



Message from the President

Dear EBBS members,

the 49th EBBS conference has ended few weeks ago. The excellent scientific program, the high quality organization, together with the agreeableness of social interactions and the openness and curiosity that has always distinguished EBBS members made the meeting a terrific success. In addition, for many of us, it has represented the opportunity to finally travel and meet colleagues in complete safety after the pandemic lockdown that, together with the splendid weather, further increased the success of the meeting. In this regard, I wish to thank Carmen Sandi, the local organizer, and Mathias Schmidt, the past-President.

I am delighted and honoured to begin my term as President of EBBS. This society has been a source of professional inspiration, collaboration and friendship in the last 20 years and I will do my best to repay a little of this in my endeavour as President. My commitments will be to support the society community, to advance scientific exchange and to advocate for the field of behavioural neuroscience. I am particularly keen on bolstering students and young scientists. EBBS will provide guidance and support to develop their career and to pursue their scientific ideas in frontline areas of neuroscience research. A further major focus will be to promote equity, diversity and

gender balance. We will continue being an official partner of the ALBA network (<http://www.alba.network>) and will participate and support all the initiatives aimed at providing networking and mentoring opportunities to promote careers for members of underrepresented groups. To thrive, EBBS needs members coming from different backgrounds, gender, age, nationalities, ethnicities, cultures and traditions.

As for future activities, based on the success of the 2020 initiative, we are organizing a new mini-conference as satellite event of the FENS forum that will be held in Paris in July 2022. The title will be *Understanding Behaviour: Molecular, Cellular & Systems Approaches* and is aimed at discussing theoretical and technical approaches in linking brain function and behavioural outcome. The preparation of this event is already underway and EBBS, together with other neuroscience societies, is working to make it a great success. More information and a detailed program will be soon available via the society website and the twitter and facebook pages.

Finally, the isolation imposed by pandemic crisis made all of us aware of the relevance of being part of a community for nurturing connections and exchanging ideas and tools. My term will be thus devoted to strengthening opportunities for networking among members and beyond the boundaries of the society. I invite you all to reach me and the other EBBS committee members to suggest and discuss on how to take care of our society.

Igor Branchi

President of European Brain and Behaviour Society

