

I have been IUPAP President, since October 2019, due to the early resignation of Professor Kennedy Reed for health problems, at a time when I was President Designate. It is a long mandate (record since the end of second world war). Many things happened.

1. We moved the IUPAP Headquarters from Singapore to Geneva, giving for the first time to IUPAP, a legal status of a non-governmental organization, with an association under Swiss law, in Geneva. We decided to install the secretariat of IUPAP in the International Foundation of Trieste, with offices at ICTP (the famous International Center for Theoretical Physics). To keep the global character of IUPAP, instead of moving the headquarters from one continent to another from time to time, we tried to distribute the tasks worldwide in an hopefully more permanent manner: the IUPAP conferences are managed from South Africa, the IT support comes from India, the action and strategic plan are coordinated from Argentina!
2. During the past 5 years, we put a great effort to increase the role of women in IUPAP and to increase diversity, by giving more visibility and tasks to women and to people from the global majority. This can be seen in commissions, in commission chairs, in the Executive Council, in IUPAP Officers, in the IUPAP presidency and last but not least in our members.
3. Covid 19 and on-line meetings: the Covid 19 period, prevented us to hold many scheduled in person meetings: Executive Council and Commission chairs meetings, commission meetings, General Assemblies. However, by having such meetings in person only every 3 years and in between annual on-line hybrid meetings (the organizers, meeting in person, connected on-line to the others), this facilitates the organization, is more inclusive, costs less, and has a smaller environmental impact. Hybrid formats of various kinds are also recommended for IUPAP sponsored conferences for the same reasons. All in all, Covid 19 was a positive transformative period in the way IUPAP works.
4. 2022 was marked by the celebration of the IUPAP centenary all over the world and especially in Trieste with a great colloquium event, organized with brio by Monica Pepe-Altarelli. A book on the history of IUPAP has been edited by Roberto Lalli and Jaime Navarro, which we recommend you read. You will appreciate the rich history of IUPAP, which was the theme of the colloquium in Trieste, as well as the basis for IUPAP to enter a new 100-year period.
5. At that occasion of the IUPAP centenary, the mission of IUPAP has been reaffirmed: to assist in the worldwide development of physics, to foster cooperation in physics and to help in the applications of physics towards solving problems of concern to humanity. To that end, we reaffirmed that no physicist a

priori from whatever country, culture, religion, should be prevented to attend global IUPAP sponsored conferences, and we offered the possibility of an IUPAP affiliation, to overcome difficulties. We created the status of Corporate Associate Members, to enhance the participation to IUPAP of Physics outside Academia and that way put more emphasis on the applications of Physics. We also rejuvenated IUPAP by welcoming IAPS (the International Association of Physics Students) as a major partner of IUPAP!

6. IUPAP promoted and was proactive in many initiatives advertising science for peace and science for sustainable development: global IUPAP sponsored conferences, working groups, SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Sciences and Applications in the Middle-East, LAAAMP (Light sources for Africa, the Americas, Asia and Middle East Project), IYBSSD (International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022 – 2023), IDSSD (International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development 2024 - 2033 , with the Earth – Humanity Coalition, sciences for equitable well-being on a Healthy Planet). For the two last initiatives, IUPAP is serving as the host organization till the end of 2024.
7. And last but not least, we decided to have in 2024, our general assembly held in China, for the first time in 100 years of history of IUPAP.

Many other things happened during this period October 2019 to October 2024, which I have not the place to report. But for me, what was most important was the spirit of competence, dedication, stimulation, inventiveness, openness, kindness which presided to all the interactions I had with the IUPAP colleagues I worked with. This is what I will remember most. I wish my successor to have the same pleasure I had to work for and with IUPAP.

Michel Spiro

President IUPAP

September 20th, 2024