

## European Society for Biomaterials-YSF (ESB-YSF) Board Elections Application Form

**Anna Puiggali Jou**



*Name:* Anna Puiggali Jou

*Nationality:* Spanish

*Date of birth:* 01/12/91

*Current position (position, affiliation):* MSCA postdoctoral fellow, ETH Zurich

*Research interests (5 keywords):* Tissue engineering, conducting polymers, hydrogels, drug release, and cartilage regeneration

*Position applied for (please rank your preferences from 1 (most preferred position) to 6 (less preferred position)):*

5	YSF Spokesperson
4	YSF communication and dissemination officer
6	YSF industrial liaison officer
1	YSF educational officer
2	YSF secretary
3	YSF national chapters liaison officer



## Candidate summary

**Motivation:** Being part of a group of innovative minds able to pioneer new technologies, fill medical needs and understand complex biological processes is a privilege itself. But also, being able to coordinate events, find new ways to share knowledge and engage students in the field is an exciting challenge. Being a member of the ESB-YSF board would be a vibrant experience that will allow me to gain leadership skills, critical thinking and professional maturity. I am a very diligent and highly motivated person who has already been involved in different organisations devoted to youth growth (*Casal d'Infants del Raval* and *Agrupament escolta Joan Maragall*) and will bring new ideas to the ESB-YSF. With my dedication, I will keep the young scientists engaged by promoting biomaterials education at different levels, fostering collaborations and providing space for discussing the young scientist's concerns. ESB-YSF is a world-leading society in sciences and technologies; hence, becoming a board member of this excellent institution will be essential to my future professional development goals.

**Possible Achievements:** I believe ESB-YSF should be a platform to provide young scientists with the necessary tools for their scientific development:

1. Contribute to their biomaterial education and training by offering relevant seminars or talks of senior scientists.
2. Promoting the development of soft skills like science communication, grant writing, or scientific illustration.
3. Fostering collaborations within people of the society by organising different social events.

Altogether I will provide young scientists with the necessary tools to reach their goals and develop critical thinking. Many times, young scientists struggle to find the best pathway to achieve their objectives. Therefore, I believe it would be interesting to introduce more guidelines/databases of fellowships/grants/awards in the different countries and steps of a researcher career (at the national and international level). Another significant interest would be facilitating more help/information to mothers in academic careers. There is still a big gap between women and men in high academic positions. So far, I have participated in Fix the Pipeline Switzerland program and would like to implement similar programs within the ESB-YSF. I think YSF events at the 32nd Annual Conference of the European Society of Biomaterials will be ideal for workshops to face these problems.

**Communication skills:** A part of a daily researcher life is communicating their findings and knowledge to others. Therefore, I am skilled at preparing PowerPoint scientific presentations for the research group and participating in teaching labs for student supervision. This year, I co-chaired a session in the Biointerfaces International Zurich 2021; I was a juror member for the 4th Young Scientist symposium 2021 of the Swiss Society for Biomaterial and Regenerative Medicine (SSB+RM) and presented at the TERMIS congress. In 2020 I participated in bringing scientific female role models into schools organised by the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology and gave an oral presentation in the Virtual International Symposium on Nano/Microgels.

During my research education, I had the opportunity to work on different European groups. I started as an undergraduate and master student at the University College of London (UK) under the supervision of Prof. G. Battaglia. Afterwards, during my PhD thesis at Universitat Politècnica de Barcelona (Spain) with Prof. C. Aleman, I participated in three different internships, at the University of Warsaw (Poland) with Prof. S. Sek, at the University of Namur (Belgium) with Prof. E. [Perpète](#), and the Free University of Berlin (Germany) with Prof. M. Calderon. Therefore, I am familiar with these countries' scientific and educational biomaterials landscape, and I expanded my networking capabilities. I can communicate in English, Spanish and Catalan.

**Any other ideas/remarks:** Every day, I feel fortunate to work on what I like the most, and I would love to help others achieve it.