



# ***FEBS News***

ISSUE 3 (SEPTEMBER) 2011



*Fireworks in Torino, location of the  
36th FEBS Congress, June 2011*

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**FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES**

[www.febs.org](http://www.febs.org)

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the September 2011 issue of *FEBS News*. We hope you enjoy looking back at some of the FEBS Congress events in Torino in the summer – perhaps you will even spot yourself in one of the photos!

Plans for the Congress next year, which will be a joint IUBMB and FEBS meeting in Sevilla, are well under way. We will feature the main events at the 2012 Congress in more detail in a future *FEBS News*, but in this issue we focus on its Young Scientists Program (page 11) as the deadline for applications is looming.

FEBS Advanced Courses for 2012 are also starting to be announced (page 13). These provide excellent opportunities to deepen understanding and keep abreast of progress in specific subject areas, and attendance of young scientists at most of these meetings is supported by Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants.

The success of FEBS publications underpins all the work of FEBS in supporting scientists: FEBS Fellowships, FEBS YTF awards, and a range of activities carried out by other FEBS programmes are funded almost entirely by the proceeds from its journals. Thus, the rising Impact Factors of all three established journals and the journals' continued innovations in communicating scientific results and analysis make encouraging reading on pages 18 to 21. This issue also features the interesting biographies of the journals' chief editors, who were awarded the FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur in Torino (page 8).

The next issue of *FEBS News* will appear in early 2012; before then, keep up to date with FEBS activities via the FEBS website [www.febs.org](http://www.febs.org)

*Carolyn Elliss, FEBS News Editor*

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Congress

IUBMB  
FEBS

22<sup>nd</sup>  
37<sup>th</sup>



iubmb&febs

Sevilla 2012

4 - 9 September



## Cover:

The cover photograph, kindly supplied by Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada, captures a public firework display in Torino for St John's Day as viewed from the site of the FEBS Young Scientist Forum, held just before the 36th FEBS Congress. See page 7 for a report on the Young Scientist Forum in Torino, and page 11 for plans for the Young Scientists Program at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress next year.

## About *FEBS News*:

*FEBS News* is published three or four times a year. Email alerts containing a link to *FEBS News* are sent to approximately 16,000 subscribers in more than 50 countries whenever a new issue is out. This issue as well as all former issues of *FEBS News* are available online at <http://www.febs.org>

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As a service to our more than 40,000 members, FEBS offers **FREE** advertising of academic positions (PhD students, PostDocs and Senior PostDocs) and scientific events in this newsletter and on our website.

Questions and suggestions about *FEBS News* should be addressed to Carolyn Elliss ([elliss@camfebs.co.uk](mailto:elliss@camfebs.co.uk)).

The next issue is scheduled for early 2012. Deadline for entries (all types) is **16th January 2012**.

## The 36th FEBS Congress Torino, 2011

The 36th FEBS Congress 'Biochemistry for Tomorrow's Medicine' was held in Torino, Italy, from 25th to 30th June 2011. The site of the Congress was the Centro Congressi Lingotto at the former plant of the FIAT car industry, which was completely reshaped by the famous architect Renzo Piano, making it an excellent structure for functional and comfortable running of conferences (see photos). The facilities at the conference centre, the weather conditions and the general atmosphere in Torino all contributed to smooth and pleasant participation in the Congress.

The Congress was attended by more than 2000 participants from all over the world: 1741 from Europe, 184 from Asia, 51 from Central and Southern America, 44 from North America, 13 from Africa, and 5 from Australia. A table on the next page shows participation by country for the countries with the most attendees.

The FEBS Congress aimed to provide a comprehensive view of the impact of biochemistry and molecular biology in medicine, from the most advanced basic research to new perspectives in the molecular understanding of pathogenic mechanisms and development of therapeutic strategies. The scientific programme was centred on 19 thematic areas, including 'The genome in the 3rd millennium', 'Complexity in RNA biology', 'Protein and membrane dynamics', 'Molecular basis of development and major human diseases', as well as other advanced topics (for more details see <http://www.febs2011.org/>). The sessions of the Congress consisted of 11 plenary lectures, 44 symposia, and 13 special sessions and workshops –with 212 invited speakers, and 74 speakers selected from the submitted abstracts.



Photos from the 36th FEBS Congress, Torino, 2011. From top:

Sergio Papa, Congress Scientific Committee Chairman, giving the introductory remarks at the Opening Session.

A partial view of the Plenary Lecture Hall at the Opening Session.

Opening of the Congress. From left to right: Tomáš Zima, Chair of FEBS Executive Committee; Israel Pecht, FEBS Secretary General;

Sergio Papa, Chairman of the Congress Scientific Committee; Filiberto Cimino, Chairman of the Italian Biochemical Society (SIB); Lucio Luzzatto, Chairman of the Italian Federation of Life Sciences; Enzo Lavolta, Member of Torino Town Council.

A table at the Social Dinner, with Gianfranco Gilardi, Organizing Committee Chairman (in white shirt with blue lanyard), and Luciana Avigliano, former SIB secretary (to his right).



## Top eleven countries

Country	Participants	%
1 Italy	760	37.3
2 Turkey	140	6.9
3 Russia	107	5.2
4 Poland	76	3.7
5 Spain	68	3.3
6 Czech Republic	56	2.7
7 South Korea	56	2.7
8 Germany	51	2.5
9 France	48	2.4
10 Romania	46	2.3
11 United Kingdom	46	2.3
-- Other countries	641	31.4

In keeping with FEBS policy, the Congress organization facilitated participation by a large number of young scientists, who amounted to half of the total attendees. A total of 405 bursaries were made available to support participation of young

investigators: 170 FEBS Congress bursaries, 126 FEBS YSF bursaries for selected Young Scientist Forum participants, 90 bursaries from the Italian Biochemical Society, and 19 from the Italian Federation for Life Sciences. A large number of abstracts from young participants were selected for oral presentation.

The plenary lectures, the invited and the selected talks at the symposia and special sessions, and the 1350 poster presentations, together fulfilled the aims of the Congress to provide extensive, advanced and affirmative examples of the translational power of biochemical research in today's and tomorrow's medicine. It is hoped in particular that the Congress served to inspire the future research activity of younger participants, encouraging them to pursue their efforts in these difficult days.

*Gianfranco Gilardi, Chairman, Organizing Committee*  
*Sergio Papa, Chairman, Congress Scientific Committee*

## Education Events at the FEBS Congress

The FEBS Congress 2011 witnessed a number of educational events, organized by the FEBS Education Committee with strong support from the organizers – the Italian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ISBMB). The two FEBS workshops are briefly summarized below; more details, including slides from the talks, are available on the FEBS Education Platform via <http://edu.febs.unibe.ch>. A third workshop, organized by the ISBMB and targeted at an audience including science teachers from the region, was held in Italian on 'High school scientific education: a bridge towards medicine, biology and biotechnology university courses'.

### Workshop I. PhD training in Europe: where are we heading?

This workshop, co-chaired by Gül Güner-Akdoğan (Izmir; Chair, FEBS Education Committee) and Jason Perret (Brussels; Member, FEBS Education Committee), presented an opportunity for dialogue between academia and industry on the fundamental issue of post-graduate education. It was attended by about 120 participants, both faculty and PhD students, from all over Europe. Stimulating presentations from the two invited speakers – Prof. Michael Mulvany (Aarhus University Graduate School of Health Sciences, Denmark, and Vice-

President, ORPHEUS) and Prof. Detlev Riesner (Düsseldorf Heinrich-Heine-Universität, and Co-Founder and Chairman of the Supervisory Board Qiagen NV Hilden, Germany) – were followed by lively discussions with the interested participants.

Michael Mulvany's talk, 'European vision in PhD education', focused on present European trends in PhD education. Inclusion of the PhD in the Bologna Process (working towards comparable higher education across Europe) has supported efforts to improve the structure of PhD training, with clear 3–4-year time limits, and relevant course work. The new structures also recognize that only a minority (~15%) of PhD students continue to an academic research career, emphasizing the need for courses in transferable skills. However, as pointed out by the European Universities Association (EUA), the research basis of PhD education makes it fundamentally different from pre-graduate education. These considerations, together with a dramatic increase in the number of PhD students in Europe, indicate the need for standards in PhD education – to safeguard the reputation of the PhD as a research degree, and also to strengthen career opportunities for those with PhD degrees. Initiatives to produce standards have been taken by a number of organizations including EUA-Council for Doctoral Education and ORPHEUS (Organization for PhD education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System).



Detlev Riesner's talk, 'What industry, in particular Pharma-Biotec industry, expects?', began by looking at the career paths of PhD graduates in Germany, stressing the fact that only 4% of PhD graduates finally reach professor positions and 2.5% other permanent staff positions in academia. He presented a very interesting comment: 'talent outweighs experience in industry'. He explained thoroughly, using lively examples, the core competencies sought in candidates by industry: innovation/creativity, problem solving, customer focus, business impact, accountability (character), and, for leadership, planning/research management and people management. He mentioned that experience in another country is important for industry candidates. He also discussed the possible collaborations between university and industry. It could be direct, by focusing together on some problems; however, he suggested the best way was through 'spin-off' companies from the university. Following Riesner's talk, many participants were active in asking questions.

From the lively discussions, which continued up to the very end of the workshop session, and from the feedback of the participants, it was concluded that the workshop had been well received. We thank deeply our two invited speakers for presenting their expertise in both a modest and a brilliant manner.

## Workshop II. Integrating molecular bioscience education with medical training

This workshop, co-chaired by FEBS Education Committee Members Karmela Barišić (Zagreb) and Keith Elliott (Manchester), was attended by about 45 participants, mostly faculty members from science and medicine interested in learning more about integration.

The first talk, from Dr Karen Mattick (Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, UK), aimed to explain why medical programmes should integrate scientific and clinical learning within undergraduate medical curricula, focusing on the evidence base available via the educational literature to determine whether curriculum integration led to better learning outcomes than more traditional 'pre-clinical/clinical'

curricula. She explored the educational theories that suggest that integration should work and then presented four 'good news' studies that suggest that curriculum integration is working as intended. She highlighted that further research into the impact of curriculum integration on educational outcomes, and a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying any impact, is urgently required.

The second and third talks focused on how training could be integrated. Prof. Jan F. C. Glatz (Director of Education, Biomedical Sciences, Maastricht University, The Netherlands) described the solution to the question 'How do we learn best?' at Maastricht, emphasizing the approaches and methods used in integration in a completely problem-based learning curriculum. Prof. Tomáš Zima (Dean of the 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic) discussed integration of the curriculum at Charles University Prague and presented an excellent example of an 'e-learning platform' designed to enhance integration and learning in an international network.



Photos from FEBS Education Committee workshops 2011. Top: Detlev Riesner and Jan Glatz giving their talks. Bottom: speakers and organizers from 'Integrating molecular bioscience education with medical training' (T. Zima, G. Güner-Akdoğan, J. Glatz, K. Barisic, K. Elliott and K. Mattick; by kind permission of J. Glatz).

A lively panel discussion followed. We thank wholeheartedly the three speakers who presented the experiences from their teaching programmes.

### Support for CV preparation

Keith Elliott was again invited to attend the pre-congress Young Scientist Forum (YSF) and to take part in the careers roundtable discussion, where he talked about 'Preparing your curriculum vitae – how to make the most of yourself?'. For many of the YSF participants this was the first time that anyone had formally talked to them about preparing a CV. This year, 55 young scientists, from 23 different countries,

took advantage of the offer of a one-to-one session at the main Congress, where Keith (and Jason Perret) discussed the CV in detail. This is the largest number of participants we have seen. We will participate in the Young Scientists Program next year during the IUBMB–FEBS Congress, where we hope to meet many more young scientists and perhaps have some small influence on their future success.

For upcoming events organized by the FEBS Education Committee, see <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=282>

*Gül Güner-Akdoğan*  
Chair of FEBS Education Committee

## Women in Science Events at the FEBS Congress

The Women in Science events at the FEBS Congress in Torino were well attended. In addition to the three activities outlined below that already have an established position in the Congress programme, a childcare service was introduced as a new initiative in Torino. Based on the experience obtained this year, we hope to develop this important service to facilitate intensive participation of young parents in future Congresses.

### FEBS/EMBO Workshop: Gender in Science

After the opening words, Flavia Zucco, President of the Italian Association of Women in Science 'Donne e Scienza', who has been active in this area since 1988, presented the many Women in Science activities and goals in Italy. She also outlined past and ongoing European networks and provided a detailed bibliography of the institutional documents and reports that are available in English.

Maria Laura Scarino, Secretary of the Italian Association of Women in Science 'Donne e Scienza', gave an inspiring lecture entitled 'Future in science and science in future: ideas and expectations of women scientists'. She presented recent developments in the role of women scientists in post-academic science and their possible positive future contributions. Her presentation highlighted a wealth of challenges and opportunities that are likely for future female scientists in academia and national and international organizations, as well as in industry and other private enterprises. The talk was well received and prompted a lively and interactive discussion in which the entire audience participated.

### Women in Science Career Lunch

In keeping with past years' well-established model, the women's career lunch was organized in a leisurely setting. Small groups, each consisting of one or two female senior scientists and four to six participants, had an excellent opportunity to discuss personal career-related issues. The participants represented all stages of scientific careers and they came from a great variety of European countries. The discussions around each table were lively, and this informal event received very positive feedback from both the junior and more senior participants.

### FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award 2011

The FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award, now in its fourth year, recognizes and rewards the exceptional achievements of a female researcher in the life sciences over the previous five years. The awardee this year was Prof. Carol Robinson from the Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford, UK, who is a pioneer in the development and use of mass spectrometry for structural studies of large multimeric protein assemblies. Her unique scientific career and highly innovative research were presented in an outstanding lecture entitled 'Finding the right balance: from rare gases to rotary motors' that raised multiple comments and questions among the audience. The laudation for Prof. Robinson was given by Prof. Wolfgang Baumeister, Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany.

*Lea Sistonen*  
Chair of FEBS Working Group on Women in Science  
(WISE)



## The FEBS Young Scientist Forum 2011

This year's FEBS Young Scientist Forum (YSF) – the satellite event for young researchers that precedes the annual FEBS Congress – took place in Torino at the Villa Gualino. The Local Organizing Committee, comprising Francesco Ruas as Chairman, along with his colleagues Andrea Cavagnino, Giovanna Grimaldi, Elisa Lupino, Valentina Sala and Andrea Occhipinti, formed a helpful group that was always ready to solve difficulties that emerged – and their interest, dedication and efforts made the workshop a very successful event. The stimulating atmosphere of the Forum was evident through the commitment of participants to exchanging ideas and addressing questions to the various speakers.

Two excellent computer prizes were awarded: for the best oral presentation and for the best poster. The first one went to Amir Mor from Israel, who gave a talk entitled 'Dynamics of single mRNP nucleo-cytoplasmic transport through the nuclear pore in living cells'; and the poster prize went to Gesa Volkers from Germany for her poster 'Structural insights on a new tetracycline resistance mechanism relying on the TetX monooxygenase'.

In addition to the sessions centred on research results, a roundtable discussion was organized to give career advice, focusing on the various possibilities for funding of post-doctoral positions. The panel consisted of Dr Alan Craig (EU mobility programmes), Dr Andrea Hutterer (EMBO programmes), Dr Keith Elliott (How to write a CV) and myself (Vision of FEBS activities). The panel members were asked several questions that demonstrated great interest from the students.

Next year, the 12th YSF will take place at the attractive resort of Costa Ballena (Cádiz, Spain), as part of the Young Scientists Program carried out by FEBS and IUBMB. I really hope that as with previous events this will constitute a remarkable gathering of young scientists. I am firmly convinced that the organizing committee, led by Irene Diaz Moreno, will put their energy and know-how into the service of their young colleagues. For more information on this event see page 11 of this issue of *FEBS News*.

*Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada*  
Chair of FEBS Working Group on the  
Career of Young Scientists



Photos from FEBS YSF 2011. From top: Organizing Committee; partial view of a poster session; students during the banquet; Amir Mor's prize-winning presentation.

## FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur

The FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur award was instituted on the 10th Anniversary of FEBS (1974), to honour biochemists and molecular biologists who had given outstanding service to FEBS. During the opening ceremony of the 36th FEBS Congress in June this year, the Diplôme d'Honneur was presented to Professor Richard Perham (Cambridge, UK), Professor Felix Wieland (Heidelberg, Germany) and Professor Julio Celis (Copenhagen, Denmark) in recognition of their exceptional contributions to FEBS as chief editors of FEBS publications.



**Professor Richard Perham**  
Editor-in-Chief of *FEBS Journal*

**Richard Perham** is Emeritus Professor of Structural Biochemistry at the Department of Biochemistry in the University of Cambridge, UK, and a former Master of St John's College, Cambridge. His research interests are in the broad areas of protein chemistry, molecular enzymology, and supramolecular structure and self-assembly. The Perham group devised many widely applied techniques in protein chemistry and pioneered study of catalytic nanomachines, notably lipoic acid-dependent 2-oxoacid dehydrogenase complexes and biotin-dependent carboxylases, elucidating their giant structures (up to 10 MDa) and multistep mechanisms by means of biochemical, X-ray crystallographic, EM and NMR spectroscopic techniques. He and his colleagues discovered the electrostatic charge matching used in DNA packaging by filamentous bacteriophages, and introduced the use of these virions and multienzyme complex cores as genetically engineered helical and icosahedral molecular scaffolds for the multiple display of peptide and protein epitopes in vaccine design.

Professor Perham graduated in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University and worked for his PhD

with Ieuan Harris at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, in the group of Fred Sanger. After a Helen Hay Whitney post-doctoral Fellowship at Yale University, USA, with Fred Richards, he returned to Cambridge as a University Lecturer in Biochemistry. He was Head of the Department of Biochemistry from 1985 to 1997, founding Chair of the Cambridge Centre for Molecular Recognition from 1988 to 1993, and Fellow (and later Master) of St John's College from 1964 onwards. He has been an EMBO Fellow at the Max Planck Institut für Medizinische Forschung in Heidelberg, Germany; Drapers Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia; and Fogarty International Scholar in Residence at the National Institutes of Health in the USA. Professor Perham is a Fellow of the Royal Society (London), the Royal Society of Arts, and the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, and is a Member of EMBO and the Academia Europaea.

Professor Perham was appointed Chair of the Editorial Board of *European Journal of Biochemistry* in 1998. The journal became the *FEBS Journal* in 2005 and developed its position as a major general journal for the molecular life sciences. It has a worldwide reputation and reach, with a citation half-life among the longest of any journal other than *Annual Review of Biochemistry*. *FEBS Journal* is published by Wiley-Blackwell on behalf of FEBS and, in addition to its serious content, is proud of its remarkable speed of publication (which can be less than three months), its continuing innovation in online facilities, and its Prize for Young Scientists.

For more information on *FEBS Journal*, see the journal website: <http://www.febsjournal.org>

## FEBS publications: chief editors



Editor-in-Chief:  
Professor Richard Perham



Managing Editor:  
Professor Felix Wieland



Editor-in-Chief:  
Professor Julio Celis



**Professor Felix Wieland**  
Managing Editor of *FEBS Letters*

**Felix Wieland** is Professor and Group Leader at the BZH (Biochemistry Center), University of Heidelberg, Germany. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms that underlie vesicular transport of proteins and lipids, and in particular the COPI-coated vesicles involved in anterograde and retrograde protein transport in the early secretory pathway of eukaryotic cells. The Wieland group has described the soluble and membrane machinery of such vesicles, molecular mechanisms of vesicle biogenesis, and the sorting of membrane lipids. Together with his coworker Dr Britta Brügger, Professor Wieland has developed methods for the quantitative analysis of membrane lipid molecular species at the low-picomole level of sensitivity by mass spectrometry, which has paved the way to the field of 'lipidomics'. Recently, they have elucidated an unprecedented degree of specificity in molecular recognition between protein and lipid within the lipidic phase of biological membranes.

Professor Wieland received his PhD in Chemistry from the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry,

Munich, in 1978 for elucidating the structure of the multienzyme complex fatty acid synthase with Nobel Laureate Feodor Lynen, and he was awarded his Habilitation in Biochemistry from the University of Regensburg in 1984 for his discovery of the structure and biogenesis of the first known bacterial glycoprotein. From 1986 he worked on vesicular transport in mammalian cells with James Rothman at Stanford University, USA, as a Visiting Scientist. He returned to Germany in 1988 as a Professor and Director of Institute Biochemistry I at Heidelberg, and in 1997 became the founding Director of BZH. Professor Wieland is a Member of EMBO and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina). He was President of the German Society for Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (GBM) from 2005 to 2006.

Professor Wieland was appointed Managing Editor of *FEBS Letters* in 2001. *FEBS Letters*, published by Elsevier on behalf of FEBS, is one of the world's leading journals in biochemistry and is renowned both for its quality of content and speed of publication. During recent years, Professor Wieland has overseen several developments on *FEBS Letters*, including the introduction of Structured Digital Abstracts (whereby protein interaction descriptions are linked to relevant databases and are structured to aid text mining), expansion of the range of articles published to include Minireview Series and Special Issues of review articles on developing and topical fields in molecular life sciences, and the initiation of a personal prize for young principal investigators.

For more information on *FEBS Letters*, see the journal website: <http://www.febsletters.org/>



**Professor Julio Celis**  
Editor-in-Chief of *Molecular Oncology*

**Julio E. Celis** is Professor and Director of the Institute of Cancer Biology, Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen, Denmark. His current work focuses on proteomic applications in cancer, such as the

use of biomarkers for early detection of breast cancer and for stratification of patients for therapy options. He is generally recognized as one of the founders of the proteomics field. In the early 1980s, he introduced the use of protein identification techniques to map HeLa cell proteins and developed annotated protein databases for the analysis of cancer cell changes. Later, together with Joël Vandekerckhove's group, he introduced large-scale protein identification by microsequencing. From the mid 1990s the Celis group moved to proteomic analysis of clinically relevant samples such as tissues and fluids.

Professor Celis studied biochemistry at the University of Chile, and received his PhD from the

University of Iowa, USA, in 1968. In the early 1970s he worked at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK, under Sydney Brenner, John Smith and Francis Crick. He then moved to Aarhus University, Denmark, where he held an associate professorship at the Institute of Chemistry (1975–1986), followed by a professorship at the Institute of Medical Biochemistry (1986–2001). In 1991, he became Chairman of the virtual Danish Centre for Human Genome Research, and in 2001 Director of the Institute of Cancer Biology, Copenhagen.

Professor Celis has played key roles in European science organizations: he was Secretary General of FEBS from 1999 to 2007, and has also been Chairman of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Council, and President of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) and the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE). Currently, he is Chairman of the Policy Committee of the European Cancer Organization (ECCO), President of the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR), Member of the Board of the Organization of European Cancer Institutes

(OEIC), Member of the FP7 Advisory Group on Health Research, and Vice-President of the European Alliance for Biomedical Research; he is also a Member of EMBO and of the Academia Europaea, and a Fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences. Through FEBS, Professor Celis played a major role in rallying the basic research community to promote the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC).

Professor Celis became Editor-in-Chief of *Molecular Oncology* at its launch in 2007, and has overseen its establishment as an important journal in its field: it currently has an impact factor of 4.25 (Thomson Reuters), and is ranked 21st in the cancer research area and 5th in the molecular medicine area (SCImago Journal & Country). The journal, published by Elsevier on behalf of FEBS, highlights new discoveries, approaches and technical developments in basic, clinical and discovery-driven translational cancer research, and provides an international forum for debating cancer issues.

For more information on *Molecular Oncology*, see the journal website: <http://www.moloncol.org/>

## Newly elected FEBS Officers

The results of elections held at the FEBS Council Meeting 2011 in Torino for positions on FEBS Committees and Working Groups are listed below:

Chair, Publications Committee:

László Fésüs (Debrecen, Hungary)

Chair, Working Group on Integration:

Mathias Sprinzl (Bayreuth, Germany)

Congress Counsellor:

Adam Szewczyk (Warsaw, Poland)

Members of the Advanced Courses Committee:

Veronique Receveur-Brechot (Marseille, France)

László Nagy (Debrecen, Hungary)

Members of the Fellowships Committee:

Hermona Soreq (Jerusalem, Israel)

Tihomir Balog (Zagreb, Croatia)

Sonsoles Campuzano (Madrid, Spain)

Members of the Education Committee:

Angel Herráez (Alcalá de Henares, Spain)

Tomáš Zima (Prague, Czech Republic)



## The role of FEBS Council

FEBS currently has 43 Constituent Societies; 36 are Member Societies who pay full subscriptions, and 7 are Associate Societies who do not. FEBS is governed by a Council consisting of one delegate from each of the Member Societies, and the members of the Executive Committee. Each delegate and Executive Committee member has one vote. Associate Societies can send an observer to Council but they cannot vote.

Council meets once a year at the annual FEBS Congress. Subject to the Council, the administration of the Federation is vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the FEBS Officers together with persons appointed by Council to serve thereon for a specified period. They are empowered to act on behalf of the Council and to enter into contracts in the period between meetings of the Council.



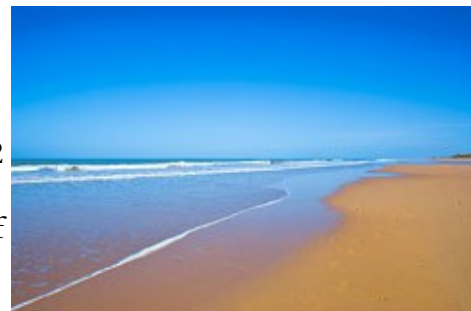
## Young Scientists Program at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress 2012

The 37th FEBS Congress will be a joint meeting with the IUBMB (International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) in September 2012 in Sevilla, Spain, organized by the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM). The theme 'From Single Molecules to Systems Biology' promises comprehensive and interdisciplinary coverage of the latest progress in bioscience research, and an impressive range of plenary speakers are already lined up. For more information about the Congress see the meeting website at <http://www.iubmb-febs-2012.org/>

Since 2001, FEBS has supported a satellite meeting for young scientists that precedes its annual Congress, with the aim of promoting interactions among researchers in the pre-doctoral and early post-doctoral stages of their careers. As can be seen from the report about the Young Scientist Forum at the FEBS Congress in Torino this year (page 7), this event provides opportunities for participants to present results to an international audience, network with senior scientists and receive career advice – as well as to form friendships and have fun in a relaxed and informal setting. For the 2012 Congress, a 'Young Scientists Program' (YSP) for 125 young



YSP 2012 venue:  
The Elba Costa  
Ballena Hotel  
(left) and beach  
(below)



scientists will take place from 1st to 4th September 2012 at the attractive seaside resort of Costa Ballena (Cádiz),

approximately one hour's drive from Sevilla. Applications for the YSP are invited from young members (PhD students or young post-doctoral scientists) of FEBS, IUBMB or associated societies who are first authors on abstracts submitted to the Congress. Full details about eligibility are given in the YSP section of the Congress website at <http://www.iubmb-febs-2012.org/IUBMBFEBS2012/index.asp?item=2127>. Successful applicants – selected by the YSP 2012 Evaluation Committee – will receive YSP fellowships that cover registration, accommodation in shared rooms and most travel costs for this event and also the subsequent IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla.

Online registration for the YSP opens on 1st November 2011. The deadline for registration and abstract submission is **15th January 2012**. We look forward to welcoming you in Cádiz and Sevilla.

### Plenary lecturers at the 22nd IUBMB and 37th FEBS Congress

Bruce Alberts (San Francisco, CA, USA) • Carlos Bustamante (San Francisco, CA, USA) • Sai-Juan Chen (Shanghai, China) • Anne Ephrussi (Heidelberg, Germany) • Christian Griesinger (Göttingen, Germany) • Robert Huber, Nobel Laureate (Martinsried, Germany) • Tim Hunt, Nobel Laureate (Hertfordshire, UK) • Carlos López-Otín (Oviedo, Spain) • Mathias Mann (Martinsried, Germany) • Joan Massagué (New York, NY, USA) • Kazutoshi Mori (Kyoto, Japan) • Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate (Washington, DC, USA) • Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate (Cambridge, UK) • Ada Yonath, Nobel Laureate (Rehovot, Israel)

**iubmb&febs**  
Sevilla 2012

**Congress**  
**22nd IUBMB**  
**37th FEBS**

**From Single Molecules  
To Systems Biology**

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
 Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular  
 Federation of European Biochemical Societies  
 Sociedade Portuguesa de Bioquímica

[www.iubmb-febs-2012.org](http://www.iubmb-febs-2012.org)  
Sevilla, Spain \* September 4 - 9, 2012

## FEBS in China

For the past four years, representatives of FEBS have been present at central events of the Chinese community of molecular life sciences. The recent dramatic rise of China as a scientific power has been striking and was one major reason for FEBS to strive to form close contacts with this emerging community. While contacts between the European scientific community and that of China go back for a considerable time and, indeed, many leading Chinese figures received part of their education in Europe, the involvement of the North American scientific community in China is more obvious. This made it natural for FEBS to take active steps to establish deeper and wider contacts with our Chinese colleagues.

A significant element in these efforts is sharing with the Chinese biochemical community our channels of communicating scientific results. A report published by the Royal Society (London) stated that China now publishes the second largest number of scientific papers (after the USA), and by 2020 it could be the world's dominant producer of scientific research. This is one result of the huge investment of the Chinese government in research, reaching more than US\$200 billion a year. Moreover, the Chinese government is urging its scientists to publish in highly respected English language journals and is offering, as incentives, promotion and additional benefits. In the light of these developments, FEBS is striving to build effective and mutually beneficial contacts with our Chinese partners by raising awareness of our journals and offering these as publishing media for their research results.

One approach has been to invite leading Chinese scientists to join the Editorial Boards of our three journals – *FEBS Journal*, *FEBS Letters* and *Molecular Oncology*. In addition, to achieve broader and more effective contacts, Editors of the journals and members of the FEBS Executive Committee have



The FEBS booth at the national meeting of the Chinese Society for Cell Biology, 2011. Right, Ms Judy Bai from the Beijing Elsevier office; left, Ms Hanni Naor, Assistant to the FEBS Secretary General.

travelled to China in recent years to present the different activities of our Federation at international and national Chinese meetings, as well as smaller social events organized by FEBS.

The Congress of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) organized by the Chinese Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Shanghai two years ago provided an excellent opportunity for presenting FEBS to the thousands of participants, mainly from China but also from neighbouring countries. A FEBS booth was present throughout this meeting to distribute information. In addition, Prof. Wolfgang Baumeister, from the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Munich, delivered the FEBS lecture at this Congress. This was complemented by two special dinners that brought together leading figures of the local community as well as the emerging younger leadership of Chinese biochemistry.

Last year, FEBS participated in a national event, the biannual meeting of the Chinese Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which took place in Nanjing. A FEBS booth was again present throughout the meeting, and Prof. Alexander Levitzki from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem delivered a FEBS lecture. Also, FEBS organized a festive dinner and FEBS lecture in Beijing for local scientists.



The FEBS event in Shanghai, 2011; listening to Prof. Wieland's lecture.



The FEBS event in Shanghai, 2011; students in long discussions with Prof. Wieland following his lecture.

Earlier this summer, the Chinese Society for Cell Biology meeting brought together more than 2000 participants in the outskirts of Beijing for an intense four-day programme. A FEBS lecture was delivered there by the Editor-in-Chief of *FEBS Letters*, Prof. Felix Wieland from the University of Heidelberg, and this drew thousands of participants to the meeting hall. A FEBS booth placed in the heart of the meeting's venue attracted many of the attendants, who were able to learn about FEBS and its journals in their native Chinese language, thanks to the presence of a member of the local Beijing Elsevier office at the FEBS booth. In addition,

during this summer's visit FEBS organized a special event in Shanghai, which has a very large concentration of research institutions in molecular life sciences; the event consisted of a dinner and Prof. Wieland's lecture, which was followed by intense and long discussions.

Clearly these activities are only a beginning of efforts to establish deeper and long-standing contacts that would be accompanied by mutual collaborations, exchange of students and resultant publications of the scientific research.

*Israel Pecht*  
*FEBS Secretary General*

## FEBS Advanced Courses

FEBS provides financial support for the organization of a range of courses and meetings on advanced topics in biochemistry, molecular biology and other related bioscience areas.

**FEBS Advanced Lecture Courses** focus on teaching and training. Participants intensively interact with invited scientific leaders in the field during oral presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions and tutorials.

**FEBS/EMBO Joint Lecture Courses** have the same format and focus, but are organized and financed jointly by FEBS and EMBO.

**FEBS Workshops** address topics of high current scientific interest, bringing together experts and interested young scientists. The talks, poster sessions and discussions take place in an informal atmosphere.

**FEBS Special Meetings** address timely topics of high scientific interest aimed at a larger number of participants and with a speaker programme featuring the leading scientists in a given field. There are also poster sessions and oral presentations based on selected abstracts.

**FEBS Practical Courses and Combined Practical & Lecture Courses** have a strong hands-on training element and aim to teach basic and advanced techniques in molecular biosciences. Therefore the number of participants in these courses is limited.

Applications from prospective organizers should be sent electronically to the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee. The submission site, application forms and further details can be found on the FEBS website at <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=86>. Submission deadlines are 1 March and 1 August of each year.

Organizers of FEBS courses (with the exception of Special Meetings) can award FEBS Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants to PhD students and to young scientists who have obtained their PhD within the past five years; these grants cover travel to and from the course from another country, registration, accommodation and meals. Course organizers are responsible for the selection of YTF grant recipients. To be eligible for a YTF grant, the recipient must be a member of a FEBS Constituent Society, and must not have already received a FEBS YTF grant in the current or preceding year. Further information on eligibility can be found at <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=106>

FEBS Transcontinental YTF Grants are also available for a limited number of PhD students and young scientists from Africa, Asia, North America and South America to attend FEBS Advanced Lecture Courses and Workshops. Organizers select the recipients of these grants, who must be members of IUBMB-related national or international societies (FASBMB, ASBMB, PABMB, FAOBMB). Again, further details are available at <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=106>

Jaak Järvi

Chair of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee

[advanced.courses@febs.org](mailto:advanced.courses@febs.org)



## FEBS Advanced Courses 2012: first round

The first round of FEBS Advanced Courses to be announced for 2012 are listed here in order of registration deadline. Further courses will be announced on the FEBS website soon, and in the next issue of *FEBS News*.

### Special Meeting

SM12-016

#### **ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) Proteins: from Multidrug Resistance to Genetic Disease – ABC2012**

Innsbruck, Austria

3–9 March 2012

Organizer: Karl Kuchler

Email: [karl.kuchler@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:karl.kuchler@meduniwien.ac.at)

Deadline for registration: 15 December 2011

<http://cdl.univie.ac.at/abc2012/>

### Joint FEBS/EMBO Lecture Course

EFLC12-012

#### **Mesoscopic Origins of Cell Behaviours during Tissue Morphogenesis: Biochemical Circuits and Mechanics**

Cargèse, France

30 April – 5 May 2012

Organizer: Pierre-François Lenne

Email: [pf.lenne@univmed.fr](mailto:pf.lenne@univmed.fr)

Deadline for registration: 30 January 2012

### Practical Course

PLC12-015

#### **Bioinformatics for the Bench Biologist**

Dubrovnik, Croatia

10–16 September 2012

Organizer: Kristian Vlahovicek

Email: [kristian@gmail.com](mailto:kristian@gmail.com)

Deadline for registration: 1 May 2012

### Workshop

WS12-021

#### **New Developments in RNA Biology: State of the Art and Future Perspectives**

Tavira, Portugal

1–4 September 2012

Organizer: Leonor Cancela

Email: [leocancela@gmail.com](mailto:leocancela@gmail.com)

Deadline for registration: 1 June 2012

### Advanced Lecture Course

ALC12-007

#### **Sofia School of Protein Science: Structure and Dynamics of Biological Macromolecules**

Sofia, Bulgaria

9–14 September 2012

Organizer: Andrey Karshikoff

Email: [karshikoff@bio21.bas.bg](mailto:karshikoff@bio21.bas.bg)

Deadline for registration: 1 June 2012



## FEBS Fellowships: changes in the scheme

### FEBS shifts to a system of electronic application for Fellowships

Until now, several paper copies of each application for a FEBS Fellowship had to be sent by post to the Chairperson of the Fellowships Committee, who then distributed them, again in paper form, for evaluation by the members of the Fellowships Committee. This system has now been changed. All the documents are to be sent as a single pdf file (except recommendation letters, which are sent separately, but also electronically). Paper is still employed for a few key signed documents and for providing just one copy of the application in some cases. The Fellowships section of the FEBS website (<http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=81>) gives specific instruction concerning each fellowship.

### Two calls each year for Return-To-Europe Fellowships

Return-To-Europe Fellowships are normally awarded to those who have completed a first post-doctoral position outside Europe and wish to return to a country within the FEBS area. The scheme was set up on an experimental basis not long ago, but the number of applications has increased nearly fourfold

since last year. Therefore, the Fellowships Committee has decided that the number of applications already merits two calls each year, which are to be coincident with the calls for Long-Term Fellowships (1 April and 1 October), with replies from the Committee being sent by 30 June and 31 December, respectively.

### A yearly get-together of Long-Term Fellows

To increase collegiality, cross-communication and awareness about FEBS, the FEBS Chairperson will organize a meeting of FEBS Long-Term and Return-To-Europe Fellows each year. This meeting will take place immediately before the annual FEBS Congress. Although details of this event are still to be worked out, since it will be organized for the first time in 2012 for the IUBMB–FEBS Congress at Sevilla, it is intended to take place at the location hosting the FEBS Young Scientist Forum (YSF). FEBS Fellows will be able to contribute to the career development session of the YSF, so that their experience can be put to use for younger colleagues. The Fellows will be invited to participate in the FEBS Congress ensuing their meeting.

*Vicente Rubio*

*Chair of FEBS Fellowships Committee*

## An Overview of FEBS Fellowships

### Pre-doctoral Fellowships

- **FEBS Summer Fellowships:** awarded to promising graduate students in a FEBS country wishing to gain practical scientific experience in an institution located in another country within the FEBS area.
- **FEBS Collaborative Experimental Scholarships for Central and Eastern Europe:** awarded to PhD students from Central and Eastern Europe to support experimental work in a laboratory in Western Europe; usually for 2 or 3 months.

### Pre-/post-doctoral Fellowships

- **FEBS Short-term Fellowships:** awarded to post-doctoral researchers or advanced pre-doctoral students for the purpose of scientific collaboration, advanced training or employing techniques not available at the candidates' usual place of work; usually for up to 2 months.

### Post-doctoral Fellowships

- **FEBS Long-term Fellowships:** awarded to support long-term visits for scientific collaboration or advanced training; originally granted for 1 year and may be renewed for a further year up to a maximum of 3 years.

FEBS Long-term Fellows are eligible for the **FEBS Distinguished Young Investigator Award** for excellence in research, and **FEBS Fellowship Follow-up Research Fund** grants towards research costs on return to work in their country of origin.

- **FEBS Return-to-Europe Fellowships:** awarded to support scientists who left the European area for post-doctoral training elsewhere but now wish to return to Europe for a second post-doctoral position; granted for 2 years.
- **Chinese European Visiting Fellowships:** awarded to support scientific collaboration, advanced training or application of specific techniques by Chinese scientists at a laboratory in a FEBS country for up to 3 months.

## In Memoriam

Constantin Drainas 1950–2011

Constantin Drainas, President of the Hellenic Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HSBMB), died tragically in a car accident on 5th July 2011. He was Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Ioannina, Greece, and a distinguished and active member of the HSBMB for several decades, representing the Society as a delegate in FEBS and serving as a member of the FEBS Education Committee.

Prof. Constantin (Costas) Drainas was born in Athens in 1950 and graduated from the Department of Biology, University of Patras, Greece, in 1972. He received his PhD from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK, in 1978, under the supervision of Prof. J. A. Pateman, for work on the metabolism of L-asparagine in *Aspergillus nidulans*. As a post-doctoral fellow he worked in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA, USA, on the metabolism of arginine in *Neurospora crassa* with Prof. R. L. Weiss. He then moved to the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK, supported by an EMBO long-term fellowship, to work on glutamate metabolism in *Aspergillus nidulans* with Dr J. R. Kinghorn. In 1982 he was appointed Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina, and became Professor of Biochemical-Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology in 1997.

In his academic career he focused on both basic and applied research in the biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics of microorganisms of industrial and environmental interest. More specifically, he studied osmoregulation mechanisms and worked on the development of gene transfer and reporter systems for microorganisms of industrial or environmental interest, as well as on the development of genetic tools for studying gene expression. He also conducted research on conjugal mobilization mechanisms in bacteria, molecular classification of microorganisms involved in biodegradation of pollutants, membrane lipid metabolism in microorganisms, and biochemical and genetic regulation of new metabolic pathways of xenobiotic compounds. His significant contributions in these fields resulted in the publication of over 65 papers in peer-reviewed international journals.

Prof. Drainas played an active and important role in organizing biochemical education at the University



of Ioannina. He taught many undergraduate classes in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and evolutionary biology in the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Applications and Technologies, as well as post-graduate seminars on the biotechnology of microorganisms. He supervised a large number of students, many of whom followed in his footsteps and developed successful scientific careers. He also played a prominent role in the administration of the University of Ioannina, serving over the years in numerous positions, including Member of the Senate, Director of the Sector of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Deputy Director of the Department of Chemistry, and Member of the Research Committee. Outside the University, Prof. Drainas served as the National Representative to the DGXII of the European Union and as a member of the Council of Research and Technology of Greece.

Prof. Drainas was a distinguished member of the HSBMB. He was first elected as a member of the Board in 1994 and served as President during 2003–2005 and from 2007 until his death. As President of the Society he hosted the very successful 33rd FEBS Congress and 11th IUBMB Conference in Athens in 2008. He was also an active member of FEBS, representing the HSBMB on several occasions and serving as a member of the Education Committee.

The European biochemical community is deeply grieved by the loss of Prof. Drainas and will always remember him not only for his outstanding scientific contributions but also for his warm and remarkable personality.

*HSBMB Secretariat*



It was with great sorrow that we learned about the sudden and tragic loss of Costas Drainas on 5th July 2011. He was last with us at the latest FEBS Council Meeting in Torino (30th June – 1st July). As usual, he contributed positively and significantly to the discussions. My last communication with him was just the evening before the tragic accident, when we discussed by email his potential European Union project on the clearance of pollution in the Black Sea waters using microbiological methods, for which he was looked for partners from other countries, including Turkey.

Costas was elected to the FEBS Education Committee in 2008 and was a very important member, supporting every activity sincerely and wholeheartedly. We greatly enjoyed working with him and learned a lot from him. He was cooperative, creative and stimulating in all our endeavours – demonstrating to us how collegiality and friendship intermingled can yield a fabulous result. He hosted the FEBS Education Workshop in Athens in 2010, showing excellent educational, collaborative, networking and organisational skills. He was dedicated to science and to education.

Costas was really a good friend to us all during his time on the Education Committee, and many of us knew him long before. He was sincere, honest, modest, and demonstrated exceptional human qualities; his caring attitude, support, friendliness and sense of humour will be sadly missed. We have realized the extent of his attachment to his family



Costas with members of the FEBS Education Committee in Turkey in 2009. From left: Karmela Barasic, Jason Perret, Miguel Castanho, Israel Pecht (FEBS Secretary General), Keith Elliott, Gül Güner-Akdoğan and Costas Drainas.

and to his colleagues. Below are some words from his beloved wife, Virginia Drainas:

*"It means so much to me that people will remember him. He was such a good person. He cared so much about his work and the future of science. He just still had so much to offer. It is so hard for me now to think he is gone. I know I have to be strong because he left me with three beautiful children and I have to be here for them. But I feel so bad that he won't be here to see their future."*

There are very few people in one's life that one can consider as really special, but Costas was indeed one of them. We have lost a distinguished colleague and a dear friend.

*Gül Güner-Akdoğan*  
Chair of FEBS Education Committee

## FEBS Support for Constituent Society Events

**FEBS National Lecture Awards** are intended to support plenary lectures that significantly enhance the quality of a scientific meeting, symposium or annual national scientific meeting of a Constituent Society. For more details go to <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=460>

The **FEBS 3+ Meeting Programme** supports scientific meetings organized through collaboration of at least three FEBS Constituent Societies. These events should be scientific meetings with symposia and colloquia corresponding to the format of an annual national scientific meeting of a Constituent Society. For more details go to <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=624>

# the FEBS Journal

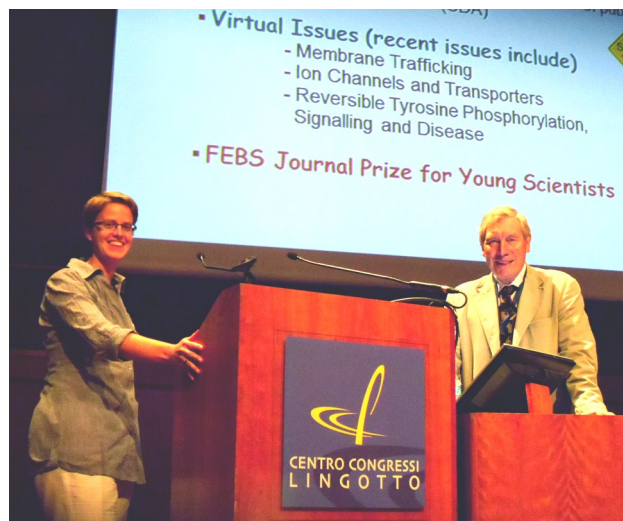
## Dear Fellow Scientists,

The latest ISI journal Impact Factors have recently been published. We were pleased to note a small but significant increase in the *FEBS Journal* IF to 3.129. The IF is a very blunt instrument for judging journals, and the longevity of articles is an important aspect too often overlooked. The lasting merit of papers published in the *European Journal of Biochemistry/FEBS Journal* is reflected in the citation half-life, which has been given as just over nine years, longer than almost all other journals appealing to a broad readership in molecular biology and biochemistry.

*FEBS Journal* is an attractive choice for your next submission. The key features of the journal include: an exceptionally rapid publication process (good papers can appear in three months); referees and an Editorial Office with a reputation for fairness and helpfulness; user-friendly online submission and refereeing; free colour figures and no page charges. By submitting your paper to the journal, you are helping to support all the activities of FEBS, which depend on the income from its journals.

## 36th FEBS Congress, Torino, June 2011

The winner of the 2010 *FEBS Journal* Prize for Young Scientists – Karen van Eunen from the Department of Pediatrics, Center for Liver, Digestive and Metabolic Disease, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands – described her prize-winning work at the FEBS Publications Awards Plenary Session at the FEBS Congress 2011 in Torino. She was warmly congratulated by the Editor-in-Chief Richard Perham and received the prize of €10,000.



## Podcasts

Listen to the latest podcasts from *FEBS Journal* via <http://www.febsjournal.org/podcasts.asp> or on iTunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/febs-federation-european-biomedical/id439631367>

Podcasts are being recorded by the coordinators of minireview series published in the journal, explaining their contents and importance. Podcasts include:

- *Transient interactions in metalloproteins*: Dr Irene Díaz-Moreno, Instituto de Bioquímica Vegetal y Fotosíntesis, Universidad de Sevilla-CSIC, Spain
- *Regulatory roles of hyaluronan in health and disease*: Prof. Nikos Karamanos, Department of Chemistry, Laboratory of Biochemistry, University of Patras, Greece
- *Molecular aspects of Helicobacter pylori cag-pathogenicity island*: Prof. Giuseppe Zanotti, Venetian Institute of Molecular Medicine (VIMM), Padua, Italy
- *Macromolecular NMR spectroscopy*: Prof. Joel Mackay, School of Molecular Bioscience, University of Sydney, Australia

## Special Issues



Engineering Toxins for  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Therapies

Protein Structure and  
Proteomics

Papers that are appearing in our first two Special Issues, *Engineering Toxins for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Therapies* and *Protein Structure and Proteomics*, are available online on *FEBS Journal* EarlyView at [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1742-4658/earlyview](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1742-4658/earlyview) and via <http://www.febsjournal.org/specialissues.asp>. Both issues are being compiled and will appear soon.

Special Issues based on the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cytochrome P450 held in Manchester, UK, in July 2011 and on *Europhosphatases 2011* held in Baden, Germany, in July 2011 are in the pipeline for publication in 2012.



## New Virtual Issue

Virtual Issues compiled by our Editors are a valuable resource for readers, giving them quick and easy access to key papers in selected areas of research.

We are looking forward to a new Virtual Issue on *Immunology* compiled by Peter Parham, which will be available soon on the *FEBS Journal* Virtual Issues webpage <http://www.febsjournal.org/vi.asp?ref=1742-464x>

## Reviews and Minireview Series

Recent reviews and minireview series published in *FEBS Journal* are listed below. Reviews and minireviews can be read online and downloaded

free of charge from the time of publication. Go to the *FEBS Journal* online website

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1742-4658/issues](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1742-4658/issues)

or via a hotlink from the *FEBS Journal* website <http://www.febsjournal.org>

With best wishes from us all at *FEBS Journal*,

Richard Perham, Editor-in-Chief  
Vanessa Wilkinson, Editorial Manager  
Judith Madeley, Acting Deputy Editorial Manager  
Ann-Marie Bruyns, Deputy Editorial Manager  
Giannina Bartlett, Editorial Assistant  
Juanita Goossens-Roach, Editorial Assistant

### Recent *FEBS Journal* Reviews (2011, Vol. 278/12 to Vol. 278/19):

*Seeking the determinants of the elusive functions of Sco proteins*, I. Bertini, L. Banci, G. Cavallaro & S. Ciofi-Baffoni (Vol. 278/13)

*Mechanisms of amyloid fibril formation – focus on domain-swapping*, E. Žerovnik, V. Stoka, A. Mirtič, G. Ginčar, J. Grdadolnik, R. Staniforth, D. Turk & V. Turk (Vol. 278/13)

*Enzymatic features of glucose metabolism in tumor cells*, H. Holzhütter, A. Herling, M. König & S. Bulik (Vol. 278/14)

*Unique modifications of translation elongation factors*, P. Bütikofer, E. Greganova & M. Altmann (Vol. 278/15)

*Flavogenomics – a genomic and structural view of flavin-dependent proteins*, P. Macheroux, B. Kappes & S. Ealick (Vol. 278/15)

*Molecular basis of glyphosate resistance – different approaches through protein engineering*, L. Pollegioni, E. Schonbrunn & D. Siehl (Vol. 278/16)

*Applications and trends in systems biology in biochemistry*, U. Kummer, K. Hübner & S. Sahle (Vol. 278/16)

*Dipeptidyl peptidase III: a multifaceted oligopeptide N-end cutter*, S. Chauhan & S. Prajapati (Vol. 278/18)

*Shuttling SR proteins: more than splicing factors*, V. Kruys, L. Twyffels & C. Gueydan (Vol. 278/18)

*Barnase and binase: twins with distinct fates*, V. Ulyanova, V. Vershinina & O. Ilinskaya (Vol. 278/19)

### Recent *FEBS Journal* Minireview Series (2011, Vol. 278/12 to Vol. 278/19):

*Tec family kinases*, introduced and coordinated by Liang Yu & C.I. Edvard Smith (Vol. 278/12)

*Chromatin structure at active genes*, introduced and coordinated by Colyn Crane-Robinson (Vol. 278/13)

*Bacterial inclusion bodies as active and dynamic protein ensembles*, introduced and coordinated by Marina Lotti (Vol. 278/14)

*The dynein microtubule motor: architecture and force generation, cellular roles of dynein light chain DYNLL and role of dynein during virus infection*, introduced and coordinated by Ignacio Rodriguez-Crespo (Vol. 278/17)

*The ABC of ABCs: multidrug resistance and genetic diseases*, introduced and coordinated by Karl Kuchler (Vol. 278/18)

*TDP-43*, introduced and coordinated by Francisco Baralle & Emanuele Buratti (Vol. 278/19)

*Chromatin remodelling: the why, when and how?* introduced and coordinated by Rolf Blossey & Christopher Lavalley (Vol. 278/19)

# FEBS Letters

## Dear Fellow Scientists,

In the past few months, *FEBS Letters* has gone through some changes and exciting events. Most notably, Patricia McCabe left the Editorial Office after serving as Editorial Manager for seven years. Patricia was instrumental in the development of important features of the journal, such as Structured Digital Abstracts and Special Issues, as well as managing the Editorial Office and the relationship with our publisher, Elsevier. We are sad to lose such a valuable member of our team and can only wish Patricia all the best in her future professional career. For editorial consistency and to rationalize our resources, Aleksander Benjak was appointed as Editorial Manager. Also, to better reflect the actual roles and duties within the journal, Daniela Ruffell was appointed as Editor and all the members of the Editorial Board as Academic Editors. We are confident that these changes will allow us to better meet all the current and future editorial challenges.

## Editorial Board Meeting 2011

Just before the summer, the *FEBS Letters* Editorial Board met in Heidelberg, Germany, to analyse and discuss recent developments and future activities of the journal. After the inevitable review of some statistical and performance data, we focused, with the help of a professional strategy advisor, on objectives and strategies that should be implemented in the future developments of the journal. Several exciting ideas were put forward and we hope we will be able to report their successful implementation in the near future.

## Impact Factor 2010

We were pleased to see that the latest *FEBS Letters* IF has increased to 3.601. The IF has been steadily increasing over the past few years, which can be attributed to a more comprehensive editorial policy, as well as a more stringent pre-selection of submitted papers by the Editorial Office staff. We are also confident that our efforts will promote this positive trend in the future.

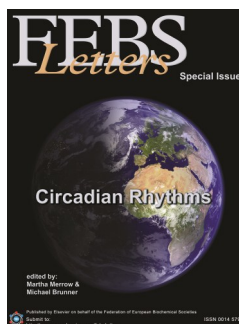
## Young Group Leader Award 2010

As you surely have already heard, the *FEBS Letters* Young Group Leader Award was awarded to Dr Shiro Suetsugu, Tokyo, Japan, for his paper *Mapping*

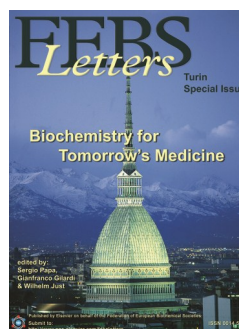
*of the basic amino-acid residues responsible for tubulation and cellular protrusion by the EFC/F-BAR domain of pacsin2/Syndapin II*, *FEBS Lett.* 584 (6), 1111–1118 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.febslet.2010.02.058>). Shiro received the award at the 36th FEBS Congress in Torino in June 2011, where he gave a plenary lecture about his work in front of a full plenary hall. The *FEBS Letters* Young Group Leader Award, consisting of a €10,000 cheque, is given to an independent scientist, aged 40 years or younger, who is the corresponding author of an outstanding research letter published in the previous calendar year (<http://www.febsletters.org/content/younggroupleader>).

## Special Issues

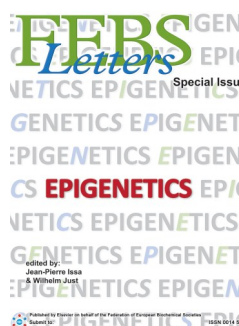
Also worthy of attention are the recent Special Issues published by the journal:



*Circadian Rhythms*  
edited by Martha Merrow and  
Michael Brunner  
*FEBS Lett.* 584 (10)



*Turin Special Issue: Biochemistry  
for Tomorrow's Medicine*  
edited by Sergio Papa,  
Gianfranco Gilardi and  
Wilhelm Just  
*FEBS Lett.* 584 (11)



*Epigenetics*  
edited by Jean-Pierre Issa  
and Wilhelm Just,  
*FEBS Lett.* 584 (13)

As always, we look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

Best wishes,

Felix Wieland, Managing Editor  
Aleksander Benjak, Editorial Manager  
Daniela Ruffell, Editor  
Anne Rougeaux, Editorial Assistant

## Molecular Oncology

### Dear Fellow Scientists,

This has been the most successful year for *Molecular Oncology* by any measure – number of submissions, downloads, or article views – and with our ISI Impact Factor rising to 4.25 from 2.665 in 2010, we can be increasingly selective in choosing the manuscripts that we believe will have a significant impact in the field and ultimately benefit cancer patients.

One of the aims of the journal is to provide the scientific community with a coherent body of reviews to address timely topics, often combined into thematic issues. *Molecular Oncology* also aims to influence the political agenda in translational cancer research by promoting current and near-future political news and debate. In line with these aims, we would like to highlight here a thematic issue on ‘Genetic Instability and Cancer’, and a report on the upcoming European Union’s Framework Programme 8. Both can be accessed through the journal homepage at <http://moloncol.com/>

### Thematic Issue

Some of the most actively pursued research areas in cancer are those of DNA damage and genetic instability as these lie at the heart of cancer development. A special issue of *Molecular Oncology* on ‘Genetic Instability and Cancer’ edited by Jiri Bartek highlights current research trends in this field. The eight articles contributed to this thematic issue by recognized international experts provide authoritative overviews of various aspects of the field of DNA damage responses and genetic (in)stability from both basic biology and translational research standpoints.

The emphasis is on illustrating recent advances in some of the most rapidly evolving directions of cancer research in this area, rather than attempting to cover the entire field. The fundamental topics covered by the individual contributions include the roles of replication stress and endogenous DNA damage in cancer pathogenesis and genetic instability, novel insights into the functions of p53 and the related network of cancer-associated genes, the role of centrosomes in genetic instability, chromatin response to DNA damage, the resistance of cancer (glioma) stem cells to radiation, and DDR kinases and PARP as targets of inhibitors in cancer treatment.



### News&Views

A key feature of *Molecular Oncology* is to provide an international forum for debating cancer issues, and for integrating the input of all stakeholders. In this respect the journal regularly publishes News&Views articles addressing timely issues of interest. Worthy of attention is a News&Views just published in the journal: ‘On the Horizon: Europe’s next round of science funding’, by Michael Dumiak. The report assesses the Framework Programme 8 – now to be called Horizon 2020 – that is currently in mid-stage development in Brussels.

Looking forward to receiving your manuscripts. With best wishes from us at *Molecular Oncology*,  
Julio E. Celis, Editor-in-Chief  
José Moreira, Managing Editor  
Dorte Holst Pedersen, Editorial Assistant



## Announcing the new open access journal from FEBS...

FEBS Open Bio has been developed as the online platform for the rapid publication of articles in the molecular and cellular life sciences in both health and disease.

All articles will undergo full peer review by a distinguished editorial board, with acceptance criteria focused on sound science. All papers will be open access and available online.

We are inviting all authors to submit their latest experimental findings, critical analysis, methodological and technical innovations and hypotheses. Novel or innovative work is encouraged.

The costs of production are covered by a publication charge of €1200.

Find out more at <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/febsopenbio>



## WWW of Upcoming Events

**What:** EMBO|EMBL Symposium: Structure and Dynamics of Protein Networks

**When:** October 13–15, 2011

**Where:** EMBL Heidelberg, Germany

[www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2011/EES11-03/index.html](http://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2011/EES11-03/index.html)

**What:** Joint Meeting European Society of Microcirculation and German Society of Microcirculation and Vascular Biology (GfMVB) 2011

**When:** October 13–16, 2011

**Where:** Munich, Germany

[www.microcirculation2011.de](http://www.microcirculation2011.de)

**What:** World Conference on Regenerative Medicine

**When:** November 2–4, 2011

**Where:** Leipzig, Germany

[www.wcrm-leipzig.de/download/WRM\\_Eckdaten\\_2011.pdf](http://www.wcrm-leipzig.de/download/WRM_Eckdaten_2011.pdf)

**What:** Workshop on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education (FEBS Education Committee, hosted by the Slovenian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

**When:** November 3–4, 2011

**Where:** Boardroom of Biotechnical Faculty, Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Further information:

Blaz Cigic, Workshop Coordinator: [blaz.cigic@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:blaz.cigic@bf.uni-lj.si)

**What:** 12th EMBO/EMBL Science and Society Conference:

Making Sense of Mental Illness: Biology, Medicine and Society

**When:** November 4–5, 2011

**Where:** EMBL Heidelberg, Germany

[www.embl.de/training/events/2011/SNS11-01/index.html](http://www.embl.de/training/events/2011/SNS11-01/index.html)

**What:** A Biochemical Society Workshop: RNA control mechanisms in development and stress

**When:** November 22, 2011

**Where:** London, UK

[www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/WS006/Default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/WS006/Default.aspx)

**What:** A Biochemical Society Workshop: Quantitative proteomics and data analysis training day and workshop

**When:** November 28–29, 2011

**Where:** London, UK

[www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/WS007/Default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/WS007/Default.aspx)

**What:** Cell Polarity in Health and Disease Workshop

**When:** November 28–29, 2011

**Where:** Oxford, UK

[www.ludwig.ox.ac.uk/events/cellpolarity/](http://www.ludwig.ox.ac.uk/events/cellpolarity/)

**What:** A Biochemical Society Hot Topic Event: Nrf2 signalling in health and disease

**When:** December 1, 2011

**Where:** London, UK

[www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/HT002/Default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/HT002/Default.aspx)

**What:** A Biochemical Society Hot Topic Event: Keeping the engine clean: role of mitophagy in physiology and pathology

**When:** December 6, 2011

**Where:** London, UK

[www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/HT003/Default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/HT003/Default.aspx)

**What:** The Biochemical Society Annual Symposium: Frontiers in biological catalysis

**When:** January 10–12, 2012

**Where:** Cambridge, UK

[www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/Sa127/Default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Conferences/AllConferences/tabid/379/View/Conference/Filter/45WS/MeetingNo/Sa127/Default.aspx)

**What:** Advances and Controversies in B-Vitamins and Choline 2012

**When:** March 5–8, 2012

**Where:** Leipzig, Germany

[www.b-vitamins-conference.de](http://www.b-vitamins-conference.de)

**What:** 22nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology

**When:** March 14–17, 2012

**Where:** Essen, Germany

[www.virology2012.de](http://www.virology2012.de)

**What:** 4th International Congress on Cell Membranes and Oxidative Stress: Focus on Calcium Signaling and TRP Channels

**When:** June 26–29, 2012

**Where:** Isparta, Turkey

[www.cmos.org.tr/2012](http://www.cmos.org.tr/2012)

**See also the listings of FEBS Advanced Courses for 2012, on page 14 of this issue of *FEBS News* and at <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=649>**

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## Positions available

### PhD Studentship

#### Studying protein folding at single molecule level with optical tweezers

**Location:** Department of Physics, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

**Field(s):** Physics, Biophysics

**Application deadline:** October 15<sup>th</sup> 2011

**Contact:** Dr. Ciro Cecconi, <http://www.nano.cnr.it/?mod=peo&id=67>:

**Email:** [ciro.cecconi@gmail.com](mailto:ciro.cecconi@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (+39) 059 205-5328,

**Address:** CNR-Istituto Nanoscienze S3, Department of Physics, University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Via Campi 213/A 41125 Modena, Italy

#### Description:

Advances in single molecule manipulation techniques have recently made it possible to revisit protein folding with a new approach. A novel method has been developed to study protein folding with optical tweezers (1). In these experiments, individual proteins are directly manipulated and their response to force characterized in terms of different parameters, such as: i) deformability of the native state, ii) magnitude of the forces holding together secondary and tertiary structures, iii) unfolding and refolding trajectories, iv) anisotropy of the protein's energy landscape, v) thermodynamics and kinetics of the interconversion between different molecular states. These studies have uncovered information previously inaccessible to more traditional ensemble techniques (2, 3).

At the Department of Physics of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia we are now seeking a motivated PhD student willing to undertake research in this field. The PhD appointment is for a period of three years. Candidates should have a B.S. or M.S. in physics or related fields.

For further details please contact Dr. Ciro Cecconi.

Applicants should send their resumes (including email address) to Dr. Ciro Cecconi ([ciro.cecconi@gmail.com](mailto:ciro.cecconi@gmail.com)).

#### References

- 1) Cecconi, C., Shank, E., Marqusee, S., Bustamante, C., "Protein-DNA chimeras for single molecule mechanical folding studies with the optical tweezers." *European Biophysics Journal*, 37 (6), 729-738 (2008).
- 2) Cecconi, C., Shank, E., Bustamante, C., Marqusee, S., "Direct Observation of the Three-State Folding of a Single Protein Molecule." *Science*, 309, 2057-2060, (2005).
- 3) Shank, E., Cecconi, C., Dill, J., Marqusee, S., Bustamante, C., "The folding cooperativity of a protein is controlled by the topology of its polypeptide chain", *Nature* 465 (7298), 637-641, (2010).

### Postdoctoral Position

#### Involvement of novel G protein signaling mechanisms in the molecular basis of disease

**Location:** Boston University, Department of Biochemistry, <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/biochemistry/>

**Contact:** Mikel Garcia-Marcos, PhD. Assistant Professor.

Email: [mikel.garcia.marcos@gmail.com](mailto:mikel.garcia.marcos@gmail.com)

**Application deadline:** Open until filled

**Starting date:** Flexible starting from Feb 2012

#### Description:

Our lab is interested in understanding how dysregulation of heterotrimeric G protein signaling underlies the molecular basis of disease. We have recently discovered a novel mechanism by which heterotrimeric G proteins are regulated to control cell migration, mitosis and autophagy (1-4). Dysregulation of molecular players in this mechanism is involved in the development of cancer metastasis (2, 5-7). We are actively pursuing (8) the identification and characterization of a novel family of G protein regulators and its role in physiology and disease by using a combination of bioinformatics, genetic screens, molecular biology, biochemistry and cell biology. We are also attempting to develop a novel therapeutic strategy for cancer metastasis by targeting this novel G protein regulatory mechanism.

We are seeking highly motivated candidates with a PhD in a field related to biomedicine (Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Structural Biology, etc) to fill one postdoctoral position. 1-year renewable contracts. Salary per NIH scale, applicants with independent funding will be supplemented above that.

#### References

1. Garcia-Marcos, M., *et al.* (2009). *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 106: 3178-3183.
2. Ghosh, P., *et al.* (2010). *Mol Biol Cell* 21: 2338-2354.
3. Garcia-Marcos, M., *et al.* (2011). *Mol Biol Cell* 22: 673-686.
4. Garcia-Marcos, M., *et al.* (2010). *J Biol Chem* 285: 12765-12777.
5. Garcia-Marcos, M., *et al.* (2011). *Faseb J* 25: 590-599.
6. Ghosh, P., *et al.* (2011). *Cell Adh Migr* 5: 237-248.
7. Lin, C., *et al.* (2011). Tyrosine phosphorylated GIV/Girdin binds and activates PI3-Kinase During Cell Migration. *Science Signalling* In press.
8. Garcia-Marcos, M., *et al.* (2011). *J Biol Chem* 286: 28138-28149.

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## Positions available

### **Postdoctoral Position in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology**

The Institute of Life Sciences from the University of Louvain offers a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in the field of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology.

With 21000 students and 5000-member staff, the University of Louvain is the largest university of the French speaking part of Belgium. The university was created in 1425 and moved in 1975 to a new location, Louvain-la-Neuve. Located 30 km south of Brussels, this city is one of the most recent towns in Europe. Louvain-la-Neuve is hailed as an achievement, combining modernity with tradition, inspired by the layout of mediaeval university towns.

The Institute of Life Sciences (<http://www.uclouvain.be/en-isv.html>) brings together more than 150 research staffs working in the field of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology. This Institute runs several technical platforms, such as DNA sequencing, transcriptomics, FACS, confocal microscopy, proteomics, and mass spectrometry.

Applicants should first identify a potential supervisor among the Institute group leaders who are listed at <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-270780.html>. This site also describes the research topics of the group leaders. Applicants should contact a potential supervisor and send him/her a letter of motivation, their CV and names and contact addresses for three references. The potential supervisor will make his/her own selection and transmit the selected application to the Institute selection committee.

Deadline for contacting a supervisor is November 15, 2011. Deadline for submitting the application to the Institute selection committee through the supervisor is December the 1<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The final decision will be taken before the end of December 2011. The fellowship can start any time from January 1<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Net monthly allowance will vary between 2,105 and 2,263 Euros per month according to experience.

Applicants should hold a PhD in the field of biology at large with no more than four years of postdoctoral experience and no previous employment in Belgium. They should have a solid background in biochemistry, molecular biology and/or cell biology and at least one publication as first author in an international journal.

### **Do you have an academic position to advertise?**

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