



*The **CRE**ation of the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Sys**TE**ms [CREATE]*

666295 — CREATE — H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015/H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2

The 2nd Advisory Board meeting report

Summary

Warsaw, December 2017



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AN OVERVIEW:

The 2nd meeting of the ERA Chair Advisory Board for the CREATE project was held in the conference hall of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences on December, 20-21, 2017. The following persons participated in the meeting:

ERA Chair holder:

- **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** – the ERA Chair holder, head of Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL

ERC grant holder:

- **Professor Wilhelm Huck** – ERC Advanced grant holder, head of Physical-Organic Chemistry Group, Institute for Molecules and Materials, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL

Business representatives:

- **Rafal Bator** – Partner, Enterprise Investors, PL
Rafał Bator specializes in technology investments. His most important projects include AVG Technologies and restructuring of AB and Teta. Mr. Bator worked for Prokom Software Systems and Optimus, two Polish leading IT companies, as well as for PwC.
- **Justyna Garstecka** – CEO, Motherhood, PL
Founder and owner of the “Motherhood” company. Businesswoman of the Year (contest “Success Written in Lipstick”). Before setting own company Ms. Garstecka was a Brand Manager at Warner Bros.

Project management and Project-Support-Office:

- **Professor Robert Holyst** – Project Coordinator, head of Department of Soft Condensed Matter, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- **Agnieszka Tadrzak** – CREATE Project Manager, Manager for R&D funding at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- **Dr Patrycja Niton** – member of PSO, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL.

THE COURSE OF THE KICK-OFF MEETING

The main part of the assembly of the Advisory Board took place on December, the 21st, 2017.

The aim of the 2nd ERA Chair Advisory Board meeting was to acquaint the AB members with the status of implementation of the project and seek their advice on the key points and current problems within the project, such as:

- 1) Best approach to collaboration: external collaborators vs. hiring experts from different fields;
- 2) Public Relations improvement to attract more researchers from abroad;
- 3) Instruments to improve long term financial position of IPC;
- 4) Most appropriate IPC management style & best ways to influence IPC authorities (Board of Directors and the Council) to promote the alternative management style;
- 5) Better regulations on intellectual property at IPC.

The meeting started with a short speech of **Professor Robert Holyst**, who welcomed and introduced all guests participating in the AB meeting, explained selection of the respective AB members (science & business representatives). Professor Holyst also described the role of AB, pointing out that critical look at the project is essential to achieve set goals and gain best results, and informed on the frequency of the meetings (generally, once a year).



Professor Robert Holyst delivering the introductory speech.

Subsequently, Professor Holyst mentioned that since the last AB meeting, the ERA Chair holder, Professor Maciej Wojtkowski, among other things, has:

- fully equipped his laboratory,
- acquired members of the new research team, and
- selected research groups to develop closer collaboration with his own research group ('synergetic groups') (as a part of activities aimed at exerting influence of the ERA Chair holder on the IPC PAS society),
- obtained additional funding for the new team.

To show the big picture of newly established Department and collaborating synergetic groups, the AB members were invited to visit some of IPC laboratories:

- the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems, Physical Optics and Biophotonics Group

Prof. Maciej Wojtkowski, the ERA Chair Holder, Head of the Dept., guided the lab tour



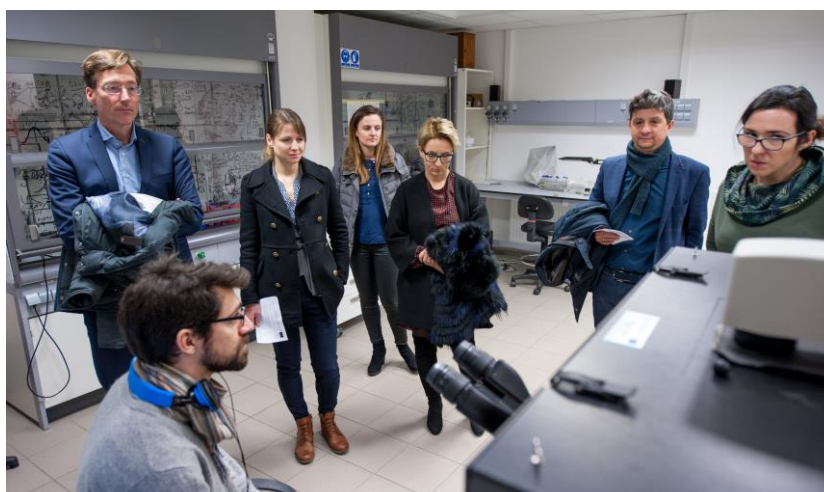
- the Microfluidics and Complex Fluids Group (head: **Prof. Piotr Garstecki**)

dr Tomasz Kamiński – member of this group guided the lab tour



- the Soft Condensed Matter Group (head: **Prof. Robert Hołyst**)

dr Karina Kwapiszewska – member of this group, guided the lab tour



- the Surface Nanoengineering for chemo- and bio-sensors Group (head: **dr hab. Joanna Niedziolka-Jonsson**)

Marta Janczuk-Richter – member of this group, guided the lab tour



- the Department of photochemistry and spectroscopy, Laser Centre (head: **dr. habil. Angulo Gonzalo**)

Dr Yuriy Stepanenko – member of the group, guided the lab tour



After the lab tour, Prof Wojtkowski delivered a presentation on the progress in the implementation of the CREATE project, giving the insight into:

- ✓ equipping laboratory and offices,
- ✓ regular activity of the research group (structure, management scheme, daily routine incl. group meetings, communication channels serving the group – i.e. webpage, Facebook, projects etc.),
- ✓ success in fundraising: 3 research projects (Maestro – National Science Centre, Team-Tech Foundation for the Polish Science, ImCustomEye – Horizon 2020) of the total amount of EUR 2.7 m.,
- ✓ official collaboration supported by grants,

- ✓ status of the recruitment of new members of the group, and expected size of the group working on different projects,
- ✓ publications, participation in conferences, seminars and courses.

Professor Wojtkowski also listed collaborating institutions (incl., among others, Case Western University, USA, Instituto de Optica „Daza de Valdés”, Spain and Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization), and described research projects carried out by the group. Simultaneously, he listed groups closely cooperating under implementation of joint research projects:

- ✓ Imaging of individual cells – in collaboration with Soft Condensed Matter Group, prof. Robert Holyst,
- ✓ Brain imaging – in collaboration with Surface Nanoengineering for chemo- and bio- sensors Group, dr hab. Joanna Niedziolka-Jonsson,
- ✓ Two photon microperimetry devices – in collaboration with Laser Centre Group and Fluence Ilc. (IPC spin-off company), dr hab. Yuriy Stepanenko.



Professor Maciej Wojtkowski delivering the presentation “IPC ERA Chair – progress report”

The AB members (i.e. the representative of Polish business sector, the ERC grant holder and key actors in the CREATE project) shared their experience referring to the abovementioned subjects and suggested various practical solutions, e.g.:

1) Best approach to collaboration:

- the ERA Chair holder is recommended to hire a chemists or physicists who agrees to learn biology rather than a biologist,
- to build reputation the scientist should focus on one discipline, and simultaneously carry out the research projects in collaboration with leaders of different expertise,
- the ERA Chair holder is advised to hire scientists from his area of expertise, and at the same time look for collaboration with external experts from various disciplines,
- cooperation with leaders from various fields is most effective when they are located in the same place (there are grants supporting that)

2) Public Relations improvement:

- integrated management system,
- improving first impression, e.g. renovation of premises,
- new IPC website, incl. news, ranking lists with IPC, description of career paths available at IPC (incl. commercialization), links with living and sightseeing in Warsaw (useful for applicants),
- newsletter (about IPC achievements) sent to stakeholders,
- designated person taking care of foreign visitors/new employees,

3) Most appropriate IPC management style:

- managing scientists by professional from outside academia is not common, and rather would not constitute a good practice.

4) Better regulations on intellectual property at IPC:

- creation of a practical (simplified) guide on IPR at IPC for inventors.

After that, the assembly was officially closed. However, after the closure of an official meeting members of the Advisory Board had the opportunity to continue talks during dinner which took place at IPC.