

ESB Newsletter – 20 October, 2025

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Dear members of the European Society for Biomaterials,

Following the successful 34th Annual ESB Conference in Torino, expertly chaired by Gianluca Ciardelli and Silvia Farè, where we enjoyed five days of outstanding science and valuable networking. We are now preparing for the next Annual ESB Conference in Antwerp, while also advancing a range of ESB initiatives and events in the meantime. In this newsletter, we reflect on recent highlights and share details of the new Council composition and upcoming opportunities.

Looking back at ESB 2025

The European Society for Biomaterials extends its sincere gratitude to the organisers, local teams, and the international scientific committee of [ESB 2025](#) for delivering a **successful and inspiring conference**. This event demonstrated the vitality of our community, bringing together nearly **1,500 researchers and professionals from across Europe** in a stimulating scientific and social setting.



We also warmly thank the sponsors of ESB 2025. Each annual conference sponsor is featured on the [ESB website](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for one year following the conference, providing valuable visibility within our community. Efforts are currently underway to further enhance the online presence of sponsors, and additional updates will be shared in the coming months. Sponsorship opportunities for ESB 2026 are now [open](#).



ESB interaction with industry goes beyond sponsorship: the **Industrial Liaison sessions at ESB2025** covered the topics of **circular economy and sex-related design aspects in biomaterials research**. The sessions, with participation of a diverse panel of experts, presented insightful views and future trends for these topics, highlighting their influence in biomaterials research and development.

Recognition of Excellence

The ESB is proud to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the following Scientific and Educational awardees celebrated during the ESB 2025 Conference:

2025 George Winter Award: Professor Dame **Molly Stevens**.

2024 George Winter Award: Professor **Aldo Roberto Boccaccini**.

2025 Jean Leray Award: Dr. **Andrew Daly**.

2025 International Award: Professor **Xingdong Zhang**.

2025 Klaas de Groot Award: Professor **Liz Tanner**.

2024 Klaas de Groot Award: Professor. R. **Geoff Richards**

2025 'Biomaterials Science' Lectureship Award: Professor. **Li Tang**

2025 Raquel LeGeros Award: **Elisa Martins**

2025 Julia Polack Doctorate Award: Ilijana Kovrlija, Quinten Thijssen, Ksenia Menshikh, Flavia Caronna, Arezoo Dadashzadeh, Agnese Lucchetti, Ana Spencer, Mina Aleemardani, Abhishek Rajesh Indurkar, Cátia F. Monteiro, Paula Milena Giraldo Osorno, Adam Turner, Miguel Pereira da Silva, Ana Iglesias Mejuto, Eva Carvalho, Gregor Miklosic

Poster & Oral Presentation Awards

- ESB Best Student Poster: Eva Jakljevic, Francesca Gattucci, Sara Guerreiro, Elizabeth Seed
- ESB Best Student Oral: Alessandra Manenti, Andrea Bartolucci, Sofia Melo, Sara Corbezzolo
- ESB Translation Award: Laurence Moine



2025 Julia Polak Doctorate Awards



2025 Julia Polak Doctorate Awards



Racquel LeGeros Awards



New Honorary Members

During the General Assembly, three distinguished colleagues were elected as **Honorary Members of the ESB** in recognition of their outstanding contributions to biomaterials research and exceptional service to the Society.

ESB Honorary Members 2025

Professor Karine Anselme

Professor Mario Barbosa

Professor Joëlle Amédée Vilamitjana



Karine Anselme



Mario Barbosa



Joelle Amédée Vilamitjana

Formation of the New ESB Council

The second ballot of the **ESB Council elections** was conducted during the General Assembly at ESB 2025. **Professor Maria Chatzinikolaïdou was elected**, thereby completing the composition of the new Council. The full Council membership is as follows:

- **President: Professor Nicholas Dunne**
- **Vice President and Journal Liaison Officer: Cristina Barrias**
- **Secretary: Sandra Van Vlierberghe**
- **Treasurer: Maria Chatzinikolaïdou**
- **Education Officer: Elżbieta Pamuła**
- **Communication Officer: Jérôme Sohier**
- **Industry Liaison Officer: Matteo D'Este**
- **Liaison Officer, National Affiliated Societies: Maria Grazia Raucci**
- **YSF Liaison Officer and Liaison Officer with Conference Organisers: Niloofar Tahmasebi**



ESB Endorsements

We are delighted to endorse the 3rd edition of the **Alpine Winter School for Biofabrication** event, which will provide a forum for open exchange regarding the most recent developments, current challenges and future opportunities of the area of biofabrication. The event will take place from **7 to 10 January 2026** at the Hotel zum Jungen Römer, Radstadt (Austria). Full details about the event are [here](#).

We are also pleased to endorse the **Advanced In Vitro Models: Spheroids & Organoids** event, taking place in Bologna, Italy, from **12 to 16 January 2026**. Tailored for post-graduate researchers, PhD candidates, and

postdoctoral scholars, the programme provides foundational knowledge and technical skills to apply innovative spheroid and organoid models in biomedical research, drug screening, and personalised medicine. Full details about the event are [here](#).

ESB 2026 - Save the Date & Call for Symposia

From **7 to 11 September 2026**, the city of **Antwerp (Belgium)** will host the **35th Annual ESB Conference ESB2026**. The venue, **Flanders Meeting & Convention Center Antwerp (FMCCA)**, is located next to the iconic Antwerp Central Station and is renowned for its “A Room with a ZOO” concept. It offers a unique blend of historic charm and modern infrastructure, with ample space for plenary sessions, workshops, and networking activities. This year’s program promises to be very exciting, featuring **cutting-edge scientific sessions, interactive workshops, and inspiring plenary and keynote lectures (Speakers)** from **top-level international speakers** who are shaping the future of our field. Whether you’re looking to share your research, network with peers, or gain fresh insights into emerging technologies and methodologies, the ESB Conference offers an unmissable opportunity to engage, learn, and be inspired. In addition, we also celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the ESB**.

The **call for symposia** is now open ([Call for Symposia](#)), with a **submission deadline of 30 November 2025**. Researchers are invited to submit innovative proposals that will contribute to a dynamic and diverse scientific programme. More details on the symposium and abstract submission are available on the ESB2026 website. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this vibrant and forward-thinking community!

The conference chairs, **Veerle Bloemen, Liesbet Geris, and Sandra Van Vlierberghe**, look forward to welcoming you next year in Antwerp!



Future ESB Events

We are pleased to share our upcoming conference plans. The **36th Annual Conference (ESB 2027)** will be held in the historic and innovative city of **Uppsala, Sweden**, from **September 5 to 9, 2027**. Further ahead, the **37th Annual Conference (ESB 2029)** is planned to take place in the twin cities of **Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead, UK**, from **September 3 to 7, 2029**.

Interested in hosting a future ESB conference? Looking even further ahead, we invite expressions of interest to host the **39th Annual Conference (ESB 2031)**. National societies, research centres, or academic groups interested in hosting this event are encouraged to contact our Liaison Officer with Conference Organisers at LiaisonConferenceOfficer@esbiomaterials.eu. The deadline for applying is **January 31, 2026**, and further information about the application process and the application form can be found [here](#).

ESB 50th Anniversary Logo Competition

In 2026, ESB will proudly celebrate its **50th anniversary**. For five decades, our community has advanced high-quality research and innovation in the field of biomaterials. To mark this milestone, we are inviting members of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) to design the official ESB 50th anniversary logo.

The winning design will be used throughout the anniversary year to represent this historic occasion.

Competition Details

Who can participate? **YSF members (members under 40)**

Submission deadline: **31 January 2026**

Submission Guidelines:

- Each participant may submit only one logo, which must be an original design with the theme “ESB 50th Anniversary”.
- Submit the logo as a high-resolution file (.tiff, .jpeg, or .png; minimum 2 megapixels / 300 dpi).
- Include the completed Image Competition Form (downloadable from the ESB website) with your entry. Use of AI tools must be disclosed in detail.
- Send submissions to the YSF inbox (ysf@esbiomaterials.eu) and YSF spokesperson, arn.mignon@kuleuven.be (large files can be shared via WeTransfer or SurfFilesender).
- Use the subject line: ESB 50th Anniversary Logo Competition.

The final winner will be selected by a vote of the entire ESB community. Don't miss the chance to have your design become part of ESB's history!

Call for Applications – Join the YSF Board!

Five new YSF board member positions are available from Sept 2026! This is an opportunity to shape the future of our community, represent young biomaterials researchers, and contribute to exciting ESB initiatives. We strongly encourage early-career researchers across Europe to apply.

Details at a Glance:

- **How to apply:** Download the application form [here](#), fill it in, and send it together with your CV to ysf@esbiomaterials.eu and arn.mignon@kuleuven.be.
- **Deadline: 31st Oct 2025**
- **Voting period:** Nov – Dec 2025; **Results announced:** Feb 2026; **Duration:** Four years

YSF Call for Projects - 2026

The YSF-ESB Call for Projects supports events and workshops that help train young scientists and share biomaterials knowledge in Europe. For 2026, we have an increased total budget of €1,700. The maximum support for a single project remains at €1,200. This increase means that the YSF should be able to sponsor more than one event, depending on the quality of applications and requested budgets.

Now it is all up to you! The call for events/workshops to be organised in 2026 will be open soon (**Submission deadline: 31 January 2026**). Please visit the [YSF-ESB website](#) to access the application template and eligibility criteria. If you need more information, please contact YSF NC Liaison Officer, Patrycja Domalik-Pyzik, at pdomalik@agh.edu.pl.

Kind regards,



*Nicholas Dunne, President
(on behalf of the ESB Council)*