

FEBS NewsLetter



January 2003 (1/2003)

2003 — NEW INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES.....	2
HIGHLIGHTS.....	3
FEBS ADVANCED COURSE PRESENTATION.....	4
THE NOTICEBOARD.....	4
NEWS FROM THE FEBS JOURNALS.....	5
OPPORTUNITIES.....	7
FEBS MEMBER SOCIETIES — AN UPDATE.....	8
ABOUT FEBS NEWSLETTER.....	10
THE WWW OF UP-COMING EVENTS.....	11

2003 — NEW INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,
FEBS Information Manager, editor of FEBS NewsLetter
FEBS Secretariat,
E-mail (newsletter and website related): newsletter@febs.org.
E-mail (other): cam@febs.org
Direct Tel: (+45) 3525 7311
Direct Fax: (+45) 3525 7366
FEBS website: <http://www.febs.org>



2002 indeed became the 'year of expansion' for FEBS. Upon having admitted 5 additional societies as its members, FEBS mission, vision and activities now includes more than 40,000 scientists from 41 societies within and outside the borders of Europe. As such, 2002 became a year where FEBS consolidated itself as being one of the largest umbrella organisations within European life sciences today. You will find an updated list of all the biochemical societies, which are members — that is: Constituent or Associated Societies — of FEBS, on page 8-10.

Apart from increasing its number of member societies/members, the Federation expanded its activity portfolio to include initiatives intended to support and strengthen the European Research Area (ERA), and the idea of creating an European Research Council (ERC). Amongst others, it was decided to establish a working group, Working Group on ERA, which will look into ways for FEBS to support ERA now and in the future (FEBS Executive Committee will form this working group at the end of January 2003).

Thinking further along the same lines, the initiative was taken to launch an inter-organisational collaboration, with the mission to create a focus on the prospects of having an ERC. The decision to go ahead with this, was taken in early November, and shortly after - in December -, FEBS and its collaborators announced the result of their joined efforts: A meeting which will take place in Paris in February 2003. The name of this meeting directly reflects its theme: "Life Sciences in the European Research Council— the Scientists' opinion". Among the many prominent participants to be present is the European Commissioner, Philippe Busquin.

On p.3 FEBS' Secretary General gives an insight into the prospect of the meeting. More information is available on http://www.febs.org/News/Science_Policy/ELSF/ELSF_UNESCO_Meeting.htm, on ELSF's website, <http://www.elsf.org> (site of registration), and on EMBO's website, <http://www.embo.org>.

The above-mentioned initiatives are examples of some of the large-scale FEBS activities planned to take place in 2003. A third major event this year is the Special FEBS Meeting, which will take place in July. More information on this meeting, is available at <http://www.febs-signal.be/>, and in the special issue of FEBS NewsLetter (see http://www.febs.org/News/Newsletter/Febs_Newsletter.htm/).

To keep yourself updated on what's happening within and in the circumference of FEBS in 2003, please have a look at the FEBS website from time to time. You are also welcome to contact the FEBS Secretariat, should you have questions related to FEBS or its activities.

On behalf of everyone in the FEBS Secretariat, I would like to wish you all a happy 2003!



LIFE SCIENCES IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL - THE SCIENTIST'S OPINION

By Prof. J.E. Celis, Secretary General of FEBS
FEBS Secretariat,
Institute of Cancer Biology and Danish Centre for Human Genome Research
Danish Cancer Society
Strandboulevarden 49, DK-2100 Copenhagen O, Denmark, E-mail: jec@cancer.dk

The possibility of establishing a European Research Council (ERC), complementary to the European Commission (EC) Framework Programmes and National Research Council programmes, to support high quality basic research, has been a matter of intensive discussion during the last few months.

In October, the Danish presidency of the EC organised a meeting in Copenhagen, to discuss the initiative, as an ERC was considered to be an important instrument for strengthening the European Research Area (ERA). The Summary Report of the Copenhagen meeting (available at <http://www.forsk.dk/eng/eupresidency/index.htm>) was sent to the EU ministers for research. They, at their meeting on November 26, 2002, discussed the progress made towards the creation of ERA, as well as explored various options for setting an ERC in motion.

The Council agreed to "continue discussions on a concrete basis, on the purpose and scope of ERA, and to explore options for its possible creation, in co-operation with relevant national and European research organisations". Representatives from the Danish Research Councils, in consultation with other research organisations in the member states, suggested to establish a small group of experts to look into the matter. Follow-

ing their advice, Helge Sander, the Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, has now invited professor Federico Mayor to chair such a group. The expectation is that this group, in a year's time, will present various options on how to create an ERC.

Following up this exciting development, ELSF in conjunction with EMBO, FEBS and the Division of Basic and Engineering Sciences of UNESCO, is organising an important meeting in Paris on February 19, 2003, to discuss the prospect, from the scientists point of view, of having an ERC. Prominent life scientists, as well as representatives from national and international funding agencies, intergovernmental organisations, scientific societies, and the EC will attend the meeting (see <http://www.elsf.org>). The outcome of the discussions will be presented to the European Commissioner, Philippe Busquin, and will be widely circulated among the scientific community.

There is no registration fee associated with participation in the meeting, but registration is compulsory at the ELSF website (see URL above). Given space limitations, participants will be selected on a first come/first serve basis.



2003 — THE YEAR OF DNA IN POLAND

Year 2003 will mark the half century of the publication in Nature of the landmark papers by Watson and Crick, Wilson, Stokes and Wilson, and Franklin and Gosling describing the structure of DNA as a double helix. Publication of this series of papers, which appeared in the Nature issue of April 25, 1953, was the focusing event for the biological revolution of the 20th century. In order to celebrate the golden discovery of the double helix Polish Biochemical Society, one of FEBS' Constituent Societies, proclaimed the year 2003 **"The Year of DNA"**.

Throughout the whole year conferences, seminars, public discussions on various aspects of DNA will be organized. Television and radio will be involved. To mark the great anniversary the Society prepared "the double helix pin" (shown). For further info please contact the Polish Biochemical Society.

PRESENTATION OF THE FEBS ADVANCED LECTURE COURSE 03-09: LIPID SIGNALLING AND MEMBRANE TRAFFIC"



At this advanced lecture course, which takes place in Italy in June, 2003, there will be **9 sessions**.

Session 1: *Introduction to Phospholipids and Membrane Organization*

Session 2: *Phospholipases*

Session 3: *Protein-Lipid Interactions*

Session 4: *Phosphoinositide Transfer Proteins*

Session 5: *Lipid and Membrane Trafficking (1)*

Session 6: *Lipid and Membrane Trafficking (2)*

Session 7: *Lipid and Membrane Trafficking (3)*

Session 8: *Lipid Signals (1)*

Session 9: *Lipid Signals (2)*

Course Organizers: Dr. Daniela Corda, e-mail: corda@dcbo.negrisud.it
Dr. Antonella De Matteis, e-mail: demattei@negrisud.it
Dr. Gerry T. Snoek, e-mail: g.t.snoek@chem.uu.nl

For further information, please see the 'WWW on up-coming events' section in this issue of the FEBS NewsLetter (p.10).

THE NOTICEBOARD



FEBS Advanced Courses 2003. The updated lists on advanced courses to be held in 2003, is now available on FEBS' website, http://www.febs.org/Activities/Advanced_Courses/AdvC03.htm.

A note for potential course organisers: Up to Euro 38,000 is available for the organization of a practical course, and up to Euro 32,000 for the organization of a lecture course. Special funds (including a grant for dedicated equipment) are available to organize practical courses in Eastern Europe. Funds are also available to support meetings and workshops on topics of high scientific interest. Youth travel funds are available to assist the attendance of young scientists (PhD and within five years of obtaining PhD) who are members of a FEBS constituent or Associated Society. For further information, please have a look at FEBS website.

Biochemical Journal launches "Immediate Publication".

Biochemical Journal Immediate Publications are published online at <http://www.BiochemJ.org>.

Further information:

Sarah Laflin, Marketing Manager,
Biochemical Society,
Email:
sarah.laflin@biochemistry.org

A Message from the Biochemical Society:

Biochemist e-volution, <http://www.biochemist.org>, is a new website from the Biochemical Society, on which you can post and view jobs for free, submit information you think would be of benefit to life scientists and let them know what your organization is up to. Using the online form on <http://www.biochemist.org/announce/add.htm>, you can give details about your organizations' available grants, training courses, jobs, awards and anything else that may be of interest to life scientists.

Science Policy — New section added to FEBS' website.

FEBS's website now has a new site for articles and views on science policy issues. Follow or participate in the debate at http://www.febs.org/News/Science_Policy/Science_Policy.htm.



January 2003

Dear fellow scientists,

Happy New Year! Similar to most people who wish to get off to a good (and fresh) start in the New Year, the Editorial Office of a journal isn't any different. While the

beginning of 2002 ushered in several procedural modifications for *FEBS Letters* (PDF proofs to each corresponding author, switch from weekly to biweekly printed issues, etc), the start of 2003 will be even more of a change for the *FEBS Letters* Editorial Office. First of all, the office will be moving from EMBL (where it has been located the last 3 years) to the Biochemie-Zentrum Heidelberg (BZH) at the University of Heidelberg. After Matti Saraste's death in May of 2001 (the Managing Editor from 2000-2001), the office has remained on the EMBL campus until office space could be secured at the BZH. Although the EMBL and BZH are both in Heidelberg, one can imagine that it has not been easy to have a divided Editorial Office. This will finally be resolved, however, with the move of the EMBL office to new offices at the BZH by the middle of January 2003. We are looking forward to starting the New Year in our new environment at the BZH and to having only **one** central Editorial Office again. Our new address as of January 20th, 2003, will be:

FEBS Letters Editorial Office
Biochemie-Zentrum Heidelberg
Im Neuenheimer Feld 328
69120 Heidelberg
Germany
Email: FEBS.Letters@urz.uniheidelberg.de

Secondly, a new colleague, Kara Bortone, will join our team as "Assistant Managing Editor" in January. Kara will fill the vacancy in the Editorial Office following the departure of Connie Lee in mid January. Kara is originally from the US and completed her PhD in biochemistry at the University of Texas in Austin. We welcome Kara to the *FEBS Letters* Editorial Office team and look forward to working with her in the upcoming years ahead.

The Editorial Board continues its natural fluctuations and thus at the end of 2002 we bid farewell to Jacques Hanoune of Creteil, France. Jacques

has been a cornerstone of *FEBS Letters* by working diligently as an Editor since 1981. During these 20 plus years on the board, he has handled over 2100 manuscripts. At a past editorial board meeting in July of 2001 (where many of us were meeting each other for the first time) Jacques introduced himself with the following remark: "I've been an Editor for many years...and I love it." We'd like to heartily thank Jacques for all his years of service to *FEBS Letters* and wish him all the best in his retirement.

As we gear up to implement a new submission and review system this year ("Manuscript Central" from ScholarOne), our current submission procedure continues to adjust to the changing needs of our journal. For the interim, we are manually processing electronic manuscripts from authors. Currently an author may submit a PDF file (preferably) of their manuscript directly as an attachment to our email address, and we then proceed with the file from there. If an author for any reason submits a paper copy, we also ask them to provide electronic files in an effort to move to a 100% electronic submission and review procedure. For the most part, this 'system' has worked quite well, although it puts a tremendous strain on the Editorial Office to obtain usable files, which we can pass along to our Editors. However, we also feel it is a necessary burden, as at this point it provides the quickest possible processing of manuscripts for our authors. In addition, this temporary procedure prepares *FEBS Letters'* authors for the switch to the ScholarOne system, which will also operate only by electronic submission. Thus, please bear with us while we are in this transition period, as we hope to have a better system up and running for our authors in March of this year.

Best wishes for a successful 2003!

Felix Wieland, Managing Editor
Connie Lee, Assistant Managing Editor
Eva-Mara Emig, Assistant Editor
Anne Mueller, Editorial Assistant

P.S. On a personal note, Anne, Eva-Maria, and Felix would like to warmly express their thanks to Connie for the tremendous job that she has done, in such an efficient and at the same time very cordial way. As sad as we are that Connie leaves, we wish her all the best for her new challenge as an editor of the *EMBO* Journal.



January 2003

Dear Fellow Scientists

The Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Biochemistry* wishes to draw your attention to the Editorial in the first issue of the journal for 2003. To summarize here, at its meeting in Cambridge in October 2002, the Board looked again at the reporting of new science in the post-genome era. Something that is increasingly easy to do is to investigate a situation or property known to exist in one particular organism, to see whether it exists in another organism, to see whether the 'same' enzyme has the 'same' properties, to see whether the 'same' control mechanism operates, and so on. Occasionally such work has merit and will be considered favourably for publication in EJB. The journal is strongly supportive of research in the area of bioinformatics, as indicated by the membership of its Editorial Board. However, the Board takes the view that a paper must report a new phenomenon, unravel a new molecular mechanism, throw new light on an old observation, raise an important new concept, or report a new method of widespread interest. These criteria are now being applied with increasing stringency. The Board believes that this is something our authors and our readers want and will be happy to see in an era of information overload.

We are proud of the way our time to publication continues to come down with the advent last March of online submission and review, and pleased with the favourable reception given to the publication of papers online before the make-up of the hard copy of the journal. The Manuscript Central online submission system has generally worked very well and been well received. So much so, that we are now essentially only accepting submissions made online. We apologise for any difficulties experienced with the website, few and far between as these appear to have been. An updated version of the system, incorporating improvements arising out of our first

year's experience, is being planned for introduction during 2003.

In the past year, EJB published 39 review articles, including 6 minireview series of linked reviews on a common theme. These ranged from protein phosphatases to theories of aging in mitochondria, from chromatin to the sodium pump, and from hydrogen tunnelling in enzymes to the control of ribosomal translation. Many of the reviews were solicited from the contributing authors but the journal is happy to receive unsolicited reviews for consideration. As part of FEBS policy, all the review articles in EJB are available online free-of-charge from the moment of publication.

A further innovation being introduced in 2003 is the availability of a website, again free of charge, whereby the mathematical models in papers dealing with such topics published in EJB can be accessed by those interested in trying out the models described. We believe this will be of great value to scientists working in this area.

The Editorial Office staff of EJB are always pleased to help you and welcome constructive comments on the operation of the journal. One change is to be noted: after several years of dedicated service, Ms Karen Richardson, one of our Editorial Secretaries, has moved on to a post elsewhere. We are most grateful to Ms Richardson for all the care and interest she devoted to EJB and wish her well in her future activities. Her place has been taken by Ms Laraine Kerr, whom we welcome to the Editorial Office staff to join Jane Bartolozzi and Ilana Wooster.

We take this opportunity to extend to you our best wishes for the New Year.

Richard Perham, Chairman of the Editorial Board
Louise Sanders, Editorial Office Manager
Vanessa Wilkinson, Deputy Editorial Office Manager
Jane Bartolozzi, Editorial Secretary
Laraine Kerr, Editorial Secretary
Ilana Wooster, Editorial Secretary

FOUR YEAR PHD PROGRAMME IN CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL (UK)

Our four-year PhD programme has been running in Liverpool since 1994. The programme provides formal training in a wide range of techniques. In addition, students on this Programme carry out three mini-projects before embarking on the full research project. We have five places on the programme from October 2003 each with a four-year Wellcome Trust-funded Studentship starting at £13,612 per annum (tax free) and up to four places funded by the Medical Research Council. Places are also available on a 1-year MRes course for suitably qualified candidates. Applicants are encouraged to apply from any area of biological sciences. Short-listed applicants will be invited to visit the laboratories. Nationals of any EU country are eligible for Wellcome Trust-funded studentships.

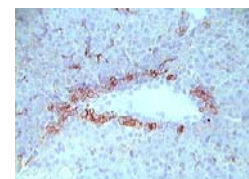
Applications including a CV and names and full contact details of two academic referees should be sent to *Helen Barker, The Physiological Laboratory, Crown Street, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 0151-794-5313, fax: 0151-794-5337, or via email: h.barker@liverpool.ac.uk*

Further information can be obtained from our web site <http://www.liv.ac.uk/physiology/index.html>

Closing date: January 31st 2003

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION

HORMONE AND METABOLIC RESEARCH UNIT (FRÉDÉRIC LEMAIGRE & GUY ROUSSEAU), LOUVAIN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL AND INSTITUTE OF CELLULAR PATHOLOGY BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



Abnormal development of bile ducts in Hnf6^{-/-} mice. (Development 129, 1819-1828, 2002)

FIELD: Role of the onecut (OC) proteins in development. These are evolutionarily conserved, tissue-restricted transcription factors, whose prototype is HNF-6. OC gene knock-out mice have been obtained.

PROJECT: To study the role of the OC factors in liver morphogenesis and differentiation.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING: Candidates (less than 34-years old, any citizenship) must hold a PhD or MD degree. They should send a CV with list of publications and the name and address (including phone, fax or e-mail) of three persons willing to referee on their behalf. The fellowship provides a net monthly income of 1640 Euros plus travel and social security expenses.

For details see <http://www.icp.ucl.ac.be/horm/>

Applications can be submitted **before 31. January**, 2003 to:

Prof. F. Lemaigre

Hormone and Metabolic Research

Avenue Hippocrate, 75, box 7529

B-1200 Brussels, Belgium. Fax 32-2-764-7507.

e-mail: lemaigre@horm.ucl.ac.be.

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES OF FEBS

- 2003 UPDATE OF FEBS MEMBER SOCIETIES



In the following you will find an updated list of the Constituent and Associated Societies (member societies) of FEBS, incl. URL's to their websites (if available). To see the names of contact persons in the individual societies, please see <http://www.febs.org/Organization/FEBSSOC.HTM> and <http://www.febs.org/Organization/Assoc.HTM>.

As a member of one of the listed societies, you are automatically also a member of FEBS. In order to see the offers made by FEBS to its members, please have a look at the FEBS website. If you have questions please contact Inge Detlefsen or Camilla Krogh Lauritzen at the FEBS secretariat (secretariat@febs.org).

Country:	Name of Society:	Website (if available):
Armenia:	Armenian Biochemical Society	NA
Austria:	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie	http://www.bcc.univie.ac.at/ogbm/
Azerbaijan:	Azerbaijan Society of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists	NA
Belarus:	Belarusian Biochemical Society	NA
Belgium:	Société Belge de Biochimie et de Biologie Moléculaire	http://www.icp.ucl.ac.be/bsbmb/welcome.html
Bulgaria:	Bulgarian Society for Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology	NA
Croatia:	Croatian Biochemical Society	NA
Cyprus:	Biochemical Society of Cyprus	http://www.mendelcenter.org/cy-biological.html
Czech Rep.:	Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://csbmb.img.cas.cz/
Denmark:	Danish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://www.biokemi.org/english/index.htm
Estonia:	Estonian Biochemical Society	NA
Finland:	Societas Biochimica, Biophysica et Microbiologica Fenniae	http://www.biobio.org/bioengl.html
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM):	Macedonian Biochemical Society	http://e20.manu.edu.mk/rcgeb/mbs/
France:	Société Française de Biochimie et de Biologie Moléculaire	NA
Germany:	Gesellschaft für Biologische Chemie und Molekularbiologie e. V	http://www.gbm.uni-frankfurt.de/

Continues..

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES OF FEBS

- 2003 UPDATE OF MEMBER SOCIETIES



Continued..

Country:	Name of Society:	Website (if available):
Great Britain:	The Biochemical Society	http://www.biochemsoc.org.uk/default.htm
Greece:	Hellenic Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	http://www.eebmb.gr/
Hungary:	Magyar Biokémiai Egylet	http://www.webio.hu/mbke/
Iceland:	Lífefnafræði Íslands	NA
Ireland:	The Biochemical Society, Irish Area Section	http://www.biochemistry.org
Israel:	Israel Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://isbmb.md.huji.ac.il/
Italy:	Società Italiana di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare	http://www.biochimica.it/
Latvia:	Latvian Biochemical Society	NA
Lithuania:	Lithuanian Biochemical Society	NA
Morocco:	Société Marocaine de Biochimie	http://smb.maroc.to/statuts.html
Moldova:	Moldovan Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	NA
Netherlands:	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Biochemie en Moleculaire Biologie	http://www.kncv.nl/secties/nvbmb/
Norway:	Norsk Biokjemisk Selskap	http://www.biokjemisk.com/
Poland:	Polish Biochemical Society	http://www.ptbioch.edu.pl/
Portugal:	Sociedade Portuguesa de Bioquímica	http://www.itqb.unl.pt/spb/
Russia:	The Russian Biochemical Society	NA
Romania:	Societatea Romana de Biochimie si Biologie Moleculara	http://www.biochim.ro/
Slovak Republic	Slovak Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://molbiochem.savba.sk/
Slovenia	The Slovenian Biochemical Society	http://bio.ijs.si/sbd.htm
Spain:	Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular	http://sebbm.bq.ub.es

Continues..

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES OF FEBS






- 2003 UPDATE OF MEMBER SOCIETIES



Continued..

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name of Society:</u>	<u>Website (if available):</u>
Spain:	Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular	http://sebbm.bq.ub.es
Sweden:	Svenska föreningen för biokemi och molekylärbiologi	http://www.sfbm.org/
Switzerland:	Swiss Society for Biochemistry	http://www.swissbiochem.unibe.ch/
Turkey:	Turkish Biochemical Society	NA
Ukraine:	Ukrainian Biochemical Society	NA
Yugoslavia	Yugoslav Biochemical Society	http://www.chem.bg.ac.yu/ybs/

About FEBS NewsLetter

-  FEBS NewsLetter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting January). All former issues of FEBS NewsLetter, are available at FEBS' website, <http://www.febs.org>.
-  Free e-subscription is offered at http://www.febs.org/e-mail_registration.asp. Subscribers will receive a notification when a new issue is out, including the URL to the newsletter (PDF file). Members of FEBS automatically receives this notification.
-  Should you wish to announce a job or a course? Or something else? FEBS NewsLetter welcomes all types of announcements that applies to the stated objectives of the Federation (ref. FEBS Statutes and Guidelines, section 1). This service is offered free of charge to all members of FEBS. Contact person: Camilla Krogh Lauritzen.
-  Any comments or suggestions to the FEBS NewsLetter or the website? Feel free to send an e-mail to newsletter@febs.org.
-  Deadline for all types of entries to the next issue of the FEBS NewsLetter is **February 28, 2003**.



What: **Life Sciences in the European research Council - the Scientist's opinion** (joint ELSF, FEBS, EMBO, meeting).

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.elsf.org/elsf190203.html>

When: February 19, 2003

Where: Paris, France

What: **The "Sixth International Conference on Lactoferrin: Structure, Function and Applications"**

For detailed information please see:

<http://lactoferrin.biox.com/>.

When: May 5-9, 2003

Where: Capri (Naples), Italy

What: **International Congress on Protein Expression and Protein Function**

For detailed information please see:

www.ctw-congress.de/dgpf

When: May 25 -May 28, 2003

Where: Berlin, Germany

What: **FEBS Advanced Course: "Lipid Signalling and Membrane Traffic"**

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.negrisud.it/en/congres/Febs2003/index.html>

When: June 20-26, 2003

Where: Consorzio Mario Negri Sud, Santa Maria Imbaro (Chieti), Italy

What: **FEBS Special Meeting on "Signal Transduction"**

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.febs-signal.be/>

When: July 3-8, 2003

Where: Brussels, Belgium

What: **BioScience2004: From Molecules to Organisms**

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.BioScience2004.org>

When: July 18-22, 2004.

Where: Glasgow, UK