

CV – YSF Elections 2017

CV - Riccardo Levato

Name : Riccardo Levato

Nationality: Italian

Date of birth: 15/11/1985



Current position: Postdoc, Biofabrication for Translational Regenerative Medicine group, University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU, The Netherlands, PI: Prof. Jos Malda)

Research interests: Hydrogels, biopolymers, regenerative medicine, bioprinting, biofabrication, stem cell-biomaterial interactions

Position applied for:

	YSF communication and dissemination officer
	YSF industrial liaison officer
X	YSF educational officer
	YSF secretary
	YSF national chapters liaison officer

Attendance of past ESB conferences: I have been an ESB member since 2011. ESB conferences attended: 2011 (Dublin, Ireland); 2013 (Madrid, Spain), 2015 (Krakow, Poland, also as “Julia Polak” European Doctorate Awardee), 2016 World Biomaterials Conference (Montreal, Canada). Additionally, my research has been presented also at the 2014 conference (Liverpool, UK) and at the 2012 World Conference (Chengdu, China).

Candidate:

Motivation: Since early in my research, I have been focusing on Biomaterials, Biofabrication and Regenerative Medicine, fields to which I am dedicating my career and my earnest passion for discovery. I hold a *cum laude* Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering (Technical University of Catalonia, UPC, Spain), and a Master in Biomedical Engineering from the Technical University of Milan, Italy. I worked in multiple institutions across Europe, including 3Bs research group (University of Minho, Portugal), Technical University of Milan (Italy), Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (Spain), and at UMCU, always focusing on the development of novel biomaterials for tissue regeneration, bioprinting and *in vitro* tissue models. I wish to further contribute to the development of the European Biomaterials community, by actively supporting the YSF, and I am enthusiastic to present my candidature, with a particular preference for the position as YSF Educational Officer. In fact, besides my interest for research, I am strongly dedicated to foster education and outreach in the biomaterials field. Since early in my PhD, I have been contributing as tutor in several international student exchange initiatives, including the MIT-Spain, Erasmus, and Euroscholars programs, as well as to inter-university agreements, such as the UPC-EEIGM

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double degree in Materials Science and Engineering (2011-2015 Barcelona, Spain – Nancy, France), and in the EU-Australian Master degree in Biofabrication (2015-to date, UMCU, University of Wuerzburg, Queensland University of Technology, University of Wollongong). Specifically in this Master, I teach and I am responsible for the lectures in the subject “Introduction to Biomaterials”. Since 2015, I have been organizer of the Utrecht Summer School on “3D printing and biofabrication”, a yearly course for international Master and PhD students (30-40 students/year), and since 2016 I have been in charge of designing the full course program (i.e. structure, invited lecturers, workshops). Moreover, I am co-supervisor of 4 biomaterials-related PhD students at Utrecht University, and I have already co-supervised to completion one PhD thesis (Vivian Mouser, Utrecht University, defended on 15/06/2017).

Possible Achievements: To ensure high participation at YSF and ESB-related activities, there will be a need to improve engagement of the young scientist community through social media (i.e. LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter). I also aim to contribute with the rest of the YSF board to organizing educational and career development sessions during ESB-related meetings. Specifically regarding the fostering of the educational vocation of ESB, besides contributing in the organization of the ESB awards, social networks and the ESB newsletter can be used to obtain feedback from the young scientists community, for instance to identify preferred topics for new workshops to be organized on specific skills (either research or career-development related). One possibility could be to provide regularly (i.e. yearly/ every 6 months) a questionnaire on which skillset is mostly required and does not receive enough attention in the regular training of PhD students (i.e. mechanical testing, decellularized matrices, bioprinting, histology). Additionally, we could aim to further enhance the advertisement and dissemination of biomaterial-related activities. Students seeking complementary skills training, as well as international networking opportunities, are often unaware of the multitude of the diverse courses organized by research groups across Europe (often led by ESB members). An updated database/list, possibly expanding the one already available on the ESB website (i.e. including also smaller and local events) could be a first step to facilitate young scientist engagement. Moreover, we could evaluate the possibility to extend endorsement for workshops and skill training (including Summer Courses), eventually working towards the establishment of a network of training events/workshops, recognized by ESB. This will facilitate networking opportunities for young researchers, but also among the research groups involved, potentially even resulting in training-based EU-funding opportunities (i.e. ITN proposals). Furthermore, as potential member of the ESB YSF board, I will aim to foster the collaboration and preparation of joint events, such as symposia at international conferences in our field, together with other societies in our field, particularly TERMIS and the International Society for Biofabrication (ISBF), in which I am an active young scientist member. I also extensively collaborate with research groups belonging to the SBF (Jason Burdick) and ASBTE (Tim Woodfield, Dietmar Hutmacher), thus I could contribute strengthening the links with other regional societies for Biomaterials.

Communication skills: Fully proficient in oral and written English, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, and Italian (Mother Tongue).

Any other ideas/remarks: Considering my experience and network of collaboration with multiple research groups across Europe, I would also be available to contribute as candidate for the position of YSF national chapters liaison officer.