

# *FEBS NewsLetter*



May 2003 (3/2003)

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## FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,  
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The dates for the FEBS Special Meeting on Signal Transduction in Brussels are getting closer, and the activity level within FEBS is indeed high. Not least within the FEBS Working Group on Women in Science (WISE), responsible for two high profiles workshop that will take place on July 4-5. More about this workshop on page 7. Another initiative that has taken actual shape, is '*Meet FEBS*', a series of informal sessions that will take place almost every day of the meeting (right next to the FEBS booth). At the 'Meet FEBS' booth, you can drop by for a talk with the people involved in the many activities related to FEBS, including the FEBS officers and colleagues from EJB and FEBS Letters. So, should you have any questions e.g. about FEBS Fellowships or FEBS role in the European Research Area, this is your chance to get a answer directly from the people involved. A detailed program for 'Meet FEBS' can be found on p. 8.

Another hot topic in FEBS at the moment is the European Research Area (ERA), in particular the discussions related to the European Research Council (ERC). The concept of this will be in focus at the first meeting of the newly formed FEBS Working Group on ERA (May 23), as well as on a meeting in Venice the week after (May 28 and 29). The Venice Meeting is a follow-up to the international meeting on ERC that took place in Paris in February this year. More about ERC and the follow-up meeting on the next page.

Looking forward to seeing you in Brussels!



## FEBS 29TH CONGRESS — THE CONGRESS IS NOW OPEN FOR PRE-REGISTRATION!

The Polish Biochemical Society would like to inform you that the 29th Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (former FEBS Meeting) will take place in Warsaw, Poland, from June 26 till July 1, 2004. The Programme will include the following sessions: DNA realm, RNA world, Proteins and peptides at work, Cell and tissue biochemistry, Biosphere and biochemistry, People's world and science.

For more information please visit web <http://www.febs2004.pl>. This will allow you to get the Second Announcement, information about details of the scientific programme and fellowship opportunities.

For on-line pre-registration go to <http://www.febs2004.pl/send.html>.

We look forward to welcoming you in Warsaw next summer.

Sincerely yours,

**Jolanta Baranska**

President of the Polish Biochemical Societies

*29th Federation of European Biochemical Societies Congress*

*June 26 - July 1, 2004*

*Warsaw, Poland*

*Organizing Committee:*

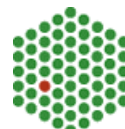
*Polish Biochemical Society*

*3 Pasteur St., 02-093 Warsaw, Poland*

*fax: (4822) 8225342 tel (4822) 6598571*

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## ERA & THE ERC — CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATING

As referred to in the two previous issues of FEBS NewsLetter (available at <http://www.febs.org>), FEBS is actively engaged in the European Research Area (ERA), incl. discussions related to the possible establishment of a European Research Council (ERC). At a meeting focusing on the perspectives in a future ERC — this meeting took place in Paris on Feb. 19, 2003 — it became apparent that there is a need to identify and define operational proposals for an ERC. And so it was decided to arrange a follow-up meeting to address this need. The follow-up meeting will take place in Venice on May 28-29, 2003, and is jointly organised by ELSF, UNESCO, EMBO, EMBL and FEBS. The stated objective is to discuss three major issues identified during the Paris meeting, in order to come up with detailed proposals. The issues in question are (a) definitions of the research grants that should be allocated, (b) the support for infrastructures, including centres of excellence, and (c) ERC delivery mechanisms, including calls for and evaluation of proposals, and ERC organisation. The outcome of the meeting, will be widely circulated in the appropriate fora, including this newsletter.

In addition, issues related to ERA — including the ERC— will remain to be areas of attention within FEBS' Working Group on ERA, which includes J. M. Gago, M. Osborn, M. Lazdunski, P. E. Van der Vliet, W. Neupert, A. Finazzi Agro, F. C. Kafatos, P. Chambon, D. Martinez-A, V. Paces and D. J. McConnell as well as the members of FEBS' Executive Committee.



## THE PROTEIN WORLD PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND ORGANIZATION

SCIENCE IS FUN: A CONFERENCE FOR YOUR CREATIVITY



### Topics from the Planned Scientific Program:

Functional Genomics, Proteomics, Bioinformatics; Protein Structure and Interactions – Folding and Misfolding; Proteases; Signal Transduction; Peptide Organization and Peptides in Drug Development; Membrane Proteins and their Interactions; Molecular Motors; Protein Biotechnology; Proteins in Development and Diseases; Protein Modifications in Health and Disease; Plant Proteins; Proteins of the Transcription Machinery.

### Planned Special Events:

- Youth Program – Youth Excellence Awards
- Women in Science – Outstanding Woman Scientist Awards
- Meet the Eminent – Meet the Expert Session
- When your Proteins get Stressed: a Mixed Lecture Session
- Science Education – Teaching of Biochemistry – Intellectual Property Rights
- Media Relations – Public Awareness Program
- The Best Protein Cook Contest – Protein Sculpture and 3-D Modeling Contest
- The Sound of Proteins: Concert; Hungarian Protein Products – Fair
- Lift your Proteins to the Air: FEBS-IUBMB Balloon
- and: your ideas, which are welcome at the address below

**Secretariat:** 2005 FEBS Congress and IUBMB Conference; Chemol Travel Congress Department;  
Mailing address: H-1366 Budapest, P.O.Box 28., Hungary; Tel:+36-1-266-7032, Fax: +36-1-266-7033;  
E-mail: [incoming@chemoltravel.hu](mailto:incoming@chemoltravel.hu)

**Pre-register at our website to  
receive the second announcement!**

<http://www.febs-iubmb-2005.com>



FEBS Letter, May 2003

Dear fellow scientists,

*FEBS Letters*, like the rest of the FEBS organization, is gearing up for the 2003 FEBS Meeting in Brussels.

One of our major projects for

this year is producing the Special Issue on Signal Transduction. This interesting and informative Special Issue is being edited by Richard Marais and contains Minireviews written by top specialists in the field, including an article by this year's Datta Lecturer, J. Gustafsson. This Special Issue will be distributed freely to all the participants of the FEBS Meeting.

Representatives from *FEBS Letters*, in conjunction with our sister journal *EJB*, will also be present at an informal "Meet FEBS" session on July 7<sup>th</sup> to answer your questions concerning publishing in the FEBS journals. Additionally, on the evening of July 7<sup>th</sup>, a "Young Scientists" information session/cocktail hour will be sponsored by the journals. The focus of this session is to provide younger researchers with information about the FEBS journals.

Another event sponsored by *FEBS Letters* at this year's FEBS meeting is the "*FEBS Letters* Award for Young Scientists" which was created to attract the next generation of top scientists to submit their work to *FEBS Letters*. The 10,000 Euro prize is awarded annually to the most outstanding Research Letter, with a corresponding author aged forty years or younger, published that calendar year. A prize committee consisting of Gunnar von Heijne (Chairman), Amy McGough, Judit Ovadi, Veli-Pekka Lehto, and Felix Wieland met in Heidelberg on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to discuss the manuscripts. They selected a paper entitled "Involvement of the telomeric protein Pin2/TRF1 in the regulation of the mitotic spindle" the most outstanding paper of 2002. Dr. Kun Ping Lu, an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, was the corresponding author of this paper and

has graciously agreed to accept the award and give a short talk at the 2003 FEBS Meeting in Brussels. The winner of the 2002 prize proved to be a prime example of scientists who regularly publish work in *Science*, *Nature* and *Cell*, also choose to submit their high-quality papers to *FEBS Letters*. Be sure to send in your manuscripts to *FEBS Letters* to be considered for this year's prize - to be awarded at the 2004 FEBS International Congress in Warsaw!

In addition to the events associated with the FEBS Meeting, we also have a timely and enlightening Special Issue on "Protonmotive Mechanisms of Energy Transducing Enzymes", which will appear at the end of May. This Special Issue was edited by Bernard Trumpower and contains articles by the participants of the upcoming Gordon Research Conference on Molecular and Cellular Bioenergetics. Serving as a compilation of many of the talks presented at this meeting, this Special Issue will be distributed freely to the participants.

The final news from *FEBS Letters*, involves the implementation of our new automated submission system, which our editorial board is currently testing. In conjunction with the release of the new system this June, we will also be introducing our brightly-colored, updated logo.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming FEBS Meeting!

With best regards,

The FEBS Editorial Office  
Felix Wieland, Managing Editor  
Kara Bortone, Assistant Managing Editor  
Eva-Maria Emig, Assistant Editor  
Anne Mueller, Editorial Assistant



CONTINUED...



EJB Editorial Office, May 2003

Dear Fellow Scientists,

**Review articles** are an important feature of the service provided by EJB, bringing you interesting and up-to-date commentary on a wide variety of topics.

Review articles published in EJB

may be either a stand-alone survey of a field or a shorter, more specialised article that forms part of a minireview series containing several coordinated articles written by experts in a wider area. Anyone wishing to submit a review article or coordinate a minireview series should contact the Reviews Editor, Professor Ferdinand Hucho (hucho@chemie.fu-berlin.de).

All review articles published in EJB can be read and downloaded free of charge on the Blackwell Science service *Synergy* (<http://blackwell-synergy.com/>) and on the *Highwire* platform (<http://ejbiochem.org> and <http://highwire.stanford.edu/>).

Since the previous FEBS Newsletter, the following Minireview series and review articles have been published in the journal:

#### Minireview series

Hypoxia and transcription

Oxygen-dependent regulation of hypoxia-inducible factors by prolyl and asparaginyl hydroxylation; The subtle side to hypoxia inducible factor (HIF $\alpha$ ) regulation.

2-Oxo acid dehydrogenase complexes of multicellular organisms: regulatory aspects

2-Oxo acid dehydrogenase complexes in redox regulation: role of the lipoate residues and thioredoxin; Regulation of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex activity in plant cells; Essential roles of lipoyl domains in the activated function and control of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinases and phosphatase isoform 1.

#### Review articles

The multidrug/oligosaccharidyl-lipid/polysaccharide (MOP) exporter superfamily; Surface polysaccharide involvement in establishing the rhizobium-legume symbiosis; 'Antifreeze' glycoproteins from polar fish; Mitochondrial connection to the origin of the eukaryotic cell, Alpha-oxidation of 3-methyl-substituted fatty acids and its thiamine dependence; Antisense technologies: improvement through novel chemical modifications; Argininosuccinate synthetase from the urea cycle to the citrulline-NO cycle; Open questions in ferredoxin-NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase catalytic mechanism; Hypothesis: No evidence for a role in signal-transduction of Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase interaction with putative endogenous ouabain.

#### Priority Papers

Priority Papers offer an opportunity to publish exciting new material even faster than that possible for Regular

Papers in the journal. Two Priority Papers have recently been published in EJB: Plasminogen activator inhibitor type-1 inhibits insulin signaling by competing with  $\alpha$ 2b1 integrin for vitronectin binding; Plasmoredoxin, a novel redox-active protein unique for malarial parasites. If you submit a Priority Paper to EJB, please indicate in your covering letter that you would like your manuscript to be handled as a Priority Paper.

#### Mathematical model database

For those of you interested in mathematical modelling, the website mentioned in the previous two issues of the FEBS Newsletter (1/2003 and 2/2003) is now up and running. You will be able to access and try out the mathematical models associated with two papers shortly to be published in EJB, free of charge.

Full details can be found in our Instructions to Authors (at <http://www.ejbiochem.com>) and at the relevant website: <http://jji.biochem.sun.ac.za/ejb/>. Alternatively, you may contact the Editorial Office by email via [ejb@camfebs.co.uk](mailto:ejb@camfebs.co.uk).

Authors wishing their model to be mounted on the mathematical modelling website should indicate this in the covering letter when submitting their manuscript. The model will be converted to a replica that can be run only by the authors and reviewers of the manuscript submitted to the Journal; if the manuscript is accepted for publication, the model will be subsequently made freely accessible online. We hope you enjoy using this innovative facility.

#### FEBS Meeting in Brussels, 4-8 July 2003

EJB will be represented at the Blackwell Publishing booth at the FEBS Meeting in Brussels, and we hope you will take the opportunity to visit. The Chairman of the Editorial Board, Professor Richard Perham, and the Editorial Manager, Ms Louise Sanders, will be at the meeting and can be contacted at any time through the EJB/Blackwell Publishing or FEBS booths.

EJB and FEBS Letters, the two journals owned by FEBS, will be hosting a reception for younger scientists on Monday 7 July, from 18:15 until 19:45. There will also be a 'Meet FEBS' session at the FEBS booth from 13.00 to 14.00 on Monday 7 July at which Louise Sanders will be present to deal with any questions about EJB and submitting papers to it.

Full details of these and other activities at the Brussels meeting can be found on the conference website, at <http://www.febs@org>.

With our best wishes,

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



## LIFE TIME CAREER PLANNING

Workshop at FEBS Special Meeting on Signal Transduction  
4-5 July 2003 Brussels (Brussels Expo)



The FEBS Working Group on Women in Science (WISE) is responsible for two workshops, which will take place in connection to the Special FEBS Meeting in Brussels.

The workshops will focus on the problems and questions related to attracting and retaining competent research scientists, in particular of female origin. The workshops are open for all interested.

### Outline of the WISE workshop program:

#### Friday, July 4:

Theme: **"Mobility and flexibility in planning a scientific career"**.

- 12:00-12:20 1. *"Scientific careers in academia: an international perspective"*  
Mary Osborn, Max Planck Institute for biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany,  
Chair ETAN Expert Working Group on Women and Science, and President elect,  
International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB).
- 12:20-12:40 2. *"Scientific careers in industry: Career planning in a lifetime perspective"*  
Ragnhild Sohlberg, Vice President, Norsk Hydro ASA, Co-chair of STRATA report on  
Women in Industrial Research, and Scientific Secretary, The European Research  
Advisory Board.
- 12:40-13:00 3. *"Scientific careers: Flexibility and mobility in and between academia and industry"*  
Raffaelli Liberali, Director, Directorate D-The human factor, mobility and Marie Curie  
activities, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission, Brussels.
- 13:00-13:30 Panel discussion.

#### Saturday, July 5

- 12:00-12:20 1. *"Leader potential"*.  
Anna Paula Laissy, DG Admin., the European Commission.
- 12:20-12:40 2. *"Dual Carers — Combining professional and private life"*  
Prof. Sue Lewis, Prof. at University of Manchester.
- 12:40-13:00 3. *"Different genders, different expectations?"*.  
Speaker details will be available shortly.
- 13:00-13:30 Panel discussion.

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### Venue

The meeting will take place at The Brussels Exhibition & Conference Centre, Place de Belgique,  
B – 1020 Brussels (<http://www.brusselsexpo.be>). Exact location will be announced on-site via posters.

Please contact organiser Prof. Rogne (**[sissel.rogne@bion.no](mailto:sissel.rogne@bion.no)**), if you need further information on this Workshop.

## MEET FEBS — INFORMAL Q&A SESSIONS AT THIS YEARS FEBS MEETING

FEBS Special Meeting on Signal Transduction  
4-8 July 2003 Brussels (Brussels Expo)



At this year's FEBS Meeting in Brussels, you are invited to come by the '**Meet FEBS**' booth for a drink and a talk with the people involved in the activities of FEBS. At this booth a series of informal Question and Answer sessions will take place almost every day during the Special Meeting. The 'Meet FEBS' booth will be situated right next to the usual FEBS booth. Information on the exact location will be available on posters at the main entrance at the Meeting. Below is a list of the FEBS people, whom you will have the opportunity to meet.

### **Friday, July 4:**

#### **13:30-14:30 FEBS History**

'FEBS Memoirs' - presentation of a new book on FEBS by *Horst Feldmann*, who has worked for FEBS for decades. Prof. Feldmann will be present to tell about FEBS through times, and to give a limited number of signed copies of 'FEBS Memoirs' away. ('first come first serve' basis).

### **Saturday, July 5**

#### **13:30-14:00 Young Scientists' Careers**

Many young scientists experience a lot of challenges — and problems — on their way up the career ladder. You are invited for a talk with *Marja Makarow*, organiser of FEBS Forum for Young Scientists (FFYS), who deals with these issues as chairman of FEBS Working Group on Young Scientists' Careers.

#### **14:00-14:30 Women in Science**

*Sissel Rogne*, organiser of the WISE workshop and responsible for FEBS Working Group on Women in Science (WISE) invites for a talk about the work of WISE, which e.g. deals with issues related to how to match family life with a professional scientific career.

### **Sunday, July 6**

#### **13:00-13:30 FEBS — the organisation's mission and vision**

*Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada* (Chairman of FEBS) and *Joan Guinovart* (FEBS' Meeting Counsellor), both members of FEBS Executive Committee, invite for a talk about the overall and specific organisation and objectives of FEBS.

#### **13:30-14:15 What does FEBS specifically do to promote Biochemistry (part I)?**

By educating actions and by recycling of scientific instruments! If you would like to hear more about these activities, please feel welcome to come by for a talk with *Peter Campbell* (Coordinator of FEBS Scientific Recycling Scheme, SARS), *Guy Dirheimer* (Chairman of Working Group to Explore Ways of Improving Assistance to Central and Eastern European Countries, WOGA), and *Peter Ott* (member of FEBS Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry in Europe).

#### **14:15-15:00 What does FEBS specifically do to promote Biochemistry (part II)?**

By arranging Advanced courses and by offering fellowships! Chairman of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee and former Chairman of FEBS Fellowships Committee, *Karel W.A. Wirtz* and *Israel Pecht*, respectively, will be available to answer questions and to inform about FEBS courses and fellowships.

### **Monday, July 7**

#### **13:00-14:00 What does FEBS specifically do to promote Biochemistry (part III)?**

By publishing the scientific work of our members/you! Come and have a talk with *Willy Stalmans* (chairman of FEBS Publications Committee), *Louise Sanders* (Editorial Manager at EJB), and *Kara Bortone* (Assistant Managing Editor at FEBS Letters). Prof. Stalmans will e.g. inform about free journals access for colleagues in Eastern-European countries.

#### **14:00-15:00 New Initiatives and future goals**

*Julio E. Celis* (FEBS' Secretary General), *Iain Mowbray* (FEBS' Treasurer), both members of FEBS Executive Committee, and *Luc van Dyck* (Executive Co-ordinator, ELSF) invite for a talk on the future of FEBS, including FEBS involvement in the European Research Area (ERA) and a possible European Research Council (ERC).

**Organiser/contact person: Camilla Krogh Lauritzen ([camilla@febs.org](mailto:camilla@febs.org))**





## **8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON BIOPHYSICS: "SUPRAMOLECULAR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION"**

**ROVINJ (RED ISLAND), CROATIA, SEPTEMBER 14 – 26, 2003**

The eighth Summer School on Biophysics entitled Supramolecular Structure and Function, will follow the successfully established interdisciplinary pattern of schools under the same title held in Dubrovnik and Rovinj in 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1994, 1997 and 2000. Basic biophysical knowledge presented by prominent lecturers comprises the "core curriculum", which is followed by the week devoted to specific topics.

This particular scope of the school enables the participants to get acquainted with the state-of-art problem-oriented and/or methodology-oriented approaches to biological systems.

The eighth Summer School on Biophysics entitled Supramolecular Structure and Function is sponsored by IUPAB and UNESCO.

All details are available at <http://www.irb.hr/biophysics2003>.

Please notice the following **deadlines**:

**May 15:** deadline for School application

**June 1:** deadline for submitting poster abstracts

**June 30:** confirmation of accepted posters

**July 15:** deadline for registration fee payment



**What:** International Symposium: 'Nitric Oxide: A Janus Molecule'

**When:** June 13-14, 2003

**Where:** Rome, Italy

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.bocedi@uniroma3.it>

**What:** The 2003 Younger European Chemists' Conference

**When:** August 27-29, 2003

**Where:** Grenoble, France

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.setforeurope.org>

**What:** Monoclonal Antibodies in the Treatment of Haematological Disease Malignancies (Conference)

**When:** October 11-13, 2003

**Where:** Paris, France

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.esh.org>

**What:** Société Française de Biochimie et de Biologie Moléculaire — Annual Congress






**When:** November 4-5, 2003

**Where:** Lyon-Gerland, France

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.ibcp.fr/sfbbm>

## **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](http://www.febs.org/e-mail_registration.asp). Subscribers will receive the newsletter as a PDF file whenever a new issue is published.
-  Should you wish to announce a job or a course? Or something else? FEBS NewsLetter welcomes all types of articles, announcements etc. that applies to the stated objectives of the Federation (ref. FEBS Statutes and Guidelines, available from our website).
-  Any comments or suggestions to the FEBS NewsLetter or website? Feel free to send an e-mail to [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org).
-  Deadline for all types of entries to the next issue of the FEBS NewsLetter is **June 20, 2003**.