

# THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY

England & Wales · Charity number 1098662

## Details

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Other names	ESN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2003-07-21
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	University of Bradford Richmond Road Bradford BD7 1DP
Phone	01274409288
Website	<a href="http://www.neurochemsoc.eu/">http://www.neurochemsoc.eu/</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE OF NEUROCHEMISTRY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

**Activities:** The promotion of research and education in the area of neuroscience.

## Classification

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- **How:** Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** EUROPE INCLUDING THOSE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.
- Albania
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia And Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kosovo
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Montenegro

- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Scotland
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£45,500	£40,149	-	-
2023-12-31	£80,542	£93,144	-	-
2022-12-31	£14,018	£22,696	-	-
2021-12-31	£49,662	£41,948	-	-
2020-12-31	£354	£0	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Chi Fung Jessica Kwok		2025-05-20
Dr Dimitra Mangoura		2023-08-10
Dr Natalia Nikolaevna Nalivaeva		2017-08-17
Prof Carlos Duarte		2022-10-06
Professor Anthony John Turner		2017-08-17
Professor Antonio Rodriguez-Moreno		2025-05-20
Professor Illana Gozes		2022-10-06
Professor Marcus Adrian Nicholas Rattray		2017-08-29

**THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1098662

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# Accounts

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# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

Charity number 1098662

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 December 2024**



# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Marcus Rattray	Company Secretary	
Johannes Hirrlinger	Past-President	
Natalia Nalivaeva		
Anthony Turner		
Illana Gozes	President	
Carlos Duarte	Treasurer	
Dimitra Mangoura	Secretary	

<b>Charity number</b>	1098662	Registered in England and Wales
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<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	
University of Bradford	Co-operative Bank plc	Sparkasse Nienburg
Richmond Road	P.O. box 101	Goetheplatz 4
Bradford	1 Balloon Street	31582 Nienburg
BD7 1DP	Manchester	Germany

### **Independent examiner**

Katy Sargeant

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 3 June 2003 and amended 25 May 2021 and 10 August 2023.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The preferred practice of the Society is to appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer in rotation as the President. In accordance with this practice, each of the Secretary and the Treasurer is elected by ballot for a four-year-term and the appointments are staggered so that the Treasurer is appointed two years after the appointment of the then Secretary.

Having served for four years the Secretary or the Treasurer as appropriate shall be appointed by the Council as the President.

The President is appointed for a two-year-term. All such appointments shall take effect from the Business Meeting.

If this practice cannot be followed in any particular case the Council shall be empowered to implement alternative arrangements until new arrangements have been approved by the Ordinary Members and are fully implemented.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

## **Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Until 2023 trustees were appointed by ESN council on an ad-hoc basis from the members elected to the ESN Scientific Council. The constitution now defines the number of trustees and their selection.

No less than 5 and no more than 7 members of the Council shall be appointed by Council as named ESN trustees including current officers, a past president, company secretary and some UK based ESN members in good standing. The trustees have specific responsibilities associated with this role. The board of trustees reports to ESN Council and shall keep minutes of trustee meetings.

The Charity's overall governance is by a board of trustees. Day to day operations of ESN are determined by the ESN officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer who are advised by the ESN council.

The terms of appointment for officers and council as well as the role of the Company Secretary is defined in the ESN constitution.

We note that currently four ex-officio (co-opted) roles on ESN council:

Company Secretary: role defined in constitution.

ESN Past-President: On the Council meeting 2017 in Paris, France, it was decided to establish the position of the Past-President, to maintain the experience of the former president within the leadership of the society for two more years. When stepping back from the position as President after the two years term, the President becomes the Past-President. The Past-President is an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio. (Ex Presidents, are former Presidents of ESN, an unofficial position).

ESN Historian: An ESN Historian is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

Chair of ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC): The ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) is a group of early career scientists within ESN, who are actively engaged in ESN activities. The Chair of the YSSC is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

New trustees are introduced to their duties by the other trustees.

ESN has a close relation with its sister society International Society for Neurochemistry, based on common interests in advancing research in Neurochemistry and supporting early career researchers in Neurochemistry.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The advancement of the science of Neurochemistry for the public benefit.

According to the Society's constitution, the Society shall endeavour to:

- i Aim to promote the development of Neurochemistry in Europe and to facilitate exchange of ideas and interests amongst its members. [Europe is defined as including those countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.]
- ii Foster the interaction between clinical and basic Neurochemistry.
- iii It should be open to all who are interested in Neurochemistry and allied subjects. No one should be excluded from membership of the Society or from attendance at its meetings on grounds of race, religion or nationality.
- iv It should seek to be represented on the appropriate advisory and consultative bodies that might impinge upon Neurochemistry, and should seek close relationships with related professional bodies of disciplines interested in Neurobiology.
- v Promote general scientific meetings for the discussion and dissemination of research findings in Neurochemistry
- vi Arrange and provide for exhibitions, lectures, and training courses.
- vii Publish leaflets, pamphlets, journals and books upon the science of Neurochemistry.
- viii Collect, tabulate and distribute information on all matters relating to Neurochemistry.
- ix Promote, organise and support research relating to Neurochemistry.
- x Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription or donation, provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The major activities of ESN in 2024 were: 1] ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference to FENS Forum 2024, Vienna, Austria, entitled "Neurodevelopment in Health and Disease", which was accompanied by a special issue with >10 publications of the Journal of Molecular Neuroscience; 2] the 3rd ESN-INS Neurochemistry School "Neurodegeneration, Inflammation, and Cancer" in Athens, Greece; 3] three "Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support" namely, 5th International Conference of the Trisomy 21 Research Society (T21RS), Epic2024 – Epilepsy Conference and 2nd Neurodevelopmental Disorders Conference: ADNP and more. 4] "Meet ESN" initiative taken by the Young Scientist Steering Committee of ESN, webinars introducing established and young ESN scientists.

- 1] **ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference to FENS Forum 2024 in Vienna, Austria, June 12, 2024**, entitled "Neurodevelopment in Health and Disease", was organized by ESN Officers and Council. ESN provided 2800€ in funding altogether. Financial support was obtained from the Journal of Molecular Neuroscience (Springer-Nature) and Company of Biologists.

Tel Aviv University – with funding provided by Prof. Moussa Youdim to support this ESN activity, paid the rental of the Historical Reading Room of Josephinum, the museum that houses collections of the Medical University of Vienna, audiovisual equipment and technician, offered refreshments and supported some travel from Israel and covered the meeting insurance. These funds were used directly (i.e. not provided to ESN) and were 5774 USD.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

The ESN Young Satellite Conference had two sessions, Neurodevelopment in health and Neurodevelopmental disorders, with welcome remarks by Prof. Illana Gozes, ESN President. The speakers were Milena Tucić, University of Belgrade, Serbia, Irene Martínez Gallego, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain; Charoula Peta, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece; Adva Hadar, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel; Maram Ganaïem, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Elisa Corti, University of Coimbra, Portugal; Roberto Oleari, University of Milan, Italy. These speakers were all early career scientists: graduate students or postdoctoral fellows and each had a 15 min talk. Milena Tucić, Irene Martínez Gallego, and Elisa Corti received full financial support from ESN travel awards, Maram Ganaïem and Roberto Oleari received funding from their own institutions and Dr Peta received a FENS Travel Award. Adva Hadar gave her lecture online as she was unable to travel.

An additional four travel awards were provided to attend the ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference and the main FENS Forum 2024. These were awarded competitively with 18 applications 9 from graduate students and 9 from postdocs. Applicants were from France -1, Germany 1, Italy 4; Nigeria 2, Poland 1; Portugal 6, and Serbia, 3. The selected awardees who received between 375-700 Euro each were David Brito, University of Algarve, Portugal; Devina Legrand-Ung, Université de Tours, France; Maria Francesca Palmas, University of Cagliari, Italy; Luise Schlotterose, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Germany.

In all 40 people registered for the satellite and 29 abstracts were submitted, from which 12 were chosen to give a short talk: Antonio González Matute, University of Seville, Spain; Federica Amoruso, Milan, Italy; Anat Mavashov Arzuan, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Claudio D'Incal, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Devina Ung, Université de Tours Tours, France; Mor Yam and Daniel Galber, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Gianluca Masella, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; Leonie Boesch, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, New York, USA; David Brito, Faro, Portugal; Katarina Živančević, Belgrade, Portugal; Dimitrios Gkikas, BRFAA, Athens, Greece; Marialuisa de Ceglia, Camerino, Italy.

- 2] **The Third of the ESN-ISN Advanced School** series took place in Athens, Greece, from June 2-8, 2024, at the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA). Named "Neurodegeneration, Inflammation, and Cancer". The main goal of the school was to investigate the links between neurodegeneration, inflammation, and cancer, which show both positive and negative relationships with each other. The event brought together 23 young scientists (13 PhD students, 7 postdocs, 2 MD/PhD students and 1 Instructor/Junior Researcher, competitively chosen for their academic performance). Attendees were mostly from European countries (Germany, 3; Greece, 5; Italy, 4; Portugal, 2; Slovakia, 2; Spain 3; and 1 each from Poland, Sweden, UK, and USA, One student attended online due to a visa delay. The school was provided by 28 distinguished faculty and 19 instructors from academic institutions in Greece, Germany and Israel.

Participants received full support for travel and all expenses for accommodation, meals, transportation, and museum visits, and engaged in 19 Advanced Scientific Lectures and 5 Advanced Technical Lectures, along with discussions. They worked in 13 hands-on laboratory modules based on their preferences and presented posters on their research. All necessary information was shared through emails and a dedicated website.

The school arranged two nearby hotels, and participants were transported daily by bus to BRFAA. On the first day, attendees received school materials and a welcome message. From June 3 to June 7, they attended lectures and participated in discussions. After lectures, they worked in the labs for 3 hours, following the guidance of supervisors. In the evenings, they enjoyed meals at local restaurants and had a farewell dinner near the Acropolis. Two special lectures were also included, while students visited the Acropolis and its museum.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

Posters were displayed, with lively discussions following each presentation. Two Poster Prizes of 200€ were awarded to Izabela Lepiarz Raba, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Poland and to Elisa Perciballi, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, and all participants received certificates. Despite rising costs, the Organizing Committee was just over the budget of USD 40,000 that had been provided by the International Society for Neurochemistry, requiring a contribution from ESN funds of 262€.

Feedback indicated that the school was a success, with participants valuing the program and laboratory modules. We note that there were a good number of applicants and postdoctoral attendees, suggesting that this School series is gaining prestige and is getting known.

- 3] **ESN Neurochemistry Initiative Funding 2024** - ESN has a long-standing funding scheme entitled "Neurochemistry Initiative". This funding scheme supports scientific events that promote the development of Neurochemistry. Funding is provided following an open call for applications and evaluation by ESN Council, deciding on the funding. The call for applications for the ESN Neurochemistry Initiative Funding 2024 was sent to the membership on November 3, 2023 with an application deadline of December 1, 2023.

Eight applications were received, sent them along with a scoring sheet and criteria to the Council; as our budget uncertainty only allowed us to support three applications for 1,000.00 € each. The top three were selected and funded as noted below.

1. 5th International Conference of the Trisomy 21 Research Society (T21RS) organised by Eugenio Barone and Antonella Tramutola, Rome, Italy was hosted at Sapienza University & "La Nuvola" Convention Ctr on 5-8 June, 2024. There were 600 attendees from 20 countries.

2. Epic2024 – Epilepsy Conference was organised by Sara Xapelli and Sandra Vaz of University of Lisbon, Portugal and hosted in Lisbon on 5-7 Jun 2024. There were 120 attendees from across Europe.

3. ADNP in Helsmoortel Van der Aa syndrome Conference was organised by Frank Kooy, University of Antwerp, Belgium and hosted there between 11-13 Sept 2024. The meeting had 150 delegates, 75% of whom were from outside Belgium.

- 4] **The "Meet ESN" initiative** was organised by the Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) of ESN. This was started by Sara Grassi and continued by the current Chair Adva Hadar, aimed at bringing together ESN members virtually, particularly during years in which no ESN conference is held. For 2024 it took place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 5–6 pm (CEST) with two talks: The role of protein quality control system in motor neuron diseases from Prof. Riccardo Cristofani, University of Milan and One gene, many phenotypes: investigating KIF5A-linked neurodegeneration mechanisms from Marta Cozzi, University of Milan.

The event was received with enthusiasm and had significant attendance by the ESN membership (75 zoom attendees). It was run at zero cost for ESN, as all electronic material, posters and announcements were produced by YSSC members voluntarily, electronic distribution was done by the Secretary, and the President, Prof. Gozes, via the Tel Aviv University, provided the zoom platform for free.

### **Public benefit statement**

ESN Trustees are aware of the definition of public benefit and take this into account in their decision making. There has been no departure from this guidance.

### **Contribution made by volunteers**

ESN is a Society fully run on a volunteer basis. Neither ESN officers, Council members nor members are paid for their work done for the Society (the only payments are reimbursement for, e.g., travel costs).

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Achievements and performance**

ESN activities in 2024 covered all Europe and adjacent countries and included a broad international exposure. The main achievements of ESN in 2024 to advance neurochemistry relate to scientific meetings, education and supporting individual scientists in mobility. These are delineated in the section above namely 1] the major event of the ESN satellite meeting at the FENS Forum in Vienna, Austria where we directly supported 11 early career scientists and provided opportunity to present work to 36 early career researchers, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Athens, Greece where we directly supported 70 scientists to attend, of whom 23 were early career scientists. A major focus of ESN is on education of students and early career scientists that contribute to the development of them as individuals to develop independent scientific lines of research and their scientific careers. This individual development is expected to have a wider public benefit through the production of new knowledge in neurochemistry that contributes to society, including but not limited to, a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and their treatment.

We also promoted Neurochemistry through providing funding for three Neurochemistry Initiatives, that part funded and badged other meetings. Thus, the ESN reached an additional 870 scientists. These activities therefore promote neurochemistry as a discipline and supports the sustainability of ESN by introducing early career scientists to the society.

The sustainability of ESN, and therefore the contribution that ESN can make to the public good is dependent on membership and bringing in new members, particularly early career scientists. Membership of ESN in December 31st, 2024, was 414, compared to 389 on December 31st, 2023. Membership is from 45 countries. ESN is very pleased with the increase in membership, without membership fee structure changes (25 Euro/year/member). Most represented countries are Italy (73), Portugal (52), Germany (49), Russia (44), UK (24), Spain (22), with largest changes compared to 2023 coming from Serbia and Germany (+5 new members each), while we have members, one each, from three additional countries, Uganda, Brazil, and Thailand. However, we have no more membership from Egypt and the Netherlands. ESN members receive regular updates and were invited to participate in the meet ESN webinar and the annual business meeting.

We note that while we have numerous members based in Russia, due to the current conflict, their membership is frozen – since the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022 we have not and will not accept membership fees, nor will be able to fund scientists based in Russia with travel awards or provide funding to meetings or conferences in Russia.

Financially ESN's position at the end of 2024 (despite changes in the arrangements with ISN) is sufficient to plan for activities in 2025 and 2026 that aim to advance Neurochemistry. These include multiple Neurochemistry Initiatives; travel support an ESN-ISN School and Meet ESN Events. The major event in 2025 is our ESN biannual meeting to be in Naxos, Greece that marks the 50th anniversary of ESN. One of the major activities for the Officers and council in 2024 has been preparation for the ESN Biennial Meeting, Naxos 2025. The ESN Past-President Johannes Hirrlinger is Chair of the Program Committee (PC) working with the Program Committee of 17 people, including members of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience (HSN) who are co-hosting the meeting. The Bachelard Award will be given to Anthony J. Turner. There have been 29 suggestions for Plenary Speakers with speakers chosen including Tom Südhof and Giovanna Mallucci. In addition, a special lecture by Moussa Youdim is included in the program. Further, 25 symposia with more than 100 speakers covering numerous aspects of neurochemistry and neuroscience were selected by the PC from the submitted proposals. Finally, two Young Member Symposia will feature short talks of early career scientists who have been chosen by ESN Council based on scientific excellence from applications.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £5,351, including net payments of £951 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £6,302 on restricted funds.

The main sources of income of the Charity are the following:

- 1) Members subscriptions. The membership of ESN in January 1st, 2025 was 414 compared to 389 on December 31st, 2023. The income from member subscriptions is stable.
- 2) Support from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN).  
ISN is organized for charitable and educational purposes and provides financial support to its sister societies including ESN. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on by ISN and ESN in Nov 2018, which was for unrestricted financial support. The MoU ran until Dec 31, 2023. A new MOU was signed on October 2023 that provides \$30,000 per year. However, ISN decided to change the terms and conditions of funding, with funding to be provided on a per annum basis and now 'restricted' i.e. to be used for specified, pre-determined purposes. We expect the funding to continue to be \$30,000 per year.

The 2024 funding from ISN which was budgeted for was not received in 2024 but was in January 2025. The Charity is in a good financial position on Dec 31, 2024, with a financial reserve sufficient to cover 2025 events and plans until 2026 that are in budget.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £83,299.

ESN's policy (adopted in August 2023) is as follows:

The Council shall decide annually what financial reserve should be held by ESN. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income e.g. to allow for payment in advance for meetings that have been approved for funding and/or to accommodate interruptions or lack of budgeted funding from external bodies. Use of reserves is defined in the ESN Policy on use of reserves.

ESN Policy on Use of reserves:

- a. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income
  - b. The funds held in reserves are classed as unrestricted but shall only be used for the following purposes
    - i. Advance payment for meetings that have been approved, where the income to ESN for the meeting/events is assured but will be received after the expenditure for the event.
    - ii. To ensure planned ESN business (including events and conferences) can go ahead when there is an unforeseen interruption, major change or termination of anticipated funding that had been budgeted for.
    - iii. To cover financial loss to ESN due to cancellation of meetings or other unforeseen circumstances.
  - c. A decision to use reserves shall be discussed and approved by Council.
  - d. The amount held in reserve should be proposed by the ESN trustees and approved by Council
- In August 2023 the Council decided the reserve (end of year balance) should be 80,000 € in 2023.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Amount of reserves held**

The actual amount held in reserve is 80,000 €, with an end of year balance of 98 977.41€. The difference related to the unexpected uncertainty around ISN funding which is detailed in our trustees' minutes.

Essentially, we had to reduce the commitment to spending in 2024 in case we received not all the expected funding from ISN. ESN council agreed to use reserves for 2025 activities, but we expect this not be necessary since ISN agreed to support ESN in 2024, in a message received on October 30th, 2024.

### **Going concern**

#### Membership

ESN relies on its members and a constant or increasing number of members. In the recent years membership steadily increased, but this cannot be guaranteed for the coming year(s). To mitigate this, ESN officers and Council members continue to develop ways to increase membership. All events supported by ESN are obliged to inform about ESN and advertise the advantages of being an ESN member. Therefore, the number of members in the future is uncertain but we consider it a relatively small risk for the Charity.

#### Financial support by ISN

In 2025 the arrangements with ISN are changing to a per annum funding request rather than a MOU. We do not consider this to be a major risk but will not commit funds until we have agreement in principle with ISN for our plans to use their grant.

The trustees are confident with the current bank balance and anticipated funding to be able to continue its activities at the levels planned until at least the end of 2026.

Approved by the board of trustees on 5/7/2025

Antonio Roriguez Moreno (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Katy Sargeant

15/7/25

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	(2)	-	37,444	37,444	74,051
Subscriptions		5,942	-	5,942	6,491
Conference fees		2,114	-	2,114	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>8,056</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>45,500</u>	<u>80,542</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Conference costs		1,867	31,065	32,932	35,159
Accounts and independent examination		495	-	495	378
Membership fees		652	-	652	670
Bank charges		140	-	140	363
Website hosting		477	77	554	231
Scholarships and bursaries given out		3,598	-	3,598	50,591
Trustee and Council expenses		1,778	-	1,778	3,846
Website development		-	-	-	1,741
Office expenses		-	-	-	165
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>9,007</u>	<u>31,142</u>	<u>40,149</u>	<u>93,144</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>(951)</u>	<u>6,302</u>	<u>5,351</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(951)</u>	<u>6,302</u>	<u>5,351</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>
Exchange difference		(1,193)	(243)	(1,436)	1,320
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(3)	<u>83,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>79,384</u>

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	83,299	-	83,299	79,384
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>79,384</u>

**Debtors and prepayments**

	2024
	£
Accrued income	24,048
	<u>24,048</u>

**Liabilities**

	2024
	£
Creditors	850
Accruals	540
Deferred income	755
	<u>2,145</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 5/7/2025

Antonio Roriguez Moreno (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

2 Grants and donations	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN)	-	37,444	37,444	74,051
	<u>-</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>74,051</u>

**3 Exchange difference**

The European Society of Neurochemistry has a euro bank account and two PayPal accounts. The transactions through this account have been converted to sterling at the average exchange rate for the year. The exchange difference relates to the difference between the closing bank balance at 31 December 2023 using the average 2023 rate and the opening balance at 1 January 2024 using the average 2024 rate.

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ESN-ISN Faro School 2023	(6,059)	6,302	243	-	-
ESN-ISN Athens School 2024	-	31,142	31,142	-	-
	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>31,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Fund name**

ESN-ISN Faro School 2023

**Purpose of restriction**

For the second of a series of EN-ISN Advanced Schools - this one held in Faro.

ESN-ISN Athens School 2024

Support for the organization of the ESN-ISN Neurochemistry School in Athens (2024)

**5 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

During the year 2 trustees were paid a total of £1,400 in respect of travel (previous year: 1 trustee and £1,036).

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

Charity number 1098662

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**



# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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Receipts and payments account	11
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Notes to the accounts	13 to 14

**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Marcus Rattray	Company Secretary	
Johannes Hirrlinger	Past-President	
Natalia Nalivaeva		
Anthony Turner		
Illana Gozes	President	
Carlos Duarte	Treasurer	
Dimitra Mangoura	Secretary	

<b>Charity number</b>	1098662	Registered in England and Wales
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<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	
University of Bradford	Co-operative Bank plc	Sparkasse Nienburg
Richmond Road	P.O. box 101	Goetheplatz 4
Bradford	1 Balloon Street	31582 Nienburg
BD7 1DP	Manchester	Germany

### **Independent examiner**

Katy Sargeant

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 3 June 2003 and amended 25 May 2021 and 10 August 2023.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The preferred practice of the Society is to appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer in rotation as the President. In accordance with this practice, each of the Secretary and the Treasurer is elected by ballot for a four-year-term and the appointments are staggered so that the Treasurer is appointed two years after the appointment of the then Secretary.

Having served for four years the Secretary or the Treasurer as appropriate shall be appointed by the Council as the President.

The President is appointed for a two-year-term. All such appointments shall take effect from the Business Meeting.

If this practice cannot be followed in any particular case the Council shall be empowered to implement alternative arrangements until new arrangements have been approved by the Ordinary Members and are fully implemented.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

## **Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Until 2023 trustees were appointed by ESN council on an ad-hoc basis from the members elected to the ESN Scientific Council. The constitution now defines the number of trustees and their selection.

No less than 5 and no more than 7 members of the Council shall be appointed by Council as named ESN trustees including current officers, a past president, company secretary and some UK based ESN members in good standing. The trustees have specific responsibilities associated with this role. The board of trustees reports to ESN Council and shall keep minutes of trustee meetings.

The Charity's overall governance is by a board of trustees. Day to day operations of ESN are determined by the ESN officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer who are advised by the ESN council.

The terms of appointment for officers and council as well as the role of the Company Secretary is defined in the ESN constitution.

We note that currently four ex-officio (co-opted) roles on ESN council:

Company Secretary: role defined in constitution.

ESN Past-President: On the Council meeting 2017 in Paris, France, it was decided to establish the position of the Past-President, to maintain the experience of the former president within the leadership of the society for two more years. When stepping back from the position as President after the two years term, the President becomes the Past-President. The Past-President is an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio. (Ex Presidents, are former Presidents of ESN, an unofficial position).

ESN Historian: An ESN Historian is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

Chair of ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC): The ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) is a group of early career scientists within ESN, who are actively engaged in ESN activities. The Chair of the YSSC is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

New trustees are introduced to their duties by the other trustees.

ESN has a close relation with its sister society International Society for Neurochemistry, based on common interests in advancing research in Neurochemistry and supporting early career researchers in Neurochemistry.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The advancement of the science of Neurochemistry for the public benefit.

According to the Society's constitution, the Society shall endeavour to:

- i Aim to promote the development of Neurochemistry in Europe and to facilitate exchange of ideas and interests amongst its members. [Europe is defined as including those countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.]
- ii Foster the interaction between clinical and basic Neurochemistry.
- iii It should be open to all who are interested in Neurochemistry and allied subjects. No one should be excluded from membership of the Society or from attendance at its meetings on grounds of race, religion or nationality.
- iv It should seek to be represented on the appropriate advisory and consultative bodies that might impinge upon Neurochemistry, and should seek close relationships with related professional bodies of disciplines interested in Neurobiology.
- v Promote general scientific meetings for the discussion and dissemination of research findings in Neurochemistry
- vi Arrange and provide for exhibitions, lectures, and training courses.
- vii Publish leaflets, pamphlets, journals and books upon the science of Neurochemistry.
- viii Collect, tabulate and distribute information on all matters relating to Neurochemistry.
- ix Promote, organise and support research relating to Neurochemistry.
- x Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription or donation, provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The major activities of ESN in 2024 were: 1] ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference to FENS Forum 2024, Vienna, Austria, entitled "Neurodevelopment in Health and Disease", which was accompanied by a special issue with >10 publications of the Journal of Molecular Neuroscience; 2] the 3rd ESN-INS Neurochemistry School "Neurodegeneration, Inflammation, and Cancer" in Athens, Greece; 3] three "Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support" namely, 5th International Conference of the Trisomy 21 Research Society (T21RS), Epic2024 – Epilepsy Conference and 2nd Neurodevelopmental Disorders Conference: ADNP and more. 4] "Meet ESN" initiative taken by the Young Scientist Steering Committee of ESN, webinars introducing established and young ESN scientists.

- 1] **ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference to FENS Forum 2024 in Vienna, Austria, June 12, 2024**, entitled "Neurodevelopment in Health and Disease", was organized by ESN Officers and Council. ESN provided 2800€ in funding altogether. Financial support was obtained from the Journal of Molecular Neuroscience (Springer-Nature) and Company of Biologists.

Tel Aviv University – with funding provided by Prof. Moussa Youdim to support this ESN activity, paid the rental of the Historical Reading Room of Josephinum, the museum that houses collections of the Medical University of Vienna, audiovisual equipment and technician, offered refreshments and supported some travel from Israel and covered the meeting insurance. These funds were used directly (i.e. not provided to ESN) and were 5774 USD.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

The ESN Young Satellite Conference had two sessions, Neurodevelopment in health and Neurodevelopmental disorders, with welcome remarks by Prof. Illana Gozes, ESN President. The speakers were Milena Tucić, University of Belgrade, Serbia, Irene Martínez Gallego, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain; Charoula Peta, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece; Adva Hadar, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel; Maram Ganaïem, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Elisa Corti, University of Coimbra, Portugal; Roberto Oleari, University of Milan, Italy. These speakers were all early career scientists: graduate students or postdoctoral fellows and each had a 15 min talk. Milena Tucić, Irene Martínez Gallego, and Elisa Corti received full financial support from ESN travel awards, Maram Ganaïem and Roberto Oleari received funding from their own institutions and Dr Peta received a FENS Travel Award. Adva Hadar gave her lecture online as she was unable to travel.

An additional four travel awards were provided to attend the ESN Young Scientist Satellite Conference and the main FENS Forum 2024. These were awarded competitively with 18 applications 9 from graduate students and 9 from postdocs. Applicants were from France -1, Germany 1, Italy 4; Nigeria 2, Poland 1; Portugal 6, and Serbia, 3. The selected awardees who received between 375-700 Euro each were David Brito, University of Algarve, Portugal; Devina Legrand-Ung, Université de Tours, France; Maria Francesca Palmas, University of Cagliari, Italy; Luise Schlotterose, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Germany.

In all 40 people registered for the satellite and 29 abstracts were submitted, from which 12 were chosen to give a short talk: Antonio González Matute, University of Seville, Spain; Federica Amoruso, Milan, Italy; Anat Mavashov Arzuan, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Claudio D'Incal, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Devina Ung, Université de Tours Tours, France; Mor Yam and Daniel Galber, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Gianluca Masella, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; Leonie Boesch, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, New York, USA; David Brito, Faro, Portugal; Katarina Živančević, Belgrade, Portugal; Dimitrios Gkikas, BRFAA, Athens, Greece; Marialuisa de Ceglia, Camerino, Italy.

- 2] **The Third of the ESN-ISN Advanced School** series took place in Athens, Greece, from June 2-8, 2024, at the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA). Named "Neurodegeneration, Inflammation, and Cancer". The main goal of the school was to investigate the links between neurodegeneration, inflammation, and cancer, which show both positive and negative relationships with each other. The event brought together 23 young scientists (13 PhD students, 7 postdocs, 2 MD/PhD students and 1 Instructor/Junior Researcher, competitively chosen for their academic performance). Attendees were mostly from European countries (Germany, 3; Greece, 5; Italy, 4; Portugal, 2; Slovakia, 2; Spain 3; and 1 each from Poland, Sweden, UK, and USA, One student attended online due to a visa delay. The school was provided by 28 distinguished faculty and 19 instructors from academic institutions in Greece, Germany and Israel.

Participants received full support for travel and all expenses for accommodation, meals, transportation, and museum visits, and engaged in 19 Advanced Scientific Lectures and 5 Advanced Technical Lectures, along with discussions. They worked in 13 hands-on laboratory modules based on their preferences and presented posters on their research. All necessary information was shared through emails and a dedicated website.

The school arranged two nearby hotels, and participants were transported daily by bus to BRFAA. On the first day, attendees received school materials and a welcome message. From June 3 to June 7, they attended lectures and participated in discussions. After lectures, they worked in the labs for 3 hours, following the guidance of supervisors. In the evenings, they enjoyed meals at local restaurants and had a farewell dinner near the Acropolis. Two special lectures were also included, while students visited the Acropolis and its museum.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

Posters were displayed, with lively discussions following each presentation. Two Poster Prizes of 200€ were awarded to Izabela Lepiarz Raba, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Poland and to Elisa Perciballi, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, and all participants received certificates. Despite rising costs, the Organizing Committee was just over the budget of USD 40,000 that had been provided by the International Society for Neurochemistry, requiring a contribution from ESN funds of 262€.

Feedback indicated that the school was a success, with participants valuing the program and laboratory modules. We note that there were a good number of applicants and postdoctoral attendees, suggesting that this School series is gaining prestige and is getting known.

- 3] **ESN Neurochemistry Initiative Funding 2024** - ESN has a long-standing funding scheme entitled "Neurochemistry Initiative". This funding scheme supports scientific events that promote the development of Neurochemistry. Funding is provided following an open call for applications and evaluation by ESN Council, deciding on the funding. The call for applications for the ESN Neurochemistry Initiative Funding 2024 was sent to the membership on November 3, 2023 with an application deadline of December 1, 2023.

Eight applications were received, sent them along with a scoring sheet and criteria to the Council; as our budget uncertainty only allowed us to support three applications for 1,000.00 € each. The top three were selected and funded as noted below.

1. 5th International Conference of the Trisomy 21 Research Society (T21RS) organised by Eugenio Barone and Antonella Tramutola, Rome, Italy was hosted at Sapienza University & "La Nuvola" Convention Ctr on 5-8 June, 2024. There were 600 attendees from 20 countries.

2. Epic2024 – Epilepsy Conference was organised by Sara Xapelli and Sandra Vaz of University of Lisbon, Portugal and hosted in Lisbon on 5-7 Jun 2024. There were 120 attendees from across Europe.

3. ADNP in Helsmoortel Van der Aa syndrome Conference was organised by Frank Kooy, University of Antwerp, Belgium and hosted there between 11-13 Sept 2024. The meeting had 150 delegates, 75% of whom were from outside Belgium.

- 4] **The "Meet ESN" initiative** was organised by the Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) of ESN. This was started by Sara Grassi and continued by the current Chair Adva Hadar, aimed at bringing together ESN members virtually, particularly during years in which no ESN conference is held. For 2024 it took place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 5–6 pm (CEST) with two talks: The role of protein quality control system in motor neuron diseases from Prof. Riccardo Cristofani, University of Milan and One gene, many phenotypes: investigating KIF5A-linked neurodegeneration mechanisms from Marta Cozzi, University of Milan.

The event was received with enthusiasm and had significant attendance by the ESN membership (75 zoom attendees). It was run at zero cost for ESN, as all electronic material, posters and announcements were produced by YSSC members voluntarily, electronic distribution was done by the Secretary, and the President, Prof. Gozes, via the Tel Aviv University, provided the zoom platform for free.

### **Public benefit statement**

ESN Trustees are aware of the definition of public benefit and take this into account in their decision making. There has been no departure from this guidance.

### **Contribution made by volunteers**

ESN is a Society fully run on a volunteer basis. Neither ESN officers, Council members nor members are paid for their work done for the Society (the only payments are reimbursement for, e.g., travel costs).

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Achievements and performance**

ESN activities in 2024 covered all Europe and adjacent countries and included a broad international exposure. The main achievements of ESN in 2024 to advance neurochemistry relate to scientific meetings, education and supporting individual scientists in mobility. These are delineated in the section above namely 1] the major event of the ESN satellite meeting at the FENS Forum in Vienna, Austria where we directly supported 11 early career scientists and provided opportunity to present work to 36 early career researchers, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Athens, Greece where we directly supported 70 scientists to attend, of whom 23 were early career scientists. A major focus of ESN is on education of students and early career scientists that contribute to the development of them as individuals to develop independent scientific lines of research and their scientific careers. This individual development is expected to have a wider public benefit through the production of new knowledge in neurochemistry that contributes to society, including but not limited to, a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and their treatment.

We also promoted Neurochemistry through providing funding for three Neurochemistry Initiatives, that part funded and badged other meetings. Thus, the ESN reached an additional 870 scientists. These activities therefore promote neurochemistry as a discipline and supports the sustainability of ESN by introducing early career scientists to the society.

The sustainability of ESN, and therefore the contribution that ESN can make to the public good is dependent on membership and bringing in new members, particularly early career scientists. Membership of ESN in December 31st, 2024, was 414, compared to 389 on December 31st, 2023. Membership is from 45 countries. ESN is very pleased with the increase in membership, without membership fee structure changes (25 Euro/year/member). Most represented countries are Italy (73), Portugal (52), Germany (49), Russia (44), UK (24), Spain (22), with largest changes compared to 2023 coming from Serbia and Germany (+5 new members each), while we have members, one each, from three additional countries, Uganda, Brazil, and Thailand. However, we have no more membership from Egypt and the Netherlands. ESN members receive regular updates and were invited to participate in the meet ESN webinar and the annual business meeting.

We note that while we have numerous members based in Russia, due to the current conflict, their membership is frozen – since the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022 we have not and will not accept membership fees, nor will be able to fund scientists based in Russia with travel awards or provide funding to meetings or conferences in Russia.

Financially ESN's position at the end of 2024 (despite changes in the arrangements with ISN) is sufficient to plan for activities in 2025 and 2026 that aim to advance Neurochemistry. These include multiple Neurochemistry Initiatives; travel support an ESN-ISN School and Meet ESN Events. The major event in 2025 is our ESN biannual meeting to be in Naxos, Greece that marks the 50th anniversary of ESN. One of the major activities for the Officers and council in 2024 has been preparation for the ESN Biennial Meeting, Naxos 2025. The ESN Past-President Johannes Hirrlinger is Chair of the Program Committee (PC) working with the Program Committee of 17 people, including members of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience (HSN) who are co-hosting the meeting. The Bachelard Award will be given to Anthony J. Turner. There have been 29 suggestions for Plenary Speakers with speakers chosen including Tom Südhof and Giovanna Mallucci. In addition, a special lecture by Moussa Youdim is included in the program. Further, 25 symposia with more than 100 speakers covering numerous aspects of neurochemistry and neuroscience were selected by the PC from the submitted proposals. Finally, two Young Member Symposia will feature short talks of early career scientists who have been chosen by ESN Council based on scientific excellence from applications.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £5,351, including net payments of £951 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £6,302 on restricted funds.

The main sources of income of the Charity are the following:

- 1) Members subscriptions. The membership of ESN in January 1st, 2025 was 414 compared to 389 on December 31st, 2023. The income from member subscriptions is stable.
- 2) Support from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN).  
ISN is organized for charitable and educational purposes and provides financial support to its sister societies including ESN. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on by ISN and ESN in Nov 2018, which was for unrestricted financial support. The MoU ran until Dec 31, 2023. A new MOU was signed on October 2023 that provides \$30,000 per year. However, ISN decided to change the terms and conditions of funding, with funding to be provided on a per annum basis and now 'restricted' i.e. to be used for specified, pre-determined purposes. We expect the funding to continue to be \$30,000 per year.

The 2024 funding from ISN which was budgeted for was not received in 2024 but was in January 2025. The Charity is in a good financial position on Dec 31, 2024, with a financial reserve sufficient to cover 2025 events and plans until 2026 that are in budget.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £83,299.

ESN's policy (adopted in August 2023) is as follows:

The Council shall decide annually what financial reserve should be held by ESN. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income e.g. to allow for payment in advance for meetings that have been approved for funding and/or to accommodate interruptions or lack of budgeted funding from external bodies. Use of reserves is defined in the ESN Policy on use of reserves.

ESN Policy on Use of reserves:

- a. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income
  - b. The funds held in reserves are classed as unrestricted but shall only be used for the following purposes
    - i. Advance payment for meetings that have been approved, where the income to ESN for the meeting/events is assured but will be received after the expenditure for the event.
    - ii. To ensure planned ESN business (including events and conferences) can go ahead when there is an unforeseen interruption, major change or termination of anticipated funding that had been budgeted for.
    - iii. To cover financial loss to ESN due to cancellation of meetings or other unforeseen circumstances.
  - c. A decision to use reserves shall be discussed and approved by Council.
  - d. The amount held in reserve should be proposed by the ESN trustees and approved by Council
- In August 2023 the Council decided the reserve (end of year balance) should be 80,000 € in 2023.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Amount of reserves held**

The actual amount held in reserve is 80,000 €, with an end of year balance of 98 977.41€. The difference related to the unexpected uncertainty around ISN funding which is detailed in our trustees' minutes.

Essentially, we had to reduce the commitment to spending in 2024 in case we received not all the expected funding from ISN. ESN council agreed to use reserves for 2025 activities, but we expect this not be necessary since ISN agreed to support ESN in 2024, in a message received on October 30th, 2024.

### **Going concern**

#### Membership

ESN relies on its members and a constant or increasing number of members. In the recent years membership steadily increased, but this cannot be guaranteed for the coming year(s). To mitigate this, ESN officers and Council members continue to develop ways to increase membership. All events supported by ESN are obliged to inform about ESN and advertise the advantages of being an ESN member. Therefore, the number of members in the future is uncertain but we consider it a relatively small risk for the Charity.

#### Financial support by ISN

In 2025 the arrangements with ISN are changing to a per annum funding request rather than a MOU. We do not consider this to be a major risk but will not commit funds until we have agreement in principle with ISN for our plans to use their grant.

The trustees are confident with the current bank balance and anticipated funding to be able to continue its activities at the levels planned until at least the end of 2026.

Approved by the board of trustees on 5/7/2025

Antonio Roriguez Moreno (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Katy Sargeant

15/7/25

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	(2)	-	37,444	37,444	74,051
Subscriptions		5,942	-	5,942	6,491
Conference fees		2,114	-	2,114	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>8,056</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>45,500</u>	<u>80,542</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Conference costs		1,867	31,065	32,932	35,159
Accounts and independent examination		495	-	495	378
Membership fees		652	-	652	670
Bank charges		140	-	140	363
Website hosting		477	77	554	231
Scholarships and bursaries given out		3,598	-	3,598	50,591
Trustee and Council expenses		1,778	-	1,778	3,846
Website development		-	-	-	1,741
Office expenses		-	-	-	165
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>9,007</u>	<u>31,142</u>	<u>40,149</u>	<u>93,144</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>(951)</u>	<u>6,302</u>	<u>5,351</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(951)</u>	<u>6,302</u>	<u>5,351</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>
Exchange difference		(1,193)	(243)	(1,436)	1,320
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(3)	<u>83,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>79,384</u>

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	83,299	-	83,299	79,384
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>79,384</u>

**Debtors and prepayments**

	2024
	£
Accrued income	24,048
	<u>24,048</u>

**Liabilities**

	2024
	£
Creditors	850
Accruals	540
Deferred income	755
	<u>2,145</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 5/7/2025

Antonio Roriguez Moreno (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

2 Grants and donations	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN)	-	37,444	37,444	74,051
	<u>-</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>74,051</u>

**3 Exchange difference**

The European Society of Neurochemistry has a euro bank account and two PayPal accounts. The transactions through this account have been converted to sterling at the average exchange rate for the year. The exchange difference relates to the difference between the closing bank balance at 31 December 2023 using the average 2023 rate and the opening balance at 1 January 2024 using the average 2024 rate.

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ESN-ISN Faro School 2023	(6,059)	6,302	243	-	-
ESN-ISN Athens School 2024	-	31,142	31,142	-	-
	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>37,444</u>	<u>31,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Fund name**

ESN-ISN Faro School 2023

**Purpose of restriction**

For the second of a series of EN-ISN Advanced Schools - this one held in Faro.

ESN-ISN Athens School 2024

Support for the organization of the ESN-ISN Neurochemistry School in Athens (2024)

**5 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

During the year 2 trustees were paid a total of £1,400 in respect of travel (previous year: 1 trustee and £1,036).

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Katy Sargeant

15/7/25

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1098662

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# Accounts

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# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

Charity number 1098662

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**



# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Marcus Rattray	Company Secretary	
Johannes Hirrlinger	Past-President	
Natalia Nalivaeva		
Anthony Turner		
Illana Gozes	President	
Carlos Duarte	Treasurer	
Dimitra Mangoura	Secretary	Appointed 11 August 2023
<b>Charity number</b>	1098662	Registered in England and Wales
<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	
University of Bradford	Co-operative Bank plc	Sparkasse Nienburg
Richmond Road	P.O. box 101	Goetheplatz 4
Bradford	1 Balloon Street	31582 Nienburg
BD7 1DP	Manchester	Germany
	M60 4EP	

### **Independent examiner**

E J Beverley FCCA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 3 June 2003 and amended 25 May 2021 and 10 August 2023.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The preferred practice of the Society is to appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer in rotation as the President. In accordance with this practice, each of the Secretary and the Treasurer is elected by ballot for a four-year-term and the appointments are staggered so that the Treasurer is appointed two years after the appointment of the then Secretary.

Having served for four years the Secretary or the Treasurer as appropriate shall be appointed by the Council as the President.

The President is appointed for a two-year-term. All such appointments shall take effect from the Business Meeting.

If this practice cannot be followed in any particular case the Council shall be empowered to implement alternative arrangements until new arrangements have been approved by the Ordinary Members and are fully implemented.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Until 2023 trustees were appointed by ESN council on an ad-hoc basis from the members elected to the ESN Scientific Council. The constitution now defines the number of trustees and their selection.

No less than 5 and no more than 7 members of the Council shall be appointed by Council as named ESN trustees including current officers, a past president, company secretary and some UK based ESN members in good standing. The trustees have specific responsibilities associated with this role. The board of trustees reports to ESN Council and shall keep minutes of trustee meetings.

The Charity's overall governance is by a board of trustees. Day to day operations of ESN are determined by the ESN officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer who are advised by the ESN council.

The terms of appointment for officers and council as well as the role of the Company Secretary is defined in the ESN constitution.

We note that currently four ex-officio (co-opted) roles on ESN council:

Company Secretary: role defined in constitution.

ESN Past-President: On the Council meeting 2017 in Paris, France, it was decided to establish the position of the Past-President, to maintain the experience of the former president within the leadership of the society for two more years. When stepping back from the position as President after the two years term, the President becomes the Past-President. The Past-President is an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio. (Ex Presidents, are former Presidents of ESN, an unofficial position).

ESN Historian: An ESN Historian is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

Chair of ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC): The ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) is a group of early career scientists within ESN, who are actively engaged in ESN activities. The Chair of the YSSC is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

New trustees are introduced to their duties by the other trustees.

As specified above, ESN has a very close relation with its sister society ISN, based on the MoU and common interests in advancing research in Neurochemistry and supporting early career researchers in Neurochemistry.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The advancement of the science of Neurochemistry for the public benefit.

According to the Society's constitution, the Society shall endeavour to:

- i Aim to promote the development of Neurochemistry in Europe and to facilitate exchange of ideas and interests amongst its members. [Europe is defined as including those countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.]
- ii Foster the interaction between clinical and basic Neurochemistry.
- iii It should be open to all who are interested in Neurochemistry and allied subjects. No one should be excluded from membership of the Society or from attendance at its meetings on grounds of race, religion or nationality.
- iv It should seek to be represented on the appropriate advisory and consultative bodies that might impinge upon Neurochemistry, and should seek close relationships with related professional bodies of disciplines interested in Neurobiology.
- v Promote general scientific meetings for the discussion and dissemination of research findings in Neurochemistry
- vi Arrange and provide for exhibitions, lectures, and training courses.
- vii Publish leaflets, pamphlets, journals and books upon the science of Neurochemistry.
- viii Collect, tabulate and distribute information on all matters relating to Neurochemistry.
- ix Promote, organise and support research relating to Neurochemistry.
- x Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription or donation, provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The major activities of ESN in 2023 were 1] the ESN Meeting in Porto, Portugal, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Faro, Portugal, 3] four "Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support" namely BRAYN, SINS 2023, Georgia Symposium, and ENCODS 2023, 4] four 2 Mobility Scholarships to Alexander Schwartz, Heriberto Coatl-Cuaya, Marta Chierichetti & Alexander Trofimov.

- 1] The ESN Meeting in Porto August 2023 (Portugal) in association with the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) had about 600 participants. ISN covered the majority of expenses directly, while ESN paid for scholarships (conference expenses and travel) for selected speakers as follows. Two Young Scientist Lectureship Award (YSLA) namely Dr Giuseppe Gangarossa, University of Paris, France and Dr Boaz Barak, Tel Aviv University, Israel and The Bachelard Lecture awardee Professor Juan P. Bolanos (Spain). We supported Young Member Symposia (YMS) awardees (11) included as speakers in two sessions, mechanisms and translational neurochemistry as follows. Rita Abrunhosa Soares (Portugal), Diogo M. Lourenço (Portugal), Charikleia (Charoula) Peta (Greece), Nadine Denker (Germany), Ismail Gbadamosi (Poland), Milorad Dragic (Serbia), Olayemi K. Ijomone (Germany), Katarina Milićević (Serbia), Maria Francesca Palmas (Italy), Maram Ganaiem (Israel), Marialuisa de Ceglia (Spain). These special lectures and symposia were chaired by ESN Officers and Charity Trustees. Further ESN activities included: Young Scientists' Steering Committee (YSSC) Lounge throughout the meeting, encompassing workshops on CV writing (Natalia Nalivaeva, Ex-President, ESN) and career choice, Dimitra Mangoura (Secretary, ESN) and Illana Gozes (President, ESN).

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

- 2] The Second ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School. The ESN/ISN Neurochemistry School entitled "Targeting molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration: focus on advanced therapies" took place in Faro, Portugal, October 29 – November 4, 2023. The local organizing committee headed by Prof. Clevio Nobrega arranged an exciting program which included lectures by experienced scientists, poster presentations by the early career participants as well as hands on laboratory training in state-of-the-art technologies. Most of the funding for this school was from ESN using a grant provided by ISN, with the local organisers also gaining funding from IBRO and Portuguese Neuroscience Society. The University of Algarve, the School of Medicine and the Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute provided the rooms and laboratories, while the Algarve Biomedical Center provided the staff and management platform. From the fully sponsored 30 students that attended the school, 25 were from abroad and 5 from Portugal, and 19 of them were women. The countries represented were Germany, Poland, Italy, Israel, Serbia, Sweden, Portugal, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Netherlands, France, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Greece. 7 attendees were postdocs, 22 PhD students and one a Masters student. 29 faculty (from Portugal, Sweden, Israel, Spain, and Germany) provided lectures, workshops, and technical lectures. Finally, 10 laboratory activities were offered for selection by the students and were carried on during the week. The school paid for all the expenses of the students and faculty, including travel, accommodation, transfers, and meals. The final feedback from the attendees was excellent!
  
- 3] Neurochemistry Initiatives ESN has a long-standing funding scheme entitled "Neurochemistry Initiative". This funding scheme aims at supporting scientific events that promote the development of Neurochemistry. Funding is provided following an open call for applications and evaluation by ESN Council, deciding on the funding. In 2023, a call was issued, and four activities were funded by this scheme: (A) BraYn (Brainstorming Research Assembly for Young Neuroscientists) in Naples, Italy; 27-29, September 2023. BraYn2023 had about 350 participants and 160 presented abstracts. ESN support (1000 €) was used to fund 5 scholarships for young researchers: Fionă Caratis, Gdansk, Poland, Cassandra Margotta, Milan, Italy, Pablo Blanco Carlón, Madrid, Spain, Giada Pessina, Genoa, Italy and Arianna Giani, Milan, Italy. (B) The Symposium "Beyond motor neurons: skeletal muscle contribution in motor neuron diseases" held in Torino, Italy; September 14th to 17th, 2023 as part of the 20th National Congress of the Italian Society for Neuroscience (SINS) was funded by ESN (1000 €). The SINS meeting included a wide spectrum of advanced research topics and include overall 65 Symposia, 295 Posters, 6 Plenary Sessions and 2 Round Tables. (C) 3 International Symposium on "Advances in Unravelling Molecular and Neurochemical Pathways in Neurodegeneration: Implications for Therapeutic Strategies" held in Tbilisi, Georgia 20-22 October 2023. The ESN funded symposium (1000 €) was held as part of the International Neuroscience Conference (NEURO 2023) organised by the International Center for Neuroscience Research in partnership with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Georgian Neuroscience Association. There were over 100 participants and amongst the conference outputs were planning for joint research projects, organizing joint events with other organizations, and exchanging professors and students between neuroscience institutions. (D) ESN supported a best poster award (200 €) for The European Neuroscience Conference by Doctoral Students (ENCODS) held in Algarve, Portugal, 1-2 May 2023. This is an initiative started by graduate students at the Neurocampus Bordeaux in 2013, to offer early-career neuroscientists a context for scientific exchange.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

- 4] Mobility Scholarships. We had a call for these applications in 2022 with 10 applications of which 4 were funded to allow early career researchers to spend a period of study in another country, hosted by an ESN member. The recipients were Alexander Schwarz, Mentor: C. Duarte, Portugal (ESN Treasurer), Heriberto Coatl-Cuaya, A. Rodriguez- Moreno, Spain (ESN Council Member), Marta Chierichetti, C. Rinaldi, UK and Alexander Trofimov, A.L. Carvalho, Portugal.

In addition, during 2023 the ESN website (<https://neurochemsoc.eu/>) was redeveloped to make it more accessible, clearer and user friendly. In 2023 as part of a review of governance, and ensure sustainability, ESN formalised a reserve policy and updated its constitution.

### **Public benefit statement**

ESN Trustees are aware of the definition of public benefit and take this into account in their decision making. There has been no departure from this guidance.

### **Contribution made by volunteers**

ESN is a Society fully run on a volunteer basis. Neither ESN officers, Council members nor members are paid for their work done for the Society (the only payments are reimbursement for, e.g., travel costs).

### **Achievements and performance**

The main achievements of ESN in 2023 to advance neurochemistry relate to scientific meetings, education and supporting individual scientists in mobility. These are delineated in the section above, namely, four main topics, highlighted by 1] the major event of the ESN conference in Porto, Portugal, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Faro, Portugal, as well as 3] several Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support and 4] Mobility Scholarships. As well as supporting events which engaged hundreds of people, a number of individual awards were made for travel to conferences, schools or for laboratory visits for an extended time. A major focus of ESN is on education of students and early career scientists that contribute to the development of them as individuals to develop independent scientific lines of research and their scientific careers. This individual development is expected to have a wider public benefit through the production of new knowledge in neurochemistry that contributes to society, including but not limited to, a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and their treatment. ESN activities in 2023 covered all Europe and adjacent countries, and included a broad international exposure at the ESN-ISN meeting in Porto.

The sustainability of ESN, and therefore the contribution that ESN can make to the public good is dependent on membership and bringing in new members, particularly early career scientists. Membership of ESN in January 2024 was 389, compared to 277 on December 31st, 2022. Membership is from ~48 countries. ESN is very pleased with the increase in Membership, without membership fee structure changes (25 Euro/year/member). ESN has improved its communication with members and the advertisement of our 'offer'. In 2023 the website was redeveloped to make it more accessible, clearer and user friendly, so that information about ESN and opportunities to apply for awards is easier to find. During the year, members received regular email bulletins from the council about the opportunities available to apply for awards.

Financially ESN's position at the end of 2023 (with renewal of MOU with ISN) is sufficient to plan for activities in 2024 and 2025 that aim to advance Neurochemistry. These include an ESN-ISN School in Athens 2024, an ESN satellite meeting at the Federation of the European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) meeting (Vienna, June 2024) as well as webinars and other activities to promote ESN, particularly to younger scientists. We are also planning our ESN biannual meeting to be in Naxos, Greece in 2025 and mark the 50th anniversary of ESN.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £12,602, including net payments of £6,543 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £6,059 on restricted funds.

The main sources of income of the Charity are the following:

- 1) Members subscriptions. The membership of ESN in January 2024 was 389, compared to 277 on December 31st, 2022. The income from member subscriptions is stable.
- 2) Support from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). ISN is organized for charitable and educational purposes and provides financial support to its sister societies including ESN. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on by ISN and ESN in Nov 2018, which is the basis of this unrestricted financial support. The MoU runs until Dec 31, 2023. A new MOU was signed on October 2023 and is effective until December 2025. The MOU provides \$30,000 per year.

We note that ESN received ISN support for 2022 in April 2023 that had been delayed, along with the 2023 funding. The Charity is in a good financial position on Dec 31, 2023, with the main sources of income stable, and plans until 2025 that are in budget.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £85,443.

ESN's policy adopted in August 2023 is as follows:

The Council shall decide annually what financial reserve should be held by ESN. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income e.g. to allow for payment in advance for meetings that have been approved for funding and/or to accommodate interruptions or lack of budgeted funding from external bodies. Use of reserves is defined in the ESN Policy on use of reserves.

In August 2023 the Council decided the reserve (end of year balance) should be 80,000 € in 2023.

### **Going concern**

#### **Membership**

ESN relies on its members and a constant or increasing number of members. In the recent years membership steadily increased, but this cannot be guaranteed for the coming year(s). To mitigate this, ESN officers and Council members continue to develop ways to increase membership. All events supported by ESN are obliged to inform about ESN and advertise the advantages of being an ESN member. Therefore, the number of members in the future is uncertain but we consider it a relatively small risk for the Charity.

#### **Financial support by ISN**

An MoU was signed with ISN in October 2023 securing the main income of ESN for two more years.

The trustees are confident with the current bank balance and funding until 2024, and the known commitments, including the biennial ESN meeting in 2024 to be able to continue its activities at the current level until at least 2025/2026.

Approved by the board of trustees on 26/09/2024

Illana Gozes (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E J Beverley FCCA

02/10/2024

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023	2023	2023	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	(2)	47,693	26,358	74,051	6,764
Subscriptions		6,491	-	6,491	6,742
Conference fees		-	-	-	512
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>54,184</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>80,542</u>	<u>14,018</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Conference costs		2,742	32,417	35,159	4,461
Virtual conference costs		-	-	-	-
Accounts and independent examination		378	-	378	360
Membership fees		670	-	670	426
Bank charges		363	-	363	126
Website hosting		231	-	231	150
Funding of the Neurochemistry Initiative scheme		-	-	-	13,270
Scholarships and bursaries given out		50,591	-	50,591	3,667
Trustee and Council expenses		3,846	-	3,846	236
Website development		1,741	-	1,741	-
Office expenses		165	-	165	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>60,727</u>	<u>32,417</u>	<u>93,144</u>	<u>22,696</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>(6,543)</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>	<u>(8,678)</u>
Exchange difference		1,320	-	1,320	(609)
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>90,666</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,666</u>	<u>99,953</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(4)	<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2023**

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	85,443	(6,059)	79,384	90,666
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>

**Debtors and prepayments**

	2023
	£
Accrued grant income	6,589
	<u>6,589</u>

**Liabilities**

	2023
	£
Accruals	495
	<u>495</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 26/09/2024

Illana Gozes (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

2 Grants and donations	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN)	47,693	26,358	74,051	6,764
	<u>47,693</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>74,051</u>	<u>6,764</u>

**3 Exchange difference**

The European Society of Neurochemistry has a euro bank account and PayPal account. The transactions through this account have been converted to sterling at the average exchange rate for the year. The exchange difference relates to the difference between the closing bank balance at 31 December 2022 using the average 2022 rate and the opening balance at 1 January 2023 using the average 2023 rate.

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ESN-ISN Faro School 2023	-	26,358	32,417	-	(6,059)
	<u>-</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>32,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>

**Fund name**

ESN-ISN Faro School 2023

**Purpose of restriction**

For the second of a series of EN-ISN Advanced Schools - this one held in Faro.

The deficit on this fund relates to the last 20% of funding which was applied for and received after the year end.

**5 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

During the year 1 trustee was paid a total of £1,036 in respect of travel (previous year: 1 trustee and £100).

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

Charity number 1098662

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**



# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Marcus Rattray	Company Secretary	
Johannes Hirrlinger	Past-President	
Natalia Nalivaeva		
Anthony Turner		
Illana Gozes	President	
Carlos Duarte	Treasurer	
Dimitra Mangoura	Secretary	Appointed 11 August 2023
<b>Charity number</b>	1098662	Registered in England and Wales
<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	
University of Bradford	Co-operative Bank plc	Sparkasse Nienburg
Richmond Road	P.O. box 101	Goetheplatz 4
Bradford	1 Balloon Street	31582 Nienburg
BD7 1DP	Manchester	Germany
	M60 4EP	

### **Independent examiner**

E J Beverley FCCA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 3 June 2003 and amended 25 May 2021 and 10 August 2023.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The preferred practice of the Society is to appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer in rotation as the President. In accordance with this practice, each of the Secretary and the Treasurer is elected by ballot for a four-year-term and the appointments are staggered so that the Treasurer is appointed two years after the appointment of the then Secretary.

Having served for four years the Secretary or the Treasurer as appropriate shall be appointed by the Council as the President.

The President is appointed for a two-year-term. All such appointments shall take effect from the Business Meeting.

If this practice cannot be followed in any particular case the Council shall be empowered to implement alternative arrangements until new arrangements have been approved by the Ordinary Members and are fully implemented.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Until 2023 trustees were appointed by ESN council on an ad-hoc basis from the members elected to the ESN Scientific Council. The constitution now defines the number of trustees and their selection.

No less than 5 and no more than 7 members of the Council shall be appointed by Council as named ESN trustees including current officers, a past president, company secretary and some UK based ESN members in good standing. The trustees have specific responsibilities associated with this role. The board of trustees reports to ESN Council and shall keep minutes of trustee meetings.

The Charity's overall governance is by a board of trustees. Day to day operations of ESN are determined by the ESN officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer who are advised by the ESN council.

The terms of appointment for officers and council as well as the role of the Company Secretary is defined in the ESN constitution.

We note that currently four ex-officio (co-opted) roles on ESN council:

Company Secretary: role defined in constitution.

ESN Past-President: On the Council meeting 2017 in Paris, France, it was decided to establish the position of the Past-President, to maintain the experience of the former president within the leadership of the society for two more years. When stepping back from the position as President after the two years term, the President becomes the Past-President. The Past-President is an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio. (Ex Presidents, are former Presidents of ESN, an unofficial position).

ESN Historian: An ESN Historian is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

Chair of ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC): The ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) is a group of early career scientists within ESN, who are actively engaged in ESN activities. The Chair of the YSSC is appointed by ESN Council and becomes an appointed member of ESN Council ex officio.

New trustees are introduced to their duties by the other trustees.

As specified above, ESN has a very close relation with its sister society ISN, based on the MoU and common interests in advancing research in Neurochemistry and supporting early career researchers in Neurochemistry.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The advancement of the science of Neurochemistry for the public benefit.

According to the Society's constitution, the Society shall endeavour to:

- i Aim to promote the development of Neurochemistry in Europe and to facilitate exchange of ideas and interests amongst its members. [Europe is defined as including those countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.]
- ii Foster the interaction between clinical and basic Neurochemistry.
- iii It should be open to all who are interested in Neurochemistry and allied subjects. No one should be excluded from membership of the Society or from attendance at its meetings on grounds of race, religion or nationality.
- iv It should seek to be represented on the appropriate advisory and consultative bodies that might impinge upon Neurochemistry, and should seek close relationships with related professional bodies of disciplines interested in Neurobiology.
- v Promote general scientific meetings for the discussion and dissemination of research findings in Neurochemistry
- vi Arrange and provide for exhibitions, lectures, and training courses.
- vii Publish leaflets, pamphlets, journals and books upon the science of Neurochemistry.
- viii Collect, tabulate and distribute information on all matters relating to Neurochemistry.
- ix Promote, organise and support research relating to Neurochemistry.
- x Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription or donation, provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The major activities of ESN in 2023 were 1] the ESN Meeting in Porto, Portugal, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Faro, Portugal, 3] four "Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support" namely BRAYN, SINS 2023, Georgia Symposium, and ENCODS 2023, 4] four 2 Mobility Scholarships to Alexander Schwartz, Heriberto Coatl-Cuaya, Marta Chierichetti & Alexander Trofimov.

- 1] The ESN Meeting in Porto August 2023 (Portugal) in association with the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) had about 600 participants. ISN covered the majority of expenses directly, while ESN paid for scholarships (conference expenses and travel) for selected speakers as follows. Two Young Scientist Lectureship Award (YSLA) namely Dr Giuseppe Gangarossa, University of Paris, France and Dr Boaz Barak, Tel Aviv University, Israel and The Bachelard Lecture awardee Professor Juan P. Bolanos (Spain). We supported Young Member Symposia (YMS) awardees (11) included as speakers in two sessions, mechanisms and translational neurochemistry as follows. Rita Abrunhosa Soares (Portugal), Diogo M. Lourenço (Portugal), Charikleia (Charoula) Peta (Greece), Nadine Denker (Germany), Ismail Gbadamosi (Poland), Milorad Dragic (Serbia), Olayemi K. Ijomone (Germany), Katarina Milićević (Serbia), Maria Francesca Palmas (Italy), Maram Ganaiem (Israel), Marialuisa de Ceglia (Spain). These special lectures and symposia were chaired by ESN Officers and Charity Trustees. Further ESN activities included: Young Scientists' Steering Committee (YSSC) Lounge throughout the meeting, encompassing workshops on CV writing (Natalia Nalivaeva, Ex-President, ESN) and career choice, Dimitra Mangoura (Secretary, ESN) and Illana Gozes (President, ESN).

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

- 2] The Second ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School. The ESN/ISN Neurochemistry School entitled “Targeting molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration: focus on advanced therapies” took place in Faro, Portugal, October 29 – November 4, 2023. The local organizing committee headed by Prof. Clevio Nobrega arranged an exciting program which included lectures by experienced scientists, poster presentations by the early career participants as well as hands on laboratory training in state-of-the-art technologies. Most of the funding for this school was from ESN using a grant provided by ISN, with the local organisers also gaining funding from IBRO and Portuguese Neuroscience Society. The University of Algarve, the School of Medicine and the Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute provided the rooms and laboratories, while the Algarve Biomedical Center provided the staff and management platform. From the fully sponsored 30 students that attended the school, 25 were from abroad and 5 from Portugal, and 19 of them were women. The countries represented were Germany, Poland, Italy, Israel, Serbia, Sweden, Portugal, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Netherlands, France, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Greece. 7 attendees were postdocs, 22 PhD students and one a Masters student. 29 faculty (from Portugal, Sweden, Israel, Spain, and Germany) provided lectures, workshops, and technical lectures. Finally, 10 laboratory activities were offered for selection by the students and were carried on during the week. The school paid for all the expenses of the students and faculty, including travel, accommodation, transfers, and meals. The final feedback from the attendees was excellent!
  
- 3] Neurochemistry Initiatives ESN has a long-standing funding scheme entitled “Neurochemistry Initiative”. This funding scheme aims at supporting scientific events that promote the development of Neurochemistry. Funding is provided following an open call for applications and evaluation by ESN Council, deciding on the funding. In 2023, a call was issued, and four activities were funded by this scheme: (A) BraYn (Brainstorming Research Assembly for Young Neuroscientists) in Naples, Italy; 27-29, September 2023. BraYn2023 had about 350 participants and 160 presented abstracts. ESN support (1000 €) was used to fund 5 scholarships for young researchers: Fionä Caratis, Gdansk, Poland, Cassandra Margotta, Milan, Italy, Pablo Blanco Carlón, Madrid, Spain, Giada Pessina, Genoa, Italy and Arianna Giani, Milan, Italy. (B) The Symposium “Beyond motor neurons: skeletal muscle contribution in motor neuron diseases” held in Torino, Italy; September 14th to 17th, 2023 as part of the 20th National Congress of the Italian Society for Neuroscience (SINS) was funded by ESN (1000 €). The SINS meeting included a wide spectrum of advanced research topics and include overall 65 Symposia, 295 Posters, 6 Plenary Sessions and 2 Round Tables. (C) 3 International Symposium on “Advances in Unravelling Molecular and Neurochemical Pathways in Neurodegeneration: Implications for Therapeutic Strategies” held in Tbilisi, Georgia 20-22 October 2023. The ESN funded symposium (1000 €) was held as part of the International Neuroscience Conference (NEURO 2023) organised by the International Center for Neuroscience Research in partnership with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Georgian Neuroscience Association. There were over 100 participants and amongst the conference outputs were planning for joint research projects, organizing joint events with other organizations, and exchanging professors and students between neuroscience institutions. (D) ESN supported a best poster award (200 €) for The European Neuroscience Conference by Doctoral Students (ENCODS) held in Algarve, Portugal, 1-2 May 2023. This is an initiative started by graduate students at the Neurocampus Bordeaux in 2013, to offer early-career neuroscientists a context for scientific exchange.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

- 4] Mobility Scholarships. We had a call for these applications in 2022 with 10 applications of which 4 were funded to allow early career researchers to spend a period of study in another country, hosted by an ESN member. The recipients were Alexander Schwarz, Mentor: C. Duarte, Portugal (ESN Treasurer), Heriberto Coatl-Cuaya, A. Rodriguez- Moreno, Spain (ESN Council Member), Marta Chierichetti, C. Rinaldi, UK and Alexander Trofimov, A.L. Carvalho, Portugal.

In addition, during 2023 the ESN website (<https://neurochemsoc.eu/>) was redeveloped to make it more accessible, clearer and user friendly. In 2023 as part of a review of governance, and ensure sustainability, ESN formalised a reserve policy and updated its constitution.

### **Public benefit statement**

ESN Trustees are aware of the definition of public benefit and take this into account in their decision making. There has been no departure from this guidance.

### **Contribution made by volunteers**

ESN is a Society fully run on a volunteer basis. Neither ESN officers, Council members nor members are paid for their work done for the Society (the only payments are reimbursement for, e.g., travel costs).

### **Achievements and performance**

The main achievements of ESN in 2023 to advance neurochemistry relate to scientific meetings, education and supporting individual scientists in mobility. These are delineated in the section above, namely, four main topics, highlighted by 1] the major event of the ESN conference in Porto, Portugal, 2] the ESN Advanced Neurochemistry School in Faro, Portugal, as well as 3] several Neurochemistry Initiative Meeting Support and 4] Mobility Scholarships. As well as supporting events which engaged hundreds of people, a number of individual awards were made for travel to conferences, schools or for laboratory visits for an extended time. A major focus of ESN is on education of students and early career scientists that contribute to the development of them as individuals to develop independent scientific lines of research and their scientific careers. This individual development is expected to have a wider public benefit through the production of new knowledge in neurochemistry that contributes to society, including but not limited to, a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and their treatment. ESN activities in 2023 covered all Europe and adjacent countries, and included a broad international exposure at the ESN-ISN meeting in Porto.

The sustainability of ESN, and therefore the contribution that ESN can make to the public good is dependent on membership and bringing in new members, particularly early career scientists. Membership of ESN in January 2024 was 389, compared to 277 on December 31st, 2022. Membership is from ~48 countries. ESN is very pleased with the increase in Membership, without membership fee structure changes (25 Euro/year/member). ESN has improved its communication with members and the advertisement of our 'offer'. In 2023 the website was redeveloped to make it more accessible, clearer and user friendly, so that information about ESN and opportunities to apply for awards is easier to find. During the year, members received regular email bulletins from the council about the opportunities available to apply for awards.

Financially ESN's position at the end of 2023 (with renewal of MOU with ISN) is sufficient to plan for activities in 2024 and 2025 that aim to advance Neurochemistry. These include an ESN-ISN School in Athens 2024, an ESN satellite meeting at the Federation of the European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) meeting (Vienna, June 2024) as well as webinars and other activities to promote ESN, particularly to younger scientists. We are also planning our ESN biannual meeting to be in Naxos, Greece in 2025 and mark the 50th anniversary of ESN.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £12,602, including net payments of £6,543 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £6,059 on restricted funds.

The main sources of income of the Charity are the following:

- 1) Members subscriptions. The membership of ESN in January 2024 was 389, compared to 277 on December 31st, 2022. The income from member subscriptions is stable.
- 2) Support from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). ISN is organized for charitable and educational purposes and provides financial support to its sister societies including ESN. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on by ISN and ESN in Nov 2018, which is the basis of this unrestricted financial support. The MoU runs until Dec 31, 2023. A new MOU was signed on October 2023 and is effective until December 2025. The MOU provides \$30,000 per year.

We note that ESN received ISN support for 2022 in April 2023 that had been delayed, along with the 2023 funding. The Charity is in a good financial position on Dec 31, 2023, with the main sources of income stable, and plans until 2025 that are in budget.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £85,443.

ESN's policy adopted in August 2023 is as follows:

The Council shall decide annually what financial reserve should be held by ESN. The reserve held should be a contingency fund sufficient for no less than 1 and no more than 2 years of regular ESN business without additional income e.g. to allow for payment in advance for meetings that have been approved for funding and/or to accommodate interruptions or lack of budgeted funding from external bodies. Use of reserves is defined in the ESN Policy on use of reserves.

In August 2023 the Council decided the reserve (end of year balance) should be 80,000 € in 2023.

### **Going concern**

#### **Membership**

ESN relies on its members and a constant or increasing number of members. In the recent years membership steadily increased, but this cannot be guaranteed for the coming year(s). To mitigate this, ESN officers and Council members continue to develop ways to increase membership. All events supported by ESN are obliged to inform about ESN and advertise the advantages of being an ESN member. Therefore, the number of members in the future is uncertain but we consider it a relatively small risk for the Charity.

#### **Financial support by ISN**

An MoU was signed with ISN in October 2023 securing the main income of ESN for two more years.

The trustees are confident with the current bank balance and funding until 2024, and the known commitments, including the biennial ESN meeting in 2024 to be able to continue its activities at the current level until at least 2025/2026.

Approved by the board of trustees on 26/09/2024

Illana Gozes (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E J Beverley FCCA

02/10/2024

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023	2023	2023	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	(2)	47,693	26,358	74,051	6,764
Subscriptions		6,491	-	6,491	6,742
Conference fees		-	-	-	512
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>54,184</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>80,542</u>	<u>14,018</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Conference costs		2,742	32,417	35,159	4,461
Virtual conference costs		-	-	-	-
Accounts and independent examination		378	-	378	360
Membership fees		670	-	670	426
Bank charges		363	-	363	126
Website hosting		231	-	231	150
Funding of the Neurochemistry Initiative scheme		-	-	-	13,270
Scholarships and bursaries given out		50,591	-	50,591	3,667
Trustee and Council expenses		3,846	-	3,846	236
Website development		1,741	-	1,741	-
Office expenses		165	-	165	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>60,727</u>	<u>32,417</u>	<u>93,144</u>	<u>22,696</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>(6,543)</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>(12,602)</u>	<u>(8,678)</u>
Exchange difference		1,320	-	1,320	(609)
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>90,666</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,666</u>	<u>99,953</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(4)	<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2023**

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	85,443	(6,059)	79,384	90,666
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>85,443</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>	<u>79,384</u>	<u>90,666</u>

**Debtors and prepayments**

	2023
	£
Accrued grant income	6,589
	<u>6,589</u>

**Liabilities**

	2023
	£
Accruals	495
	<u>495</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 26/09/2024

Illana Gozes (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

2 Grants and donations	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN)	47,693	26,358	74,051	6,764
	<u>47,693</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>74,051</u>	<u>6,764</u>

**3 Exchange difference**

The European Society of Neurochemistry has a euro bank account and PayPal account. The transactions through this account have been converted to sterling at the average exchange rate for the year. The exchange difference relates to the difference between the closing bank balance at 31 December 2022 using the average 2022 rate and the opening balance at 1 January 2023 using the average 2023 rate.

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ESN-ISN Faro School 2023	-	26,358	32,417	-	(6,059)
	<u>-</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>32,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,059)</u>

**Fund name**

ESN-ISN Faro School 2023

**Purpose of restriction**

For the second of a series of EN-ISN Advanced Schools - this one held in Faro.

The deficit on this fund relates to the last 20% of funding which was applied for and received after the year end.

**5 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

During the year 1 trustee was paid a total of £1,036 in respect of travel (previous year: 1 trustee and £100).

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society**  
**for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*E J Beverley*

Signed: .....

Name: E J Beverley FCCA

02/10/2024

**West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1098662

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# Accounts

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# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

Charity number 1098662

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Marcus Rattray	Company Secretary
Ago Rinke	
Johannes Hirrlinger	President
Natalia Nalivaeva	
Anthony Turner	

**Charity number** 1098662 Registered in England and Wales

<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	
University of Bradford	Co-operative Bank plc	Sparkasse Nienburg
Richmond Road	P.O. box 101	Goetheplatz 4
Bradford	1 Balloon Street	31582 Nienburg
BD7 1DP	Manchester	Germany
	M60 4EP	

### **Independent examiner**

E J Beverley FCCA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 3 June 2003 and amended 25 May 2021.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members by postal or electronic ballot.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The advancement of the science of Neurochemistry for the public benefit.

According to the Society's constitution, the Society shall endeavor to:

- i Aim to promote the development of Neurochemistry in Europe and to facilitate exchange of ideas and interests amongst its members. [Europe is defined as including those countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.]
- ii Foster the interaction between clinical and basic Neurochemistry.
- iii It should be open to all who are interested in Neurochemistry and allied subjects. No one should be excluded from membership of the Society or from attendance at its meetings on grounds of race, religion or nationality.
- iv It should seek to be represented on the appropriate advisory and consultative bodies that might impinge upon Neurochemistry, and should seek close relationships with related professional bodies of disciplines interested in Neurobiology.
- v Promote general scientific meetings for the discussion and dissemination of research findings in Neurochemistry
- vi Arrange and provide for exhibitions, lectures, and training courses.
- vii Publish leaflets, pamphlets, journals and books upon the science of Neurochemistry.
- viii Collect, tabulate and distribute information on all matters relating to Neurochemistry.
- ix Promote, organise and support research relating to Neurochemistry.
- x Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription or donation, provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The activities of The European Society for Neurochemistry (ESN) in 2021 were strongly affected by the COVID19 pandemic. Specifically, the main scientific conference organized biannually by ESN, which was planned for May 2021 in St. Petersburg, Russia, had to be postponed to 2022. However, for the organization of this conference, payments were necessary already in 2021.

Therefore, in the reporting year 2021, the main activities of the Society were the following:

##### **1st ESN virtual young scientist conference**

This conference was held on May 25-26, 2021, in an online format. It was organized by the Young Scientist Steering Committee (YSSC) of ESN. It comprised two plenary lectures by outstanding scientists, several symposia with scientific presentations by early career scientists, as well as a poster session with short oral presentations also by early career scientists. Poster awards were awarded to the best presentations. 143 scientists from 26 countries attended this conference, 28 of them gave a talk and 45 presented a poster. 6 poster prizes were awarded during the conference. Following this meeting, a Special Issue in the scientific journal "Journal of Molecular Neuroscience" was established, which was published as Volume 72, Issue 7 in July 2022, thereby promoting the work of the contributing members of ESN

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's main activities (continued)**

ESN/International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) Neurochemistry School, Athens, Greece

The first ESN/ISN Neurochemistry School took place in Athens, Greece, September 19-25, 2021. It was organized by ESN Council member Dimitra Mangoura and her team. The topic was "From Neurodegeneration to Neural Carcinogenesis: Mechanisms and Common Biologies". 26 young scientists (including 19 PhD students, 4 postdocs, and 1 instructor) took part in the School. They were from the following countries: Greece, 8; Italy, 7; Portugal, 2; Slovakia, 2; and 1 each from France, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Russia, Serbia, and Spain. Participants were selected from applications by a committee, which included members of the Local Organizers and the ESN Council. ESN funded the school, including travel, accommodation and meals for the participants. During the school, lectures of senior scientist provided insights in current scientific concepts, insights in new research results and state-of-the-art technologies. Furthermore, the participants could choose from numerous lab courses and in lab courses, and learn new techniques hands-on in the laboratory. A very positive evaluation showed that the participants greatly appreciated these opportunities to learn new things and to make contacts both to senior scientist as well as other early career researchers.

#### **Neurochemistry initiative**

ESN has a long-standing funding scheme entitled "Neurochemistry Initiative". This funding scheme aims at supporting scientific events related to Neurochemistry. Following a call, application can be sent to ESN, which are evaluated by the ESN Council, which decide on the funding.

In this scheme, one application was funded in 2021 with 1,000 €. This was a thematic school entitled 'Ion Channels and Neuronal Excitability', held in Kotor (Montenegro), in July 2021. The School was organized within the biannual series of Schools in Biophysics "Radoslav K. Andjus", founded by the Biophysics Society of Serbia. It was organized by the Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade within the NENS School PhD program on Neurobiology. 27 students from Serbia, N. Macedonia, Romania, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Germany and Russia attended the school. There were 13 lectures by experts from France, Hungary, N. Macedonia, Italy, Serbia, UK and USA. Lectures were intertwined with time dedicated to discussion; furthermore, participants presented posters during the School.

The membership of ESN on 31 December 2021 was 267. Membership is from 44 countries. During the year, members received regular email bulletins from the council about the opportunities available to apply for awards, and had access to information from the ESN via the public website.

#### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

#### **Achievements and performance**

The main achievements of ESN in 2021 are related to scientific education and scientific exchange meetings. The focus on education of students and early career scientists that contribute to the development of them as individuals to develop independent scientific lines of research and their scientific careers. This individual development is expected to have a wider public benefit through the production of new knowledge in neurochemistry that contributes to society as a whole, including but not limited to, a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and their treatment.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

The main achievements of the Charity in 2021 are related to the main events funded:

At the 1st ESN virtual young scientist conference, (25-26 May, 2021) early career researchers were provided with the opportunity to present their scientific work, to gain experience in presenting their findings, to connect with other scientists and to promote their scientific careers. This was especially important on the background of the pandemic, which prevented early career researcher from attending “real” conferences, which are an essential part of a scientists’ work. 143 scientists from 26 countries attended this conference, 28 of them gave a talk and 45 presented a poster. 6 poster prizes were awarded during the conference.

The ESN/ISN Neurochemistry School, Athens, Greece, (19-25 September, 2021) ESN contributed to educate early career researchers. Given the selection process for participation, highly-promising scientist benefitted from this experience. They will transfer this new knowledge back to their laboratories throughout Europe, thereby amplifying the impact of the school. 26 early career scientists from 11 countries took part in the School.

In this Neurochemistry Initiative scheme, the financial support of the thematic school entitled ‘Ion Channels and Neuronal Excitability’, held in Kotor (Montenegro), in July 2021, allowed the organizers to hold this school, which also educated students and early career scientist. 27 students from 9 countries took part in the School.

In 2021, the actions of ESN were limited due to the circumstances of the COVID19-pandemic, and –specifically- the postponing of the ESN Conference in St Petersburg from 2021 to May 2022. Therefore, funding for this conference, earmarked for 2021 and provided by ISN, has been held over to be used in 2022 for the postponed conference.

The biennial conference is associated with a number of personal awards provided by ESN. The awards could not be awarded in 2021 and the funds received have been held over to be granted 2022 at the ESN Conference (St Petersburg, May 2022). For the St Petersburg meeting planned for 2022, awardees were selected in a competitive manner by the ESN Council.

These awards are:

- 1) Bachelard Award, which honors a senior scientist in the field of Neurochemistry.
- 2) Young Scientist Lecture Awards (YSLA) which is awarded to highly-promising early career principal investigators, “rising stars”). The awards cover conference expenses and travel.
- 3) Young Member Symposium awards (YMS) awarded to early career scientist (PhD students, Postdocs), allowing to attend the conference and present their work in the special Young Member Symposia. Usually, 10 awardees are selected by ESN Council in a competitive manner from the applications; however, also these awards were postponed to 2022 along with the biennial conference. The awards cover conference expenses and travel.

Membership of ESN remains stable, and the membership fee structure has not been changed. Financially, the society remains in a strong position to achieve its planned purposes over the next period – the funding of initiatives for young scientists and symposia and conferences for public benefit. Plans are in development for 2022 and include organization of the meeting in St. Petersburg (May 2022) including awarding 1 Bachelard Award, 2 YSLA and 10 YMS. Furthermore, new calls for the Neurochemistry Initiative are planned. For 2023, organization of the joint ISN/ESN Conference in Porto, Portugal (Aug 2023) has already been started, including the same set of personal awards as listed for 2022. Furthermore, ESN plans for 2023 to have a call for a second ENS/ISN Neurochemistry School as well as for new calls for the Neurochemistry Initiative.

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £7,674, including net receipts of £13,693 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £6,019 on restricted funds.

The Charity is in a very good financial position at 31 December 2021. The main sources of income are stable. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, expenses were limited in 2021.

The main sources of income of the Charity are the following:

- 1) Members subscriptions.  
The number of members of ESN has slowly, but steadily increased over the last few years. While there is some fluctuation of members associated with specific events, many members are members of ESN for long times. Therefore the income from member subscriptions is stable.
- 2) Support from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN).  
ISN is organized for charitable and educational purposes and provides financial support to its sister societies including ESN. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on by ISN and ESN in November 2018, which is the basis of this financial support. The MoU runs until December 31st 2023, therefore, ISN support to ESN is secured until 2023. Negotiations of ISN and ESN to prolong the MoU have already been started.

The MoU between ISN and ESN specifies an annual support for meetings, with the main ESN meeting being biennial. The MoU specifies that funds obtained from ISN can be rolled over to the next year to have the combined funds from two years to fund the biennial conference. In 2021, this procedure was disturbed by the COVID19 pandemic, preventing spending most of the funds dedicated to finance the ESN biannual Conference planned in St. Petersburg in May 2021, which had to be postponed to 2022.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £105,972.

ESN does not currently have a reserves policy.

Approved by the board of trustees on 6/10/2022

Marcus Rattray (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The European Society for Neurochemistry**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E J Beverley FCCA

12/10/2022

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	2021	2021	2021	2020
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	(2)	21,953	22,531	44,484	24,134
Subscriptions		4,536	-	4,536	5,138
Conference fees		602	-	602	588
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>27,091</u>	<u>22,531</u>	<u>49,622</u>	<u>29,860</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Conference costs		12,554	28,550	41,104	-
Virtual conference costs		64	-	64	337
Office expenses		67	-	67	109
Membership fees		430	-	430	445
Bank charges		165	-	165	-
Website hosting		118	-	118	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>13,398</u>	<u>28,550</u>	<u>41,948</u>	<u>891</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<u>13,693</u>	<u>(6,019)</u>	<u>7,674</u>	<u>28,969</u>
Exchange difference	(3)	(2,303)	-	(2,303)	-
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>94,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,582</u>	<u>65,613</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(4)	<u>105,972</u>	<u>(6,019)</u>	<u>99,953</u>	<u>94,582</u>

# The European Society for Neurochemistry

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2021

	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	<u>105,972</u>	<u>(6,019)</u>	<u>99,953</u>	<u>94,582</u>
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>105,972</u>	<u>(6,019)</u>	<u>99,953</u>	<u>94,582</u>

### Amounts owed to the charity

Final 20% of grant for Athens conference received July 2022

£
<u>6,019</u>
<u>6,019</u>

### Prepaid amounts

Payment for St Petersburg conference planned for 2022

£
<u>11,695</u>
<u>11,695</u>

### Liabilities

Independent examination

£
<u>360</u>
<u>360</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 6/10/2022

Marcus Rattray (Trustee)

# **The European Society for Neurochemistry**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

The figures reported in previous years had been based on the UK transactions only rather than the total transactions of the charity which include activity based in Europe as well. The comparatives in these accounts have been amended to show the total activity of the charity in 2020.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**The European Society for Neurochemistry**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

2 Grants and donations	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN)	21,953	22,531	44,484	24,134
	<u>21,953</u>	<u>22,531</u>	<u>44,484</u>	<u>24,134</u>

**3 Exchange difference**

The European Society of Neurochemistry has a euro bank account. The transactions through this account have been converted to sterling at the average exchange rate for the year. The exchange difference relates to the difference between the closing bank balance at 31 December 2020 using the average 2020 rate and the opening balance at 1 January 2021 using the average 2021 rate.

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ISN	-	22,531	28,550	-	(6,019)
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,531</u>	<u>28,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,019)</u>

**Fund name**

**Purpose of restriction**

ISN

For the first of a series of ESN-ISN Advanced Schools held in Athens. The deficit on this fund relates to the last 20% of funding which was applied for and received after the year end.

**5 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.