

# *FEBS NewsLetter*



September 2003 (5/2003)

FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....	2
NEWS FROM FEBS' COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.....	3
THE NOTICEBOARD.....	4
DEBATE: THE EUROPEAN UNION: A KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY.....	5
NEWS FROM THE FEBS JOURNALS.....	7
OPPORTUNITIES.....	9
THE WWW OF UP-COMING EVENTS.....	10

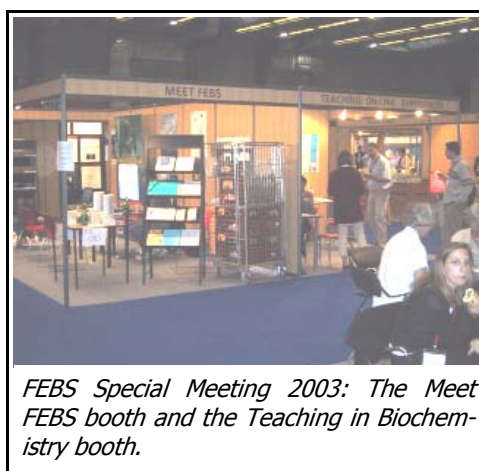
## FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,  
FEBS Information Manager, editor of FEBS Newsletter  
FEBS Secretariat,  
E-mail (newsletter and website related): [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org).  
E-mail (information on FEBS): [camilla@febs.org](mailto:camilla@febs.org)  
Direct Tel: (+45) 3525 7311  
Direct Fax: (+45) 3525 7366  
FEBS website: <http://www.febs.org>



Dear all,

As a 'wrap up' to this years' FEBS Special Meeting in Brussels in July, Jason Perret looks back on experience gained and forward to new initiatives, seen from his perspective as a member of the FEBS Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry in Europe. Many of you who participated in the Special Meeting in Brussels will undoubtedly remember Jason as the manager of the FEBS Teaching Biochemistry booth.



*FEBS Special Meeting 2003: The Meet FEBS booth and the Teaching in Biochemistry booth.*

I have received several enquiries regarding the abstracts from the lectures in Brussels; please be informed that these are available from EJB's website (see p. 9 for further details). The same goes for the posters.



*Louise Sanders (EJB) 'In session' at the Meet FEBS booth together with two students from University of Roskilde, Denmark.*

If you have any queries related to these, please direct them to Katherine Dobson ([katherine.dobson@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com](mailto:katherine.dobson@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com)).

Finally, if you would like to get a feel of the atmosphere — or recall it — photos from the Meeting are available from [http://www.febs.org/News/Photo\\_Gallery/Febs\\_2003/Photos\\_2003.htm](http://www.febs.org/News/Photo_Gallery/Febs_2003/Photos_2003.htm)

In addition, this issue of the FEBS Newsletter includes an input from Federico Mayor (see p. 5), who is literally centrally placed in the ERC debate; a debate that is currently diffusing rapidly within, and gaining priority throughout the European scientific community.

### **About the FEBS Newsletter:**

FEBS Newsletter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting in January). All issues of FEBS Newsletter are available at <http://www.febs.org>.

Free e-subscription is offered to all FEBS Members; subscribers will receive the newsletter as a PDF file whenever a new issue is published. To subscribe, simply send an e-mail to [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org) or subscribe on-line at [http://www.febs.org/e-mail\\_registration.asp](http://www.febs.org/e-mail_registration.asp).

Do you wish to announce a job, a post doc, an event etc.? We welcome all types of material 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).

The deadline for all types of entries to the next issue of the FEBS Newsletter is **October 31, 2003**.



## REPORT FROM THE *FEBS* WORKING GROU P ON TEACHING BIOCHEMISTRY IN EUROPE



### *FEBS* CONGRESS JULY 2003 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: WHAT WAS THE BUZZ FROM THE *FEBS* "TEACHING: ON-LINE EXPERIENCE" STAND?

Jason Perret, Lic.Sc.; Ph.D.  
Laboratoire de Chimie Biologique  
Faculté de Médecine, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Campus Erasme,  
Bat. G/E, C.P.611, 808, route de Lennik, 1070 Bruxelles, Belgium, Tel :32-(0)  
2-5556212, Fax :32-(0)2-5556230, e-mail:Jason.Perret@ulb.ac.be

Initiated by the Working Group for Teaching (WGT), the idea was to address the use of Internet Resources as tools, giving added value to teaching, learning and researching. Indeed, teachers need resources to prepare their courses, illustrate and enhance their presentations through images and simulations, boost their knowledge in various fields outside their own and prepare questions for assessments or exams. Students need access to "further reading" on course topics, simulations illustrating dynamic features of biochemistry or lab practices and have access to assessment training and preparation. Researchers need access to data analysis, structure visualisation or simulation, reaction simulation, increased knowledge, databases, and other tools such as calculators.

All of the above are available, many of them free, on the web. However, knowing that such resources exist or spending the time to search the web for such resources, let alone the high probability of branching out quickly and losing focus on the actual search objective, rebut most of us from even tempting the adventure. Therefore, adding such available resources to our ever growing need to convey the vast and ever growing body of knowledge is seldom used if not lost altogether.

Therefore, we endeavoured to offer a user-friendly file, categorising available web resources in many of the areas mentioned above, into lists in which each web server name is directly hyperlinked to the resource. Of course, the lists of sites are far from being exhaustive and the philosophy was to offer a "starter" for those who are overwhelmed by web resource-finding, had no idea that "such a resource exists" or those who just cannot spend the time.

And indeed, there was interest: circa 150-conference attendees visited the stand and over 120 requested receiving the "*FEBS*-WGT Web Resource File". From Spain to Russia from Sweden to Italy, from today's Europe and tomorrows, attendees were interested, but interests were slightly different and reflected the specific needs and difficulties that various regions of Europe experience. Our eastern colleagues were especially elated, indeed their computer and network resources are growing enormously, yet access to paper

copies of textbooks, course and other various materials is more challenging as their economies are gearing up for their full participation to the bigger Europe. Therefore, on-line access to such resources is a chance to update their teaching information and capabilities and ultimately align their potentials with their colleagues. Others were attracted to the on-line self-assessment resources or simulations for students, especially for laboratory practice often limited or needing priming. Hyper textbooks, images for presentations were appreciated as well. Researchers also found resources that could directly help in their work.

So what's next? Undeniably, many sites offer arrays of links to web resources, these types of sites are to be found in the "Link Sites" category. However, one has no control over the contents and to cover ones needs several such "link sites" must be visited. On the other hand, the file format offers management plasticity. The file is distributed freely and once on your computer it is yours, so deleting obsolete links, adding new ones or changing, re-organising and adding categories according to your needs is up to you. Positively, from day one on the stand this was the case: several colleagues told us their university's or institution's web sites had a hyper textbook or a metabolic simulation, etc. they were added in real time: we were experiencing first hand "open source" development, such as certain software develops yielding high quality programs. So maybe that is next! Your feedback on the good, the bad & the new that could then spill into, what we hope will become, YOUR open source Internet-On-Line-Resource, growing and staying alive to reflect the ever growing and changing web world, reflecting your needs, i.e teachers/researchers and students alike. Maybe the future of teaching and learning will not only be: "from mouth to ear" but let us add as well from "screen to eye".

Thanks to all those who supported this effort: Professors Ed Wood & Gül Güner (from the *FEBS* WGT), the Ph.D. students who tended the stand Myriam Rai, Latifa Chaou, Dominique Gallo & Christelle Langlet, and Professor Magali Waelbroeck & Dr Dave Roberts who chipped in on the file editing.



## FIND THE BEST PLACE TO BUY YOUR BOOKS — WWW.FETCHBOOK.INFO

My name is Ori Tend and I wanted to introduce you to a new site I've launched recently: <http://www.fetchbook.info>. It's a free service, allowing you to easily compare prices of any book among 81 discount book stores, used books stores, wholesale books stores and other online book stores, and find a price which is 30% - 80% off the market list price (Here's a sample comparison, where you can see that it saves so much for any book: <http://www.FetchBook.Info/0130408905.html> - particularly for the expensive books such as science books, text books, etc.).

## FRAMEWORK 6 CALL FOR HEALTH SCIENCES LAUNCHED

The European Commission has launched two calls under its Framework 6 Programme for integrating and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA), in the specific areas of life sciences, genomics and biotechnology of health. A total of 415 million euros is available. More information is available on: [http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=80](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=80)

## FREE ONLINE LANGUAGE HELP

<http://dictionary.reference.com/> offers access to a great number of online dictionaries (e.g. English), thesaurus, online translation, grammar rules and several other useful language tools. So if you need to brush up your language, or find just the right word for e.g. your application or article, this free service might be of help.

## CANCER FELLOWSHIPS

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announces its postdoctoral fellowships, which are intended to help junior scientists to start a postdoctoral assignment at IARC. Applicants should be under 35 of age, with a PhD or MD degree or equivalent. Detailed information is available on: <http://www.iarc.fr/pageroot/EDUCATION/indexeduc.html>

## PHD STUDENT SEEKS LAB!

I am looking for an opportunity to continue my PhD studies in a host lab, which is specialized in the investigation of structure, dynamics and function of mitotic spindle proteins and/or screening technologies for identifying molecules capable of perturbing specific targets.

I have studied various molecules with plant origin for their anti-tumour activity, and would like to expand my knowledge about cancer progression, thus I am interested in the microtubule proteins involved in the mitotic spindle assembly. I would like to focus my work on identifying cell-permeable small molecules that manipulate the function of any protein of interest.

I would like to spend from 3 months to 1 year in the host laboratory, if possible.

### Contact details:

Nikolay Vasilev

Medical University - Sofia

Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacognosy, Biotechnology Section, 2 Dunav St, Sofia 1000

BULGARIA, Tel.: +359 888 74 62 44, +359 2 923 65 85, Fax:+359 2 987 9874,

E-mail: [nickvass9@yahoo.com](mailto:nickvass9@yahoo.com); [nvasilev@pharmfac.acad.bg](mailto:nvasilev@pharmfac.acad.bg)



## THE EUROPEAN UNION: A KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY

### **Federico Mayor,**

President of the European Research Council Expert Group (ERCEG)  
Chairman of the FEBS Science and Society Committee, Member of FEBS'  
Executive Committee; E-mail: fmayor@fund-culturadepaz.org

In the Lisbon Summit Meeting held in October 2000, the European Commission determined that to compete with the most technologically advanced countries, in particular the United States and Japan, it should become "the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world" by the year 2010.

Almost a year and a half later, in the Summit Meeting held in Barcelona in March 2002, it was established that to achieve this objective the European Union would have to invest 3% of its GNP (Gross National Product) in research and development (R&D) by 2010. Without this investment the present gap between scientific research and corresponding patents will further increase and the competitive opportunities of the European market will fall to "unrecoverable levels".

Consequently, a swift reaction of member states was expected, which would bring about appreciable changes in the promotion of R&D. This has not been the case. In Spain, about 1% of the GNP is invested in these activities, approximately a third of which is devoted to military development. The incorporation of the "i" of "innovation" to R&D has been an attempt to mask this deficit. R&D&I accounts for about 1.6% of the GNP. A similar situation has been observed in France: in a recent article in "Le Monde" entitled "Research: how far will it decline?", the Nobel Prize Winner Françoise Jacob points out that the scientific potential of a country is the only guarantee of appropriate development in industrial, agricultural, health and military sectors. The United States not only promotes in-house science but also "imports the most brilliant scientists from around the world". A recent report by the European Commission states that 400,000 European researchers and engineers now work in North America. In Europe, the number of researchers accounts for 5.36 per 1000 active population; in the United States and Japan this figure is 8.66 and 9.72, respectively. The figures for patents in France

and the number of "exiled" scientists brings to light the pressing need to correct these trends both nationally and internationally. The political commitment of the European Union requires very clear accounts and precise decisions. It has been calculated that, on average, the research effort in European countries must double in 7 years to reach an investment of 3% of the GNP by 2010. In 2000 and 2001 European expenditure on research was 1.93% and 1.94%, respectively. The United States invests around 2.8% and Japan 3%.

The European Statistics Office (EUROSTAT) has informed that in 2001 the European Union invested 171,000 million Euros in R&D compared to 164,000 million in 2000. In the same period the United States invested 287,000 million Euros and Japan 154,000 million Euros (which represents 2.98% of its GDP).

These figures call for the adoption of a true research policy, to be adopted on the basis of consultation with members of parliament at both national and European level. These issues are too important to be met by the simple strategy of "getting by", without facing the great challenges of society. Because of its temporal projection, scientific development is a matter of State and its maintenance and efficacy cannot be included in the ever-changing priorities of local and community authorities. Many are the failed research projects but, undoubtedly of greater importance, are the many life projects wrecked by political "to-ing and fro-ing".

Several days ago, the European Commissioner for Research, Philippe Busquin, whose efforts to improve the situation deserve recognition, stated that to fulfil these objectives by 2010, the European Union will need 500,00 more researchers. To avoid the "brain-drain", 1,580 million Euros will be assigned to the VI Framework Programme 2002-2006 for training, mobility and development of European Community research, with a special emphasis on young scientists.





***Continued..***

It is "of the utmost importance to improve the recognition and working conditions of this profession", stated Busquin. In Spain, the Minister of Economy, Mr. Rodrigo Rato, recently announced tax relief as of this fiscal year to encourage investment from the private sector.

The private sector lacks the rigor that is now urgent. This sector either exaggerates its strengths -almost all D and no R- because of interests in the stock exchange and financial transactions or it classifies quality control facilities as investments in R&D installations... In the case of Spain, the COTEC should promote investment in R&D&I rather than provide yearly figures on the low "scientific activity" of Spanish industry in general. An analysis of scientific activity should cover companies in Spain and not only Spanish companies: the excuse that research is carried out in the "parent company" is unacceptable. All companies, whether national or international, should be offered fiscal incentives to promote research activity in Spain.

Biotechnology is one of the most solid guarantees for business because it reaches all walks of life and its main applications, nutrition and health, are the two cornerstones of a future with increased quality of life. Spain, with few exceptions, is well behind the effort that corresponds to it for its economic development, and is dangerously accustomed to living at the expense of research and technology from other countries.

Several years ago, the President of the Spanish Association of Biocompanies (ASEBIO) stated, "We need bio entrepreneurs, people able to transform ideas and the results of their research into products that sell". The scientific contributions and trade agreements that took place from 8-11th April at the II World Forum of Life Sciences - BioVision - Lyon, France, demonstrated the extraordinary present and future importance of this industrial sector.

To successfully face the coming challenges that the European Union has identified, the following measures are essential: to inform the population, members of parliament and governors, through

effective media, as to the benefits derived from increased scientific and technical research; to promote transdisciplinary groups, including, of course, "humanities"; to draw together reliable data on the current status of the ERA (European Research Area) in order to avoid repetition of activities and to foster promotional efforts, providing assistance to teams that have demonstrated scientific excellence and the capacity to incorporate promising young scientists; to ensure that R&D investment figures in the private and public sector are audited and made available to the public to guarantee that they are duly destined to basic research; to establish an independent European Research Council funded by the European Union to ensure fulfilment of the objectives mentioned for 2010; this Council becoming a contact point for several European institutions (ESF: European Science Foundation; FEBS: Federation of European Biochemical Societies ; EMBO, European Molecular Biology Organisation) so that they can provide valuable contributions to the establishment of priorities, selection of applications, etc...

The present draft of the European Constitution does not clearly reflect the priority of science nor does it authorise specific procedures for the attribution and regulation of financial resources for its promotion. This is why the ERCEG has proposed a text for the autonomy of the entity and the recognition of several mechanisms of action that are both agile and transparent -- that is in accordance with the challenges that they must meet. The political and social commitment to research must be backed by corresponding financial and logistic support. Health and nutrition, cornerstones of quality of life, call for an effective channel of communication between parliament members and governors and the scientific community and the business sector. These, in turn, should be constantly in touch with the needs of society. The present lack of communication is being remedied by occasional informal meetings. This strategy will not allow the European Union to fulfil its objective of becoming "the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world" by the year 2010.

Interested in reading more about ERA and the ERC?  
- see the FEBS News pages on [www.FEBS.org](http://www.FEBS.org)!



September 2003

Dear Fellow Scientists,

We launched our on-line submission site on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the conversion to this new system couldn't have gone more smoothly. Word spreads quickly amongst our authors, as we already receive more than 95% of our submissions through the

new site. Compared to this time last year, we have also seen an increase in the number of submissions. Our authors and editors have given us a lot of positive feedback, commenting that the system is both user-friendly and self-explanatory. So go to [www.manuscriptcentral.febsletters.com](http://www.manuscriptcentral.febsletters.com) and submit your manuscript on-line today!

This fall look for two of our upcoming special issues. The first special issue, entitled "Viral Ion Channels", will appear later this month. This issue highlights some of the key talks presented at the "Ion channels in virus infection/replication: protein structure and channel function" conference held last October in Milan, Italy. Maurice Montal (La Jolla), Gerhard Thiel (Darmstadt), and Anna Moroni (Milan) organized the special issue. One of the goals of the organizers is to bring attention to how the relative simplicity of viral ion channels paves the way for understanding structure-function relationships in their more complex bacterial and eukaryotic counterparts. Also, we are excited to bring you a special issue based on the "Nobel Symposium on Membrane Proteins" which took place in Stockholm just a few weeks ago (August 22-25, 2003). This special issue, which will be released in a few months, will contain contributions from most of the approximately 40 speakers at the Nobel Foundation Symposium and is being organized by two of the participants, Jan Rydstrom (Gothenburg) and Gunnar von Heijne (Stockholm). Given the intense interest in the structure and function of membrane proteins in the scientific community, this issue will have widespread impact because many of the groups that have solved these structures will contribute articles.

We would also like to bring your attention to an upcoming special section on gelsolin. In this special feature, Bob Robinson's group (Uppsala) presents two papers on this actin regulatory protein. Using X-ray crystallography they bring new insight into the actin regulatory activities of gelsolin by showing the conformational changes of gelsolin domains upon calcium binding as well as in a

complex with actin monomer. This actin binding/repair protein is further highlighted in our September 25<sup>th</sup> issue by a mini-review, which is co-authored by the editor of these two papers, Amy McGough (West Lafayette). This review chronicles the milestones in gelsolin structural studies since its discovery in 1979 and places the insights gained from these two recent papers into the broader context of elucidating the molecular mechanism of actin filament breakage.

You also won't want to miss the two latest installments of "Jeff's View". In the September 11<sup>th</sup> issue Jeff Schatz (Bern) brings you "Mighty Manganese", an article discussing this element's affect on evolution and life on earth. If you haven't given much thought to manganese's impact on biochemistry before, you certainly will after reading this article! In his second article appearing later this fall, "Networks, fretworks", Jeff addresses some of the administrative hurdles European researchers encounter when they receive federally and internationally funded grants and discusses how this affects scientific productivity. We are also pleased to announce that Jeff will continue to bring you his thought-provoking articles with 4-6 contributions to *FEBS Letters* in 2004.

Lastly, we would like to bid a fond farewell to two of our longest serving editors, Marc van Montagu and Julio Celis. After more than ten years on the *FEBS Letters* editorial board, Marc van Montagu (Ghent) is retiring at the end of September. Also, Julio Celis (Copenhagen) will step down from the board at the beginning of this month. During his time as editor, Julio handled almost 5,000 manuscripts. The editorial office will miss these superb editors and the guidance they provided, but we wish them all the best in their future scientific endeavors. To cover Julio's areas of expertise, we are delighted to announce that Lukas Huber (Innsbruck) will join the editorial board this September. As a Professor of Histology and Molecular Cell Biology, Lukas has a broad range of expertise. The editorial office and the entire editorial board would like to welcome him to the *FEBS Letters* team and we look forward to working with him in the years to come.

With kind regards,

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



CONTINUED...

September 2003



Dear Fellow Scientists

We hope you have been enjoying the summer (in the Northern hemisphere that is) and the winter (in the Southern). This message brings you some news of what has been happening to EJB over the past couple of months.

Authors (current and prospective) will no doubt be pleased to note that we have made it possible for them to take full advantage of the electronic age; instead of the traditional 50 free reprints (not many journals still provide that anyway!) authors are now being offered 25 free reprints plus a free pdf file of their paper as published.

During the summer, we have been working on introducing various improvements to our online submission system (Manuscript Central) with the manufacturers, ScholarOne. The new version will be evaluated over the coming few months and we expect to be able to introduce it soon. Full details of any changes will be posted on the EJB website ([www.ejbiochem.com](http://www.ejbiochem.com)) when the time comes.

We are currently managing to generate first decisions on many of the papers submitted to us within four weeks of receipt of the paper. This can lead to good papers being published in 3-4 months (or less, if little revision is required), which is an enviable achievement for a journal committed to publishing full-length reports of major pieces of research. We do not believe that speed is the only criterion in successful publishing, but it is certainly no drawback!

### FEBS Meeting in Brussels, 3-8 July 2003

All the abstracts of the lectures and posters at the special FEBS Meeting in Brussels can be accessed and searched (together with the abstracts from the Istanbul 2002 and Lisbon 2001 meetings) from the EJB website. The abstracts for this meeting were published in EJB 270/Supplement 1.

### Reviews and Priority Papers

Since the last FEBS Newsletter, the following review articles have been published in the journal:

*Gene regulation by tetracyclines: Constraints of resistance regulation in bacteria shape TetR for application in eukaryotes*, by C. Berens and W. Hillen (vol 270/15);  
*Fidelity and spatio-temporal control in MAP kinase (ERKs) signalling*, by J. Pouysségur and P. Lenormand (Vol 270/16)

(The Sir Hans Krebs Lecture given by J. Pouysségur on 24 October 2002 at the 28th FEBS meeting in Istanbul)

*Fluorescent and colored trinitrophenylated analogs of ATP and GTP*, by T. Hiratsuka (Vol 270/17);  
*Side-chain control of b-peptide secondary structures: Design principles*, by T.A. Martinek and F. Fülöp (Vol 270/18) plus this Priority paper: *Novel ATP-binding and autophosphorylation activity associated with Arabidopsis and human cryptochrome-1*, by J.-P. Bouly, B. Giovani, A. Djamei, M. Mueller, A. Zeugner, E.A. Dudkin, A. Batschauer and M. Ahmad (Vol 270/14)

The following reviews will be published in forthcoming issues of EJB:

*Human hemoglobin: a new paradigm for the oxygen binding involving two types of ab contacts*, by Keiji Shikama and Arika Matsuoka; *Investigating RNA polymerase II carboxyl-terminal domain (CTD) phosphorylation*, by Benoit Palancade and Olivier Bensaudé

You can read reviews online and download them free of charge from the time of publication. All reviews published in EJB in recent years have now been collated and can be accessed free of charge on the EJB online websites: Blackwell Science service *Synergy* (<http://blackwell-synergy.com/>) and the *Highwire* platform (<http://ejbiochem.org> and <http://highwire.stanford.edu/>). These sites are easily reached by hotlinks from the EJB website ([www.ejbiochem.com](http://www.ejbiochem.com)).

### Mathematical model database

The model from the following manuscript (click on OnlineEarly at the EJB website) will shortly be published on the mathematical modelling website (<http://jjj.biochem.sun.ac.za/database/index>):

Mathematical modelling of the urea cycle. A numerical investigation into substrate channelling, by A. D Maher, P.W. Kuchel, F. Ortega, P. de Atauri, J. Centelles and M. Cascante.

Instructions for submission of a model can be found at <http://jjj.biochem.sun.ac.za/ejb>.

### Acknowledgements

To all our referees, who undertook to review papers for us cheerfully (for the most part, anyway!) during the holiday season, we extend a special thank you.

With best regards,

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





## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT IN PLANT SCIENCE POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

**Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology Porto Portugal**  
**Department: Functional Plant Biology**  
(<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/>)

3 years – 12 x 1.495 EUR/year (free of charges).

### Functions

Involvement in several research projects: i) gene regulation in alkaloid biosynthesis in *Catharanthus roseus*, with special emphasis in a basic peroxidase gene, ii) arabinogalactan proteins in *Catharanthus roseus* and *Arabidopsis thaliana* – study of their functions by biochemical and genetic approaches. Involvement in supervision of undergraduate students.

### Required

PhD before September 2003 .  
Good background in plant molecular biology techniques.

### Preferences

Experience with the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*.  
Experience with RNA interference technology.

### Application

Deadline: **September 15, 2003**

Send CV, letter expressing interest and skills, and the names and e-mail addresses of three referees to:

**Mariana Sottomayor**

Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology (IBMC), University of Porto  
Rua do Campo Alegre, 823  
4150-180 Porto, Portugal  
Tel. + 351 22 6074900  
Fax + 351 22 6099157  
Email: [msottoma@ibmc.up.pt](mailto:msottoma@ibmc.up.pt)

## POSTDOCTORAL POSITION AVAILABLE

K.U.LEUVEN  
Leuven, BELGIUM  
Laboratory for Experimental Neurosurgery and Neuroanatomy

In the Laboratory for Experimental Neurosurgery and Neuroanatomy, we are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow to join a research project on Gene therapy for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease using lentiviral vectors.

Candidates should have experience with neurobiology, cell biology and (neuronal) cell culture.  
Start date : Oct. 2003

Candidates should send a detailed CV **by October 31, 2003** to:

**Dr. Veerle Baekelandt,**

Experimental Neurosurgery and Neuroanatomy,  
Kapucijnenvoer 33 VCTB+5, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium,  
Tel +32 16 33 21 56, e-mail [Veerle.Baekelandt](mailto:Veerle.Baekelandt)



**FEBS SPECIAL MEETING (04-09M),**  
45<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BIOSCIENCE OF LIPIDS,  
45<sup>TH</sup> ICBL  
**CULTURAL CENTRE OF IOANNINA, MAY 25-29 2004, IOANNINA (GREECE)**

---

**Topics for the Scientific Programme:**

1. Lipid metabolism and functional diversity
2. Biological activity of olive oil components
3. Pro-inflammatory lipid mediators
4. Molecular and genetic basis of lipoprotein metabolism
5. Hot topics (to be chosen on short notice as they come up)

The scientific programme will include the traditional LLM van Deenen lecture, lectures by invited speakers, oral communications selected from submitted abstracts and poster presentations.

**Poster Awards**

The poster Award Committee will select 3 outstanding posters judged for the scientific content and clarity of presentation for the poster Awards. The prizes will be presented during the Conference Dinner.

**Travel Grants**

Ten travel grants will be offered to students from Balkan and Eastern European countries. These travel grants will include free admittance to the conference and financial support for transportation and accommodation.

**Conference Venue**

The conference will be held in the Cultural Centre of Ioannina. It is located in the centre of the city and is only a short walk from almost all the hotels of the city.

**Important Dates**

Second Announcement (approximately by the end of November 2003).

**Preliminary details of the meeting can be seen on:**

**FEBS'** website (<http://www.febs.org>) and at the ICBL website (<http://www.icbl.unibe.ch/Meetings.htm>)

**Correspondence to:**

**Assoc. Prof. Alexandros Tselepis**

Laboratory of Biochemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina,  
University Campus Dourouti, 45110 Ioannina, Greece  
Tel.: +30-2651-098365; Fax: +30-2651-047832; E-mail: [atselep@cc.uoi.gr](mailto:atselep@cc.uoi.gr)

# THE WWW OF UP-COMING EVENTS



Continued...

**What:** 1st World Congress on Regenerative Medicine

**When:** October 22 – 24, 2003

**Where:** Leipzig, Germany

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.regmed.org>

**What:** 15th International Symposium on Microsomes  
and Drug Oxidations

**When:** July 4-9, 2004

**Where:** Mainz, Germany

For detailed information please see:

<http://www.mdo2004.de>

**What:** 16th IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical  
Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

**When:** May 8– 12, 2005

**Where:** Glasgow, UK

For detailed information please see:

[www.glasgow2005.org](http://www.glasgow2005.org)