

# The European Proteomics Association (EuPA) is in the field

## Report of the formal inauguration of the European Proteome Association (Munich, Germany, August 29, 2005)

# REPORT

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After one year of preparation the European Proteomics Association (EuPA) was formally inaugurated on August 29, 2005, on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> HUPO World Congress in Munich, Germany. Delegates from 16 European countries elected Dr. Friedrich Lottspeich, President of the German Proteome Society, as the first EuPA President. The EuPA Board also comprises Professor Mathias Uhlen as Vice President, along with Professor Michael Dunn (Ireland), Professor Concha Gil (Spain), Dr. Jean Charles Sanchez (Switzerland) and Professor Pier Giorgio Righetti (Italy) as Coordinators for the presently defined focus activities of the EuPA. The general objectives of the EuPA are to promote proteomic activities throughout Europe, emphasising the benefits and contribution of proteomics to biological researchers, industry, the general public and politicians.

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What begun exactly one year ago at the 6<sup>th</sup> Siena Proteomics Meeting has become reality: the formal inauguration of the European Proteomics Association (EuPA). On August 29, 2005, representatives from 16 European countries met in Munich at the 4<sup>th</sup> HUPO World Congress for their first General Assembly and elected the President and the Members of the Executive Committee of the EuPA.

The general objectives of the EuPA are to promote proteomic activities throughout Europe, emphasising the benefits and contribution of proteomics to biological researchers, industry, the general public and politicians. Other areas

where the organisation feels activities could help are the promotion of scientific exchange in all areas of biological research, and the consolidation and coordination of duplicate activities by national organisations. In the last 12 months a strategic committee (Garry Corthals, Christian Kleinhammer, Friedrich Lottspeich and Jean Charles Sanchez) defined the EuPA's objectives in detail and proposed an organisational structure. Both have been accepted by all the national proteomics societies involved.

The EuPA's mission is summarized in the following three central points:

(i) strengthen the national proteomics organizations in their efforts, (ii) coordinate and provide educational programs, and (iii) advance the networking of scientists through meetings, workshops and student exchange.

In practical terms the EuPA will manage its activities in 4 committees which are given below:

(i) conferences/communications, (ii) education, (iii) EuPA-HUPO interactions, and (iv) funding.

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**Abbreviation:** EuPA, European Proteome Association

Fostered by the activities initiated and performed by these committees, scientists will network through meetings, workshops and student exchange; educational activities in proteomics technologies and applications will be coordinated and performed; it is planned to promise awards, fellowships and travelling stipends. Obviously, interactions with HUPO will play a major role; and pursuing the interests of the European proteomics research community at the EU in Brussels will certainly be a major task for the EuPA.

The EuPA will run its activities in a management structure comprising the General Council, the Executive Committee and four Activity Committees. Details can be taken from Scheme 1.

The first elections appointed the following persons for the available posts (Table 1):

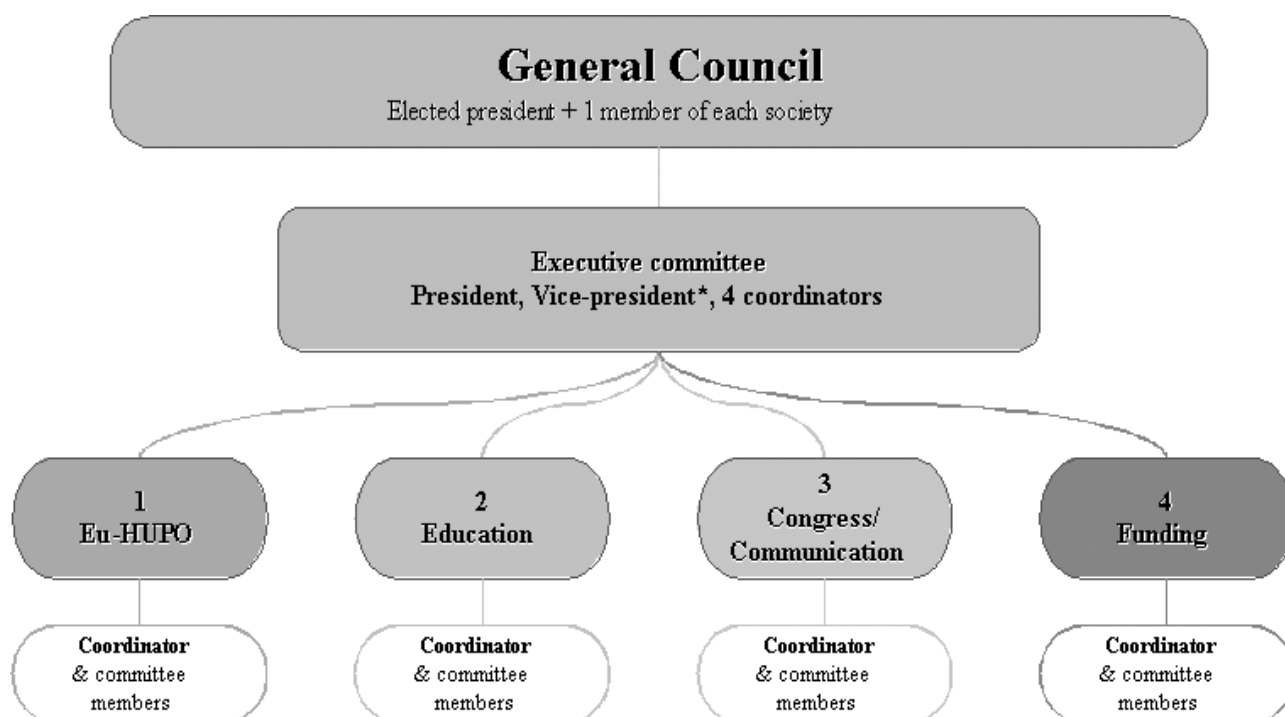
As can be seen from Table 2, the proteomics community throughout Europe represented by their national organisations is now under one roof.

The EuPA plans to have its first regular General Council Meeting on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Swiss Proteomics Society in early December 2005. This will lead to detailed working plans addressing the most urgent tasks in view of the EuPA's mission statements. The General Assembly in Munich generated much enthusiasm about the perspectives of the new European Proteomics Association which will endow the European proteomics community with one strong voice in the future.

Inquiries about the EuPA should be addressed to Friedrich Lottspeich at lottspei@biochem.mpg.de

**Table 1.** Result of the first election

President:	Dr. Friedrich Lottspeich, Martinsried, Germany
Vice-President:	Prof. Mathias Uhlen, Stockholm, Sweden
Coordinator for EuPA-HUPO Interactions:	Prof. Michael Dunn, Dublin, Ireland
Coordinator for Education:	Prof. Concha Gil, Madrid, Spain
Coordinator for Congress/Communication:	Dr. Jean Charles Sanchez, Geneva, Switzerland
Coordinator for Funding:	Prof. Pier Giorgio Righetti, Verona, Italy



\* vice-president could be one of the coordinators

**Scheme 1.** The EuPA's organisational structure

**Table 2.** EuPA Member Societies as of August 29, 2005

	Organisation	Country	Delegate in Munich
1	Swiss Proteomics Society (SPS)	Switzerland	Jean Charles Sanchez
2	French Electrophoresis and Proteomics Society	France	Thierry Rabilloud
3	Netherlands Proteomics Platform	Holland	Connie Jimenez
4	Swedish Proteomics Society (SPS)	Sweden	György Marko-Varga
5	Danish Proteomics Society	Denmark	Ole Nørregaard Jensen
6	Hungarian Proteomics Society (HPS)	Hungary	Tamas Janaky
7	Czech Proteomics Society (CPS)	Czech Republic	Karel Bezouska
8	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Proteomforschung e.V. (DGPF)	Germany	Friedrich Lottspeich
9	Norwegian Proteomics Society	Norway	Kari Fladmark
10	Portuguese Proteomics Network (ProCura)	Portugal	Deborah Penque
11	Spanish Proteomics Society (Seprot)	Spain	Concha Gil
12	Italian HUPO & Italian Proteomic Society (iHUPO/IPS)	Italy	Pier Giorgio Righetti/ Luca Bini
13	Hellenic Proteomics Society (HPS)	Greece	Michael Fountoulakis
14	British Proteomics Society (BSPR)	U.K.	Steve Pennington
15	Finnish Proteomics Society	Finland	Tuula Nyman
16	Austrian Proteomics Network	Austria	Ingrid Miller

**Figure 1.** The first EuPA-Executive Committee (from left): Dr. Sanchez, Professor Gil, Dr. Lottspeich, Professor Righetti, Professor Dunn (Photo kindly provided by Steve Pennington)