Dear colleagues,

In April our COST Action officially started. Just 8 months ago. And where are we now? We are now still in our infancy, but we are 383 researchers interested and working in the field of electroporation coming from 32 countries, 146 institutions and labs. We have interests in basic understanding of electroporation, but we also develop applications that will make changes in medicine, biotechnology, and the environment (see Figure 1).

In September 2012 we launched our Action’s website www.electroporation.net which I hope you have all visited by now. Since its public launch it has received more than 500 unique visitors who have requested almost 3000 page views thus far, and 132 of our members have accessed documents, lectures, and material about COST Action and Training schools that we organised. We have implemented a repository and easy access to papers published in the field of electroporation and PEF treatment. Since September, more than 100 papers were published in peer-reviewed journals for which you have all metadata available, the abstract, and the possibility to ask the author for a reprint with a single click. We plan to continue expanding this service with the help of authors, website developers, and Twitter (@ElecPorationNET).

Another important feature of the website is the institutional database, which has been introduced in November but for which already 46 institutional members from 23 countries have entered details about their research group. This database was described in detail in Newsletter No. 7 and facilitates browsing and searching using keywords. Keywords are organised and displayed in a word-cloud, relating the frequency with which a particular keyword occurs with the size of the keyword in the cloud. Please fill your respective entry in the database, and before leaving the editing page, please make sure you also added keywords describing your institution/group, so that database will serve its purpose.
Continued from previous page

– ease of finding relevant partners to newcomers and those we do not know yet.

We have selected the first 6 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and two are already finished, and we have, due to increased budget that we were able to obtain, announced the second call for the STSMs (see: www.electroporation.net/Announcements/Short-Term-Scientific-Missions-Call-2-Year-1). As we agreed, this form of cooperation is one of our highest priorities and we hope we will get enough applications for the second call (deadline for submission is 20 January) and will therefore be able to continue the support of research exchange and collaboration through the STSM mechanism.

As we enter 2013, we need to start thinking and planning for our second year of COST Action. So, if you have ideas on STSMs, meeting organisation, or which conference we would designate as our next WG or MC meeting, please inform either me or other members of the Core Group. We will prepare in February the proposal of activities for the second year that will be circulated before our MC meeting in Bochum in March. The extent of activities will of course depend on the funding level, which will be communicated to us later in February.

As you have seen, thus far we have published and distributed 8 newsletters, organised two training schools, one conference, and we still have two in front of us. I think you will agree that for the first year this is quite a success. I am strongly convinced, however, that this is just the beginning. I would like to thank all of you, but in particular Javier Raso, our vice-chair; Georgeta-Mihaela Moisescu, our STSM coordinator; Samo Mahnic-Kalamiza, our webmaster, who has been instrumental in all aspects of designing, birth and running of our website; and Igor Marjanovic, our Newsletter editor. Finally, I want to thank WG leaders; our help in the Brussels office Magdalena Radwanska and Anja van der Snickt as well as Simon Lavric in the Ljubljana office, who all take care that we are on the right track regarding rules and procedures.

The next step that we need to take is to bring into our consortium more industrial partners, users groups and make our consortium more visible. Please consider personally inviting companies you work with or you know their interest is at least partially in electroporation. Also, please link from your lab/institutional website to our website. You can find a small logo at www.electroporation.net/GetFile.ashx?id=550.

I wish we will all take our COST TD1104 Action as an opportunity to make a difference!