

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

(Amid Covid-19 pandemic)

Dear friends,

Biology is today a rapidly evolving science with enormous benefits especially for health, society, and the environment. The Covid 19 pandemic, which is still going on, has certainly greatly affected all of us, health, education, scientific research and of course the Biological Society of Cyprus (CBS). Nevertheless, 2020 and the first half of 2021 were an important and productive period.

Biological scientific research has continued to amaze us with its increasingly important discoveries. It is characteristic that of the 10 most important scientific 2020 discoveries based on the scientific journal "Science", 5 are related to Biology and that makes us proud as Biologists. (1) CRISPR's first clinical trial, (2) Bird brain power research, (3) How Elite Controllers "beat" AIDS causing, HIV virus, (4) Predicting the exact three-dimensional structure of proteins. But surely (5) the greatest scientific achievement is the discovery of not one but several vaccines for the coronavirus SARSCoV2 with the huge contribution of biological research in the tackling of the pandemic. We are confident that our science, Biology, will continue to grow rapidly in the years to come.

As the Biological Society of Cyprus (CBS), in this difficult period, we have set as our priority the strengthening of Biology and CBS in the public sphere. All together, Board of Directors, members, and friends of CBS we have achieved the following new actions in 2020: (I mention the 10 most important).

1. Strengthening the participation of CBS abroad, networking and cooperation. IUBMB, FEBS, ECBA, IBO, EOES, IJSO.
2. Creation of a new modern website of CBS. <https://www.cbs.cy/>
3. Increase of members and friends of CBS. Intensify the efforts to increase the members of CBS. We have achieved an 11% increase in the number of CBS members in recent years.
4. Establishment and commencement of operation of CBS Committees. We have set up the Committee on Health, the Committee on the Environment, the Committee on Research and Higher Education and the Committee on Secondary Education and Olympiads.
5. The establishment and proclamation of the CBS Awards for Undergraduate Biology Students "Christos Georgiades" and Postgraduate Biology Students "Ouranios Ioannides" that were announced in all the Departments of Biology of Cyprus and Greece Institutions.
6. The proclamation of five Honorary Members of prominent personalities of recognised prestige. Our new Honorary Members are an inspiration to the young people. They are a source of hope and pride for our place. Till very recently, CBS had only one Honorary Member, Professor of Biochemistry, Emmanuel Frangouli, Elected member of the FEBS European Council.
7. The strengthening of the public speech of CBS with letters, announcements, participation in the Health Committees of the House of Representatives, posts in media, etc.
8. The notification of jobs for Biologists and education and training opportunities.
9. The notification and publication of the article of the month in collaboration with the Spanish respective Biological Society SEBBM.

10. The provision of short-term, long-term, and summer scholarships in collaboration with FEBS as well as other scholarships with other scientific bodies.

There are many other activities that have been implemented such as the appointment of an Advisory / Coordinating Committee for each Olympiad, the establishment and launch of the Lecture Series "Excellence in Biology" through Zoom, the creation of a channel of the Cyprus Biological Society on YouTube. We also provided the opportunity to attend the Life Science Tuesdays Lecture Series by the Austrian corresponding Biological Society ÖGMBT, collaborating with the Biological Society of Cyprus.

Personally, as President of the Biological Society of Cyprus, I am grateful for the cooperation, participation, interaction we had during the pandemic both on the Board of Directors and with all the members and friends of CBS. Rest assured that your suggestions and ideas are listened to and we work hard and consistently to make them a reality.

I am sure there will be better days to come, to achieve more together.

Dr. Andreas Hadjihambis

President of the Biological Society of Cyprus