



FEBS News

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*IUBMB–FEBS Congress, Sevilla;
September 2012*

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FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

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**A MESSAGE FROM FEBS TO ALL MEMBERS
OF ITS CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES****WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO PUBLISH YOUR
PAPERS IN OUR JOURNALS**

FEBS has twin commitments to high-quality publications and the promotion of molecular biosciences. FEBS owns all its publications, from *FEBS Journal* to *FEBS Letters*, *Molecular Oncology* and *FEBS Open Bio*. They are published on our behalf by Wiley-Blackwell and Elsevier, who return most of the revenue to FEBS, which, as a not-for-profit academic organization, ploughs all the income into funding our diverse activities: FEBS fellowships; advanced courses and workshops; congresses; and aiding researchers in poorer countries. By publishing in FEBS journals and taking part in reviewing, you are both supporting high-quality science and helping provide an essential income stream to fund education and research. The proliferation of open access journals with ill-defined standards of peer review makes it more important than ever to publish in journals that bear the stamp of respected organizations and publishers.



Cover: Over 2450 participants from 73 different countries gathered in Sevilla, Spain, in early September for the annual FEBS Congress (joint 22nd IUBMB and 37th FEBS Congress). The cover photo captures the evening Welcome Reception at the spectacular waterfall-backed plaza of FIBES, the Congress venue. More photos from the Congress can be viewed via a link on the IUBMB–FEBS Congress [website](#).

About FEBS News:

FEBS News is published three or four times a year. Email alerts containing a link to *FEBS News* are sent to subscribers and to FEBS Constituent Societies 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 35,000 members, FEBS offers **FREE** advertising of academic positions (PhD students, postdocs, etc.) and scientific events in this newsletter and on our website.

Questions and suggestions about *FEBS News* should be sent to the *FEBS News* Editor, Carolyn Ellis (elliss@febs.org).

The 22nd IUBMB and 37th FEBS Congress Sevilla, 2012



The joint 22nd IUBMB and 37th FEBS Congress was held from 4th to 9th September 2012 in Sevilla, Spain. The meeting was organized by the Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM), along with the Portuguese Society for Biochemistry (SPB) as a partner society.

The main theme of the Congress was 'From Single Molecules to Systems Biology'. Recent spectacular advances in '-omic' disciplines and information technology have led to multidisciplinary and integration becoming key features of post-genomic and proteomic research. Genes, gene products, their regulatory networks and their interactions with their environment must be analysed not only at the molecular level, but also as components of higher-order structures, metabolic pathways or entire cells and organisms. This branch of research, termed 'Systems Biology', combines concepts in a holistic approach from molecular biology, engineering sciences, mathematics and information technology to complex biological systems such as living cells.

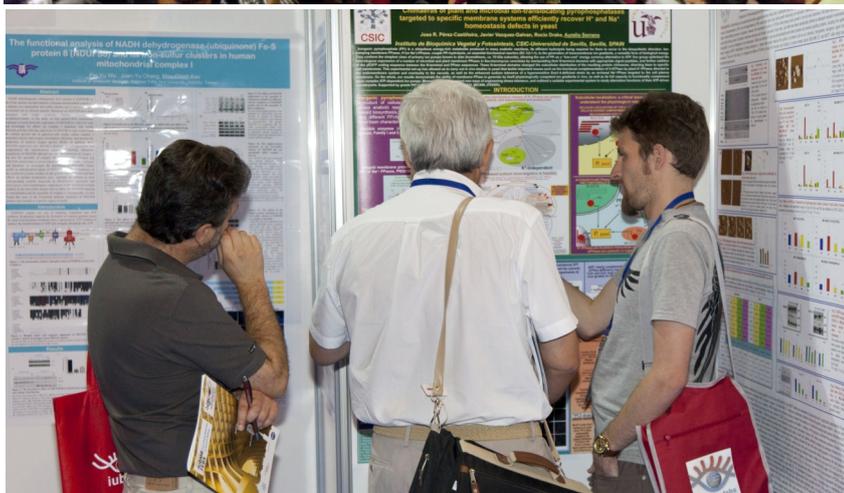
We would like to praise the excellent scientific level of all abstracts submitted. With a total of 1990 abstracts approved, 1703 posters and 122 oral

communications were presented. We would also like to highlight the awarding of registration fee waivers to 498 PhD students and young scientists.

The Congress brought together 2454 participants and 59 exhibitors from 73 different countries spanning five continents. Events and speakers reflected great geographical diversity as well as the important contributions made by both sexes. See page 5 for a list of the top participating countries. The female:male participant ratio was 55:45.

A total of 20 plenary lectures (including those of six Nobel Laureates) and 137 symposium and workshop lectures were delivered by internationally renowned experts in their fields. Of particular note is that both the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and the European Research Council (ERC) organized sessions during the Congress, thus strengthening FEBS' links and collaboration with these major European science organizations.

The program of the meeting followed the standard format for typical FEBS and IUBMB Congresses, with morning and evening sessions running over six days. Additionally, it incorporated



the main events of the SEBBM Congress, including the meetings of its 20 scientific groups and lectures delivered by researchers from Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

As local organizers, we intended to add value to the Congress experience by developing new ideas and creating novel activities, such as the ‘Biochemistry in Cuisine’ presentation to show scientific principles underlying modern gastronomy, the ‘Guided Poster Tour’ to facilitate the exchange between speakers and poster presenters, and the ‘Portrait Gallery’ to honour 24 outstanding female scientists. Also worth a special mention is the ‘Abstract Search Online Service’ by which all approved abstracts were made available on the official website about a month prior to the Congress, allowing participants to comfortably decide in advanced which posters to visit and which presentations to attend. Other novel services such as the Conference App, the Child Care at the venue, and the Poster Printing On Site were also very much appreciated.

Immediately prior to the Congress, the 12th FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum was held as a joint event with the IUBMB Young Scientist Program, and also along with the FEBS Fellows’ Forum for the first time, involving 150 outstanding young scientists – see pages 8–11 for full reports of these events.

With the goal of bringing science closer to a wider audience, a number of activities took place under the umbrella of the ‘Biochemistry in the City’ initiative – namely two ‘Round-Tables Open to the Public’ (one on cancer and one on functional food), a course

From top:
 Opening Lecture from Helga Nowotny, President of the European Research Council; poster session; meeting with Nobel Laureates, sponsored by the local newspaper Diario de Sevilla – from left, Ferid Murad, Ada Yonath, (Miguel A. De la Rosa, Chair of Organizing Committee), Hamilton Smith, Robert Huber, Venki Ramakrishnan; ‘Genes in a bottle’ – Biochemistry in the City.

 Spain	1023	 South Korea	43
 Turkey	123	 United States	43
 Portugal	105	 Chile	29
 Poland	104	 Romania	29
 Italy	79	 Hungary	26
 United Kingdom	76	 Australia	24
 Russia	73	 Switzerland	21
 Japan	64	 Serbia	20
 Brazil	52	 Greece	20
 Germany	58	 Sweden	19
 Czech Republic	50	 Israel	18
 France	47	 Netherlands	18

Table: Top 20 countries by number of participants.

entitled ‘And You? Me, a Biochemist!’ to encourage high-school students to study science at university, and the science for nonscientists activity ‘Genes in a bottle’ where passers-by could isolate DNA molecules from a buccal swab. In addition, a ‘Meeting with Nobel Laureates’ was held at a downtown hotel with the aim of making people realize how crucial science is for future development of a knowledge-based economy.

Under the theme ‘From Single Molecules to Systems Biology’, we hope to have fulfilled delegates’ expectations by providing a quality program and a good arena for expanding knowledge and networking.

*Miguel A. De la Rosa, Chair of Organizing Committee
Irene Díaz-Moreno, Secretary of Organizing Committee*



Congress organizers and assistants: (from right) Idalino Rocha, Chair’s Office; Miguel A. De la Rosa, Chair of Organizing Committee; Jesús Angulo, Member of Organizing Committee; Irene Díaz-Moreno, Secretary of Organizing Committee; Antonio Díaz-Quintana, Treasurer of Organizing Committee; Joan Guinovart, Chair of Scientific Committee; volunteers.

FEBS Diplôme d’Honneur (Sevilla, 2012)

During the opening ceremony of the IUBMB–FEBS Congress, the FEBS Diplôme d’Honneur was awarded to Prof. Federico Mayor-Zaragoza from Spain, in recognition of his efforts promoting collaboration among biochemists and molecular biologists in Europe. Prof. Mayor-Zaragoza was Director General of UNESCO for many years (1987–1999) and is currently Chairman of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace. He was the founding Chair of the FEBS Science and Society Committee, led the Initiative for Science in Europe, and was instrumental in efforts that culminated in the establishment of the European Research Council.



Prof. Federico Mayor-Zaragoza (left) receiving the FEBS Diplôme d’Honneur from Prof. Israel Pecht, FEBS Secretary General

The FEBS Diplôme d’Honneur was instituted on the 10th Anniversary of FEBS to honour biochemists and molecular biologists who had given outstanding service to FEBS.

FEBS Medal Winners (Sevilla, 2012)

The Theodor Bücher Medal, the Datta Medal and the Sir Hans Krebs Medal are awarded by FEBS for outstanding achievements in biochemistry, molecular biology or related areas. The medals are presented at the annual FEBS Congress, where the recipients deliver a plenary lecture. This year's medals were awarded at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress to: Prof. Christian Griesinger, Max Planck Institut für Biophysikalische Chemie, Göttingen, Germany (Theodor Bücher medal); Ada Yonath, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel (Datta Medal); and Venki Ramakrishnan, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK (Sir Hans Krebs Medal).



Prof. Dr Christian Griesinger works on methods development of NMR spectroscopy and its application to problems in structural chemistry as well as biology. After studying chemistry and physics at Frankfurt University, Germany, he did a PhD with Horst Kessler in Frankfurt and then post-doctoral work with Richard Ernst in Zürich, Switzerland. He was a Professor for organic chemistry in Frankfurt from 1990 till 2001 and then moved to Göttingen, Germany, as a Director at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry. His current interests are studying mechanisms of molecular recognition of proteins, protein dynamics in general, small-molecule configuration, structural biology of membrane signalling and neurodegeneration, and medicinal chemistry for neurodegeneration.



Congress plenary lecture: *Fuzziness of globular and aggregating proteins in neurodegeneration: an NMR spectroscopic view*

Prof. Ada Yonath earned her PhD at the Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS), Israel, and completed her post-doctoral studies at Carnegie Mellon University and MIT in the USA. In the 1970s she established the first laboratory for protein crystallography in Israel and is WIS Kimmel Professor of structural biology and the Director of the Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly. In parallel, during 1986–2004 she directed the Max Planck Research Unit for Ribosome Structure in Hamburg, Germany. She studies protein biosynthesis, focusing on ribosomes – particularly antibiotic action and mechanisms underlying resistance to antibiotics, thus revealing paths for structure-based drug improvements.



Congress plenary lecture: *Life: expectancies and origins*

Prof. Venki Ramakrishnan has had a longstanding interest in ribosome structure and function. He was born in India and moved to the USA in 1971 to pursue graduate studies, before finally moving to England in 1999, where he is on the scientific staff of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. In 2000, his laboratory determined the atomic structure of the 30S ribosomal subunit and its complexes with ligands and antibiotics. In the past few years, Ramakrishnan's lab has published high-resolution structures of functional complexes of the entire ribosome during decoding, peptidyl transfer, translocation and termination. This work has led to insights into how the ribosome 'reads' the genetic code, as well as into various aspects of antibiotic function.



Congress plenary lecture: *Decoding mRNA and quality control by the ribosome*

The Theodor Bücher Lecture and Medal is endowed by a generous capital gift from Frau Ingrid Bücher to the Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie (GBM) and is awarded for outstanding achievements in biochemistry and molecular biology or related sciences.

The Datta Lectureship Award is provided by generous capital gifts from Elsevier Science Publishers and is awarded for outstanding achievement in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology or a related area. The award is normally presented at each FEBS Congress to a plenary lecturer from one of the FEBS countries. S. Prakash Datta was the first Managing Editor of FEBS Letters (1968–1985) and Treasurer of FEBS (1964–1990). The Datta Medal is awarded in recognition of his many contributions.

The Sir Hans Krebs Lecture and Medal was endowed by a generous gift from the Lord Rank Centre for Research and is awarded for outstanding achievements in biochemistry and molecular biology or related sciences.



FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award 2012

The FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award was presented to Prof. Susan Gasser, Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland. Susan Gasser's career path and research were featured in the June 2012 of *FEBS News*, and her plenary lecture at the Sevilla 2012 Congress is mentioned on page 11 of this issue.

Congress plenary lecture: *The formation and sequestration of heterochromatin during development*

The FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award rewards the exceptional achievements of a female researcher in the life sciences over the previous five years. Winners of the award are role models who inspire future generations of women in science. The award is a statuette and a sum of €10,000.



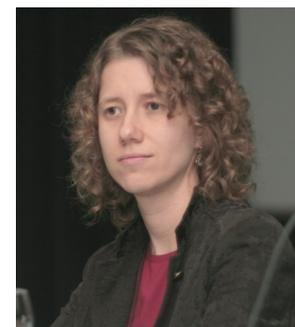
FEBS Anniversary Prizes (Sevilla, 2012)

FEBS Anniversary Prize winners are selected for their outstanding achievements in biochemistry, molecular biology or related areas from among researchers under the age of 40 who are invited to give a lecture at a FEBS Congress. The awardees from the IUBMB–FEBS Congress are **Prof. Claudio Hetz** (Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile) and **Prof. Alicia Kowaltowski** (Departamento de Bioquímica, Instituto de Química, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil).

Following initial training in Biotechnology at the University of Chile, **Prof. Claudio Hetz** studied for his PhD at Serono Pharmaceutical Research Institute, Switzerland, and carried out post-doctoral work at Harvard University, USA. He is currently Full Professor at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Chile and adjunct Professor at Harvard. His research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of protein folding stress, its relationship to pathological conditions affecting the nervous system, the generation of new animal models, and the development of prototypic strategies to prevent neuronal damage. His Congress talk presented an update of his efforts to understand the contribution of protein folding stress to neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Huntington's disease using genetic manipulation and mouse models.



Prof. Alicia J. Kowaltowski graduated in Medicine at the State University of Campinas, Brazil, and conducted her doctoral work there as well as at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, USA. After post-doctoral work at the Oregon Graduate Institute, she transferred to the University of São Paulo, Brazil, where she is currently a Full Professor. Her research is centred on understanding the interplay between mitochondrial energy metabolism and redox state in various physiological and pathological states. At the Congress, she presented data demonstrating that calorie restriction leads to an increase in mitochondrial mass and function due to enhanced levels of the hormone adiponectin, which activates nitric oxide signalling and promotes mitochondrial biogenesis. Interestingly, increased mitochondrial biogenesis results in enhanced neuronal survival, which may explain the neuroprotective effects of caloric restriction.



FEBS Anniversary Prizes were initiated by capital gifts from Boehringer Mannheim GmbH and Eppendorf Gerätebau Netheler & Hinz GmbH, and are awarded for outstanding achievements in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology, or related sciences. The prizewinners are selected by FEBS and the Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie (GBM) from among researchers under the age of 40 who are invited to give a lecture at one of the symposia or workshops held during a FEBS Congress. The award is a sum of €2,000.

FEBS Publications Annual Awards for Young Scientists 2012

The *FEBS Journal* prize for Young Scientists 2012 was awarded to Dr Rosemarie Carew from University College Dublin, Ireland; and the *FEBS Letters* Young Group Leader Award 2012 to Dr Megumi Funakoshi-Tago, Keio University, Japan. Both prizewinners delivered plenary lectures at the Sevilla 2012 Congress; read more about the awards and the prizewinners on page 20 (*FEBS Journal* prize) and page 22 (*FEBS Letters* prize).

The Young Scientists' Forum 2012 (YSP/12thYSF)



As Chair of the FEBS Working Group on the Careers of Young Scientists, it was extremely rewarding to witness the high level of engagement and scientific understanding at the young scientists' workshop preceding the IUBMB–FEBS 2012 Congress. This year the annual FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF) was merged with the IUBMB's Young Scientist Program (YSP), and was designated the YSP/12thYSF. The fantastic organization of the event reflected the hard work of its organizing committee, led by Irene Diaz-Moreno, who together certainly made the meeting a special one.

This event took place from 1st to 4th September 2012 in the nice resort of Costa Ballena (Cádiz, Spain), which provided a relaxing atmosphere that in consequence fostered an enthusiastic and stimulating environment. The attendance of 100 young scientists, selected from a total of 490 applicants, was supported by FEBS grants; in addition, 20 students, selected from a total of 108, were supported by IUBMB grants.

The 24 oral presentations were divided into six symposia: protein structure and dynamics; protein function; single molecules and system biology; signalling; gene regulation; and diseases. The new concept of one-minute presentations of participants' posters was very well received, and I hope will be incorporated into future YSFs. Two prizes were awarded: for the best oral presentation and for the best poster. The first one went to Sarah Diermeier from Germany, who gave a talk entitled 'Epigenomic Characterization of the

Structure–Function Relation in Chromatin' and the poster prize went to Karina Zillner, also from Germany, for her poster 'Single Molecule Analysis of DNA Methylation Patterns with Epi-combing'.

In addition to the sessions centred on research results, a round-table discussion was organized that dealt with careers, focusing on the various possibilities for funding of post-doctoral positions – with presentations from FEBS (the FEBS Fellowships Committee Chair Vicente Rubio, and me), EMBO (Andrea Hutterer) and Marie Curie Fellowships (Alan Craig). FEBS funding for the YSF comes from income from its publications – *FEBS Journal*, *FEBS Letters*, *Molecular Oncology* and *FEBS Open Bio* – and it was fitting therefore that there was also a presentation from Pura Muñoz Cánoves, an Editor of *FEBS Journal*, about publishing papers in these journals. In addition, Keith Elliott (FEBS Education Committee) gave a talk on 'Preparing your *Curriculum Vitae*: How to Make the Most of Yourself'; Stuart Levy (Center for Adaptation Genetics and Drug Resistance and the Department of Biology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, USA) spoke on 'Can an Academic be an Entrepreneur?'; and Mike Walsh (General Secretary of IUBMB) gave a personal view of his career and the need to work in different institutes and countries.

A new idea this year was a competition for FEBS-funded participants to write a brief report about their experience of the YSP/12thYSF for publication in

FEBS News. Nine reports were received, and the report by Karina Zillner was selected for publication (below); I should say, however, that we greatly appreciated the imaginative writing in many of the reports.

Next year, the 13th YSF will take place at the beautiful city of St Petersburg (Russia Federation), and we look forward to another outstanding event. Read more about plans for the 13th YSF on page 19.



Winners at the YSP/12thYSF: (left) Sarah Diermeier, who gave the winning oral presentation; (right) Karina Zillner, who had already won the best poster prize at the YSF, receiving a Kindle prize for her meeting report (an independently judged competition) from Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada. Both winners were from the University of Regensburg, Germany.

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

Connection through the scientist's tag

How do you recognize young travelling scientists from afar? Not only by their excitement, but also by their poster tube, the 'tag' that distinguishes them from other travellers. Therefore, getting to know the other fellows for the YSP/12thYSF meeting was easy and started already at the baggage claim in Sevilla. Although not all the bags arrived, the young fellows were happy to be a part of the upcoming event and to meet other passionate scientists from all around the world.

After registration in the beautiful spot of Costa Ballena, the abstract book revealed that although we had the poster tube in common everyone works on a different scientific field: protein biochemistry, structure biology, gene regulation... Not only the whole spectrum of nationalities was present at this conference, but also the whole spectrum of research topics. This was a challenging new experience and a contrast to the very specialized meetings young scientists normally attend.

Therefore, questions were on my mind: Help! I only had a few classes of structural biology when I was an undergraduate, so would I understand what the other researchers were going to talk about? Would my research be of interest for the other scientists? After the first session, all my concerns were gone. The speakers did an amazing job in presenting their recent data to the audience, always explaining why this research is important to all of us.

After these first experiences, I was sure to visit as many posters as possible, which led to the next problem: which of all the excellent posters should I choose? This was the point where the committee organized the '1min-poster session', a great concept that should be adapted to all conferences. You have one slide and one minute to introduce your work, making the other scientists eager to go to your poster. This challenge was not only tough, but also a lot of fun trying to reduce your work of several years to one minute.

The sessions on our own research work were complemented with outstanding guest presentations and a career-supporting event. The career talks explained funding possibilities, provided CV advice, and discussed how to found a company out of a good idea.

Overall, the friendly atmosphere paired with the scientific excellence provided a unique opportunity to get to know not only other research fields, but also great people with funny stories. Did you know that some scientists use whiskers of a cat for protein crystallization? Or that salmon sperm is used for Southern blotting? Two of the many fun facts I learned between the sessions.

After a big farewell party, we left the YSP/12thYSF with novel experiences and new friends who share the same passion – science.

*Karina Zillner
Universität Regensburg, Germany*

The First FEBS Fellows' Forum



Most of the Forum's FEBS Fellows in a coffee break. The three FEBS Fellowships Committee members are kneeling/crouching; Ariel Colomé (technical secretary of the FEBS Fellowships Committee) and Ángela Nieto (one of the guest speakers) are first and sixth from the left.

This meeting, a new FEBS initiative, involved 24 senior Long-Term or Return-To-Europe FEBS Fellows, three members of the Fellowships Committee (including myself, as Chair) and three invited speakers, who gathered from 1st to 4th September 2012 in the Costa Ballena Atlantic resort near Jerez and Cádiz (Spain). The meeting took place just before the IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla, and in parallel with the Young Scientists' Program/Forum (the YSP/12thYSF; see pages 8–9), with which we shared opening and closing events, guest lectures, a scientific career session, coffee breaks, meals and social life.

The invited speakers provided illuminating career examples in talks that brilliantly conveyed their passion for science: Dan Tawfik (Rehovot, Israel) mingled dazzling mountaineering images with a mesmerizing view of protein evolution; Ángela Nieto (Alicante, Spain) recounted her highly successful lifelong saga with the transcription factor Snail; and Behn Lehner (Barcelona, Spain) combined sharp reasoning with high-throughput approaches to explore the significance of biological individuality, exemplified in his talk with pictures of

Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as well as some worms.

The meeting was also a platform for Fellows (and Committee Members) to present their work in 25-min talks, and we were treated to interesting, clear and always mind-stimulating talks on topics from across the broad scope of our discipline, in sessions on plant biology, cell biology, signalling and inflammation, cancer, proteins, signalling and bacteria, stem cells, and 'omics and nano'.

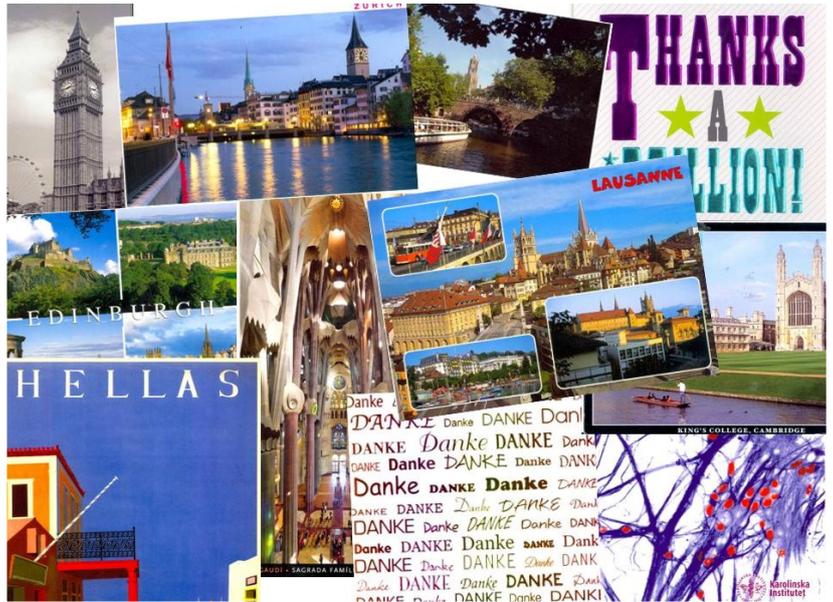
The sessions ran from sunrise to dusk, and the atmosphere was merry, exultant and intense, with questions and discussions continuing in corridors, in the coffee breaks and meals, and even during free time at the beach. Personal contacts and scientific connections were favoured by this atmosphere and also by the interactions with the members of the YSP/12thYSF. About 20 of our Fellows continued the science frenzy for five more days, at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla. I can attest to their enthusiasm particularly since I shared some time with them, including one night outing till the small hours in the temperate and fascinating Sevilla.



A goal of our meeting was to generate a sense of collegiality, and to increase awareness about the work and opportunities of FEBS. We brainstormed several ideas, including creating a 'college' of FEBS Fellows through a FEBS Fellows website/database, instituting a FEBS Fellows' corner at FEBS Congresses, offering a discount to FEBS Fellows for registration to FEBS Congresses, and improving notification about FEBS' activities. Of course, the proposal to organize more FEBS Fellows' meetings was also supported. Discussion of these proposals was initiated at the FEBS Executive Committee meeting in Sevilla, alongside FEBS' other funding commitments, proposals and concerns.

Indeed, the range and characteristics of the journals of FEBS were also discussed at the FEBS Fellows' meeting, both as conduits for publishing research and as a reminder that income from these publications is the financial spine of FEBS.

On our return home, beautiful postcards arrived at the Fellowships office from Fellows from across Europe, with words that are the best reward for our work. This meeting totally convinced me that our



The Fellowships Office pinboard after the FEBS Fellows' Forum.

Fellowships are very valuable, that our work is worthy, and that our Fellows are very well chosen, being great ambassadors for spreading the name and the work of FEBS.

Vicente Rubio

Chair, FEBS Fellowships Committee

For information on the FEBS Fellowships Programme, see the [Fellowships section](#) of the FEBS website.

FEBS Women in Science events at the Congress

Over the past ten years FEBS has developed events at its annual Congress aimed at raising awareness of gender issues in science and providing career support and inspiration to young female scientists. The three Women in Science activities at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla are highlighted here.

FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award and Plenary Lecture

The FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award, now in its fifth year, recognizes and rewards the exceptional achievements of a female researcher in molecular biology over the previous five years. Winners of the award are great role models who inspire future generations of women in science. Dr Gerlind Wallon, Deputy Director of EMBO, provided a short introduction to the selection procedure and historical background to the award, which is jointly sponsored by FEBS and EMBO.

The 2012 awardee is Dr Susan M. Gasser, Director of the Friedrich Miescher Institute of Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland, and she gave an outstanding lecture on her recent studies describing

how the eukaryotic genome in the cell nuclei is divided into active and silent compartments (euchromatin and heterochromatin, respectively). The spatial organization of the transcriptionally repressed heterochromatin at the nuclear periphery is a well-known feature of the eukaryotic nucleus, but the underlying molecular mechanisms have remained enigmatic. Using embryos of the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* as the model system, the Gasser lab has now conducted a systematic screen for factors required for the perinuclear sequestration of heterochromatin and revealed an enzymatic cascade controlling the post-translational modifications of the chromatin-associated proteins in this important biological process that is evolutionary conserved from worms to humans.

After finishing the scientific part of her lecture, Susan Gasser devoted the last minutes of her presentation to encourage young women, well represented in the audience, to continue their scientific careers after completing their PhDs and post-doctoral training. Using her own experience and group members as examples, she convinced the



(top, from left) Gerlind Wallon (EMBO), Susan M. Gasser (with the statuette and certificate), Erich Nigg (laudator) and Lea Sistonen (FEBS); (bottom) a table at the Women in Science Career Lunch.

audience that it is fully possible to combine high-standard research careers with balanced family lives: of nine of her former female students and postdocs who now lead research labs, seven have two children each and two have three children.

A personal and in-depth laudation for Dr Susan Gasser was given by the nominator Prof. Erich Nigg, Director of the Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland.

Workshop. Women in Biochemistry: from Past to Future

The well-attended (approximately 100 participants) workshop was opened by Prof. Catalina Lara, who is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Sevilla and Chair of the Working Group of Women in Science of the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM).

The first speaker was Dr Robert Freedman, Warwick University, UK, who served as Chair of the Biochemical Society during 1996–1998. For the Society's Centenary in 2011, he initiated a research programme on the role of women in the early years of biochemistry in the UK. In his talk entitled

'Women and the establishment of biochemistry in Great Britain', which was beautifully illustrated with unique photographs, he covered the pioneering research conducted by female biochemists in Cambridge from the very beginning until the 1940s.

The second speaker, Prof. Raquel Gonçalves Maia, University of Lisbon, Portugal, gave an inspiring lecture entitled 'From X-ray to biomolecular structure'. She elucidated key discoveries in structural biochemistry by presenting the groundbreaking work of three female Nobel Prize Laureates: Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (1910–1994), Rosalind Elsie Franklin (1920–1958), and Ada E. Yonath (1939–). Interestingly, Prof. Yonath herself had given a plenary lecture already earlier in the Congress.

The last presentation was from a female scientist who is still active in academic research. Prof. Jenny Martin, who received her PhD in protein crystallography and structure-based inhibitor design at Oxford University, UK, and is now an ARC Australian Laureate Fellow and honorary NHMRC Fellow at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, told about her exciting and multifaceted career path from the UK via USA to Australia. Her presentation 'Strategies for coping and succeeding as a female biochemist: a personal perspective', initiated a lively discussion among the audience, and the challenges for female scientists, especially in various cultural backgrounds, were highlighted. The following morning, Dr Martin gave her scientific talk entitled 'Why protein engineering may not always be a good idea'.

Women in Science Career Lunch

A women's career lunch was organized in a leisurely setting to allow participants and female senior scientists to discuss personal career-related issues in small groups. 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. Participants also had concrete suggestions about how to improve information flow among female scientists, in general, and how to arrange the conversations during the lunch, in particular, so that everyone could listen to all the comments and participate in an open discussion.

*Lea Sistonen
Ex-Chair, FEBS Working Group on Women in Science*

FEBS Education events at the Congress

Events at the IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla focusing on teaching and learning in biochemistry and molecular biology attracted a large number of participants from all over the world. In various collaborations with the IUBMB, the Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the FEBS Science and Society Committee, the FEBS Education Committee organized three workshops, a poster session and CV advice. A brief overview is given in the following text; a more detailed report is available from the [Education Committee page](#) of the FEBS website.

Workshops

The first workshop, ‘Teaching Molecular Evolution; A Unifying Principle of Biochemistry’, which was attended by about 150 participants comprising both PhD students and faculty, provided a primer on molecular evolution and also explored how it can be intricately woven into the teaching of biochemistry. First, Juli Peretó (Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of València, Spain) shared his teaching of ‘metabolism with an evolutionary flavour’ in a talk entitled ‘Teaching on the origin of life or the emergence of biochemical functions’. Next, Peter Schuster (Professor Emeritus, Vienna University, Austria) drew on his research on *in silico* evolution at molecular resolution to give a fascinating talk on ‘Molecular evolution as a unifying principle of biochemistry’. The ensuing panel discussion allowed the audience to express their thoughts and experiences, focusing on the significance of this concept in understanding basic biochemical mechanisms.

The second workshop, ‘Research into Effective Learning Strategies: What Biochemistry is Learning from the Other Sciences’, looked at learning practices in related science fields, and resulted in stimulating discussions. In the first talk, Roy Tasker (Professor of Chemical Education, University of Western Sydney, Australia) shared his interests in how and what students learn in chemistry using interactive multimedia resources – in particular, from learning designs that develop student mental models of the molecular world. Then, Helen Keates (Lecturer in Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Australia) explained how she used different strategies for assessment to drive student learning outcomes and how high grades in written work could be better translated to logical thought processes in clinical problems –



(top) Audience at the first Education workshop;
(bottom) Keith Elliott providing CV advice to young scientists at the FEBS booth at the Congress.

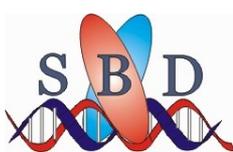
thereby promoting veterinary science education in her school, as well setting an example for other sciences.

A third Workshop, ‘Science in School – Biodiversity and Evolution’, aimed at local high-school teachers was held in Spanish with a simultaneous translation into English. The workshop was attended by around 120 participants altogether, with at least 60 high school teachers – a great success!

Other events

New this year was a poster session on molecular life sciences education; six excellent posters were received and lively discussions were generated during this session. In addition, Keith Elliott from the FEBS Education Committee took part in a careers round-table discussion at the YSP/12th YSF (pages 8–9), and 46 young scientists, from 29 different countries, took advantage of one-to-one CV sessions with him (and Jason Perret) at the Congress.

*Gül Güner-Akdoğan (gul.guner@den.edu.tr)
Chair, FEBS Education Committee*



FEBS3+ Meeting: From Molecules to Life and Back

13–16 June 2012
Opatija, Croatia

The FEBS3+ Meeting ‘From molecules to life and back’, organized by the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (CSBMB), the Hungarian Biochemical Society (HBS) and the Slovenian Biochemical Society (SBS), was held in Opatija, Croatia, from 13th to 16th June 2012. It was supported by the FEBS3+ Meeting Programme, which provides funds for meetings organized through collaborations of at least three FEBS Constituent Societies.

Although there have been good relationships among the biochemists from these neighbouring countries for a long time, the need to develop, improve and enhance collaboration on a wider platform, especially among young scientists, encouraged the organizers to gather scientists from all fields of molecular life sciences from Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia. The Scientific Committee, chaired by Prof. Jerka Dumić, President of the CSBMB, and co-chaired by Prof. Marinka Drobnič-Košorok, President of the SBS, and Prof. László Fésüs, President of the HBS, consisted of three representatives from each of the organizing societies: Profs Sonja Levanat, Vladimir Mrša and Hrvoje Fulgosi from Croatia; Profs Balázs Sarkadi, László Vígh and Beáta Vértessy from Hungary; and Profs Roman Jerala, Radovan Komel and Vito Turk from Slovenia. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Prof. Zrinka Kovarik while the Local Organizing Committee was headed by Prof. Jadranka Varljen. The meeting was considered to be a National Annual Congress of the CSBMB and HBS. The organizers were honoured to welcome Professors Israel Pecht (FEBS Secretary General) and Jacques-Henry Weil (Chair of the FEBS Science and Society Committee).

The Scientific Programme comprised nine symposia and five workshops. In addition to

four plenary and two Science and Society lectures, 80 presentations were delivered (35 invited lectures and 45 short presentations) and 150 posters were presented in three poster sessions.

The Organizers were honoured to host Prof. Ada Yonath, the Nobel Prize Laureate for Chemistry, who delivered the Opening Lecture. Plenary Lectures were delivered by Prof. Kai Simons, Prof. Jozsef Jiricny and Prof. Sandra Oršulić. Prof. Jacques-Henry Wiel and Prof. Gottfried Schatz delivered lectures in the Science and Society Sessions.

The meeting gathered 283 participants and 96 of them were PhD students. The organizers granted 51 fellowships to young scientists: 15 to HBS members and 21 to SBS members (supported by the FEBS3+ Meeting Programme) and 15 partial fellowships to CSBMB members (supported by CSBMB). Some of the awardees were selected by the Scientific Committee to present their work as short oral presentations included in the main programme. In addition, well-structured poster discussion sessions were organized, where senior scientists in small groups discussed the posters with the poster-presenting authors.



(top) Young scientists attending a lecture on wine production at Kabola winery during a half-day excursion in Istria; (bottom, from left to right) Profs Jadranka Varljen, Zrinka Kovarik, Ada Yonath, Jerka Dumić, László Fésüs, Beáta Vértessy and Marinka Drobnič-Košorok.



Since the main aim of this meeting was to create new and revive old acquaintances in order to establish new collaborations, and to give young scientists the chance to interact with more experienced colleagues, a half-day excursion to Istria, which included a visit to Hum ('the smallest town in the world') and the Glagolitic Alley as well as wine tasting at Kabola winery and a Congress dinner in an agro-tourism farmhouse in Paladnjaki, was organized for all participants.

The FEBS3+ Meeting offered a rewarding scientific and personal experience for its participants, especially for young researchers, and an opportunity to improve and enhance collaboration between molecular life scientists from Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia.

Prof. Jerka Dumić

President of the CSBMB; Chair of the Scientific Committee

Prof. Zrinka Kovarik

Chair of the Organizing Committee



Golden jubilee of the Hungarian Biochemical Society

The Hungarian Biochemical Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary on 9th November 2012 at the building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The selection of the place was purposeful, since the Society was established by the Section of Biology of the Hungarian Academy in 1962.

For the occasion the Society is preparing a book summarizing the 50-year history of all university departments and research institutions related to biochemistry and molecular biology in Hungary.

The anniversary book will also contain a chapter on FEBS relations including the three FEBS Congresses organized in Hungary, and will describe trends in Hungarian biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as the contributions of the two 2012 Tankó Awardees. The Tankó Award was named after Prof. Béla Tankó, the founding president of the Hungarian Biochemical Society, who also signed the founding documents of FEBS as one of eight founding member representatives in 1964.

At the anniversary meeting the FEBS Executive Committee will be represented by Prof. Mathias Sprinzl. A more detailed summary of the 50 years of Hungarian biochemistry and the celebration event will appear in the next issue of *FEBS News*.

Prof. Peter Csermely

Vice-President of the Hungarian Biochemical Society



Elections of FEBS Committee members

The results of elections at the FEBS Council Meeting 2012 in Sevilla for positions on FEBS Committees (from Constituent Society nominees) are listed below:

Chair, Education Committee:

Gül Güner-Akdoğan (Izmir, Turkey) (second term)

FEBS Secretary General:

Israel Pecht (Rehovot, Israel) (third term)

Member of the Advanced Courses Committee:

Rozmam Damjana (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Members of the Fellowships Committee:

Alain Krol (Strasbourg, France)

Markus Grütter (Zurich, Switzerland)

Member of the Publications Committee:

Gerry Melino (Rome, Italy)

Members of the Education Committee:

Frank Michelangeli (Birmingham, UK)

Wolfgang Nellen (Kassel, Germany)

Members of the Science and Society Committee:

Jerzy Duszyński (Warsaw, Poland)

Emmanuel Fragoulis (Athens, Greece)

Lea Sistonen resigned as Chair of the Working Group on Women in Science on 10 September 2012. Cecilia Arraiano (Lisbon, Portugal) will act as Chair until elections at the next FEBS Council meeting, in July 2013.



FEBS Advanced Courses 2013

The first round of FEBS Advanced Courses for 2013 are listed here; more courses will be added to the [Advanced Courses section](#) of the FEBS website over the next few months. Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants are available for most of these courses to support attendance of young scientists (see the [YTF](#)

[page](#) of the FEBS website). New guidelines for funding applications from prospective course organizers will be available at the end of 2012 for 2014 courses.

Jaak Järvi
Chair, FEBS Advanced Courses Committee
advanced.courses@febs.org

FEBS Practical Course

State-of-the-art infection models for human pathogenic fungi

Jena, Germany; February 17 – March 2, 2013
Course website: www.hki-jena.de/mpm

Human pathogenic fungi frequently cause superficial or invasive infections. In this course, hands-on training on fungal infection models will be provided, and expert lectures will provide state-of-the-art scientific background and cover further scientific aspects of host–fungal interactions.

Joint FEBS/EMBO Lecture Courses

Biomembranes: molecular architecture, dynamics and function

Cargèse, Corsica, France; June 10–20, 2013
Organizer: Prof. Gerrit van Meer, [Email](#)

This is an excellent opportunity to acquire an integrated overview of the structure, function and genesis of biological membranes, to gain more insight into the possibilities offered by different disciplines, and to learn about the multiple approaches, techniques and specialties in membrane research.

Host–microbes interactions

Spetses, Greece; August 30 – September 7, 2013
Organizers: Prof. Pascale Cossart, [Email](#); Prof. Roberto Kolter; Dr Javier Pizarro-Cerda

The course will provide a timely update on critical microbiology themes (bacterial communities, metagenomics, microbial diversity, cellular microbiology, etc.), while encouraging interactions between lecturers and students within a unique environment.

FEBS Special Meeting

JAK/STAT signalling: model systems and beyond

Sheffield, UK; September 12–15, 2013
Course website: <http://www.bms.dept.shef.ac.uk/jakstat/>

This meeting brings together world leaders in the field of JAK/STAT pathway research in state of the art conference facilities on the edge of the Peak District in Sheffield. Latest developments in the field and an emphasis on recent insights gained from fish and insect model systems promise to provide an interactive meeting with many opportunities to forge interdisciplinary links.

FEBS Advanced Lecture Courses

HFP2013: Molecular mechanisms of host–pathogen interactions and virulence in human fungal pathogens

La Colle-sur-Loup, France; May 25–31, 2013
Organizer: Dr Christophe d'Enfert, [Email](#)

The course will provide students with an overview of current knowledge and an update on the most recent advancements in key fields of research conducted on fungal pathogens.

Nuclear receptor signaling in physiology and disease

Spetses, Greece; August 25–30, 2013
Organizer: Prof. Eckardt Treuter, [Email](#)

The course will emphasize how nuclear receptors, a paradigm for signal-regulated transcription factors, control development and physiology, how dysregulation of nuclear receptor signaling contributes to human diseases, and how nuclear receptors have emerged as significant drug targets.

FEBS Workshops

Nucleotide excision repair and interstrand crosslink repair – from molecules to man

Smolenice, Slovakia; June 9–13, 2013
Organizer: Dr Peter McHugh, [Email](#)

EU and US scientists will discuss how protein machines assemble and sort through genomic DNA to identify specific damaged sites that are repaired through the two repair pathways critical for normal human health and development: nucleotide excision repair or interstrand crosslink repair.

Translating epigenomes into function: a next-generation challenge for human disease

Capri (Napoli), Italy; October 13–16, 2013
Organizer: Dr Sandro de Falco, [Email](#)

The meeting will focus on key aspects of epigenetic inheritance looking at emerging strategies for data integration in the era of next-generation genomics. It will highlight advances in the dynamic cross-talk of epigenetic regulators within genomes, and how it controls complex processes and disease states.



FEBS Education: upcoming workshop

Innovations in Molecular Bioscience Education

A Joint Biochemical Society and FEBS Workshop

In memory of E.J. Wood (1941–2008)

17–18 December 2012; Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, UK

Educating the next generation of molecular bioscience graduates has always been about ensuring students are equipped with appropriate key skills that enable them to flourish and succeed in their future careers. In the current climate it is even more important to ensure that the analytical, knowledge-based and practical skills being taught are appropriate for future employment. Moreover, teaching should provide opportunities for students to engage in key skills and practise them regularly in a meaningful way.

This education workshop aims – through lectures, demonstrations, group discussion and posters sessions – to share novel ideas and approaches with bioscience educators, to enhance the student experience and potentially to improve their employment prospects.

The two-day workshop will be divided into four sessions:

- Improving student engagement
- The acquisition of key generic and scientific skills
- Student assessment and feedback
- Careers and improving employability

It is envisaged that participation will be from across the educational establishment, encompassing probationary lecturers, post-graduate and post-doctoral teaching fellows as well as seasoned academics.

For full programme details and to apply, go to the [Biochemistry Society conference webpage](#).

FEBS Women in Science: call for FEBS/EMBO Award nominations

Dear FEBS Community,

Each year, EMBO and FEBS together select one outstanding female scientist for the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award. We'd like to encourage the scientific community to nominate female scientists working in Europe who have made outstanding contributions to life sciences research and significantly advanced our understanding of a particular discipline in the past five years. Previous winners were Susan Gasser (2012), Carol Robinson (2011), Ingrid Grummt (2010), Anne Houdusse (2009) and Naama Barkai (2008).

The nomination deadline for the 2013 award is 15 October 2012. The nominator is requested to submit a nomination letter and letters of support from two other scientists, along with the nominee's CV and publication list.

Further details and the link to nominate can be found here:

<http://www.embo.org/science-policy/women-in-science/women-in-science-award.html>

With best wishes,

Gerlind Wallon (EMBO) and Cecilia Arraiano (FEBS), on behalf of the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award 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 '[News from FEBS Societies](#)' page of the FEBS website offers free posting of scientific events and other announcements by the Constituent Societies of FEBS; please email brief details to elliss@febs.org



Federation of European Biochemical Societies CONGRESS 2013 "Mechanisms in Biology"

July 6–11, 2013 | Saint Petersburg, Russia

DISTINGUISHED PLENARY SPEAKERS

Aaron Ciechanover (*Israel*)
Jules Hoffmann (*France*)
Roger D. Kornberg (*USA*)
Jean-Marie Lehn (*France*)
Richard Roberts (*USA*)
Jack W. Szostak (*USA*)
John E. Walker (*UK*)
Kurt Wüthrich (*Switzerland, USA*)
Ada E. Yonath (*Israel*)

CONGRESS ORGANIZERS

Vladimir Skulachev (*Russia*)
Congress President
Richard Roberts (*USA*)
Nobel Laureate Chairman, Advisory Board
Zhores Alferov (*Russia*)
Nobel Laureate Vice President, Russian Academy of Sciences
Alexander Gabibov (*Russia*)
Chairman, Organizing Committee
Michael Blackburn (*UK*)
Secretary, Advisory Board
Sergey Kochetkov (*Russia*)
Chairman, Program Committee

DEADLINES

Start of online registration and abstract submission **January 5, 2013**
Early Registration **April 5, 2013**
Regular Registration **June 1, 2013**
Abstract Submission **April 15, 2013**

YOUNG SCIENTISTS FORUM DEADLINES

Start of online registration and abstract submission **October 1, 2012**
Registration and abstract submission deadline **January 15, 2013**
Announcement of YSF Fellowships Winners **February 28, 2013**

MAIN TOPICS

Mechanisms of Genetic Control

- Organization of eukaryotic genomes
- RNA world
- Biochemistry of DNA modification and repair
- Quantitative genomics
- Nucleic acid targets and therapeutics

Biocatalytic Mechanisms and Protein Dynamics

- Biocatalysis: General problems
- Protein structure and folding
- Protein dynamics
- Enzymes reacting with organophosphates
- Alexander Braunstein Memorial Symposium: Enzymes, cofactors, mechanisms

Mechanisms of Communication and Signaling

- Ion channel signaling:
From spatial structures to physiological mechanisms
- Membrane transport and secretion: From nephrons to neurons
- Biochemistry of stress response
- "Mitochondriology": New approaches in bioenergetics
- Cell mechanisms of proteolysis

Molecular Mechanisms of Disease

- Biochemistry for medicine: Drug design and diagnostics
- Biochemistry of neoplastic transformations
- Mechanisms of G protein signaling
- Biochemistry of neurodegeneration
- Photoreception and biochemistry of vision

Biochemical Mechanisms of Immune Defense

- Stem cells: Fundamentals and applications
- Molecular basis of autoimmunity
- Immunochemistry and bioengineering
- B cells in inflammation and disease

General Aspects of Biochemistry

- Proteomics and peptidomics
- Metabolism of marine organisms: Structure and activities
- Signaling pathways in plants
- Glycomics: Progress and challenges
- Bioinformatics
- Systems biology
- Biogenic polyamines in cell metabolism
- Biochemistry of invertebrates
- Bioengineering: Fundamentals and application



www.febs-2013.org

E-mail: info@febs-2013.org



The FEBS Congress 2013

Next year's Congress – the 38th FEBS

Congress – is heading north-eastwards, to 'the Northern Capital of Russia': the beautiful city of St Petersburg. It will take place from 6th to 11th July 2013, and is being organized by the Russian Biochemical Society – one of the larger Constituent Societies of FEBS.

A wide range of symposia – from genomics to immunology to bioinformatics – are being planned

under the general theme 'Mechanisms in Biology', and together with plenary lectures from no less than ten Nobel Laureates, these will provide a unique opportunity both for subject-specific updates from experts from across the world and for a sense of perspective on progress in the molecular life sciences field as a whole.

Online registration and abstract submission open early in 2013. See the poster on the previous page and the Congress website www.febs-2013.org for more details.



The FEBS Young Scientists' Forum 2013

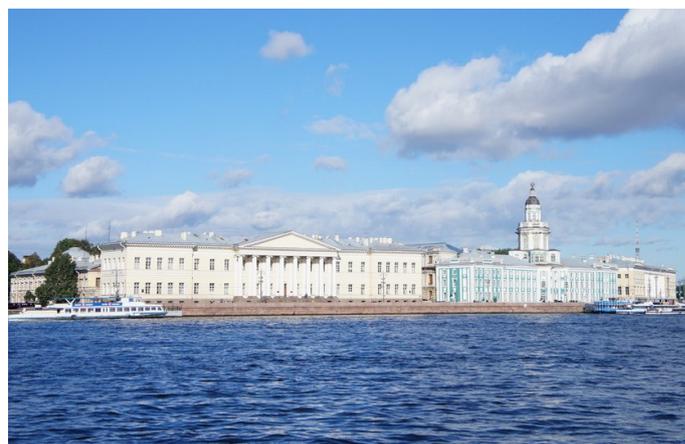
The 13th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF) will take place from 3rd to 6th July 2013 in St Petersburg, just before the 38th FEBS Congress.

Since 2001, FEBS has funded this lively annual pre-Congress event for young postdocs and PhD students to provide a platform for young scientists to present their work, receive career support, and initiate international scientific collaborations and friendships across the FEBS area. For more of an idea about what happens at a FEBS YSF, see the reports from this year's event on pages 8–9. The 13th YSF local organizing committee is under the leadership of Alexey Belogurov (Chair) and Azad Mamedov (Co-Chair), who will be putting all their energy and knowledge into the service of their young colleagues.

FEBS will provide YSF Fellowships to over 100 successful applicants to the YSF, which will cover participation and accommodation at both the YSF and the 38th FEBS Congress, as well as support for travel costs. Applicants should be under 35 years of age and a member of a FEBS Constituent Society. Applicants are also required to submit an abstract as first author to the Congress. Full details about eligibility are given in the [YSF section](#) of the Congress website. Registration is now open!

(top, middle) The YSF opening ceremony will take place at the Russian Academy of Sciences on the Neva River; its building, featuring an eight-column portico, was erected in the 1780s.

(bottom) Further YSF sessions will be hosted in the St Petersburg State University; pictured is the 'Twelve Colleges' red and white building that stretches for 400 m. The university was founded in 1819, and among its science alumni are chemist Dmitry Mendeleev (periodic table) and biologist Ivan Pavlov (conditioned reflex).



Dear Fellow Scientists,

As we hope you have already noticed, the Impact Factor for the *FEBS Journal* rose from 3.13 to 3.79 this year. This is a welcome recognition of the high quality of the papers we are publishing and we hope to attract more such submissions to the journal to build on this success. We thank all authors, referees and Editors for their support and contributions to the journal.

New Members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board

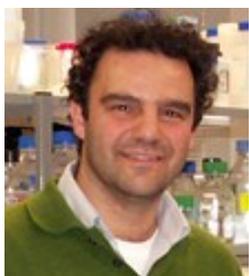
We are very pleased to announce the appointment of four new members of the *FEBS Journal* Editorial Board. More about our new Editors can be found on the [FEBS Journal website](#).



Professor Susan Lees-Miller is Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Oncology and Biological Sciences, Southern Alberta Cancer Research Institute, University of Calgary, Canada. Her research is focused on understanding how cells detect and respond to DNA damage, in particular in response to ionizing radiation.



Professor Gunter Meister is Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Regensburg, Germany. His research focuses on the diverse cellular functions of small non-coding RNAs such as siRNAs, microRNA or piRNAs.



Professor Kostas Tokatlidis works at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology in Heraklion, Crete, where he heads a group investigating mitochondrial biogenesis, and is Professor at the University of Crete.



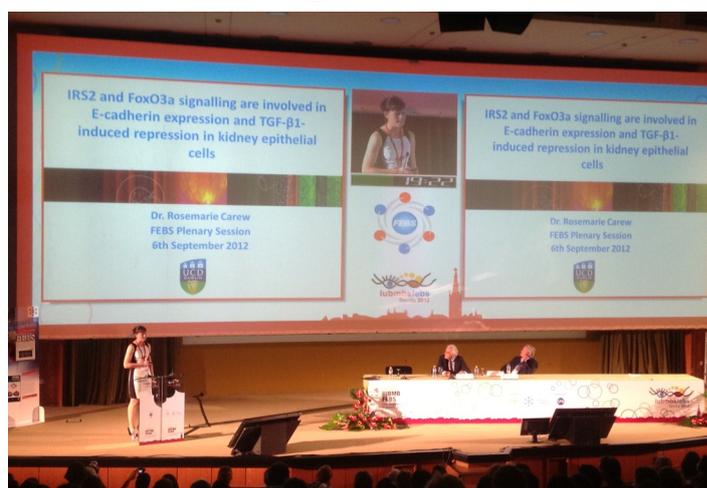
Professor Sophie Zinn-Justin is Head of the Laboratory of Structural Biology and Radiobiology at the Institute of Biology and Technology (CEA), Gif-sur-Yvette, France. Her research is based on the

use of NMR and complementary structural biology techniques to determine the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules and to describe related interaction networks.

In addition, we warmly welcome new members of the *FEBS Journal* Advisory Board who have recently been appointed: Mathias Bochtler (Warsaw, Poland), Peter Bütikofer (Bern, Switzerland), Marco W. Fraaije (Groningen, The Netherlands), Nikos Karamanos (Patras, Greece), Edda Klipp (Berlin, Germany), Guy Lippens (Lille, France), Oscar Llorca (Madrid, Spain), Andrea Mattevi (Pavia, Italy), Linda K. Nicholson (New York, USA), Jerson L Silva (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Willem J. H. van Berkel (Wageningen, The Netherlands).

Winner of a *FEBS Journal* Prize for Young Scientists

The winner of this year's *FEBS Journal* Prize for Young Scientists is Dr Rosemarie Carew, UCD Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland, for her outstanding paper: *Insulin receptor substrate 2 and FoxO3a signalling are involved in E-cadherin expression and transforming growth factor- β 1-induced repression in kidney epithelial cells* [FEBS Journal 278 \(18\): 3370–3380](#) (2011)



Dr Carew described her prize-winning work at the FEBS Publications Awards Plenary Session at this year's IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla, where she was awarded the prize of €10,000 by Editor-in-Chief Richard Perham.

Special Issues, Virtual Issues, Reviews

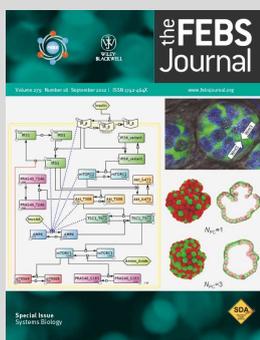
The box below highlights our latest *FEBS Journal* Special Issue, Virtual Issue and reviews. The Special Issue, on *Systems Biology* (*FEBS J.* 279/18), was compiled by Sven Sahle and Ursula Kummer (University of Heidelberg, Germany); the Virtual Issue, on *Molecular*

Enzymology (*FEBS J.* May 2012), features papers selected by Nigel Scrutton (University of Manchester, UK).

Reviews and minireviews published in *FEBS Journal* cover a diverse range of topics, and can be read online and downloaded free of charge from the time of publication via a hotlink from the *FEBS Journal* website www.febsjournal.org.

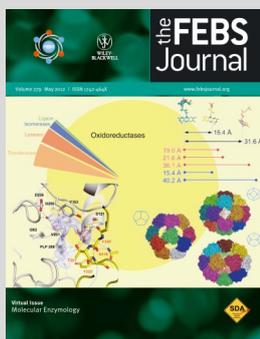
With best wishes from us all at *FEBS Journal*,
Richard Perham, Editor-in-Chief
Vanessa Wilkinson, Editorial Manager
Giannina Bartlett, Editorial Assistant
Juanita Goossens-Roach, Editorial Assistant

FEBS Journal Special and Virtual Issues



[Systems Biology](#) (*FEBS J.* Vol. 279/18), compiled by Sven Sahle and Ursula Kummer

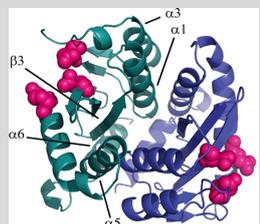
This Special Issue was based on the *International Conference on Systems Biology 2011*, one of the largest conferences in the rapidly growing field of systems biology, and comprises a series of studies presented at the meeting that exploit the integration of quantitative experimental data and computational modelling.



[Molecular Enzymology](#) (*FEBS J.* May 2012), papers selected by Nigel Scrutton

This Virtual Issue showcases contributions published by *FEBS Journal* in the flourishing field of Molecular Enzymology. Understanding how enzymes achieve large rate enhancements, coordinate complex reaction cycles and attain high levels of reaction specificity remain major challenges in the field, and the articles here encompass approaches from structural biology, kinetics and spectroscopy, computation and engineering as well as more specialized areas.

FEBS Journal Reviews



[Peptides that inhibit HIV-1 integrase by blocking its protein–protein interactions](#)

M. Maes, A. Loyer & A. Friedler (Vol. 279/16)

HIV-1 integrase (IN) is essential for integration of the viral cDNA into the host genome. Inhibiting IN is a target for developing anti-HIV therapies. This review focuses on peptide inhibitors of IN, which inhibit IN interactions and activity. Studies of these peptides increase the understanding of how IN acts and serves as a basis for developing new anti-HIV drug leads.

FEBS Journal Minireview Series

[PDZ-containing proteins as targets in human pathologies](#), introduced and coordinated by Daniela Gardiol, Instituto de Biología Molecular y Celular de Rosario-CONICET, Argentina (Vol. 279/19)

PDZ domains are very abundant protein interaction domains, widespread in nature. A large amount of evidence has underscored the importance of the PDZ interactions in the control of intracellular pathways whose abnormal regulation may lead to the development of several pathologies. The series of minireviews covers different aspects of human PDZ-containing proteins, underlining and discussing new concepts and findings.



FEBS *Letters*

Dear Fellow
Scientists,

We hope you all had a great summer and managed to find some time to put your mind at peace and recharge your batteries for the second half of the year. We at the *FEBS Letters* Editorial Office had a very busy summer due to the fact that authors expect a fair and speedy handling even when it is difficult to resist the warm and sunny call of summer days. And rightly so, because science cannot and should not wait. We are also happy to welcome Daniela back to our 'outstation' in Barcelona, after spending the past few months on maternity leave.

Once again summer brought along another FEBS Congress. All participants of the IUBMB–FEBS Congress in Sevilla received two *FEBS Letters* Special Issues – the Seville Special Issue and the 'Electron/proton coupling in biological energy transduction' Special Issue – in their congress bag. We were handing out 2013 yearly planners at the FEBS and Elsevier booths and also organized a successful 'Meet the Editor' session. However, the highlight of the congress for us was the *FEBS Letters* Young Group Leader Award plenary lecture session.

As you probably know by now, the prize was awarded to Dr Megumi Funakoshi-Tago, Keio University in Tokyo, Japan, for her paper: '*Aurora kinase A critically contributes to the resistance to anti-cancer drug cisplatin in JAK2 V617F mutant-induced transformed cells*, *FEBS Lett.* 585 (12),1884–1890 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.febslet.2011.04.068>)



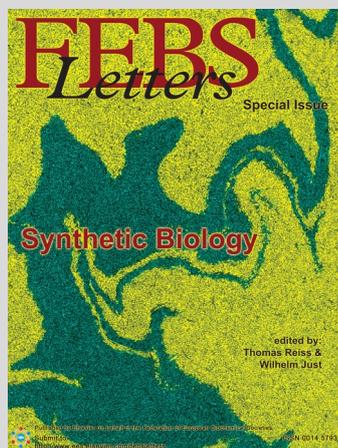
She was presented with the award by Prof. Giorgio Semenza, former Managing Editor of *FEBS Letters* (1985–1999), and gave an exciting and enthusiastic plenary lecture about her work to a full plenary hall. Just to remind you, the *FEBS Letters* Young Group Leader Award is given to an independent scientist, aged 40 years or younger, who is the corresponding author of an outstanding research letter published in the previous calendar year. The award comprises €10,000 prize money and an invitation to give a plenary lecture at the FEBS Congress.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to three recent Special Issues and also our recent most-downloaded articles, featured in the boxes below and opposite.

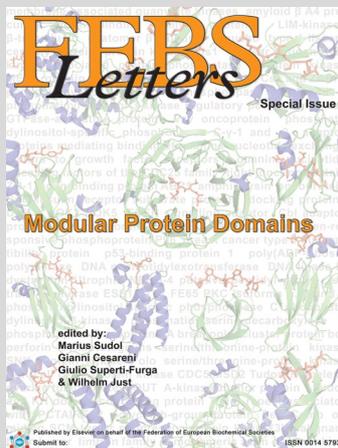
As always, we look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

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

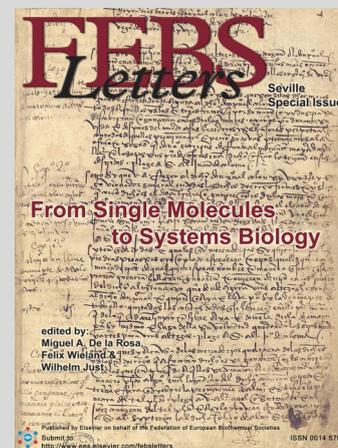
FEBS Letters Special Issues



Synthetic Biology; edited by T. Reiss and W. Just, *FEBS Lett.* 586 (15)



Modular Protein Domains; edited by M. Sudol, G. Cesareni, G. Superti-Furga and W. Just, *FEBS Lett.* 586 (17)



Seville Special Issue: From Single Molecules to Systems Biology; edited by M. De la Rosa, F. Wieland and W. Just, *FEBS Lett.* 586 (18)



Top 10 most downloaded articles in *FEBS Letters* (over the past 90 days at 27 September 2012)

[PEG10 directly regulated by E2Fs might have a role in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma](#)

Chaochen Wang, Ying Xiao, Zhonghua Hu, Yibin Chen, Na Liu and Gengxi Hu
FEBS Lett. 2008, 582(18), 2793–98

[Switch between tyrosinase and catecholoxidase activity of scorpion hemocyanin by allosteric effectors](#)

Dorothea Nillius, Elmar Jaenicke and Heinz Decker
FEBS Lett. 2008, 582(5), 749–54

[Inflammation and insulin resistance](#)

Carl de Luca and Jerrold M. Olefsky
FEBS Lett. 2008, 582(1), 97–105

[How Salmonella oxidises H₂ under aerobic conditions](#)

Alison Parkin, Lisa Bowman, Maxie M. Roessler, Rosalind A. Davies, Tracy Palmer, Fraser A. Armstrong and Frank Sargent
FEBS Lett. 2012, 586(5), 536–44

[TNF- \$\alpha\$ and adipocyte biology](#)

William P. Cawthorn and Jaswinder K. Sethi
FEBS Lett. 2008, 582(1), 117–31

[Regulation of EMT by TGF \$\beta\$ in cancer](#)

Carl-Henrik Heldin, Michael Vanlandewijck and Aristidis Moustakas
FEBS Lett. 2012, 586(14), 1959–70

[Post-translational regulation of TGF- \$\beta\$ receptor and Smad signaling](#)

Pinglong Xu, Jianming Liu and Rik Derynck
FEBS Lett. 2012, 586(14), 1871–84

[Ubiquitination and phosphorylation of Beclin 1 and its binding partners: Tuning class III phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase activity and tumor suppression](#)

Hilde Abrahamsen, Harald Stenmark and Harald W. Platta
FEBS Lett. 2012, 586(11), 1584–91

[Metabolomics methods for the synthetic biology of secondary metabolism](#)

Quoc-Thai Nguyen, Maria E. Merlo, Marnix H. Medema, Andris Jankevics, Rainer Breitling and Eriko Takano
FEBS Lett. 2012, 586(15), 2177–83

[mTOR regulation of autophagy](#)

Chang Hwa Jung, Seung-Hyun Ro, Jing Cao, Neil Michael Otto and Do-Hyung Kim
FEBS Lett. 2010, 584(7), 1287–95

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Dear Fellow Scientists,

We are delighted to report that the new impact factor for *Molecular Oncology* from Journal Citation Reports (Thomas Reuters) for 2011 is 5.08, showing that our journal continues to increase its impact among its readers. This steady rise in impact factor since the journal was first indexed three years ago rewards our efforts to raise visibility of the journal among scientists and to publish research articles and reviews of the highest quality and importance in the field of cancer research.

Articles in *Molecular Oncology* with [GEO](#) (Gene Expression Omnibus) accession numbers can now be linked directly through the corresponding repository.

Benefits of GEO accession numbers include:

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Our recent most-downloaded articles are featured in the box on the next page. As always, we look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

Best wishes,
Julio E. Celis, Editor-in Chief
José Moreira, Managing Editor
Dorte Perderson, Editorial Assistant

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February 2011

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[*Discovery of small molecule cancer drugs: Successes, challenges and opportunities*](#)

April 2012

Swen Hoelder | Paul A. Clarke | Paul Workman

[*The biology of personalized cancer medicine: Facing individual complexities underlying hallmark capabilities*](#)

April 2012

Michele De Palma | Douglas Hanahan

[*Oncosuppressive role of p53-induced miR-205 in triple negative breast cancer*](#)

August 2012

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[*Imaging and cancer: A review*](#)

August 2008

Leonard Fass

[*The morphologies of breast cancer cell lines in three-dimensional assays correlate with their profiles of gene expression*](#)

June 2007

Paraic A. Kenny | Genee Y. Lee | Connie A. Myers | Richard M. Neve | Jeremy R. Semeiks | Paul T. Spellman | Katrin Lorenz | Eva H. Lee | Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff | Ole W. Petersen | Joe W. Gray | Mina J. Bissell

[*Molecular imaging for personalized cancer care*](#)

April 2012

Moritz F. Kircher | Hedvig Hricak | Steven M. Larson

[*The role of histone deacetylases \(HDACs\) in human cancer*](#)

June 2007

Santiago Ropero | Manel Esteller

[*Histological types of breast cancer: How special are they?*](#)

June 2010

Britta Weigelt | Felipe C. Geyer | Jorge S. Reis-Filho

[*Global H3K27 trimethylation and EZH2 abundance in breast tumor subtypes*](#)

Available online 20 June 2012

Karolina Holm | Dorthe Grabau | Kristina Lövgren | Steina Aradóttir | Sofia Gruvberger-Saal | Jillian Howlin | Lao H. Saal | Stephen P. Ethier | Pär-Ola Bendahl | Olle Stål | Per Malmström | Mårten Fernö | Lisa Rydén | Cecilia Hegardt | Åke Borg | Markus Ringnér

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Dear Fellow Scientists,

FEBS Open Bio celebrates the first anniversary of its launch this autumn. The first submission was

received on 16 September

2011 and the first article accepted on 1 October, with the first articles published online in November. In the past year we have received 100 submissions and published 53 articles, with more under review or revision. Our application to be included in the PubMed database is being considered and we hope to be included in this search tool very soon.

We are currently recruiting new members to the Editorial Board, to ensure that we have all possible

subject areas covered as the number of submissions increases. The scope of *FEBS Open Bio* is much broader than the other FEBS publications, and we hope to attract translational studies as well as basic molecular research. We will consider experimental findings, critical analysis, methodological and technical innovations and hypotheses. Please do consider *FEBS Open Bio* if you have a paper that doesn't fit the niche of one of the more specialized journals, or if your funder requires open access publication.

Do take a look at the list of [recent articles](#), [most downloaded](#) and [most cited](#) papers, which are available on the journal [home page](#).

With best wishes,
Mary Purton, Executive Editor



WWW of Upcoming Events (beyond FEBS)

What: Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

When: October 23, 2012

Where: Breda, The Netherlands

<http://www.alsavans.nl/avans-training-2545.htm>

What: Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction

When: October 24–26, 2012

Where: Breda, The Netherlands

<http://www.alsavans.nl/avans-training-2548.htm>

What: AusBioTech 2012

When: 30 October – 2 November 2012

Where: Melbourne, Australia

www.ausbiotechnc.org

What: 24th EORTC-NCI-AACR Symposium on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics

When: 6–9 November 2012

Where: Dublin, Ireland

www.ecco-org.eu/ENA

What: International Conference on Membrane Domains ('Dijon Domains 2012')

When: 27–30 November 2012

Where: Dijon, France

https://colloque.inra.fr/dijon_domains

What: World Congress of Clinical Lipidology

When: 6–9 December 2012

Where: Budapest, Hungary

www.clinical-lipidology.com

What: Beating the Blood–Brain and other blood barriers

When: 6–8 February 2013

Where: Lisbon, Portugal

www.beatbarrier.com

What: 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology 2013

When: 6–9 March 2013

Where: Kiel, Germany

www.virology-meeting.de

What: Annual Conference of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM) *in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Society for Microbiology (KNVM)* 2013

When: 10–13 March 2013

Where: Bremen, Germany

www.vaam-kongress.de

What: Proteomic Forum 2013

When: 17–21 March 2013

Where: Berlin, Germany

<https://proteomic-forum.de/>

What: 12th Symposium on Bacterial Genetics and Ecology (BAGECO 12)

When: 9–13 June 2013

Where: Ljubljana, Slovenia

www.bageco2013.org

What: Thermophiles 2013 – 12th International Meeting at the University of Regensburg

When: 8–13 September 2013

Where: Regensburg, Germany

www.thermophiles2013.de

What: 43rd Annual Meeting of German Society for Immunology 2013

When: 11–14 September 2013

Where: Mainz, Germany

www.immunology-conference.de

See also the listings of [FEBS 2013 Advanced Courses](#) on p. 16.

Positions available

PhD POSITION at CERM (MAGNETIC RESONANCE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE, ITALY):

Structural biology of iron-sulfur protein biogenesis in eukaryotes

The project will address biological and structural biology questions regarding the molecular mechanisms responsible for the maturation of iron-sulfur proteins, employing a range of biochemical and biophysical/structural approaches. For full details, see the FEBS website [Career Opportunities](#) page.

TWO FACULTY POSITIONS in MOLECULAR STRUCTURE & FUNCTION at THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, TORONTO, CANADA

The Hospital for Sick Children's (SickKids) Program in Molecular Structure & Function (MSF) is seeking two exceptional individuals interested in exploiting the unique research environment provided by Canada's largest paediatric hospital-based research institute. Individuals, at all stages of their career, who use biophysical, biochemical, computational and/or chemical biology tools to study biological macromolecules or biochemical processes at the molecular level, bridging *in vitro* to cellular and/or *in vivo* studies, are encouraged to apply: for further details, see the FEBS website [Career Opportunities](#) page.

To announce **scientific events** and to advertise **academic positions** in *FEBS News* and on the FEBS website, please email brief details to: elliss@febs.org