



ESB General Assembly Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Time: 14:00 – 15:00 (Central European Summer Time)
Venue: Auditorium, Lingotto Congress Centre, Turin, Italy
Invited: All ESB 2025 attendees
Present: ESB Members (attendance list taken on entry)

Agenda

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the 2023 General Assembly minutes
- President Report
- European IUSBSE Fellows
- WBC 2032 Update
- Election of new Honorary Members
- ESB Awards
- ESB Education Awards
- Treasurer Report
- Auditor Report
- ESB Journal update
- YSF Update
- Affiliated Societies update
- Communication activities update
- Industrial partnership update
- Future ESB meetings (2026–2029)
- Council Elections
- A.O.B

Minutes

The General Assembly was conducted in person during the 34th Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB 2025) in Turin, Italy.

• Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the 2025 General Assembly was presented to the members.

• Approval of the 2023 General Assembly Minutes

Sandra Van Vlierberghe presented the 2023 General Assembly Minutes, which were available on the ESB website.

• President Report

The ESB President, Nicholas Dunne, addressed the assembly and:

- presented the current ESB Council and the responsibilities of its members;
- reported a current ESB membership of more than 1,400 members and highlighted the benefits of membership, including international visibility, networking opportunities, discounted access to Biomaterials Science, YSF support and mentorship, and education awards;
- highlighted engagement with National Affiliated Societies and sister societies, including the joint WBC 2024 symposium and a series of webinar events;
- reported continued engagement with IUSBSE, including regular meetings, collaboration around WBC 2024 and WBC 2028, and the WBC 2032 bidding process;
- noted the ESB's memoranda of understanding with CSBM, TERMIS-EU and FEMS.

• European IUSBSE Fellows

Nicholas Dunne presented the European IUSBSE Fellows update.

The ten IUSBSE Fellows inducted in 2024 were presented: Iulian Antoniac, Aldo R. Boccaccini, Gianluca Ciardelli, Marc Bohner, Nicholas Dunne, Pamela Habibovic, Lorenzo Moroni, Miguel Oliveira, Ana Pêgo and José Carlos Rodríguez-Cabello.

The timetable for the next nomination round was outlined. The call for nominations is planned for Q2–Q4 2026, followed by eligibility checks and evaluation in 2027, Council ratification and submission to IUSBSE, with the IUSBSE vote planned for Q4 2027. Abhay Pandit will coordinate the European Fellows Selection Committee.

• WBC 2032 Update

Nicholas Dunne presented the European Society for Biomaterials bid to host the 14th World Biomaterials Congress in Rome, Italy, in 2032.

- The Italian Society for Biomaterials (SIB) is proposed as the official host on behalf of ESB and the European National Affiliated Societies.
- The bid is supported by ESB and 12 National Affiliated Societies, representing an estimated community of 3,000–5,000 biomaterials science experts.
- The Letter of Intent, signed by all Presidents, had been submitted.
- The next major milestone is submission of the full WBC 2032 proposal by August 2026.

• Election of Honorary Members

Nicholas Dunne recalled the ESB byelaw provisions for Honorary Membership. The following candidates were proposed for election as Honorary Members: Karine Anselme, Mário Barbosa and Joëlle Amédée.

• ESB Awards

Nicholas Dunne presented the ESB Scientific Awards and congratulated the 2024 and 2025 awardees.

- 2024 George Winter Award: Aldo R. Boccaccini
- 2024 International Award: Jason Burdick
- 2024 Klaas de Groot Award: Geoff Richards
- 2025 George Winter Award: Molly Stevens
- 2025 International Award: Xingdong Zhang
- 2025 Jean Leray Award: Andrew Daly

- 2025 Klaas de Groot Award: Liz Tanner

AO was announced as the new sponsor of the ESB George Winter Award. The deadline for nominations for the 2026 scientific awards is 9 January 2026.

• ESB Education Awards

Elżbieta Pamuła presented the ESB Education Awards for 2024–2025.

- Rudolf Cimdins Scholarship 2025: 10 awardees from two countries; the scholarship covers the full ESB conference registration fee for eligible students from poorly funded countries/groups (HDI < 0.850). The next call is planned for 15 June 2026.
- Julia Polak European Doctorate Awards: 9 awardees in 2024 and 16 awardees in 2025. The next call is planned for 31 January 2026.
- Racquel LeGeros Award: awardees for 2023–2025 were presented; the next deadline is 30 November 2025.
- Presentation awards at ESB 2025 include ESB Best Student Oral and Poster Presentation Awards as well as sponsored awards from MDPI Nanomaterials, Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology, MPS and the Journal of Nanobiotechnology.

• Treasurer Report

Silvia Farè presented the Treasurer's report, including the revenues and expenses for 2023 and 2024, the provisional 2025 accounts, and the proposed budget for 2026.

The 2023 and 2024 account reports and the ESB budget for 2026 were put to the General Assembly for approval.

Membership evolution was also presented, with 1,254 members reported for 2025 as of 31 August 2025.

• Auditor Report

The Auditor Report relating to the accounts was presented to the General Assembly in connection with the vote on the 2023 and 2024 account reports.

• ESB Journal Update

Cristina Barrias presented an update on Biomaterials Science, the official journal of ESB.

- 2024 metrics: 1,730 article submissions and 415 article publications; Impact Factor 5.7; 5-year Impact Factor 6.0; CiteScore 11.4; 13 days to first decision for all decisions and 37 days to first peer-reviewed decision.
- Li Tang (EPFL, Switzerland) was presented as the 2025 Biomaterials Science Lectureship Award winner.
- The ESB 2025 collection will feature selected research presented at the conference and papers from ESB members who opt in. Submissions are open until 1 February 2026.
- ESB members are eligible for a 15% discount on article processing charges in Biomaterials Science.

• YSF Update

Niloofar Tahmasebi Birgani presented the Young Scientists Forum update using slides prepared by YSF spokesperson Dr Arn Mignon.

- The YSF continues to promote biomaterials education and training, communication, collaboration and networking among young researchers.
- YSF finances, activities during ESB 2025, the call for projects and the YSF election were presented.
- A competition was launched for YSF members to develop the logo for the 50th anniversary of ESB. The winner will be decided by the ESB community; the deadline is 31 January 2026.

• Affiliated Societies Update

Maria Grazia Raucchi presented an update on engagement and initiatives involving the ESB National Affiliated Societies.

• Communication Activities Update

Jérôme Sohier presented the communication activities update.

- The ESB website continues to provide Society updates, events, newsletters, awards, vacancies and member profiles, with further improvements implemented for member access and industrial partner visibility.
- Members were reminded to remain vigilant regarding phishing attempts.
- The ESB social media channels were updated: 1,877 followers were reported on X/Twitter and 2,013 followers on the new LinkedIn account.

• **Industrial Partnership Update**

Matteo D'Este presented the Industrial Liaison Officer report.

- Industrial partners of ESB conferences receive visibility on the ESB website until the conference.
- Two industrial sessions were held on Tuesday during ESB 2025: 'Sustainability and Circular Economy as drivers of new (bio)materials development' and 'Sex-related design aspects in biomaterials research and applications'.
- The sessions included contributions from clinicians, academic and industrial researchers, the European Commission, sustainability specialists and patient representatives.

• **Future ESB Meetings (2026–2029)**

Niloofar Tahmasebi presented the upcoming ESB and World Biomaterials Congress meetings:

- ESB 2026 – Antwerp, Belgium
- ESB 2027 – Uppsala, Sweden
- WBC 2028 – Washington, USA
- ESB 2029 – Newcastle & Gateshead, United Kingdom

The next bid is for ESB 2031, with a bid submission deadline of 31 January 2026. ESB endorsement is also available for biomaterials-related initiatives such as conferences and workshops.

• **Council Elections**

Nicholas Dunne and Liz Tanner presented the 2025 Council election process and results.

- Four Council members stood for re-election: Cristina Barrias, Matteo D'Este, Maria Grazia Raucci and Sandra Van Vlierberghe.
- Five new candidates stood for election: Maria Chatzinikolaidou, Cecilia Persson, Liliana Moreira Teixeira, Izabela-Cristina Stancu and Regine Willumeit-Römer.
- The online vote took place from 17 to 31 March 2025.
- Elected: Matteo D'Este, Sandra Van Vlierberghe, Cristina Barrias and Maria Grazia Raucci.
- A tie between Maria Chatzinikolaidou and Cecilia Persson required a second ballot.
- Silvia Farè was thanked for her service on the ESB Council.
- The functions of the new Council will be decided and communicated to the members by newsletter.

• **A.O.B.**

No additional items were included in the presentation.