**Dear GFB members,**

Our January 2025 congress in Autrans was preceded by a Winter School — a first for the GFB. You may have had the opportunity to take part, or perhaps you heard about it. I would like to once again extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this event: especially all the speakers at the school, Vincent Noël and Sophie Griveau, the initiators of the Winter School, and Fabien Giroud, who masterfully led the organization of the event.

Following the conference, a special issue dedicated to the research carried out by GFB members will be published in the journal Bioelectrochemistry (https://www-sciencedirect-com.insb.bib.cnrs.fr/journal/bioelectrochemistry/special-issues , VSI: GFB symposium 2025). Submissions opened on January 20, 2025, with a deadline at summer 2025. Original articles, reviews on topics related to bioelectrochemistry, but also reviews related to the winter school tutorials, and why not articles emanating from the work of students during this winter school, may be submitted. You can already submit a provisional title by writing to the guest editors: Frédéric Barrière frederic.barriere@univ-rennes.fr and Elisabeth Lojou lojou@imm.cnrs.fr.

In the 26th GFB newsletter just published, you will find participant testimonials as well as a summary of this inspiring initiative. By reading it, you will easily understand why we are already considering repeating the experience for the next edition. The location will be announced soon. Our ambition remains unchanged: to keep the GFB’s activities alive, fueled by the thematic and geographic diversity of its members, who are eager to exchange ideas in a warm and friendly atmosphere — the true DNA of our group. We would also like to remind you that your annual membership fees are essential for the GFB to continue its work and grow further.

Another important news: GFB is now reachable via Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/groupe-fran%C3%A7ais-de-bio%C3%A9lectrochimie-french-group-of-bioelectrochemistry-2b7b4a309/>

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the new composition of the GFB council, renewed following the General Assembly held in Autrans. Stéphane Arbault and Benoît Piro are stepping down from the Board. Benoît managed the group’s finances for many years with dedication and precision. Stéphane, for his part, held key roles as GFB secretary and then president, while also playing a central part in organizing numerous congresses. We extend our heartfelt thanks to both of them for their commitment and invaluable contributions to the life of the group. We are also delighted to welcome two new members: Estelle Lebègue and Sofiene Abdellaoui. Their arrival brings fresh perspectives and new themes to the GFB, which you can explore through their CVs included in this newsletter and on the website. The executive committee remains unchanged: Fabien Giroud and Florence Lagarde continue to serve as secretaries, Julien Vieillard as treasurer, and I will continue to lead the group as president until the next congress.

The new council meets regularly to keep the GFB active and to offer you stimulating spaces for scientific exchange. In addition to our next congress, scheduled for 2026, we will be organizing a webinar this autumn on the theme: *“Artificial Intelligence and Protein Design for Electrocatalysis.”* This cross-disciplinary topic perfectly reflects the current dynamic of our group. We will also be reaching out to you soon to gather updates from your laboratories — projects, publications, events — that you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter. These contributions are valuable in strengthening the connections within our community.

Until then, the council joins me in inviting you to enjoy this newsletter and in wishing you every success in your research as well as in your personal endeavors.

Elisabeth Lojou, GFB president