



# Newsletter 1/2013

## Newsletter for the Members of the European Association of Potato Research (EAPR)

February 2013

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Dear members,

The EAPR Council met recently in Leuven (Belgium) on the 17 and 18 January 2013. Among the important topics discussed were: the role of EAPR Country representatives in their own countries, the attractiveness of our meetings (triennial as well as sections) particularly for young scientists, the sustainability of the Impact Factor of our scientific Journal (Potato Research), our Newsletter and Website management and evolution, and the role of our Association in scientific cooperation at an international scale. Details on these matters can be found in this Newsletter .

The **EAPR Newsletter** will now be published twice a year. The “Newsletter team” will include the EAPR President, the President elect and two council members. Issue 1 of each year (February - March) will contain Council meeting decisions and information about the next Section meetings, and also the final membership renewal reminder for the current year. Issue 2 (November) will report on recent information from the Association and promote membership renewal for the following year. Country representatives could contribute articles from their own countries and section chairmen would provide a short overview on recent meetings.

The year 2013 will be a very active one for our association, with significant scientific exchanges through our different sections’ meetings. New research on the potato crop will be discussed in **Turkey, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Israel**. We would like to warmly thank the organizing committees of these meetings for their initiatives to improve the exchange of scientific knowledge on potato breeding, agronomy and physiology, diseases and pests, virology, post-harvest and storage. It will be a hard job for them during the coming months and we wish them success with their meetings.

We also take the opportunity in this issue to thank again our colleagues honoured during the 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Oulu in 2011: **Dr. Ewa Zimnoch-Guzowska** and **Dr. Donald K.L. MacKerron**. Presentations made at the Conference recognising their contributions to potato research are detailed in this issue.

Finally, we also invite you to book and to be prepared for the next **EAPR Triennial conference** that will be held in Brussels (Belgium) from 6 to 11 July 2014. Registration and abstracts submission homepages are expected to be open by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013. **Please encourage your colleagues active in potato research in your country to join us in Brussels next year!!!**

On behalf of the EAPR Council,  
**Jean-Pierre Goffart** (EAPR President) and **Michel Martin** (President elect)

**Specific Note:** Some EAPR members encountered problems in recent months regarding the online free access to Potato Research, Euphytica and the American Journal of Potato Research. We believe these problems have now been solved. We apologize for this inconvenience, which was due to the setup of the new Springer Website. However, if you encounter any problems in the future, please do not hesitate to inform the EAPR President, Secretary or Treasurer.

## EAPR Council met in January 17-18, 2013. Here follow some important decisions !

The last Council meeting took place in the ISHS office located in Leuven (Belgium - 20 km from Brussels) during January 17-18, 2013. This annual meeting gave us the opportunity to consider the evolution of our Association. The main following points on the agenda were discussed to improve the EAPR's effectiveness:

- ❖ Financial matters and membership situation/evolution
- ❖ Potato Research : Impact Factor and 2013 Volume content
- ❖ Country representatives: consideration of their role in promoting the EAPR in their own countries
- ❖ Section meetings and funding action for improving young scientist membership of the EAPR
- ❖ EAPR Website : proposal of a draft document to re-develop the EAPR Website in a 3-year program
- ❖ EAPR newsletters structure and management
- ❖ Cooperation with other societies active in potato research : situation and evolution
- ❖ Scientific cooperation : position of EAPR towards potato research and science requirement
- ❖ Preparation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Belgium (July 6-11 2014) and further Triennial Conferences (France in 2017, candidates for 2020)



EAPR Council meeting: January 17-18 2013 (ISHS Office, Leuven, Belgium)

*From left to right: Mirja Kempainen (Finland, substitute for Elina Virtanen), Louise Cooke (United Kingdom), Paul Struik (The Netherlands), Kürt Demeulemeester (Belgium), Klaus Dehmer (Germany), Jean-Pierre Goffart (Belgium), Mike Storey (United Kingdom), Michel Martin (France), Serge Duvauchelle (France), Richard Visser (The Netherlands).*

Concerning **country representatives (CR's)**, a proposal for the job description of CR's will be made by the end of February 2013. This description will be submitted to and finalised with CR's, to encourage more action within their countries. This could include closer contact with scientists working on potato, a survey of the research topics within the country, and encouraging scientists to become EAPR members or to renew their membership through the diffusion of the EAPR leaflet translated in national languages.

Concerning the **EAPR website**, in a first step this year, the current version of the website will be improved according to the views collected during the Council meeting. The potential for a complete renewal of our website will be discussed at the 2014 Council meeting.

Concerning **scientific cooperation**, members' opinions on the how the Council can best promote scientific cooperation will be asked in the issue 2/2013 of the Newsletter (November). Section chairpersons will also discuss this with their members in their meetings in 2013. Finally it will be a topic in the General Meeting in Brussels in July 2014. The Council position is that EAPR should be more active and more involved with the policy at European level because obtaining funding for research has become more and more difficult. To support these objectives a short letter outlining the position of EAPR towards potato research/science requirement as of 2020 will be addressed to European authorities.

## EAPR Section's Meetings in 2013: last updates!

Each EAPR Section usually organises a conference between Triennial Conferences. This will be the case in 2013 for all five of our sections! Below is outline information about these, but more details can be obtained through the dedicated websites or by direct contact with the organizers.

- **Section Virology: May 28-31 2013** in Antalya- (Turkey), Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Gülşen Sertkaya ([gsertkaya@mku.edu.tr](mailto:gsertkaya@mku.edu.tr)) – *Mustafa Kemal University*, website: <http://eapr-virology2013.mku-tr.org> , Submission deadline for abstract is April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 [section chairman : Dr Carl Jonas Jorge Spetz (Norway)].

- **Section Breeding and Varietal assessment: June 30 – July 4 2013** in Hévíz (Hungary) - 17<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of EAPR Breeding and Varietal Assessment Section and EUCARPIA Section Potato, Organizing committee chaired by Zsolt Polgár ([polg-zs@georgikon.hu](mailto:polg-zs@georgikon.hu)) – *Georgikon Faculty*, Topic: “*The challenges of improving both quality and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses in potato*” - Submission deadline for abstracts was February 17, 2013 [Section chairman: Dr Finlay Dale (United Kingdom)].

- **Section Agronomy and Physiology: - September 16-19, 2013** in Prague (Czech Republic), Second international symposium on agronomy and physiology of potato (Potato Agrophysiology 2013), Organizing Committee chaired by Jaroslav Čepl ([cepl@vubhb.cz](mailto:cepl@vubhb.cz)) - Submission deadline (postponed) was February 28, 2013. [Section chairman: Dr Mehmet Emin Caliskan (Turkey)].

- **Section Post Harvest: October 22-24, 2013** in Warsaw (Poland), Organizing Committee chaired by Dominika Boguszewska-Mankowska ([dominika@boguszewska.net](mailto:dominika@boguszewska.net) / [eapr2013@ihar.edu.pl](mailto:eapr2013@ihar.edu.pl)) *IHAR Institute*, website: [http://www.ihar.edu.pl/post\\_harvest\\_eapr\\_section\\_meeting.php?panel=1](http://www.ihar.edu.pl/post_harvest_eapr_section_meeting.php?panel=1) , - Submission deadline for abstracts is May 30, 2013 [section co-chairmen: Adrian Cunnington (United Kingdom) and Romke Wustman (Netherlands)].

- **Section Pathology: November 17-21, 2013** in Jerusalem (Israel), Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Leah Tsrer ([tsror@agri.gov.il](mailto:tsror@agri.gov.il)) *Volcani Center* – Topic: “*Climate Change / Global Warming – Effects on Diseases and Pests*” [section chairman : Dr Asko Hannukkala (Finland)].

**Please keep aware of the latest developments on the sections' meetings by regularly checking our website [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net), homepage “Sections”.**

## EAPR Section Meetings in 2013: opportunities for young scientists!

During the last EAPR Council meeting it was decided to support young scientists during the EAPR Section meetings in 2013. This support is provided to each organizing committee to encourage young scientists (PhD or students) to attend meetings in 2013 (e.g. by giving free or reduced price registration, by offering a prize for the best student paper or by subsidising their accommodation). Moreover, it was decided to offer them free membership of the EAPR for a twelve months period starting on January 2014.

If you know a young scientist who could benefit from this opportunity, please go to the website homepage of the different Section meetings to obtain detailed information on the way each organizing committee is providing support to the young scientists.

*The main conditions for students to access this funding are as follows:*

- *Students are only eligible for financial support if they present either a paper or a poster at the Section meeting,*
- *Funding recipients are required to write a short report on their contribution to the meeting for the EAPR Newsletter issue 1/2014 (scheduled for February-March 2014).*

**If you know potential students, please inform them of this opportunity!**

## 19<sup>th</sup> EAPR Conference in 2014: keep in touch with the website [www.eapr2014.be](http://www.eapr2014.be)

The Organizing Committee of the 19<sup>th</sup> EAPR Triennial Conference in 2014 (Brussels, BELGIUM) is pleased to announce the launch of its website for the 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial conference: [www.eapr2014.be](http://www.eapr2014.be).

**The “Papers and posters abstracts submissions” and “Registration and accommodation” homepages will be activated on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013.** Abstracts submission will be open up to 10 December 2013, and early bird registration will be open up to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. Registration will be open up to 15 June 2014. It has been decided that the 20 best abstracts selected for oral presentation will be offered the opportunity to submit their contributions for full paper submission to our Journal “Potato Research” (Impact Factor: 0.737, 2011, Journal Citation Reports®, Thomson Reuters) following peer-review process of the journal.

As announced during the Oulu Conference, besides classical topics of previous EAPR Triennial Conferences, new emphasis will be given to important matters such as precision agriculture for the potato crop, sustainable potato crop, potato crop and global food security, and transfer from research to practice, a crucial topic to ensure effective connections between research activities and potato producers’ and stakeholders’ needs.

**Please, encourage colleagues working on potato research projects in your country to submit abstracts and to join us in Brussels in July 2014!**

## Membership application and renewal for 2013: **Renew as soon as possible!!!**

**Please remember to renew your 2013 EAPR membership before April 1<sup>st</sup> to keep the multiple benefits you have (see below)!!** You can renew your membership online through the member login at the EAPR website [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net). Information about the procedure can be obtained from [info@eapr.net](mailto:info@eapr.net). Online membership renewal is secure, easy and works in real-time. The payment methods include secure credit card processing or PayPal.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. In this case, please contact our Treasurer, Kürt Demeulemeester, to get information on how to do this ([kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be](mailto:kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be)).

We would like to strongly encourage you to invite your colleagues to join EAPR and encourage your organisation or business to become a sustaining member of the EAPR (see the EAPR website). The individual membership application form is available at the EAPR homepage:

<http://www.eapr.net/membership/membership-application/>

Being a member of the EAPR and paying the annual subscription (60 Euro) offers multiple benefits:

- Online access to Potato Research, Euphytica and the American Journal of Potato Research,
- Receive print copies of Potato Research free of charge,
- Participate in the Triennial conferences and Section meetings at members’ rates,
- Participate in Annual Meetings of the Potato Association of America at members’ rates,
- You can also order English-language books from Springer at a discount of 20%!

<http://www.springer.com/eapr?token=Be9DeX3w72K7Rsq>

**Please note that if you do not renew before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2013, your direct personal and free online access to the three journals will be closed until renewal becomes effective!**

## Candidates for EAPR 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference organization in 2020

Regarding the need for the Council to present proposals for the location of the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference to the General Assembly during the Brussels 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference, the Council decided during its recent meeting that the country candidates have to send to the President of EAPR **before 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014** a letter specifying:

- A proposed future president for the EAPR
- The organisation(s) responsible for the running conference,
- The expected conference venue within the country,
- The strengths of this location for the conference venue,
- The expected scientific topics of the conference,
- Places of interest suitable for visits,
- General sponsorship to be pursued to support the conference organisation.

The information will help the Council to submit the best candidate to a vote of members during the General Assembly that will be held during the Brussels Triennial Conference in July 2014. The General Assembly will also be requested to give its approval for the "President elect" in charge of the organisation of this 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference in 2020 at the end of its three year mandatory period. Please remember that, based on the new EAPR Constitution, the President elect will become a member of the EAPR Council for a first three year period starting after the 2014 Brussels Conference and up to the 2017 Conference and then will be President up to the 2020 Conference.

Up to now, Ireland and Turkey have expressed interest in applying to host the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial. One year is remaining for these two countries and new candidates to complete and submit their proposals.

## News from EAPR members

### **Honorary Members**

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the European Association for Potato Research in Oulu (July 2011) honorary lifetime membership of the EAPR was conferred on **Dr. Ewa Zimnoch-Guzowska** and **Dr. Donald K.L. MacKerron**.

The text below, supplied by Prof. Dr. Jari Valkonen (Past President of EAPR), presents Dr. Ewa Zimnoch-Guzowska. The second speech below was given by Pr. Dr. Anton Haverkort (Past Secretary of EAPR) in Oulu, and presents Dr. Donald K.L. MacKerron.

### **Dr. Ewa Zimnoch-Guzowska**

Ewa Zimnoch-Guzowska is Professor of Agronomy at the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in Poland. She has been a member of EAPR since 1985, EAPR's country representative for Poland since 1996, and served as a member of the Council of EAPR in 1996–2002. In 2005-2008, she acted as the review Editor of Potato Research.

Prof. Zimnoch-Guzowska's commissions of trust are plentiful. As a few examples, she is the chairperson of the Potato Section of the Polish Seed Association since 2003, representative of Poland in the potato section of the European Seed Association (ESA) since 2005, has served in many roles in the Global Initiative on Late Blight (GILB) since 1997, and has acted as an expert of FAO in various tasks.

*This is how Ewa responded to a few questions related to her scientific career and her views on the role of EAPR in July 2011, just before the Triennial Conference:*

### **Why I joined EAPR and have found it worthwhile to remain an active member for years?**

*I began my work in potato science in 1982 at the Potato Research Institute, Młochów, Poland, when Professor Kazimierz Świeżyński was its Head. He inspired our team with an idea on effectiveness of wide*

*international collaboration in potato science, especially in the germplasm exchange to make progress in the pre-breeding programs worldwide. For our team, EAPR was a well-established forum of international collaboration. Throughout years, the EAPR conferences and Breeding Section meetings became sources of new ideas, brought up profound discussions; established friendships and initiated joint research projects. It is worth mentioning here that we have had many years of cooperation with Christiane Gebhardt in genetic mapping on the potato genome, with Francine Govers and Dave Cooke in Phytophthora research, with Ulrich Darsow and Horst Tiemann in diploid potato pre-breeding, with Jari Valkonen in virus research, with Nadja Zoteeva in resistance to late blight, ongoing collaboration with Ramona Thieme on protoplast fusion, and many other colleagues from various countries who I met during EAPR meetings. The EAPR was a valuable platform for our contacts.*

#### **What do I consider to be my activities that I did largely because I am a member of EAPR?**

*As mentioned before, I promote the cooperation among potato research centers in various aspects. Standardization of evaluation methods applied mainly in resistance breeding including establishment of joint standards or germplasm exchange are examples of such cooperation. In my past and present international activities related to the development of potato sector and potato research, I have been focused on specific needs of Central-Eastern European countries.*

#### **Dr. Donald K.L. MacKerron**

*“Away back in 1982 when Donald first attended a meeting of the Physiology Section he recognized the EAPR as an excellent organization on which to build a network of contacts and acquaintances in the potato world and he says its members and the participants in its meetings were a great source of both ideas and information over a period of more than 20 years.*

*On his part, in addition to attending and contributing to all the meetings of the Physiology Section and all the Triennial Conferences, Donald became actively involved in the organization, serving as secretary to the Physiology Section for six years (1990-96) and then Chairman of the section for another six (1996-2002).*

*He organized Section meetings in St Andrews (1985) and Dundee (2003) and in 1987–1990 was Chairman of the Scientific Committee for the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Edinburgh, 1990.*

*Donald also contributed to and helped organize three conferences on modelling the growth of the potato. He prepared a report on Agrometeorological Aspects of Forecasting Yield of Potato within the E.C., led a project within the GCTE Focus 3 Potato Network on Modelling and Experimental Metadata, and led an EU-funded Concerted Action entitled “Efficiency in Use of Resources: Optimization in Potato Production” (EUROPP). His decision support system for potato MAPP drew much attention and proved a most helpful learning tool.”*

**The EAPR Council hopes for a high attendance and good success for all Section meetings organized in 2013!**

**We of course also expect high attendance at our next Triennial Conference in Brussels from 6 to 11 July 2014.**