

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Martin G. Peter, University of **Potsdam**, Germany
E-mail Martin.Peter@uni-potsdam.de

<http://euchis.org>

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December 2018
No. 43

Editorial

Just before finalizing this Newsletter, we received sad news: Professor George F. A. Roberts passed away on November 24. George was one of the Greatest, his fundamental Book “Chitin Chemistry” is a must for every chitinologist. He was one of the foundation members of the European Chitin Society, Lyon, 1992, and served as the Vice President 1993 – 1997 and Secretary 1997 – 1999 and 2004 – 2010. His advice was always invaluable. He was a bright shining star, behind his modest and cautious personality. EUCHIS lost an outstanding scientist, a great colleague and friend. We feel so sad not to have him among us anymore. We will always hold him in grateful memory.

As special issue of the Newsletter shall be prepared in honor of George Roberts. We would like to invite everyone to contribute. Please send your memories to the Secretary.

The 43rd EUCHIS Newsletter is presented here to our members. It contains important information about the forthcoming 14th EUCHIS conference (EUCHS'19) in Cork, Ireland, July 30 to August 1, 2019. Though registration is not yet open and several items must be finalized, we would like to draw your attention to several benefits. There will be a substantial reduction of the conference fee for EUCHIS members, actually in the value of two years membership subscription (see page 7). Generous travel grants are available for doctoral students (page 8). Thanks to the quite healthy financial situation of EUCHIS (page 5), the 2019 *Braconnot* prize (page 9) consists again of 500 Euro, besides a certificate and the invitation to present your work of excellence in the Braconnot Lecture. Do not miss the chance and send your documents to the Secretary. Abstracts of PhD theses and publications will be published in the April 2019 issue of the Newsletter. Poster prizes will be awarded, too, as in previous meetings.

As determined by the Statutes, half of the Board must be newly elected by the General Assembly to convene in Cork. Please nominate candidates; every active EUCHIS member in good standing is eligible, including you!

The Chito-highlight of this year was the 14th ICCS – 12th APCCS – 32nd JSCCC in Osaka, Japan (page 10). Among the 200+ attendants were fourteen EUCHIS members. The issue of creating an International Federation of Chitin/Chitosan Societies was discussed in a meeting of representatives of chitin societies from all over the world (page 11). This hopefully will lead, i.a., to the definition of internationally agreed minimum standards for chitin and chitosan characterization and quality for scientific publications.

Münster and Bonn, November 2018
Bruno M. Moerschbacher, President
Martin G. Peter, Secretary

Minutes of the Board Meeting, August 29, 2018

A meeting of the Board of the European Chitin Society was held on August 29, 2018, 12:40 – 13:45, in Kansai University, Senriyama Campus, Osaka, Japan, under the Chairmanship of the President, Prof. Bruno M. Moerschbacher.

Six members of the Board attended: B.M. Moerschbacher (President), S. Bratskaya (Vice President), I. Aranaz Corral (Vice President), M.G. Peter (Secretary), K. Richter (Treasurer), and F.M. Goycoolea (Member). Guest was M. Bardosova.

Agenda:

1. Opening (B. Moerschbacher; 2 min)
2. Keeping of Minutes
3. EUCHIS 2019 (Dr. Bardosova; 10 min, Discussion 10 min)
4. Advances in Chitin Science / new CHIT* Journal / Collaboration with MDPI? (Summary of opinions, M.G. Peter; 5 min)
5. Memberships and Financial situation (M.G. Peter; 5 min)
6. Finances Seville 2017 (I. Aranaz / K. Richter; 5 min)
7. EUCHIS Website (B. Moerschbacher / K. Richter; 2 min)
8. International Federation (or association) of Chitin/Chitosan Societies (B. Moerschbacher; 10 min)
9. Any other business

Item 1

The President opens the meeting. Invitation and agenda for the Board meeting had been distributed to all Board members in time. He ascertains the quorum. The agenda is unanimously approved.

Item 2

The minutes shall be kept by M.G. Peter.

Item 3

Dr. Bardosova reports about the status of the preparations of EUCHIS'2019 in Cork, Ireland. The date of the conference is Tuesday, July 30 – Thursday, August 1, 2019*. A meeting of industrial representatives will be on July 29. A Young Researchers Symposium will take place on Friday, August 2, 2019. M. Bardosova will communicate the conference WEB address to all Board members.

Accommodation and social program will be communicated in the first circular. There will be a discount on the registration fee for EUCHIS members. A limited number of travel grants will be available for doctoral student members of EUCHIS.

Item 4

It is discussed that the series "*Advances in Chitin Science*" shall be discontinued, because i) manuscripts submitted are usually not peer-reviewed and authors usually prefer to publish in peer reviewed journals, ii) the "*Advances*" are rarely cited, though being indexed in Chemical Abstracts, iii) the time between manuscript submission and publication is often too long and the volumes are outdated in a relatively short time.

M.G. Peter summarizes the comments of Board members concerning a possible cooperation with MDPI. Briefly, i) "*Biomimetics*" is too special for the broad field of chitin science. ii) If at all, some members would prefer "*Polymers*", iii) The idea to create a new "Chitin" journal, eventually under the auspices of EUCHIS, was supported by six of sixteen Board members.

However, it was not decided who would take responsibility. iv) The Polish and the Indian Chitin Societies each publish a Journal and there may be no need (and little approval) to create another one. The journal of the Japanese Chitin Society is not generally accessible, though being indexed in Chemical Abstracts.

F. Goycoolea will explore publication of conference proceedings in a special issue of a suitable, peer reviewed journal.

Item 5

On August 20, 2018, EUCHIS has 85 members, of whom 33 paid the subscription for 2018, seven are lifetime donor members, 27 did not yet pay for 2017 and 2018. Eighteen are overdue for three years and, in case of missing payment, membership will be cancelled automatically on Dec. 31, 2018. Reminders were sent on July 9, 2018.

Possible actions to be taken to increase the number of members were discussed, but no decisions were taken. The discussion shall be continued during the next Board meeting in Cork.

Two persons cancelled membership in 2018, and four were terminated because of missing payments for more than three years, without further communication.

The resources of EUCHIS on August 20, 2018 are 8,293.34 €.

Item 6

According to Spanish bank law, transfer of a surplus from EUCHIS'2017 is not possible, because EUCHIS has no tax number. However, those funds can be used for travel grants. The modalities will be clarified by I. Aranaz Corral.

Item 7

The website of EUCHIS was down from May 2018, until upload of the privacy policy declaration in August 2018.

Item 8

B. Moerschbacher reported briefly about the meeting on Aug. 28, 2018 of representatives of regional and national chitin societies and of countries where no such society exists. Purpose of that meeting was to discuss possibilities to create an International Federation of Chitin and Chitosan Societies. All participants expressed unanimous interest in the idea. The modalities should be defined in the near future.

Item 9

No other items were raised. The President closes the meeting at 13:45.

Muenster and Bonn, Sept. 11, 2018.

Bruno M. Moerschbacher,
President

Martin G. Peter,
Secretary

* Dates finalized postscriptum.

EUCHIS Financial Report 2017

(01.01. - 31.12.2017)

Balance per 31.12.2016			6.897,41 €
Credits			
	Member Subscriptions	2.543,50 €	
Total Positiva			9.440,91 €
Expenses			
	Braconnot Prize	-500,00 €	
	Internet Expenses	-867,00 €	
	Travel Grants Students	-400,00 €	
	Translation Service, Julia Breker, Bonn	-46,08 €	
	Bank Charges	-72,71 €	
Total Expenses			-1.885,79 €
Balance per 31.12.2017			7.555,12 €

June 26, 2018

Katja Richter
Treasurer

Francisca Escribano Cabrera
Assistant Treasurer

Martin G. Peter
Secretary

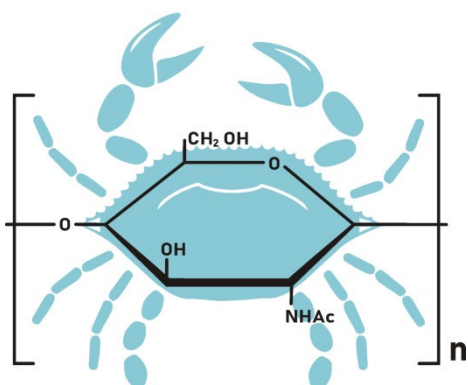
First announcement

14th International Conference of the European Chitin Society will take place at Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, from July 29th till August 2nd, 2019

Conference Chair: Dr Maria Bardosova

Honorary Conference Chair: Prof Dr Bruno M Moerschbacher, EUCHIS President

14th EUCHIS



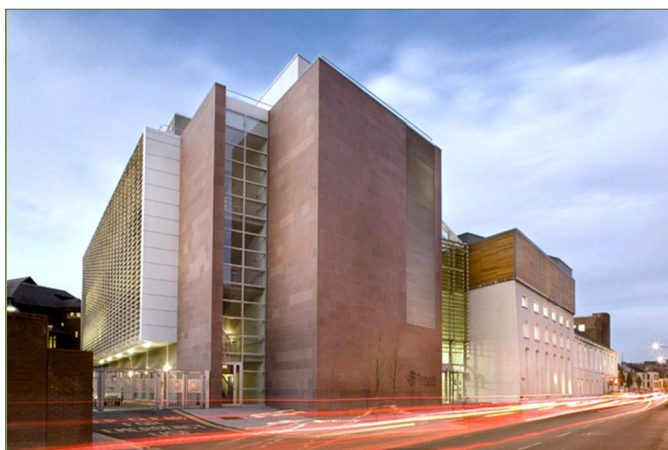
Cork 2019

Members of the Scientific Committee

I. Aranaz, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain
M. Bardosova, Tyndall National Institute UCC, Ireland
S. Bratskaya, Institute of Chemistry RAS, Russia
C.M. Caramella, University of Pavia, Italy
L. David, Université de Lyon, France
M. Fenice, University of Tuscia, Italy
O. Goñi, Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland
F.M. Goycoolea, University of Leeds, UK
A. Heras, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain
B.M. Moerschbacher, University of Münster, Germany
M.G. Peter, University of Potsdam, Germany
K. Richter, HEPPE Medical Chitosan GmbH, Germany
S. Şenel, Hacettepe University, Turkey

The EUCHIS conference series has an established reputation for both scientific excellence and close ties with industry as well as for encouraging younger scientists (those still at post-graduate or post-doc level) to present their work and compete for the Braconnot Prize. Following on from the three most recent EUCHIS conferences which were held in Porto (2013), Münster (2015) and Sevilla (2017), the 14th EUCHIS meeting will be held in Ireland's second largest city, Cork, in 2019, at the Tyndall National Institute - Ireland's premier research institute. In addition to the conference proper, the 14th EUCHIS will also play host to two Satellite Symposia - an Industry Symposium and a Young Researchers Symposium.

Come and present your work in Ireland in 2019 at



Deadline for abstract submissions: **February 28th, 2019.**

For more information, including the list of invited speakers, visit www.14euchisconf.org or contact info@14euchisconf.org.

Topics to be presented include (but are not limited to):

- Preparation of chitins, chitosans and their oligosaccharides; novel sources and processing technologies
- Derivatization and characterization of chitins and chitosans
- Applications of chitin/chitosan materials in the areas of medicine/pharma, e.g. tissue engineering, wound dressings, drug delivery; agriculture, e.g. plant protection and biostimulation, animal feed additive; biochemistry and enzymology; bio- and nano-technology; antimicrobial activity; food sciences; and environmental sciences, e.g. alternatives to plastics, waste management




Conference fees:

Conference fees for early registered participants will be € 370 for regular attendees, € 200 for students and € 550 for company representatives. They include the welcome reception, conference materials, coffee breaks, three lunches and a guided tour of Cork city. EUCHIS members will get a discount of € 70/35 (regular/students) from the fees.

Important deadlines:

Early bird registration	June 1 st , 2019	Late Registration	July 20 th , 2019
Abstract submission	February 28 th , 2019	Decision:	May 15 th , 2019
Travel grant applications	January 31 st , 2019	Decision:	March 15 th , 2019

As part of the social program, visits will be arranged to the following places of interest:

		
Blarney castle and the Blarney stone, kissing which is said to give the gift of eloquence...	Cliffs of Moher , one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland visited by almost one million visitors each year...	Cobh , a tourist seaport town near Cork associated with Titanic's fateful voyage...



Travel Awards

EUCHIS'19, Cork, Ireland

Call for Applications

1. Travel Awards are intended to enable doctoral student members of EUCHIS, regardless of their country of origin, to present their work in EUCHIS conferences, including Young Researchers Symposia.
2. Student Membership must be active for a minimum of two years (2018 and 2019). Applicants registering for membership in 2019 shall pay a two-year student membership subscription (32 EURO).
3. The Deadline for Applications is January 31, 2018
4. Awards will cover the following expenses:
 - Air and/or train ticket from nearest airport/train station of city of origin to Dublin. Travelling by car/ferry cannot be supported.
 - Conference registration fee.
 - Accommodation in student hall of Cork University for a maximum of four nights.
5. Applications must be sent (**Deadline January 31, 2019**) by e-mail, ideally as **one** ZIP file, virus scanned, to the President (moersch@uni-muenster.de) **AND** to the Secretary (martin.peter@uni-potsdam.de), with the following documents enclosed
 - full name, address (residential and institutional), contact (e-mail), short C.V.
 - letter of application explaining the motivation to attend the EUCHIS conference
 - supporting letter of PhD supervisor
 - list of publications, if any
 - abstract of presentation to be submitted
 - copy of student ID **AND** national ID (Schengen only) or passport (non-Schengen country)
 - anticipated travel itinerary, estimation of the expenses
 - declaration of commitment to accept and observe the statutes of EUCHIS
 - declaration of acceptance of the conditions of the travel award, as specified in items 1, 2, and 9.
6. All applications are evaluated by the Board of Directors of EUCHIS.
7. All applicants will be notified about the results by March 15, 2019.
8. For successful applicants, EUCHIS will handle purchase of tickets, booking of accommodation, and payment of registration fee. Reimbursement for expenses paid by an award-winner is not possible.
9. The concession of a Travel Award from EUCHIS ("The European Chitin Society") must be acknowledged in the presented Poster/Talk as well as in any resulting publication in Proceedings or Scientific Journals. Within a month after the Conference, the award-winner must submit a one A4 page with a portrait photo, a short biographical sketch including a short description of their research work and a ca. 500 words essay of their experience in the Conference. This will be published in the next issue of the EUCHIS Newsletter.
10. EUCHIS reserves the right to reject applications without justification.

Braconnot Prize

The Braconnot Prize will be awarded in 2019 during the 14th EUCHIS Conference in Cork. It consists of a certificate with the name of the recipient, a prize money in the amount of 500 Euro, and an invitation to present the Work of excellence in a plenary lecture, the "Braconnot Lecture". Travel expenses, conference registration fee, and accomodation of the prize winner will be paid by EUCHIS.

Deadline for nomination and submission of documents is February 28, 2019. They must be submitted to the President (moersch@uni-muenster.de) **AND** to the Secretary (martin.peter@uni-potsdam.de). Abstract(s) of a PhD thesis and/or publications will be reprinted in the Newsletter scheduled for April 2019.

For the rules, see <http://euchis.org>. Some essentials are:

- The recipient of the Braconnot award must be no more than 36 years old during the year of the award.
- Every member of EUCHIS has the right to suggest an awardee to the President of the committee at any time. This suggestion must be accompanied in written form by a C.V. of the candidate, an abstract (max. 3 pages) of a thesis or publication, and a letter with arguments why the suggested candidate should be eligible for the Braconnot Prize. Candidates may not suggest themselves.
- The nominated person must be a member of the EUCHIS.

Poster Awards

A jury will be formed to select the three best posters presented during EUCHIS'19. The winners will be honored during the conference closing ceremony and will receive a prize money (first prize 300 / second 200 / third 100 Euro) and a certificate.

Conference Report

14th ICCC – 12th APCCS – 32nd JSCCC

August 27 – 30, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan



14th ICCC / 12th APCCS / 32nd JSCCC
August 27-30, 2018, KANSAI UNIVERSITY, OSAKA, JAPAN



The 14th International Chitin-Chitosan Conference was held jointly with the 12th Asian-Pacific Chitin-Chitosan Symposium and the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Chitin and Chitosan at Kansai University, Senriyama Campus in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, Japan. It was attended by more than 200 delegates from over 60 nations. Regional and national Chitin Societies from all over the globe were represented by their Presidents and numerous delegates in this important meeting, giving the opportunity to talk about Science and International Issues.

It was a most memorable conference, perfectly organized in minute detail by *Hiroshi Tamura* and his team of dedicated colleagues and coworkers. Instructions on local travel and meeting points were precisely announced, it was just impossible to get astray.

The scientific program was opened with a plenary lecture by eminent *Seiichi Tokura* who presented an incentive, lively historical review of chitin science and applications with focus on developments in Japan. The most important achievements became visible at ICCC's, beginning in 1977. How much the chitin world has changed, how fascinatingly it developed since then, in every respect.

Thematic areas of the conference were "Applications and Materials" (22 oral contributions), "Biology and Medicine" (15), "Chemistry and Physics" (9), and "Enzymology" (12), presented in two parallel sessions which started in the mornings and afternoons with plenary (18) and keynote (21) lectures. In addition, there were 15 short talks by young researchers and 116 posters. Truly, it was a very dense program. Speakers generally observed the time allotted, so it was easy to change between the parallel sessions and to choose the talks of personal interest. Proceedings will be published as a special issue of *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*.

A visit to Kaiyu-kan, the most famous aquarium of Osaka, was scheduled for the social event on second day's afternoon. Sharks, rays, and numerous other huge and tiny fish circled calmly through a huge basin and contrasted with jellyfish, shining under spotlights, mysteriously floating in the dark as if made by magic. A breathtaking glimpse of Japanese culture was donated during the banquet, offered in superb Taiko-en restaurant and gardens, when eight "Chitin Presidents" enthusiastically hammered on top of a sake barrel until it broke and allowed to taste the precious

liquid, and tree professional Japanese drummers gave an ecstatic thrilling concert of instrumental and vocal sounds.

The next International conferences, as announced in the closing ceremony, are 14th EUCHIS, July 2019 in Cork, Ireland, and 15th ICCS/SIAQ in 2021 in Mexico. We all are looking forward to these meetings. But for now: thank you, Hiroshi Tamura and all involved, for this unforgettable, exciting and rewarding ICCS/APCCS/JSCC in Japan!

Minutes of the IFCCS preparatory meeting

A meeting of high level representatives of seven national and two regional chitin/chitosan societies as well as from three countries without a dedicated chitin/chitosan society was assembled on August 28, 2018, in Kansai University, Osaka, Japan, during the 14th ICCS, 12th APCCS, 32nd JSCC to discuss the establishment of an International Federation of Chitin and Chitosan Societies, IFCCS.

Participants

Regional Societies

EUCHIS: Bruno M. Moerschbacher, Martin G. Peter (Germany)

SIAQ: Waldo M. Arguelles-Monal (Mexico)

National Chitin Societies

P.R. China: Yumin Du

India: Jayakumar Rangasamy

Japan: Hiroshi Tamura, Isao Nagaoka, Toshinari Kawada

Korea: Hyun Jin Park

Russia: Valery Varlamov

Taiwan: Da-Ming Wang, San-Lang Wang

Thailand: Suwabun Chirachanchai

Representatives without National Chitin Society

Myanmar: Nitar Nwe

USA: Joel D. Bumgardner

Viet Nam: Nghia Dang Ngo

Discussion points: Suggested Tasks of IFCCS

- Harmonize international and regional conference schedules. Currently, conferences are held on an international (ICCS: every three years), regional (EUCHIS, SIAQ, APCCS: every two years), and national level (ca. every year).
- Increase the visibility of chitin/chitosan science worldwide against competitors, such as cellulose, starch, and synthetic polymers.
- Maintain a Website with links to all societies, web-administrator?
- Establish contacts and links to other carbohydrate groups, such as *International Carbohydrate Organisation, European Carbohydrate Organisation, European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence, European Polymer Federation, World Glycoscience, Carbohydrate Division in American Chemical Society, Carbohydrate Group of Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), IB Carb Network (UK)* - more?
- Define minimum requirements for analytical data of chitin/chitosan used in work to be published in scientific journals. Request recognition and implementation in the "guide for authors" by Editors of scientific journals, e.g. *Nature, Science, Polymers, Carbohydr. Polymers, Int. J. Biol. Macromol., Biomacromolecules* etc.
- Define quality standards for chitin/chitosan and appropriate analytical protocols with respect to the proposed application.

- Define minimum requirements for bioassays: controls, comparison with other compounds having reported similar bioactivities.
- Define rules for the nomenclature of chitin/chitosan, and derivatives (in contact with IUPAC?).
- Establish a list of sources of raw materials used for production, including producers and properties of the materials.

Organization: Structure, Membership, Rights and Obligations

- Rules of administration shall be as simple as possible.
- There should be no obligation to become a member, and no member fees.
- One representative per country? (What about countries without a society? What is regarded as an equivalent to a society?)
- One vote per country? (Presently, EUCHIS has members from 15 countries, plus about 10 countries from Asia and America, thus totally 25 or more.)
- Slim structure: President, Secretary. No treasurer, activities of members are financed through their "home" society or own funds.
- Communication: one meeting every three years during ICC? E-conferences (e-mail, Skype) yearly, or as requested?
- Publication, Conference Proceedings, Newsletter
- Official language is English.

There was unanimous agreement that foundation of IFCCS as an umbrella bringing together the various chitin/chitosan societies will increase their strength and visibility, and can promote higher qualities in chitin/chitosan-related research and development. It was suggested to collect information on similar federations in other research areas (e.g. biomaterials, pharmaceuticals, membranes).

A range of issues were brought up which will have to be discussed once the decision to form IFCCS has been formally taken by the different societies.

A Foundation Committee consisting of Prof. H. Tamura (JSCC, for Asia), Prof. B.M. Moerschbacher (EUCHIS, for Europe), and Prof. W.M. Argüelles-Monal (SIAQ, for the Americas) has been formed to collect and exchange with all participants of the meeting background information on the chitin/chitosan societies involved, to eventually develop jointly a draft proposal that can be presented to the Boards and Members of the societies for decision.

Sept. 05, 2018

(Prof. H. Tamura)

(Prof. B.M. Moerschbacher)

(Prof. W.M. Argüelles-Monal)

Special Issue

“Advances in Chitin and Chitosan Science”

Guest Editor: Prof. Massimiliano Fenice
Università Della Tuscia, DEB:
Dipartimento di Scienze Ecologiche e Biologiche
Largo Università snc, 01100, Viterbo, Italy.
Tel. +39 0761 357318
Tel. +39 0761 357657 (lab)
Fax +39 0761 357751

For more information about the Special Issue, please see

http://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/chit

A special discount on the publication fees (25%) will be granted to all contributions from Members of EUCHIS. The Editorial Committee will select a maximum of five high quality papers for free publication within the submitted manuscripts.

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **31 March 2019**

Events

- The 14th International Conference of the European Chitin Society will take place July 30 – August 1, 2019 at the Tyndall National Institute, University College of Cork, Ireland. Satellite events are an Industrial Representatives Meeting on July 29 and a Young Researchers Workshop on August 2, 2019. For details, see www.14euchisconf.org.
- The 13th Asian Pacific Chitin Chitosan Symposium (APCCS) will take place in the year 2020 in South-Korea and is organized by the Korean Chitin Society.
- The 15th International Chitin Chitosan Conference (ICCC) will take place in the year 2021 in Mexico and is organized by the Sociedad Iberoamericano de Quitina (SIAQ).

Details will follow in due course.

Erratum

Newsletter No. 42, Bibliography, page 6, citation 1:

Aranaz, I., Acosta, N., Heras, A., Enzymatic D-p-hydroxyphenyl glycine synthesis using chitin and chitosan as supports for biocatalyst immobilization. *Biocatal. Biotransform.*, (2017), Ahead of Print;
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10242422.2017.1366991>

must read

Aranaz, I., Acosta, N., Heras, A., Enzymatic D-p-hydroxyphenyl glycine synthesis using chitin and chitosan as supports for biocatalyst immobilization. *Biocatal. Biotransform.*, (2017) 36, 89-101;
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10242422.2017.1366991>

This publication is a research paper, not a review.