

5-8 October, 2011 the Working Group on Integration (WGI) of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) visited Armenia and the Armenian Association of Biochemists (AAB). The aim of the visit was to meet with the members of AAB, to get insight about the present situation of the science and education in Armenia and, particularly, situation in the society, to discuss the possible ways to solve the current problems in association, as well as, to meet with young scientists and discuss with them the opportunities that FEBS can provide. FEBS representatives, who visited Armenia, were: *Prof. Mathias Sprinzl* (Chairman of WGI, Germany), *Prof. John Mowbray* (Treasurer of FEBS, UK), *Prof. Jaak Järv* (Chairman of the Advanced Courses Committee, Estonia), *Prof. Gül Güner-Akdogan* (Chairman of the Education Committee, Turkey), *Prof. Jolanta Baranska* (member of WGI, Poland), *Prof. Tatiana Borisova* (member of WGI, Ukraine), *Prof. Jerka Dumić Belamarić* (member of WGI, Croatia).



On 6th October they visited the H. Buniatian Institute of Biochemistry NAS RA and met with the leading body of the AAB: academician Armen A. Galoyan, president of AAB and prof. Guevork A. Kevorkian, director of the H. Buniatian Institute of Biochemistry NAS RA and vice-president of AAB.



They discussed current situation, working conditions and problems of the institute, as well as, held an agreement to conduct an educational workshop for PhD students and teachers in 2012 in Yerevan. Then the FEBS representatives visited some laboratories of the institute and had an opportunity to see the technical equipments of the laboratories, as well as learn about some areas of research that are conducted at the institute. They met with the representatives of the Young Biologists Association NGO, as well, who organized the FEBS Advanced Lecture Course in Yerevan in 2011. In the afternoon FEBS delegation visited the Biological Faculty of the Yerevan State University (YSU), had been in the departments of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Human Genetics and Cytology and met with the heads of the departments. They introduced the present situation and the investigations conducted in departments. At the end of day FEBS delegation visited Etchmiadzin.



On 7th October FEBS representatives visited the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) and met with the president of NAS RA academician Radik M. Martirosyan and academician-secretary of the Life Sciences Division of the NAS RA Vilen P. Hakobyan. They discuss the system of Academy and universities, advantages and disadvantages of such system, as well as the state of science in Armenia. After that FEBS representatives attended the session dedicated to 50th anniversary of the H. Buniatian Institute of Biochemistry NAS RA, which took place in the round hall of NAS RA. During that session Prof. Tatiana Borisova (member of WGI, Ukraine) delivered an invited lecture on: "Changes in glutamate transport in





cholesterol-deficient brain nerve terminals". In the afternoon they visited Garni Temple and Geghard Monastery complex.

In the end of visit FEBS delegation left the Armenia in the hope of positive changes in the field of science and education in Armenia in future and were willing to help AAB when they can. As mentioned chairman of the FEBS WGI Prof. Mathias Sprinzl (Bayreuth, Germany): *"I want to assure you that the FEBS knows the problems, which you have, as the aim of this mission to help you everywhere where we can do that. You should feel that the colleagues in Europe are taking care of your problems, trying to understand them and when there is an opportunity to help you then we will do that"*.