



Trese Leinders-Zufall
ECRO president

Dear ECRO members, colleagues and friends,

in the last two years the ECRO 2017/2018 board has been very active. We made substantial changes on various levels of our society's appearance and management. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the various developments of the last and upcoming year.

Changing perspectives: A new look

Together with Stefan Fuss, I had the pleasure to work on our new ECRO website (www.ecro.online) which got a new clear design. Check it out and give us feedback if you have any suggestions of improvement. We will try to accommodate your proposals. ECRO has now their own conference management system. I have worked with Gaby Mörschbacher on the new software. All delegates of the ECRO 2018 meeting had the pleasure to meet her in Würzburg. I would like to sincerely thank her for her very valuable input and help in setting up and managing the ECRO 2018 meeting. The next annual meeting will profit from all her work on this new conference system.

For the 2018 board election we used an attractive and easy-to-use voter interface that run well on all internet-enabled devices. In principle, all our software has been updated to enjoy information from ECRO on any device (smartphone, tablet or computer). For your information and curiosity, the voting software had no problem to detect double voting via different devices and flagged these to be excluded.

Furthermore, our ECRO payment system for members and conference delegates was modernized. Most can now pay per credit card (PayPal guest) or use a PayPal account. As some realized, a PayPal account gives the possibility to pay your dues using your business credit card or a bank account. The change in payment method needed the help and input of our treasurer. This last year I had the support of two financial officers, our longstanding treasurer Krishna Persaud and our incoming treasurer Marika Kapsimali.

For more information about ECRO and its activities, please visit us online: <https://www.ecro.online>

President

Trese Leinders-Zufall - Saarland University, DE

President Elect

Thomas Hummel - Technical University Dresden, DE

Past President

Peter Brennan - University of Bristol, UK

General Secretary

Stefan H. Fuss - Bogazici University, TR

Executive Secretary / Treasurer

Marika Kapsimali - IBENS, FR

Elected Member

Ivan Manzini - Justus-Liebig University, DE

Coopted Member

Scott McGrane - Mars Petcare, UK

ECRO is a non-profit French Association (law of 1st July 1901, article 5; decree of 16 August 1901, article 2) registered at the Police Prefecture of Paris 21st January 1971, RNA Number W751025356, SIREN-SIRET 832 763 536 00014.

Registered Address:

Collège de France
11 place Marcelin Berthelot, 75005 Paris, France

Unfortunately, no financial system is perfect. We noticed that some countries have trouble using PayPal. In addition, some university firewalls (especially in Medical Schools) prevent PayPal to verify the location of the credit card user and blocked the payment due to their fraud prevention mechanism. Please contact us by email (info_query@ecro.online) if you have problems. We will find a solution for you. In the meantime, we are still trying to improve the payment system to accommodate all ECRO members and conference delegates. However, any payment system will depend on the banking system of different countries causing difficulties due to fraud prevention and privacy management.

ECRO 2018 meeting in Würzburg

I believe all delegates of the annual meeting would agree that ECRO 2018 in Würzburg, Germany, was a success. We had 227 delegates from around the world. The scientific program was packed with interesting themes ranging from sensory systems in vertebrates and insects, from the periphery to the brain, and to new input from fields related to chemosensation. In addition, the social program and the city itself were ideal to enjoy the company of new and old friends with a glass of wine. I would like to thank the ECRO 2018 program chairs, Wolfgang Meyerhof and Frank Zufall, as well as the local hosts in Würzburg, Ricarda Scheiner and Wolfgang Rössler, for their dedication to organize a fantastic meeting.



Farewell ...

Every two years there is a change in ECRO Board members. Welcoming new Board members (President-elect: Thomas Hummel, Elected member: Ivan Manzini and our co-opted member: Scott McGrane) means saying goodbye to others. This year will be a major adjustment for the board, since the society has for a long time been dependent on our adept ECRO members Krishna Persaud (ECRO Executive Secretary and Treasurer) and Didier Trotier (General Secretary) to keep ECRO on track. For example, Krishna had to consolidate bank accounts due to changes in European and more precisely Swiss banking. Thank you for being our Treasurer for a very long time and extending the normal time of service.

Many may not realize it, but the society needs a resident of France on the Board due to Paris being its official seat and thus ECRO's need to adhere to French law. For a long time Annick Faurion (in the background) and Didier Trotier have been our sources regarding ECRO and French rules. Thanks for your long dedication to ECRO and still being available to us when advice is needed.

The third person leaving the Board this year is Wolfgang Meyerhof. He has been very busy to obtain financial support for our society and in particular for the last ECRO meeting. He served not only as our past-president but has been one of this year's ECRO program chairs. In addition, he is our Chemical Senses Editor-in-Chief and hopefully will stay as its editor for a while. Dear Krishna, Didier and Wolfgang: thank you on behalf of ECRO and particular the Board for your long service to European chemosensation.

Report by the Treasurer

I joined the ECRO board as treasurer in 1999 taking over from former treasurer Jean Pierre Calame who was based in Switzerland. Shortly after, he travelled to Manchester in his car with the trunk filled with boxes of ECRO files to hand over to me. In those days all transactions were recorded on paper and all transactions with the bank based in Switzerland were by letter. The first change was to introduce membership payment by credit cards and to open bank accounts in France and the United Kingdom. To do this meant renting a card machine from the bank and processing each member application form manually. Times have changed rapidly and with improvements to the ECRO web site we were able to process payments automatically but this still meant a lot of manual work behind the scenes to track payments and trap attempted payments where the bank had refused a card payment for some reason. In this valedictory treasurer's report I am happy to report that I can hand over the task of treasurer to a new incumbent, Marika Kapsimali, who will have electronic means available to keep track of members payments so that the task will be much less onerous than previously. After having served on the ECRO board during the terms of many presidents, namely Steve Van Toller, Gerd Kobal, Bill Hansson, Heinz Breer, Annick Faurion,

**... and welcome back (ECRO 2019, Trieste)**

to our previous Board member Anna Menini. We are very happy that Anna has proposed to organize the next ECRO meeting in Trieste, Italy. She will be joined by Paolo Gasparini and Antonio Celani to host the meeting between 11. and 14. September 2019. We will be looking forward to a wonderful time in Italy. The call for symposia will be send out at the end of the year.

Other meetings in the works

ISOT 2020 will be hosted by AChemS in Portland, Oregon USA. The organization of the meeting has started and the call for symposia is open. You will receive updates through our mailing system and you can also check the website at <https://achems.org/ISOT>. ECRO-XXX: Ideas for a special meeting? During the ECRO 2018 meeting in Würzburg various chemosensory scientists have started to think about the ECRO meeting after Trieste. The Board welcomes any ideas (Email: info_query@ecro.online) since it will be ECRO-XXX. Floating ideas are Paris, Iceland, or? In addition, we will have to decide in which year (2020 or 2021) we are going to have ECRO-XXX. This is a topic we need to discuss in our upcoming board meeting. We will keep you updated.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and successful new year.

Trese Leinders-Zufall, ECRO President

November 06, 2018

Milagros Gallo, Anna Menini, Wolfgang Meyerhof, and Peter Brennan, I am happy to report that the ECRO accounts are healthy and that the ECRO board continues to fulfil the objectives of the organisation especially in supporting young scientists in the field of Chemoreception. I was privileged to be a friend of Ernest and Ghislaine Polak whose bequest has been supporting many ECRO student grants over the years. I have had wonderful experiences with the various ECRO boards and formed lasting friendships, experienced many varied ECRO Congresses across Europe and had the privilege of organising an ECRO Congress in Manchester in 2011 with my colleague Mathew Cobb.



It is now time to hand over the reins to a new ECRO board who will take our organisation into the future. The signs are great and our incoming president Trese Leinders-Zufall together with Stefan Fuss have been very energetic in rejuvenating and modernising the ECRO web presence which I hope will stimulate active membership of ECRO in the future.



Over the last year we closed our bank accounts in Switzerland and UK, transferring our assets to the Societe Generale in France. Didier Trotier patiently helped to smooth many problems with payments and bank transfers to and from our accounts. We opened a Paypal account for our new web site so that members would have a better experience in paying their annual dues. Marika Kapsimali has been working very hard behind the scenes to make our membership payments with Paypal a painless experience. Problematic over the years has been keeping track of members who paid by bank transfers. In several cases it was impossible to trace who had made a payment especially when it was made through a large organisation or company. I hope that this situation will improve with better banking methods that are now becoming available.

Our auditors Ottorino Belluzzi and Thomas Hummel examined our accounts for 2016-2017 period and these accounts were

presented to ECRO general Assembly during the ECRO Congress in September 2018. I thank them both for their services to ECRO over the last few years.

With thanks to the ECRO Community for their support over the years,

Krishna Persaud

ECRO Executive Secretary and Treasurer



Obituary

The loss of a great scientist: **Jerrold Meinwald** - one of the fathers of Chemical Ecology



Jerrold Meinwald receiving the National Medal of Science in 2014

Jerrold Meinwald was active in science until the end. His last paper was this concise and stimulating review:

Meinwald J, Leal WS, Kubanek J (2018) Molecules as biotic messengers. ACS Omega, 2018, 3(4):4048-53.

Jerrold (Jerry) Meinwald – one of the founders of chemical ecology – died peacefully of cancer Monday (April 23, 2018) in Ithaca, NY, at the age of 91. Among many honors, Meinwald was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (1969), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1970) and the American Philosophical Society (1987). In 2014, President Obama presented him the 2012 National Medal of Science. Meinwald was an Ambassador of chemical ecology. With other colleagues, Meinwald spearheaded the creation of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Kenya, almost 50 years ago. In the late 1990s, Meinwald played a crucial role in the foundation of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology – now a driving force in the field of insect olfaction and taste.

Walter S. Leal

University of California, Davis

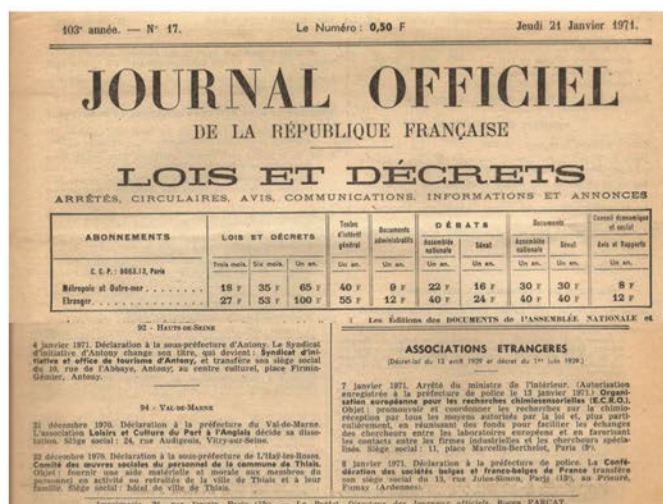
About ECRO

ECRO was inaugurated in 1970 at the International Summer Course on Odour Perception, in Utrecht, with the aim of promoting and coordinating research in chemoreception.

It was officially registered in Paris in 1971 and although it began as a European venture, it now has members from outside Europe and sees its function as world-wide. The goal of ECRO is to promote fundamental and applied research in chemosensory sciences, especially olfaction and taste. ECRO is financed by individual member subscriptions and by donations from industry and research institutions.

Since 1978 ECRO has been affiliated with UNESCO

Find out more under: <https://www.ecro.online>



ECRO provides Travel Grants for young scientists and students to attend conferences or to visit host laboratories for training purposes. Here, they give back to ECRO community by reporting on their scientific and social experiences.

Andreas Steenholt Niklassen

from the Human Chemosensation Meeting in Dresden

I am a medical student from Aarhus University in Denmark. I have over the past 3 years been engaged in several research studies in olfaction and gustation, in the Flavour Institute in professor Therese Ovesens lab. This is a lab with mainly medical doctors, but also researchers with biomedical engineering and neuroscientific backgrounds.

We recently opened an out-patient clinic for Smell and Taste disorders at the Ear, Nose and Throat Department at Regional Hospital Holstebro, Denmark. This is the first clinic of its kind in Denmark, and people are coming from all over Denmark, so we currently have a long waiting list. This is a good opportunity to implement our research, while also conducting clinical studies in olfaction and gustation. I am planning on starting my Ph.D this summer in olfactory rehabilitation in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Hummel from Dresden. My studies will be clinical studies investigating rehabilitation options for people who have lost their sense of smell.

My visit to the human chemosensation meeting in Dresden 22th-24th of February was a very fruitful possibility to present my research, and to discuss this with some of the best researchers and clinicians in the field. The meeting was also a very interesting opportunity to see and explore research done by other research groups and labs and to connect and establish contacts for future collaborations.



At the meeting I presented my recent work in gustatory testing methods. Our team developed a new sensitive test – the Taste Drop Test – recently accepted for publication in Chemical Senses. We compared the re-test reliability and internal consistency of the most commonly used test – the Taste Strips, Burghart Messtechnik, Germany, and compared it with the Taste Drop Test.

The new method was found to outperform the old one in terms of re-test reliability and internal consistency, while also being easy to interpret with even scalable dilution steps in all the tastant qualities. This presentation was well received by the participants of the meeting, but I also received good input as to how to move forward with the test. This included, among others, to test microbiology and PH in our solutions, to give an estimate on the shelf life of the solution, before implementation in a clinical setting. We will arrange for these studies in the nearest future.

ECRO Awards and Support - 2017 / 2018

2018 - ECRO Annual Meeting Travel Award

Alice Roche (FR), Ana Moreno-Perez (DE), Christoffer Nerland Berge (NO), Daniela Daume (DE), Kevin Gonzalez-Velanda (IT), Livio Oboti (DE), Lorena Halty-Deleon (DE), Mehmet Can Demirler (TR), Paola Segoviano (DE), Valentina Parma (IT).

2018 - ECRO Travel Awards and Other Support

Elbrich Postma (NL) - AChemS 2018
Sophie Burghardt (DE) - AChems 2018
Antonella Di Pizio (IL) - Laboratory visit
Andreas Niklassen (DK) - Human Chemosensation 2018, Dresden
Gonçalo Duarde(PT) - ICEC 2018

2017 - ECRO Annual Meeting Travel Award

Minoru Maita (JP; Young Scientist ECRO Oral Presentation Prize), Michael Lukas (DE; ECRO 2016 Poster Prize), Diahann Atacho (IS), Claire de March (USA), Pengfei Han (DE), Christine Belloir (FR)

2017 - ECRO Travel Awards and Other Support

Philipp Nahrath (DE) - AChemS 2017
Olena Riabinina (UK) - ESITO 2017
Mohammed Ahmed Khallaf Ali (DE) - ESITO 2017
Richard Antony Fandino (DE) - ESITO 2017
Hanyu Zhou (CN) - Summer School 'Human Olfaction'
Paulina Morqueto Campos (NL) - Summer School 'Human Olfaction'
Davendra Meena (UK) - ICTP Conference Trieste
Xiaoyang Serene (USA) - Laboratory Visit
Fabio Miazzi (DE) - FENS-Hertie Winter School

The rest of the conference I had the experience of listening to very interesting expert key note lectures from Barry Smith, Noam Sobel, Christian Margot, Klaus Scherer, Jörn Lötsch, and Stuart Firestein. Besides the keynote lectures, a lot of researchers presented their work. Overall, the meeting covered chemosensory research from many scientific fields and backgrounds, professors to Ph.D-students and even medical students – all very interesting. The meeting was for me a success, and I am already looking forward to my next scientific meeting in the chemosensory community.

Andreas Steenholt Niklassen

Aarhus University, Denmark

Fabio Miazzi

from the FENS-Hertie Winter School

Thanks to an ECRO travel grant, I had the opportunity to attend the FENS-Hertie Winter School 2017 which took place between the 10th and the 16th December 2017 in Obergurgl (Austria). This event, organized by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies and the Hertie foundation, was centred on the neural control of animal navigation. The scientific program was coordinated by Prof. Henrik Mouritsen (University of Oldenburg, Germany), Prof. Nachum Ulanowsky (Weizman Institute of Sciences, Israel) and Prof. Eric Warrant, (Lund University, Sweden). Forty selected students and nine lecturers from all over the world joined together to discuss what is our current knowledge about how animals navigate in their environment, but foremost what is still unknown and how different study approaches can be combined to answer some of the long-standing questions in this research field.



The discussion focussed on a variety of topics, from the sensory cues forming the "map" and "compass" systems used by animals to navigate, to the neural mechanisms encoding their position in space and that of e.g. their goals. Throughout the lectures and the posters presented it was possible to get an overview of the wide range of sensory cues that animals can use to find their way: from visual (celestial cues-based compasses in the dung beetles, optic flow and landmark-based navigation in insects), magnetic (light-dependent and independent magnetic compasses and the magnetic map in migratory birds) to olfactory ones (in homing pigeons and seabirds, for example). This last point has been fascinating for me since my university studies and continues to fuel my scientific curiosity even now, as I am investigating how the olfactory signal transduction cascades in the fruit fly olfactory neurons influence the way these insects can find their way through faint and turbulent odor plumes. In some cases, as for the perception of the Earth's magnetic field, although there is compelling behavioural evidence that some animals – as passerine birds – can perceive it and use it to navigate, the receptor(s) and the signalling pathways involved are still unknown. But animals rarely rely on one single sensory cue to

orient themselves and instead reckon on many different, and often redundant, cues to devise reliable information. Among the questions that were tackled during the school were how these sensorial "maps" and "compasses" are represented in the brain and where and how all these diverse stimuli are integrated to take decisions. We are still far away from understanding how e.g. the inclination of the Earth's magnetic field, environmental odours, and visual landmarks are represented for navigational purposes by neuronal networks. On the other hand, examples of how animals keep track of their position relative to goals start to emerge, as the neurons projecting to the insects' ellipsoid body, that keep track of the insect azimuth relative to the environment using a network structure reminiscent of ring attractors. In summary, this winter school served as a valuable platform to discuss the current challenges on the study of animal navigation and to try to tackle them from a comparative and an interdisciplinary perspective. A great experience for anyone studying animal orientation and navigation.

Fabio Miazzi

*Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology
Department of Evolutionary Neuroethology*



Penfei Han

from ECRO XXVII, Cambridge, UK

My name is Pengfei Han. I am a postdoc researcher from the department of Otorhinolaryngology, TU Dresden. I was honored to be awarded the ECRO travel grant to attend the XXVII meeting held in Cambridge, the UK from the 2nd to 5th Sep 2017.

The ECRO annual meeting, as one of the leading conferences in the chemosensory area, attracts scientists and researchers around the world every year. Compared to the ECRO 2016 meeting, this year's meeting appeared to be more diverse and exciting. The conference started with an excellent opening lecture given by Dr. Charles Spence, who talked about the future of food with a focus on multisensory perception. "We eat first with our eyes", quoted from one of Charles' slides, pointed out eating is very much rely on the appearance of the foods.

Actually, a number of physiological responses take place at a mere sight of a food. He suggested that the future food design should not only consider the taste/smell but also the importance of other sensory modalities (visual, auditory and tactile senses). Charles' talk was inspiring not only for the researchers and scientists working in the chemosensory field but also for everybody who wants every eating occasion becomes more enjoyable. Another impressive lecture was the "Brain control of food intake: can old dogs teach us new tricks?" from Dr. Giles Yeo. He talked about the role of the brain in controlling

the body weight from the genetic and molecular point of view. Dr. Yeo was such an excellent speaker that he made the complex mechanisms underlying leptin deficiency, the disruption of melanocortin signaling pathway with genetic factors easy to understand. I knew him from a BBC documentary released earlier this year named "Clean eating, the dirty truth", one great way to communicate science. There were also many other keynote lectures that were stamped on my mind, for example, professor Kevin Murphy's talk on protein-induced satiety, and professor Wolfgang Meyerhof's talk on bitterness perception.

My current research focus is the neural basis of olfactory dysfunction and its relation to human wellbeing. I presented my research about the impaired olfactory brain activation in patients who had traumatic brain injury. I had benefited from the poster sessions, where I talked to other researchers and received valuable suggestions to improve my own work. Besides, the posters covered a wide range of topics in the chemoreception area, from taste-taste interactive effect at the molecular level to the neural representation; from the odor-induced brain oscillations in the olfactory bulb to olfactory dysfunction in different patients. I was excited to see many studies going on around the world trying to help those people who have chemosensory dysfunctions (smell or taste losses).

I am part of the clinical sector of chemosensory research, and I can see the bright future of it. Every moment was a learning experience and I appreciated for the social gatherings. I enjoyed the conference dinner, and the trip to Cambridge. Finally, I would like to thank the ECRO for the financial support, and thanks to the organizers for their great work to make the successful 2017 ECRO meeting. I was so proud to be part of the chemoreception community. The chemoreception is such a vibrant and fascinating research field that I am excited to see each and every new finding move forward in this area.

Dr. Pengfei Han

Technical University Dresden, Germany





Raena Mina

from ECRO XXVII, Cambridge, UK

In Fall 2017 thanks to the support from the Polak Foundation and ECRO, I attended my first ECRO conference which was held at the WellcomeGenome Campus in Hinxton, UK. I am a PhD candidate in the Neuroscience Program with the City University of New York Graduate Center and under the mentorship of Paul Feinstein at Hunter College. I was able to present some data from my thesis on the mechanisms of singular gene choice during the Student and Young Scientist Symposium. I was really looking forward to participate as it would be my first conference on a smaller scale and more intimate than conferences I had attended in the past, such as Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL and the most recent International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste in Yokohama, Japan. I wanted to be able to not only share my preliminary data with other researchers in the field but also to gain some insightful feedback from experts in the olfaction community. Rather than being lost in a huge conference that covers a wider range of neuroscience, I desired easy access for communication and collaboration from peers in the field of olfaction and to attend talks and symposia on topics more related to the work that I do. I was also interested in hearing the latest discoveries and progress in odor coding.

While my research interest of understanding monoallelic odorant receptor expression was underrepresented this year, it was interesting to hear about some of the research geared toward deorphanization and how odors may be perceived or classified based on structure, composition and concentrations as well as the digitization of odor coding. It is also a valuable learning experience to hear about olfaction research in non-model organisms such as cat, dog, rabbit and birds. While my project is focused on molecular genetics I quite enjoyed talks from groups in the field of taste as well as the cognitive aspects of olfaction and studies on human subjects.

Coming from a background of cognitive neuroscience and psychology during my Master's degree, I enjoyed hearing about olfaction in humans, and how odor can affect biological responses and behavior. It was also my first time I had seen olfaction work with neonates and thought the work done by Anna Kernerova in the Young Scientist Symposium was quite interesting. A talk that stood out to me was the years of work

from Julie Mennella at Monell Chemical Senses Center and how diet of both a mother and infant can influence flavor programming as well as studies on sensitive periods for food preference. I also quite enjoyed Vanessa Ruta's talk about how her lab investigated the innate and learned courtship behaviors of various *Drosophila* species and how neural circuits have adapted over time. I am particularly attracted to research that combines both behavior, genetics, imaging and molecular biology as it gives the research question a more well-rounded story. The WellcomeGenome Conference center is located on the gorgeous Hinxton Hall grounds. Attendees could enjoy the beautifully restored architecture of the Georgian-themed Hall and the pretty wetlands nature reserve contrasting with the modern state of the art facilities which has its roots in the Human Genome Project. The gala dinner was held in the historic St. John's College in Cambridge and reminded me of the great hall dinners in the Harry Potter film series.

We were able to walk around and enjoy the picturesque beauty of Cambridge and visit pubs frequented by Watson and Crick. I had a great time meeting with other PhD students and young scientists from all over the world and the opportunity to build connections and collaborations and community was invaluable. I am really looking forward to next year's ECRO in Würzburg, Germany.

Raena Mina

Hunter College - City University of New York, USA

How to submit your reports

Students and young scientists who receive ECRO support to attend a conference or a practical course, or scientists who have received a short-term exchange grant to visit a host laboratory for technical training or cooperation are requested to share their experiences with the ECRO community in return.

Purpose of the report - The report should be informative in terms of the specific scientific experiences and illustrate how the awardee benefitted from the exchange or conference visit. The report should not be regarded as formal and polite thank you note to ECRO but rather reflect active science.

Length and style - Reports should be useful, written in a simple, concise, and informative style with facts and data, rather than just emotional feelings. However, personal experiences and their impact on scientific development of the awardee are welcome. Information about the home institution and scientific background, the type of scientific activity and personal interests are important to complete the report. As a general guideline, an overall length of 500-600 words is considered appropriate. However, this is not a strict rule and longer reports are welcomed, provided they are written in concise and fluent style.

Images - Submission of one or two pictures can make the report more attractive and are strongly encouraged.

Reports are NOT edited or censored and get published as they are. **PLEASE** send your report in plain text (.txt, .rtf, .doc, or .docx; not as .pdf) and without any formatting to the **ECRO General Secretary** under: stefan.fuss@boun.edu.tr. Please, do not embed your images directly into the file but submit them separately as individual files.

For further information on how to apply for ECRO awards, please visit:

<https://www.ecro.online/grants/>

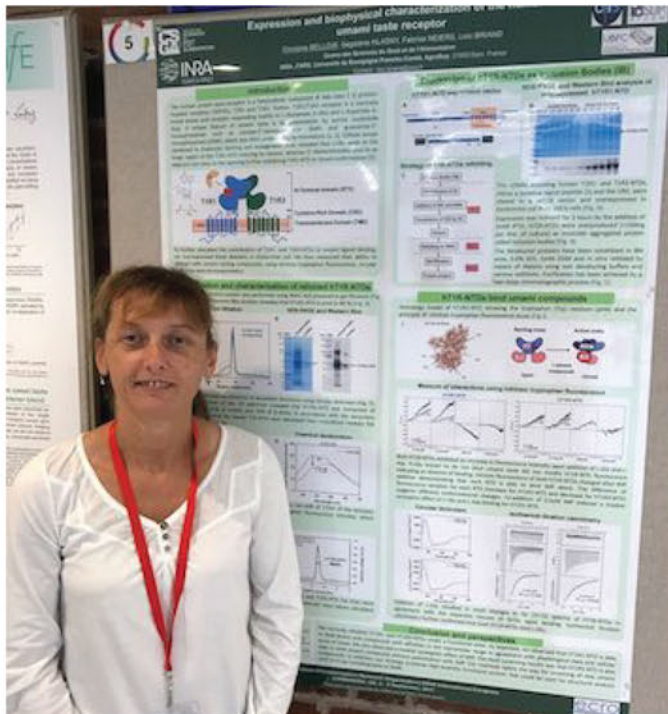


Christine Belloir

from ECRO XXVII, Cambridge, UK

My name is Christine Belloir and I am a PhD student in the Doctoral program "Environment and Health" at the University of Burgundy, in Dijon, France. I work in the Centre for Taste and Feeding Behavior (CSGA) composed of 10 research groups. The general objective is to advance our understanding of the physicochemical, biological and psychological mechanisms underlying sensory perception of food, eating behavior and health consequences. Studies conducted at the CSGA range from the release of aromatic substances and sapid molecules from the food matrix to the psychology and behavior of consumers, as well as the biological events involved in sensory perceptions. Changes in sensory perception in physiological (development, experience) or pathological conditions (nutrient excess, aging) are also studied.

More specifically, I am working on my thesis in the team: "Taste and olfaction: from molecule to behavior" directed by Dr. Loïc Briand, who is my PhD supervisor, along with Fabrice Neiers, researcher at University of Burgundy. Our team is focused on the interaction between taste receptors (sweet, umami, bitter) and tasting molecules, olfactory receptors and odorant compounds, and peripheral events around the receptors integrating Odorant-Binding Proteins (OBP) and xenobiotics metabolism enzymes (GST, UGT), which participate in signal interaction.



My position within the lab is a bit different from that of a traditional PhD student because I have a permanent post in the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) as an engineer specialized in cell culture and functional in vitro assay on HEK293 cells and G-Protein Coupled Receptors. I am thus not a novice in the field of olfaction and taste, as I have worked on these topics since 2005. Nevertheless, I started PhD studies in November 2017 to upgrade my skills, acquire new scientific knowledge and foster intellectual reflection.

The topic of my PhD is "Structure-function relationships of human chemosensory receptors (olfactory and taste receptors)", a wide-ranging subject, appropriate to the specificity of my position (student-permanent team member) as it allows me to do my current job and my PhD study at the same time. Having completed my first year, my project is becoming more precise and is moving towards the study of taste receptors and the development of new tools to examine ligand interactions. ECRO is therefore a timely meeting for the communication of my first results. This was not the first time that I have participated in the annual ECRO meeting, as I had the opportunity to do so in September 2014 when our Center organized the event in Dijon.

At that time, I was author of 3 posters, in which I participated actively to support other PhD projects and contributed my technical support. I also presented a poster as first author for my work on the human olfactory receptor hOR1A1, which I just published this year. The 27th ECRO meeting in Cambridge allowed me to present, for the first time as a PhD student, my first year's results in the form of a poster on "Expression and biophysical characterization of the human umami taste receptor". I would like to express my gratitude to ECRO and the Polak Foundation for generously supporting my participation in the meeting by awarding me a travel grant, as I am an unfunded PhD student.

The ECRO meeting took place on the Genome Campus in Cambridge, which is a famous historic place for The Human Genome Project, thanks to which one third of the human genome was sequenced, making the Campus and its collaborations uniquely important in the history of genomics. The conference center was also a very pleasant location, with its modern architecture and relaxed atmosphere. The building was surrounded by a beautiful park with one of those wonderful English lawns on which many squirrels loved to run. My supervisors and I decided to take advantage of the local accommodations in order to maximize our opportunities to meet other participants and we truly enjoyed our stay. From the traditional English breakfast in the early morning (7:30 a.m.) to the evening dinner, and the "after-parties" in the beer hall next to the Center, those 3 days were very intense but tremendously interesting and stimulating! The ECRO sponsors offered samples of Whiskas Cat Kibbles for our cats and every chocoholic could appreciate "Celebrations" chocolate and special ECRO/Waltham M&M's during coffee breaks.

ECRO 2017 gave me a good opportunity to meet the founding fathers of this great event and to hear the conferences of experts in the field that I had only known by reading their publications. It was also a means to acquiring a well-rounded view of the current state of research. The symposia offered very exciting topics. I especially enjoyed Niimura Yoshihito's talk on the dynamic evolution of olfactory receptors in primates. It was highly interesting to see how the study of the evolution of individual OR genes in diverse primate species may explain OR gene degeneration during primate evolution with the acquisition of acute vision or changes in diet. I was fascinated as well by the conference presented by Prof. Wolfgang Meyerhof on bitter taste receptors and the difficulties inherent in understanding how the co-expression of bitter taste receptors in the same cell generates functional response.



It is similar to the combinatorial coding of olfaction, but with 25 bitter taste receptors able to be expressed in a single cell. Moreover, the first symposium was an excellent opportunity to see my supervisor communicate our results in his presentation on the cat T1R1 taste receptor.

I now fully realize the importance of sharing information with the scientific community and can measure how satisfying it is to see results finally leading to an oral presentation that allows direct question-answer interaction with participants. Finally, in the student symposium, I was impressed at the ease with which certain participants wielded the English language in presenting their data. It is true that their English mother tongue facilitated the exercise. This reinforced the need that I still have to improve my own command of the language!

Two poster sessions were planned at the end of the first two days but there were enough spots to display the poster throughout the entire period. Hence, we had plenty of time to present our own work and discuss it with other researchers. Moreover, it was during coffee breaks and dinner conversation that I received most of the information that has inspired new ideas for my project. The conference was also an opportunity for me to meet members of our current team partnership/collaborators and in some cases it was a great pleasure to be able to put a face to a name, when we previously had only interact-

ed via email. In addition, we appreciated the organization committee's efforts in organizing the private Gala dinner in Cambridge University King's College, where so many researchers received Nobel prizes. I would like to address a special thanks to Gregory Jefferis, who took time to explain how Cambridge University works from the point of view of students and research funding.



I hope that I will be able to participate in future ECRO conferences during my PhD and afterward. I concretely understood following this meeting how important it is to develop a network of people sharing the same research topic as well as a knowledge network to create and participate in new projects. Thank you again for making this possible.

Christine Belloir

University of Burgundy, Dijon, France

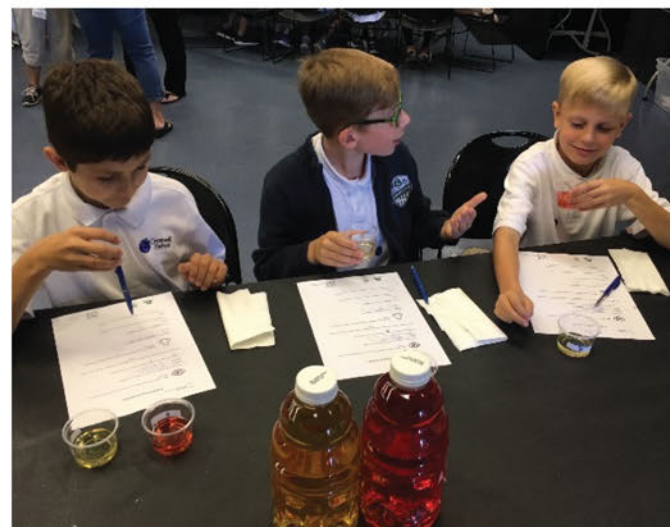


Elbrich Postma

from the AChemS annual meeting 2018

From April 17-20, the annual meeting of AChemS was organized in Bonita Springs, Florida. I was happy to be able to join this meeting, thanks to an ECRO grant. The 40th edition of the meeting proved to be very inspiring and a great opportunity to network with other researchers in the field of the chemosensory sciences. On Tuesday April 17, before the actual meeting started, together with my colleague Paulina Morquecho Campos I joined the outreach. This event is an important part of the AChemS meeting, and is organized to educate children about the senses of smell and taste. We set up an experiment on the role of expectation on food perception by using fruit juices with different colors and performed this experiment with several groups of school children in a science center close to the meeting venue. A great way to educate to scientists of the future!

The meeting program included several symposia, focusing on different aspects of chemosensory sciences. Alan Spector and Carel le Roux organized a symposium on bariatric surgery and its effects on taste and food selection. This symposium, among others, discussed methods to study actual food intake in a research setting, and showed a study in which self-selected food intake was measured in a controlled environment. As I am studying food intake as well as food preferences within my PhD project, this symposium was very inspiring and gave new



insights in how to measure food intake in human studies.

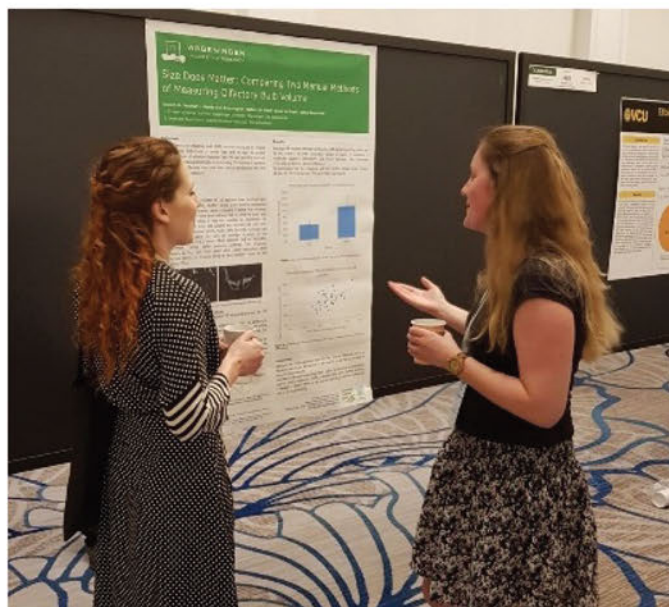
Another highly relevant symposium for me was the symposium 'Functions of Human Olfaction: Frontiers and Challenges', organized by Veronika Schöpf. This symposium included presentations on several aspects of human olfaction. Sanne Boesveldt talked about the role of odor in food ingestion, and Cinzia Cecchetto and Valentina Parma showed the results of their research on the role of olfaction in social communication in humans.

Pamela Dalton closed the symposium with a talk about the importance of chemosensory cues in the avoidance of environmental hazards, in which she highlighted that the context of an odor is very important. Without an obvious source for an odor, it is hard to identify and rate the intensity of the odor. This symposium was not only content-wise



important to AChemS but also program-wise, as this was the only symposium during the meeting that solely had female speakers.

During the meeting, several poster sessions were organized. These poster sessions are an important part of the meeting and are always well visited. I was happy to have the opportunity to present the results of my latest research during one of these poster sessions. My poster included results from measurements we have done on olfactory bulb volume in patients suffering from smell loss. I received many questions on our method and also suggestions for further research, which will be really helpful in the next steps we want to take for this project. Also visiting other posters and talking to other researchers about their projects gave a nice overview of all the research that is ongoing in the broad field of chemosensory sciences. Next to the symposia and the poster sessions, there were also several social events during the meeting. These were great opportunities to meet and talk to other researchers from all over the world. The dance bash on the last evening was a festive end of a successful meeting, which send me home with a lot of inspiration for new projects and collaborations!



Elbrich Postma

Wageningen University, Wageningen, NL

Travel Grants and Support for ECRO Members

ECRO actively supports early career researchers and provides travel grants for attending the annual ECRO Conference and other scientific events in the field of Olfaction and Taste.

Who can apply?

Applications for travel support are open to ECRO members. Please, make sure that you have paid your yearly membership fee (January-December) before sending your travel grant application. Applications of non-ECRO members cannot be considered. Please note, that only one student from a given laboratory or research group can be supported for the same event. ECRO support is limited and preference will be given to those students who are actively presenting at the conference that they wish to attend. Therefore, the applicant has to be the presenting author of an accepted / submitted abstract when applying for travel support. No applicant can be granted twice for the same type of fellowship.

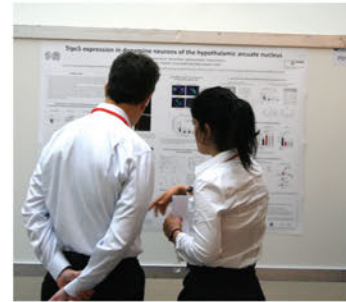
Supported activities

The following support schemes are available for application:

- **Attendance of the annual ECRO conference** can be supported with 500,- € per grant for travel outside the member's home country and with 300,- € per grant for travel within the member's home country. The number of available grants depends on the ECRO budget. The number of available fellowships and application deadlines will be announced on the ECRO website and along with other relevant conference information. While at the meeting, award recipients are requested to assist during registration or other organizational duties for a couple of hours. Awardees will be contacted with further details before the meeting. An onsite meeting will be held to review details and get acquainted with the other award recipients.
- **Attendance of AChemS meeting** is supported with 1.000,- € per grant. Two fellowships are available per calendar year. Applications must be received before March 15th of that year.
- **Attendance of other conferences, meetings, summer schools, workshops, and practical or theoretical courses** in the field of olfaction and taste, which are organized in Europe are supported with 500,- € per grant for travel outside the member's home country and 300,- € per grant for travel within the member's home country. Events for which travel support is available will be announced on the ECRO website and depends on the available ECRO budget. Deadlines: March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st. The complete set of application documents has to be received by ECRO at least 6 weeks before the event.
- **Laboratory visits.** A limited number of grants, 500,- € each, is available for short term collaborative visits to partner laboratories to promote interactions between ECRO members. The number of available grants depends on the available ECRO budget. Deadlines: March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st. The complete set of application documents has to be received by ECRO at least 6 weeks before the visit.



ECRO 2018



02 - 08 September 2018 - Würzburg, Germany, Organized by Frank Zufall and Wolfgang Meyerhof, Local hosts: Wolfgang Rösler and Ricarda Scheiner



Christoffer Nerland Berge

from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

I would like to thank ECRO for their generous travel grant that allowed me to attend and present my research at the 28th ECRO meeting in Würzburg, Germany. As a newcomer to chemoreception research (having finished my master's thesis on invertebrate olfaction earlier this spring), this conference was a great intellectual boost. It was the first conference I've attended and was an excellent opportunity to meet and listen to some of the influential researchers in this branch of science and get an overview of how far the field of chemoreception research has gotten.

The introductory keynote lecture by Bill Hansson on olfactory neuroethology in flies and moths, and how labelled-line pathways mediate distinct odor-evoked behaviors in these organisms, was a great start to this conference. Given that his topic is closely related to my own field of research, olfaction in moths, I very much appreciated that his group at the Max Planck institute in Jena now works hard to re-establish the hawk moth *Manduca Sexta* in olfactory research. I also found it inspiring how they aim to investigate behavior and brain together, providing a more complete picture. Furthermore, it was motivating to see that ECRO 2018 presented a good balance of not only vertebrate but also invertebrate-based research on a diverse range of topics.

Other keynote lecturers included Matthias Tschöp, who talked about the current efforts being made to understand metabolic diseases by studying neuroendocrinology; Kazushige Touhara on vomeronasal ligands affecting behavior and emotions in mice; and Linda Buck on smell and fear in mammals. A particularly fascinating tale of the early beginnings of olfactory research was told in the keynote lecture by the two pioneers Gordon Shepherd and John Hildebrand. Each of them had approached the mysterious nature of the sense of smell

from a different angle, using vertebrate and invertebrate model organisms, respectively, before they eventually got acquainted and decided to join forces. Besides the keynote lectures, ECRO 2018 hosted several interesting symposia. Themes ranged from ionotropic receptors, to state-dependent modulation in the early rodent olfactory system, and plasticity in chemosensory systems, to mention a few. It became clear that the chairmen had gathered talented and innovative scientists to present their research. Really, the only downside was that one could not attend all.

During the poster-sessions, I had the opportunity to present my own poster and got to listen to other researchers present their posters on a range of diverse and interesting topics. These informal sessions were perfect to establish connections with researchers working in other labs and in other fields, and to get a better overview of their research than one would have gotten from simply reading their paper.

The conference itself took place at the beautiful city of Würzburg, located besides the river Main and surrounded by hills covered in vineyards. The medieval architecture and the Marienberg Fortress overlooking the city was a sight to behold and added to the otherwise great experience that this conference was. This ECRO conference also hosted a number of social activities, including a welcome dinner at the restaurant Alter Kranen, a boat trip along the Main river, and a gala dinner. Overall, the combination of chemoreception research, beautiful city, and social activities made this a very enjoyable and memorable conference, and I again thank ECRO for offering me the opportunity to attend.

Christoffer Nerland Berge*from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology***Daniela Daume**

from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

At the 5th of September me and my colleges went to Würzburg to attend to the meeting of the European Chemoreception Research Organisation, short ECRO. Not only that I, as a German have never been to Würzburg before, it was also my very first scientific meeting. I am currently finishing my Masterthesis in the lab of Ivan Manzini in the field of Olfaction in larval *Xenopus laevis*, the African clawed frog. The Tadpoles of *Xenopus* are not only a good model organism to study olfaction, also to discover the neuronal network of the brain, which is what I am focusing on. I am very thankful that I received the travel grant to make it possible to join the meeting and present my very first data during the poster presentations.

At our first day in Würzburg we had the chance to explore the city a bit. Würzburg is a very nice place with many beautiful streets, buildings and of course a super nice riverside with a view to the castle. In the evening we had our 'get together' in a nice restaurant near the river, where we first met the members of this years meeting. In the morning on the next day the first talks started. Because my project deals with olfaction and

higher brain centers I was looking forward to every talk in these fields. I found it very interesting how much one could learn from people that work with different species. There were always interesting methods that one could try in our own model organism or ideas for further projects. It was very helpful for me to get a general idea what one can do in future projects, especially because I continue with my PhD in the same lab in the same field. Besides the scientific talks and poster presentations I also met many nice people and really enjoyed spending the days with them. I hope that I meet them in the future on meetings again or even start a cooperation during a project in the future.

The last day ended with a talk from Linda Buck who received the nobel prize in 2004 for her work on the olfactory system, especially the olfactory receptors. Afterwards everyone was invited to a boat trip over the Main and later in the evening we had a gala diner in the panorama room of the congress center. All together the whole meeting was very nice and for me as a young scientist a perfect start in my scientific career. I'm already looking forward to the next meeting in 2019.

Daniela Daume*Justus-Liebig University, Germany*

Paola Segoviano

from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

The life of a scientist is not easy and no one warned me about how difficult things can get but being part of the scientific community is one of the best things that have happened in my life. My scientific career began with an interest for how human body works and how neurons can transmit information in no time and from then I decided to study biomedical engineering because it fuses all the natural sciences together and gave me the ability to understand both physics and biology at the same time.

Before starting with olfaction I would like to share that I have always been fascinated with senses because they warn us from all the environmental factors that surround us every day. Couple of years ago, I was studying the acoustic responses of an animal model with a neurodegenerative disease (Duncan, Lunn, Holmgren, Urba-Holmgren, & Brignolo-Holmes, 1992). It is known that this animal model presents a progressive deterioration of central components of auditory responses during postnatal development (Roncagliolo, Benítez, & Eguibar, 2000) and the electrophysiological results showed a reduction of the acoustic response affected by the hypo-myelination process in the central nervous system.

**Alice Roche**

from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

I would like to warmly thank the ECRO for the support provided to attend the 2018 ECRO meeting which took place in Würzburg (Germany) from the 5th to the 9th September. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to present a part of my PhD thesis work.

My PhD, entitled "Towards the improvement of food flavor analysis through the modelling of olfactometry data and expert knowledge integration", aims to predict the perceptual characteristics of odorants in verbal terms. I developed a first model based on semantic and flavorists expertise at the Center for Taste and Feeding Behavior in Dijon (France). In addition, I worked on a second model based on odorants

Recently, I had the opportunity to carry out my master thesis in a German institute with a gorgeous group working in the olfactory system of the African clawed frog. My interest for olfaction born during the last stage of my bachelor thesis I found very interesting how the odorants are detected by the receptors and how the information is encoded to the brain. The difference between the amphibians and mammals is that amphibians develop a completely new olfactory system during metamorphosis (Dittrich, Kuttler, Hassenklöver, & Manzini, 2016). Amphibians possess the ability to smell in water and land. This dual ability requires massive modifications in the aquatic larva to the terrestrial adult life in the olfactory system during their development. In the larva of *Xenopus laevis*, the principal cavity in the olfactory epithelium detects waterborne odors and projects its axons to the ventral olfactory bulb. During metamorphosis the principal cavity is remodeled and transformed into the adult air nose which sends its axons to a newly build enlarged dorsal olfactory bulb. Meanwhile, the development in the olfactory epithelium of a new cavity occurs, the middle cavity, and effectuates the role of an adult water nose (Dittrich et al., 2016; Fritz, Gorlick, & Burd, 1996; Gliem et al., 2013; Manzini & Schild, 2010; Pignatelli & Belluzzi, 2010).

As my personal point of view, doing my master thesis with the Manzini group was a very satisfactory experience. I learned techniques such as multiphoton imaging and electroporation (Weiss, Offner, Hassenklöver, & Manzini, 2018), I had the opportunity to assist to the ECRO2018 and present my work, I learned much more about olfaction and many other reasons make me want to come back and continue with an academic life in olfaction. From my perspective Europe is one of the best, if not the best, places when one can really do research and I want to thank all the people that made this happen and tell them that, in fact, the life of a scientist is not easy but I am glad I can be part of this community and have the access to knowledge I could never have in my country.

Paola Segoviano*Justus-Liebig University, Germany*

structural parameters during a 6-month stay as a Visiting scholar at the Monell Chemical Senses in Philadelphia (PA, USA). I presented the results of this collaboration in a poster titled "Predicting odor similarity of complex mixtures from molecular approach" during both poster sessions of the ECRO 2018 meeting.

I am thankful for the opportunity to present my research to a well-targeted audience of experts in the field of olfaction. Thus, it was an extremely enriching experience providing many opportunities for discussion. Moreover, the high quality of the oral presentations improved my knowledge of chemosensory systems (e.g. olfaction and taste). Indeed, the various symposiums presented the state of the art, methods, and techniques applied to the chemosensory fields in animal, insect and human studies. Moreover, the keynotes presented wide research topic (olfactory neuroethology, revolutions in olfaction, vomeronasal ligands, smell and stress) and also highlighted the importance of combining chemosensory research with other field of research (such as medicine).



The program of the meeting was very well organized. I particularly enjoyed to attend the ECRO Young Investigators symposium where the presentations were concise and thus allowed the presentation of a large variety of recent researches. I was also very pleased to be able to present my poster during two sessions. The only drawback of this format was the lack of time to look at the other posters. However, the several breaks (coffee, lunch, social event) and events allowed me to discuss with the authors of those posters I was interested in.

As mentioned earlier, beside the lectures different events were organized throughout the meeting. Such events contributed to the discovery of Würzburg, which is a very nice place along the Main (the picture enclosed represents a glimpse of my stay in Würzburg during the ECRO 2018 meeting). The

get-together dinner was a good start to meet attendees at the "Alter Kranen". During, the wine cellar experience I learned about the history of the Bürgerspital cellar and about wine from the Franconian area. The Boat trip was a very enjoyable moment on the river and to conclude the meeting we enjoyed a great gala dinner.

Altogether, the ECRO 2018 meeting was a great opportunity to meet actors of the chemosensory field.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the organizers of the meeting.

Looking forward to attend the next meeting which will take place in 2019 in Italy,

Alice Roche
CSGA, Dijon, France



Ana Moreno-Perez

from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

In September 2018, I attended the Annual ECRO meeting in Würzburg. I'm a PhD student from the Saarland University, in Homburg. My work is focused on the olfactory system, particularly in how the brain processes encoded reproductive information resulting from the olfactory detection of a specific chemosignal.

This meeting was a special event for me, because I had the opportunity to gather many exciting and interesting insights into the chemosensory system. There were many exciting talks, and even though some of them were not directly related to my current studies, they allowed me to get a bigger overview of how sensory systems can be studied from different points of view, and their involvement in a variety of research fields. I would like to remark the quality of the talks, their respective discussions, and the chances that we had to ask any questions immediately to the speaker during the intermissions of the symposiums.

Together with the daily talks, I had time to come in contact and interact with other scientists. Getting to know different dynamics of other research groups and catching up new perspectives when it comes to tackling new challenges and problems that may arise during my research.

During the ECRO meeting, there were two different poster sessions, in which I could present my ongoing work. This experience enabled me to improve my scientific communica-

tion skills and collecting and generating conceptions due to the interaction with other scientific colleagues.

In particular, it was impressive and thrilling for me to meet some of the leading researchers in chemoreception and I got the chance to get a deeper insight into their work.

Beside the scientific experience, we could also enjoy the architectural heritage, gastronomy and the wine of Würzburg. This area is part of the Franconian wine region, which possesses an old tradition of wine making.

After a day full of knowledge transfer, we had the opportunity of visiting the Bürgerspital, a wine cellar, in which we could try Franconian wine and see the production process. For closing the meeting, we had a boat trip to share time together and see the surroundings of the city, followed by a splendid gala dinner in the Maritim hotel.

I would like to thank ECRO for the financial support and the great experience. Furthermore, I would like to owe the organizers for the arrangement of the whole meeting.

It was an excellent opportunity for me to get a better overview of chemoreception, and for sharing and enjoying time with many colleagues in such a wonderful area. All of my expectations were met and I feel honored to be a part of this organization.

Ana Moreno-Perez
Saarland University, Germany



Mehmet Can Demirler
from ECRO 2018 - Würzburg

My name is Mehmet Can Demirler. I am currently a PhD candidate in Molecular Biology and Genetics department of Bogazici University, in Turkey. In the SenseLab, under our advisor Assoc. Prof. Stefan Fuss, our team is focused on the characterization of cellular components and the molecular mechanisms that contribute to the regenerative activities of zebrafish olfactory epithelium. During my studies, I have used various methods to find the cell identities and signals that are involved in neurogenesis triggering. It was a great opportunity for me to be able to share my findings with the community at the XXVIII ECRO meeting in Würzburg and to get feedback and exchange ideas to refine my science.



I would like to thank the ECRO board for giving me the chance to attend to this meeting by selecting me as one of the recipients of 2018 travel grants.

After the meeting in Turkey, this was my second time in an ECRO congress. This was an amazing experience for me from both scientific and social aspects. Not only was I able to meet with other PhD students from different backgrounds, but also

with this meeting, ECRO also made it possible for me to get into discussions with other researchers. In addition, I was able to attend great lectures and catch up to interesting findings. I especially enjoyed the symposium concerning new developments in olfactory signaling. It was particularly exciting for me to attend to Maurice Curtis' "Olfactory bulb changes in Parkinson's disease" lecture for its interesting findings of the linkage between α -syn accumulation and glomerular formation of the olfactory bulb. As a PhD candidate focusing on neurogenesis, effects of Parkinson's on human olfactory bulb benefitted me by providing other angles to think about in my research. Additionally, Thomas Bozza's elaborate lecture on TAAR5 driven inter-male aggression was really interesting.

During poster sessions, I had the chance to share my results on the effects of purinergic signaling to neurogenesis in zebrafish olfactory epithelium. Poster sessions were extremely beneficial for me as I was able to discuss my work with the scientific community, exchange ideas, receive suggestions and also learn from others' experience. All of these were possible by the environment provided by ECRO meetings.

Apart from science, social events planned by the organizers were also very interesting and enjoyable. Würzburg is a beautiful and historical city. Welcome dinner in the authentic old distillery with the view of Fortress Marienberg was quite an experience. In addition, meeting overlapped with local street music festival and together with other participants, we enjoyed Würzburg even more. Every participant was welcoming and very open to conversation which made the meeting more enjoyable.

All in all, XXVIII ECRO Congress was a great help for my research as I was able to update my knowledge, improve my discussion skills by being exposed to a larger scientific community and exchange suggestions with my peers. I would like to thank to ECRO committee again for giving me this opportunity to visit Würzburg and broaden my scientific horizon.

Mehmet Can Demirler
Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey



ECRO gratefully acknowledges generous support from Ajinomoto, Aurora Scientific, DIFE, DFG, Symrise, TriPS to Homeostasis, Sensonics International, ZEISS, and Techniplast during the ECRO 2020 Conference.



Antonella Di Pizio

Laboratory visit FAU, Erlangen

Thanks to the generous support of an ECRO laboratory visit grant I had the opportunity to be guest of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg for the period 3-12 September 2018 and attend the ECRO conference 2018 in Würzburg.



I am a postdoc fellow at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I work on molecular modeling of bitter taste receptors. During my stay in Erlangen, I had scientific meetings with the labs of Prof. Andrea Büttner, chair of the

Aroma and Smell Research at FAU, and Prof. Peter Gmeiner, Chair of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at FAU. I could appreciate the excellent facilities of FAU for research in the chemistry area. My lab has a collaborative project with Prof. Gmeiner, therefore our meeting focused on new results obtained in his lab and preparation of the joint paper. My stay in Büttner's lab led to fruitful discussions on how computational approaches can be applied to get insights into the chemistry and biology of chemosensation, and may be further developed for joint grant applications that are available for combined teams of German and Israeli scientists. I visited the Fraunhofer Institute (see the picture) and in this occasion I was introduced to the Campus of the Senses Erlangen initiative: the campus combines

interdisciplinary basic research and application-oriented research on the subject of digital sensory transition and promotes research in the field of recording and processing individual sensory impressions digitally.

On September 5-8, I attended the ECRO 2018 meeting in Würzburg. The scientific program of the ECRO meeting offered plentiful interesting contributions that were followed by stimulating discussions. The conference was structured in different sessions: plenary lectures, plenary symposia, parallel symposia in two different locations of the venue, and poster sessions. I was invited as speaker at the symposium "When senses take flight: the chemical senses of birds" (September 6) organized by Dr. Hannah M. Rowland and Dr. Barbara Caspers. It was for me a great privilege to talk about my work "Molecular features underlying selectivity in chicken bitter taste receptors", in front of an experienced audience. The ECRO meeting is organized and attended by the most relevant scientists working on chemosensation all over the world. During the conference, I established new contacts and got relevant advice for my research work and career development. I am going to start a group leader position in the field of "Computational Chemosensory Receptor Modelling" at the Leibniz-Institute for Food Systems Biology at the Technical University of Munich, and I am enthusiastic about the possibility of continuing to be an active ECRO member.

I would like, once again, to thank the ECRO board which encourages the younger members of the scientific community to have exchange and participate in international conferences.

Antonella Di Pizio*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel***Farewell and a big "Thank You".**

The 2018 election of the ECRO Board marks a major change in the constitution of the board with the simultaneous departure of three important and long-term servants to the ECRO community. Of those, **Krishna Persaud** served as the ECRO Treasurer and Executive Secretary for the past 18 years, while **Didier Trotier** held the office of General Secretary since 2010. ECRO is tremendously grateful for Krishna's and Didier's relentless effort to keep the society together and to make sure that formal, legal, and financial matters were met appropriately in addition to keeping the spirit of the founding fathers and mothers of ECRO alive. **Wolfgang Meyerhof** left the board after his six year tenure as ECRO president (elect, active, past). Wolfgang will continue in his important function as the Editor-in-Chief of Chemical Senses, the official journal of ECRO and AChemS. All former members will be truly missed.



Bidding farewell to Krishna Persaud (left), Didier Trotier (center left), and Wolfgang Meyerhof (center right) by Peter Brennan during the 2018 General Assembly of ECRO in Würzburg and presentation of the 2018 - 2020 board (from left to right: Peter Brennan (Past-President), Ivan Manzini (Elected Member), Trese Leinders-Zufall (Acting President), Marika Kapsimali (Executive Secretary/Treasurer), Stefan Fuss (General Secretary), not shown: Thomas Hummel (President Elect), and Scott McGrane (Co-opted Member of the Board)).



UPCOMING MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

ECRO 2019 - Trieste (IT)



11. - 14. September 2019

The organizers are already working towards a successful ECRO conference in the fall of 2019.

Important Dates

Call for Symposia: Deadline: 28.02.2019

Registration (opens): May 2019

Early registration (closes): July 2019

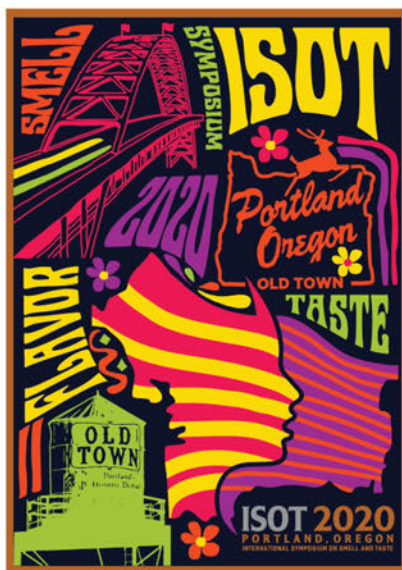
Travel Grant applications: July 2019

Abstract submission (closes): July 2019

<https://www.ecro.online/meetings/ecro-2019/>

Program Chairs: **Anna Menini, Paolo Gasparini, Antonio Celani**

ISOT 2020 - Portland (OR), USA



Call for Symposia

Open: Open Now

Deadline: May 8, 2019

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Open: September 2019

Deadline: February 3, 2020

ISOT 2020 Meeting Registration

Open: September 2019

Early Bird Deadline: April 3, 2020

ISOT Meeting

June 20 - 24, 2020

Saturday - Wednesday

For general ISOT questions please contact: info@isot2020.org

20. - 24. June 2020



Interested in organizing an ECRO event?



ECRO is always thinking ahead, not only in science but also for the planning and organization of future ECRO events. We are currently looking for a suitable venue for the **ECRO 2020 and ECRO 2021** meetings.

In addition, ECRO has always supported smaller/local events meetings and thematic workshops in the field of Taste and Olfaction across Europe.

If you are interested in organizing ECRO conferences or any other event with the help or participation of ECRO, please, contact members of the ECRO Board with your proposal.

Two important ECRO Anniversaries ahead



ECRO XXX

The very first official ECRO Meeting was held in Paris (FR) in 1974 and regular meetings were initially organized in biannual intervals. Since 2009 ECRO hosts a yearly conference in the Fall of each years, which is well attended by Scientists from around the world to discuss advances and breakthroughs in Smell and Taste Research.

In 2020 an ECRO Meeting will be organized for the 30th time and we hope that we will have a chance to welcome you all to this round occasion. Your ECRO Board is already making preparations for this event but is still looking for volunteers to assist planning



ECRO will turn 50

ECRO was founded in 1970 at the International Summer Course on Odour Perception in Utrecht (NL) and officially registered as a non-profit Scientific Society in 1971 in Paris (FR). ECRO has supported Science and Research in the fields of Smell and Taste Research since then and so far organized so far 29 international conferences in addition to workshops, summer schools, and data meetings.

2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of ECRO. Planning and preparations are already on the way to mark this special event. We hope to welcome you all to this important milestone and that we will celebrate this special occasion together.

ECRO Meetings since 1974

ECRO I: 1974 - Orsay-Paris, FR	ECRO XVI: 2004 - Dijon, FR
ECRO II: 1976 - Reading, UK	ECRO XVII: 2006 - Granada, ES
ECRO III: 1978 - Pavia, IT	ECRO XVIII: 2008 - Porto Roz, SL
ECRO IV: 1980 - Noordwijkerhout, NL	ECRO XIX: 2009 - Sardinia, IT
ECRO V: 1982 - Regensburg, DE	ECRO XX: 2010 - Avignon, FR
ECRO VI: 1984 - Lyon, FR	ECRO XXI: 2011 - Manchester, UK
ECRO VII: 1986 - Davos, CH	ISOT XVI/ECRO XXII : 2012 - Stockholm, SE
ECRO VIII: 1988 - Coventry, UK	ECRO XXIII: 2013 - Leuven, BE
ECRO IX: 1990 - Noordwijkerhout, NL	ECRO XXIV: 2014 - Dijon, FR
ECRO X: 1992 - Munich, DE	ECRO XXV: 2015 - Istanbul, TR
ECRO XI: 1994 - Blois, FR	ECRO XXVI: 2016 - Athens, GR
ECRO XII: 1996 - Zurich, CH	ECRO XXVII: 2017 - Cambridge, UK
ECRO XIII: 1998 - Siena, IT	ECRO XXVIII: 2018 - Würzburg, DE
ECRO XIV: 2000 - Brighton, UK	ECRO XXIX: 2019 - Trieste, IT
ECRO XV: 2002 - Erlangen, DE	ECRO XXX: 2020

