



# Newsletter



**This is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the EFI Newsletter in a fresh new layout and special anniversary content. We hope you enjoy reading!**



## Dear EFI friends

A belated happy new year. It is springtime here in the northern hemisphere and I am enjoying the longer days with the emergence of spring bulbs in the gardens and parks. I am also looking forward to our next EFI conference taking place in the beautiful city of Nantes, France. I hope to see many of you there. Pierre Antoine Gourraud and Sonia Bourguiba-Hachemi together with the rest of the local organising team and our professional conference organiser, Guarant, have been very busy putting together a stimulating scientific and enjoyable social programme. This year I am delighted to inform you that the Ceppellini Lecture award will be given to Professor Ronald Bontrop, Director of the Biomedical Primate Research Centre, the Netherlands. Professor Bontrop is a very familiar face to us at EFI, he attends and contributes to our conferences

and served for many years as the Chair of the Scientific Committee. Professor Bontrop's scientific career has focused on the analyses of the genetics of immune recognition genes in nonhuman primate species. His scientific achievements have contributed to a clearer understanding of how these immune system genes are responding to the pathogenic challenges that drive their evolution. Congratulations to Professor Bontrop for this award and we look forward to his presentation. The EFI Executive Committee is, as always, active. Since meeting in the autumn, we have had one full committee video meeting and several additional video meetings to follow up on our activities. As reported previously one of our actions was to complete amendments to our

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## From the EFI President (continued)

constitution. The proposed changes have been made and are published in this newsletter. The changes are mostly corrections to the text and we will vote to accept or reject these during our General Assembly meeting in Nantes.

We also, for the first time have sent out a questionnaire to our members. I hope that everyone was able to complete this questionnaire. The responses to our questionnaire will help the Executive Committee focus the strategic actions to be taken in the future.

Another activity was to develop an "equality, diversity and inclusivity" policy for EFI. This has been undertaken with help from the consultant, Ben Summerskill, who worked with EBMT to deliver their policy. The policy will be available on our website following (hopefully) approval by the Executive Committee during our meeting in Nantes. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the successful International Summerschool that

was held in Egypt (albeit not in the summer) and hosted by ARSHI. Thank you to Dave Turner and Luca Vago for representing EFI at this event. Next year the International Summerschool will be hosted by APHIA and again will take place in our winter. We look forward to sharing details of this with you, once the arrangements are finalised.

In November, I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at the Region 8 Balkan EPT Meeting hosted by Dr Aleksandar Petlichkovski and colleagues at the University of Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia. The talks were very informative and it was most enjoyable to meet the other attendees and to make new EFI friends.

So, this newsletter is the 100<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Sebastiaan Heidt, our Editor-In-Chief for putting together this souvenir issue of our newsletter. This is a very timely edition for Sebastiaan, who has been doing a fantastic job delivering our EFI news since 2016 and has now decided to



pass on this responsibility to a new Editor. Together, with Sebastiaan, the Executive Committee are assessing the succession plan and we hope to update you during the General Assembly. Fortunately Sebastiaan is happy to stick around for a wee while longer to ensure continuity with the production of our newsletter. In closing this letter, I wish all of you travelling to Nantes safe travels and I look forward to seeing you there.

*Ann-Margaret Little*