized by IUPB and the European Society for Photobiology (ESP). It was held on August 25-30, 2019, at the Hotel Crowne Plaza, in Barcelona, Spain. Santi Nonell, ESP President, was the local chair and John Spudich, IUPB President, was co-chair. The Scientific Organizing Committee (members from 18 countries) set up 66 academic Symposia with Chairs and Invited speakers coming from 32 countries on the 5 continents. Symposia were structured around the 6 broad areas that described key Photobiology areas: **Photomedicine and Human Photobiology, Photodynamic Therapy, Physical and Chemical Photobiology, Photosensory Biology, Plant Photobiology, Environmental Photobiology**. The scientific programme covered all aspects of the interaction of light with the biosphere, including photocarcinogenesis, implication of UV radiation and climate change on ecosystems, optogenetics, and applications of light-based technologies. The congress registered 749 participants from 47 countries, including attendees from Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Oceania, 28 from South America, and 186 students from 37 countries.

IUPB is already looking into the organization of the 18th International Congress on Photobiology. It is planned to occur in Perth (West-Australia) on 2024.

Paris, November 26, 2019

Dr. Evelyne Sage
Secretary General, IUPB