

2019 ESP-IUPB
WORLD CONGRESS



17th International Congress
on Photobiology
18th Congress of the European
Society for Photobiology

<https://www.photobiology2019.org/>



<http://www.iuphotobiology.org/>

Report on the 2019 ESP-IUPB World Congress on Light and Life 17th International Congress on Photobiology Barcelona, August 25-30

The 17th International Congress on Photobiology, named the **2019 ESP-IUPB World Congress on Light and Life**, was the fruit of a joint effort of the International Union for Photobiology (IUPB) and the European Society for Photobiology (ESP, <https://www.photobiology.eu/>). It was held on August 25-30, 2019, at the Hotel Crowne Plaza Barcelona Fira Center, in Barcelona, Spain. The core group of the Organizing Committee was composed of Santi Nonell, local Chair of the congress and ESP President, John Spudich, co-chair and IUPB President; Francesco Ghetti, ESP Treasurer; Franz Trautinger, IUPB Treasurer; Rex Tyrrell, ESP Past-President; and Evelyne Sage, IUPB Secretary.

The congress registered 749 participants from 47 countries (see Annex 1). A particular effort was made to attract students from all around the world. About 186 students from 37 countries participated in the congress. 63 fellowships were offered to students and young fellows.

The congress programme was structured around the 6 broad areas that described key Photobiology areas : **Photomedicine and Human Photobiology, Photodynamic Therapy, Physical and Chemical Photobiology, Photosensory Biology, Plant Photobiology, and Environmental Photobiology**. The Scientific Organizing Committee set up 66 academic Symposia with Chairs and Invited speakers coming from the 5 continents. The Scientific programme included also 2 Industry-sponsored Symposia (by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Clinuvel), 751 communications, 9 plenary lectures, 7 keynote lectures, 397 invited lectures from 32 countries, 146 oral communications, and 177 posters.

The **scientific programme** covered all aspects of the interaction of light with the biosphere, such as human photocarcinogenesis, photoprotection, ocular photobiology, photopharmacology, femtophotobiology, environmental photodynamic therapy (PDT), photosynthesis, photoprotection in plants and microorganisms, cryptochromes, effects of UV radiation and climate change on ecosystems, optogenetics and applications of light-based technologies. The 66 academic Symposia were distributed as shown in Annex 2.

Outstanding Plenary lectures were presented by selected internationally-known eminent photobiologists, including Dirk Trauner (USA), Seok-Hyun Andy Yun (USA), John Spudich (USA), the 3 IUPB-awarded Finsen Medalists Janet Bornman (Australia), Silvia Braslavsky (Germany), Henry Lim (USA), the IUPB-awarded Edna Roe and Finsen Lecturers, Lesley Rhodes (UK) and Scott Byrne (Australia), the ESP Young Investigator Award lecturers, Pilar Acedo (UK) and Matteo Grattieri (USA). The 7 **Keynote lecturers**, Serge Mordon (France), Romain Quidant (Spain), Thomas Gensch

(Germany), Antoine Royant (France), Peter Ogilby (Denmark) and Yolanda Gilaberte (Spain), presented the latest breakthroughs in their fields.

Graduate Students and young researchers presented 177 posters on a wide range of topics representing photobiology. Six poster prizes, one in each of the 6 broad areas were awarded from the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), in the form of a recent book of the Comprehensive Series in Photochemical Photobiological Sciences.

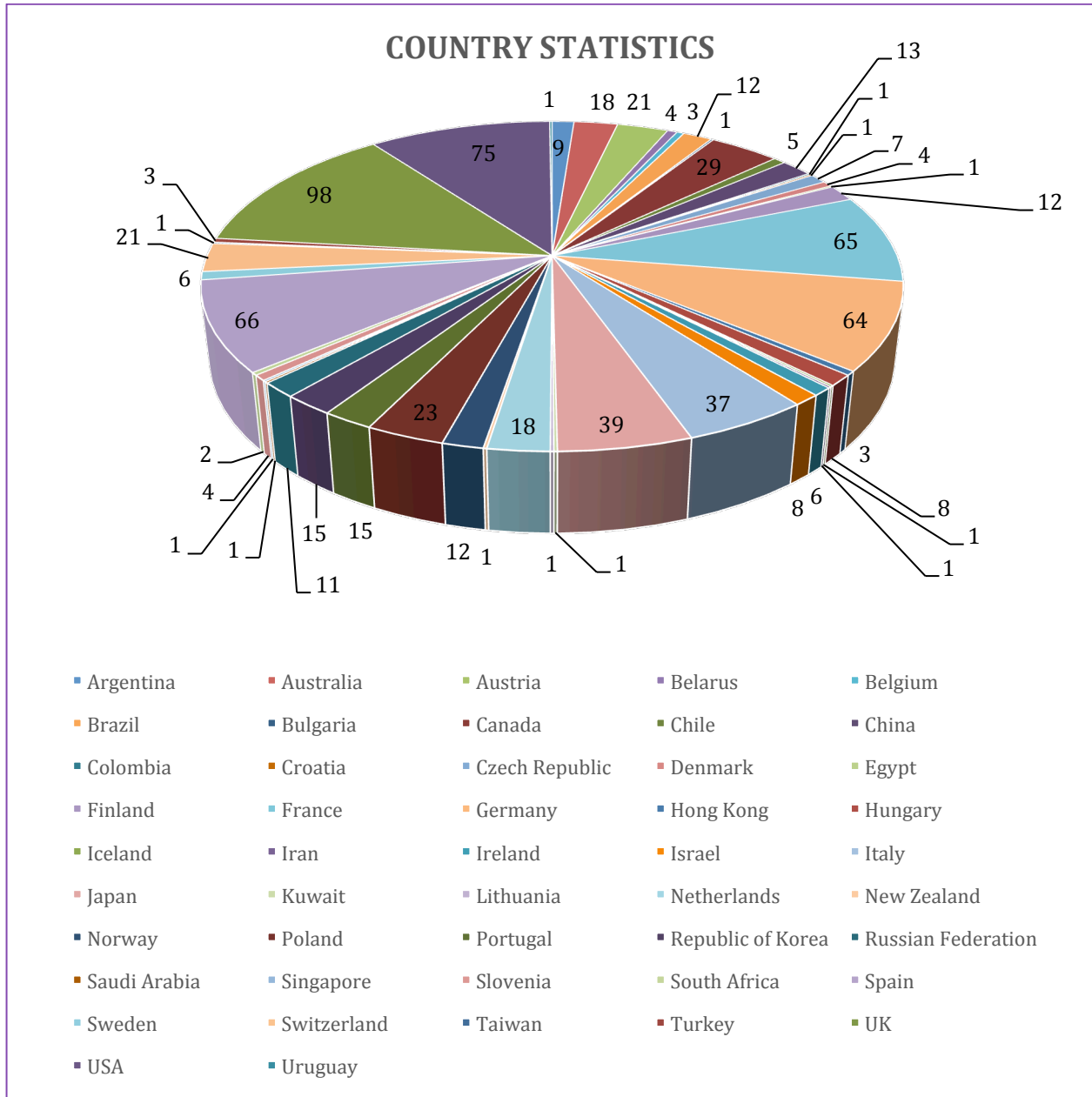
There was financial support from academic institutions or associations, such as the IQS School of Engineering, Barcelona, and the International Union for Biological Sciences, and from various companies. The major contributors were Clinuvel, MNK (Therakos), L'Oréal, Pierre-Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique, Sunshine Health Foundation. Part of the sponsoring by these companies was used to cover speakers costs.

The Scientific programme and all abstracts of Plenary, and Keynote lectures, as well as of the contributions to the Symposia and the posters presented were published on-line <https://www.photobiology2019.org> and are available on the IUPB website <http://www.iuphotobiology.org/> until the next ICP.

The 18th ICP is likely to be held in Perth (Australia) in 2024.

Evelyne Sage, IUPB Secretary,
on behalf of the John Spudich, IUPB President, Co-Chair of the congress, and of Franz Trautinger,
IUPB Treasurer

Annex 1. Country Statistics



Annex 2. Academic symposia

1. **Photodynamic Therapy**
 - **13 Symposia, 182 Communications**
2. **Human Photobiology and Photomedicine**
 - **15 Symposia, 145 Communications**
3. **Physical and Chemical Photobiology**
 - **11 Symposia, 126 Communications**
4. **Photosensory Biology**
 - **11 Symposia, 114 Communications**
5. **Plant Photobiology**
 - **11 Symposia, 99 Communications**
6. **Environmental Photobiology**
 - **5 Symposia, 53 Communications**

