

FEBS NewsLetter



November 2003 (6/2003)

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FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,
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Last month the discussions on the possible creation of a European Research Council (ERC), was taken one major step further at a meeting organised by ELSF in Dublin. As implied by its title ("Interdisciplinary meeting – A European Research Council for all sciences"), this meeting e.g. included representatives from life science, social sciences and humanities. You can read more about the meeting and its outcome on p. 3. In addition, you can read more about the background for this meeting at our website (http://www.febs.org/News/Science_Policy/Science_Policy.htm) and ELSF's website (<http://www.elsf.org/elsfpubs.html>).

I am receiving an increasing number of e-mails from younger scientists, who are looking for labs, funds, contacts etc., in relation to their studies (e.g. PhDs). To those of you, please notice that FEBS provides you with several fora, where you can publish these announcements for free; namely this newsletter, our website, and last but not least: The FEBS Bulletin Board. The latter, which was recently launched, is unlimited in terms of size and open to more than 40.000 members — scientists on all levels and in all sectors— in 42 countries. As such, FEBS Bulletin Board offers the ideal knowledge exchange platform, both for those of you with specific needs (such as a lab for your PhD work), as well as to those of you with more general needs. Furthermore, if you wish to create or join a network e.g. with colleagues from other institutes, organisations or countries, the FEBS Bulletin Board is indeed the ideal place to start; in fact it is very much up to you to make it 'come alive', so use it!

A new feature on the FEBS Bulletin Board is the open forum called 'From the Secretariat'; here you can address general questions about FEBS. Needless to say, all questions raised will be answered. It is of course also possible to address questions about specific FEBS activities. If you have one such question, please feel welcome to raise it in the respective forum on the FEBS Bulletin Board.

If you wish more information on the FEBS Bulletin Board, you will find this at <http://www.febs.org>. Finally, my colleague Peter Ott, FEBS' Web Manager, and I would be happy to answer any question that you might have, as to its use.

As the next FEBS Newsletter will be out on January 12, 2004, I will take this opportunity to wish you all happy holidays, and - for those of you, for whom it's relevant — happy examines!

Kind regards
Camilla

About the FEBS Newsletter:

FEBS Newsletter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting in January), and e-mail directly to approx. 14.000 FEBS members.

Free e-subscription is offered; 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 or subscribe on-line at http://www.febs.org/e-mail_registration.asp.

Do you wish to announce a job, a post doc, an event etc.? Advertise this in FEBS Newsletter for free! We welcome all types of material that applies to the stated objectives of the Federation.

Any comments or suggestions to the FEBS Newsletter or FEBS' website? Feel free to send an e-mail to newsletter@febs.org.

The deadline for all types of entries to the next issue of the FEBS Newsletter is **January 2, 2004**.



A EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR ALL SCIENCES: A DREAM THAT MAY COME TRUE

On October 21 and 22 this year, the scientific community represented by the life sciences, physics, mathematics, social sciences and humanities met at The Ireland Academy for the Sciences and Humanities, to discuss the European Research Council (ERC) initiative and to generate a document reflecting the views of the whole scientific community on the creation of an ERC, its general principles and its structure, as well as the specific needs of each discipline with respect to research grants and infrastructures.

An important outcome of the meeting was the realization that the scientific community, through its economic support and engagement, had provided a much-needed Forum to discuss science policy issues. The Forum has been instrumental in maintaining the continuity in the ERC discussions, and has grown to accommodate the opinion of all the stakeholders. There was a clear consensus among the participants about the need to think European, to join forces, and to set-up clear directions for how to proceed in order to assure the success of the ERC initiative. Towards this aim the assembly appointed a working group that comprise B. Andersson (ESF), J. E. Celis (FEBS, ELSF), J. P. Connerade (Euroscience), J.M. Gago (FEBS working group on the European Research Area), F. Gannon, (EMBO), F. Kafatos (EMBL), P. Tindemans (Euroscience), R. van Duinen (ESF), and L. van Dyck (ELSF). The group will have its first meeting in Brussels on November 4, 2003 to discuss the preparation of a joint draft document stating the position of the whole scientific community concerning the ERC.

Julio E. Celis, Secretary General, FEBS

(excerpt from an article to appear in EJB and FEBS Letters in November 2004)

FEBS FORUM FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS, WARSAW 2004 — PROGRAM OUT NOW!

The **FEBS Forum for Young Scientists (FFYS)** is a satellite meeting of the annual International FEBS Congress, intended for PhD students and recently graduated PhDs who are members of a FEBS Constituent Society. The next FFYS will take place in Warsaw on **June 24 - 26, 2004**. The program outline looks as follows:

Thursday, June 24

- 13.00 Registration and mounting of posters
- 16.00 Opening of the meeting, Rafal Czajkowski (organiser)
Key note talk Ada Yonath, Israel
Session 1
- 19.00 Get together party

Friday, June 25

- 09.00 Session 2
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Poster session 1
- 15.00 Panel discussion addressing young scientists' issues such as shaping a scientific career, funding instruments for young scientists, mobility, workplaces in industry and bio-business. Chair, Marja Makarow (organiser)
- 19.00 Banquet

Saturday, June 26

- 09.00 Poster session 2
- 12.00 Session 3
- 14.00 Closing of the meeting

A FFYS 2004 website including updated detailed information on the program, venue, and application procedures, organisers etc., will be launched soon (please keep an eye on www.febs.org, where a link to the FFYS web page will appear asap).



SEARCHING FOR DOLLY AND FINDING NASHVILLE?

If the answer is "Yes" - then visit www.scirus.com, a free search engine developed for scientists. Scirus only searches across science related content (currently over 150 million pages) - which means when you search, you don't have to wade through pages of irrelevant results to find the information you are looking for.

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

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INTERESTED IN SCIENCE GRANTS AND SCIENCE NEWS?

At <http://www.researchresearch.com/getPage.cfm> you will find funding opportunities alert service for researchers, including every opportunity in every discipline that you can apply for, as well as daily news from over 30 countries around the world, plus in-depth analysis from our team of expert reporters and comment from leading figures in the research community.

FIND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC. THAT MATCH YOUR INTEREST

<http://www.findce.com> is designed to help you locate the ideal continuing education opportunities in literally hundreds of disciplines.

FEBS BULLETIN BOARD

– THE PLACE TO INTERACT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE FEBS COMMUNITY

Free access is offered to all FEBS Members. Read more about our bulletin board at <http://www.febs.org/News/News.htm>

Do you have an announcement for the Message Board?
- send it to newsletter@febs.org, and have it at this posted here for free!
(please write 'Message Board' in the subject title)



GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM A SCIENTIST

Prof. Jacques E. Dumont,

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Question 1 :

Do we accept the transposition of "Brand promotion by the music industry" to "Brand names in the research industry" ?

The aims, strategies and methods of those who sell science become more and more similar to those of the music or sport industry.

Behind that world, industry, hide the public relation people of the lobby of the industry.

The industry promotes, by an organized, intensive publicity brand names: Science, Nature, Cell ... and names of "star scientists", the Spice girls of science. As in music the name of the star is more important than the song !

To a review that I proposed to one such journal I received the answer: if you could get it signed by a few other well known cell biologists rather than some of your young collaborators we take it ! Thanks for the compliment anyway ! But no.

Dangers of the predominance of brands are the emphasis on the flashy over the profound, the power of official dogmatic truth. The truth is what is written in the reviews of the "top notch" journals... the bibles promoted by publishers.

One danger of the star system is to induce our political masters to think that one can support science by supporting just a few "top scientists". Are we happy with this trend ?

Question 2: Can we replace scientific committees by computer algorithms ? The tyranny of impact factors.

The citation industry was created by Gardner as a commercial venture. It has succeeded first in equating the value of a research to its recognition mark: the citation index. The value of music is measured by the number of CDs sold.

Then, as it is easier to calculate, the value of science is evaluated by the addition of the impact factors i.e. of the mere citation of all the articles of a journal.

This formula is applied implicitly by quite a few committees !! If judgments were that simple why not replace committees by computer algorithms ?

To show where this leads scientists: once I was questioning a fellow scientist on the possible physiological meaning of some of his findings in a cell line; he an-

swered me very honestly: Jack I don't care ! This will be published in a high impact journal ... So I get funded and invited ! Nice to be pragmatic !!!

A caricature illustrates the fault: A. Einstein in his late twenties / M. Gallo in his thirties.

Candidates for tenure:

A. Einstein

- journals with no impact factor
- examiner in a patent office - **Rejected**

B. M. Gallo

- hundreds of articles in "top notch" journals, Nature, Science, Cell, etc., articles in the same Nature issue
- impact factor : the highest citations : most cited author 1980-1990 - NIH - **Chosen**

Three articles in one issue of Nature ! Try to do it ! The fact that M. Gallo never failed to invite J. Maddox to the best restaurant in town at each congress, of course, may have something to do with this. My committee will choose M. Gallo for his high impact science. This high impact, highly cited science is now described in a recent book : "science fictions". (Science Fictions. A scientific mystery, a massive cover-up, and the dark legacy of Robert Gallo, John Crewdson, Little Brown Company, Boston 2002).

The tyranny of impact factors bears strongly on young scientists. It will induce them to enhance the significance of their results, to omit unpleasant results, or even worse. But then, the system lives from our vanity. Merchants play rightfully on our vanity as they do when they sell cosmetics. Do you know that the business of cosmetics is more important than the one of the drugs ?

Let us look at the publishing process.

Question 3: Are scientists the cuckolds of the publishing industry ?

I submit a manuscript to the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

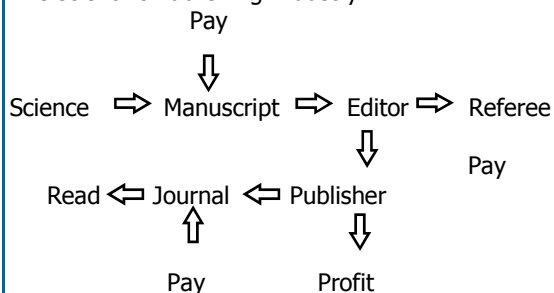
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To accept to look at it they ask USD 50. One hour later the jerk at the desk decides it is not flashy enough, rejects it and pockets the USD 50. If he accepts to consider it, two other scientists will spend 1 to 10 hours reviewing my manuscript. They may receive a thank you. Then, the publisher publishes and asks me page charges. When the paper is published our library will pay to allow me to read it.

The scientific Publishing Industry:



This is a process in which we produce the stuff, judge it and consume it. We pay and the industry makes a profit. When part of this profit is returned to societies like the FEBS which then uses it to support meetings (as this one), fellowships, education, etc. Very good ! But these journals are a minority. Still my son once told me that as I enjoyed so much my work I should pay to do it and not the reverse ...

For me the answer to that question is yes.

Question 4 : Is the European Community on the right track to promote European Science ?

We all know that Europe lags behind the US in terms of the quantity and sometimes the quality of its science. There are two aspects to the question. The amount of money and its use. On the amount there is nothing to compare to the 30 billion dollars distributed by the NIH. But do we use wisely what we have ?

The EC distributes 5% of the European finances to research. By treaty this is essentially targeted towards applied research.

The part of the budget allocated to fellowships and students exchange has brought tremendous benefits and together with European societies and meetings is progressively creating a real European Community of scientists. This is a 100 % success.

The FP6 with its emphasis on huge conglomerates, its political criteria and political correctness is much more debatable. Its bureaucratic and political slang discourages many scientists. There are now companies which specialize in writing and organizing proposals on a percentage basis. I believe that when a scientist has to turn to a professional to write his research proposal something is wrong in the system.

Perhaps we should take our lesson from a system that works: the NIH.

A first lesson to take is the choice in 1990 of its scientific director H. Varmus, a well recognized working re-

searcher. There are other lessons...

Whatever our opinion about European research policy, I think we would all agree that this is a subject that should be discussed with the scientific community as a whole and its representatives rather than with groups of self appointed lobbyists and international or national bureaucrats.

Question 5 : Is the patent system the best protection of the inventor or of the financial conglomerate?

I have an illustrative story to tell on this one.

In 1995 the group of Parmentier and Vassart, in our institute, cloned, sequenced and identified the CCR5 chemokine receptor. Later, at the same time as others, they showed that it was one port of entry of HIV in lymphocytes. This was the subject of the first patent filed in Europe and in the US. Naively we thought that the patent system is like a railway: if you are first on the track nobody can pass you. This was wrong. A patent introduced one year after the publications, by a multinational, was awarded before ours. We then learned that in the US, if you wish your patent to proceed fast you have the choice between 5 major very costly patent law outfits. The patent system is a highway on which a powerful group can enter late but arrive first !

Of course you can sue, but then you better use one of these very costly lawyers groups and be prepared to spend millions of dollars.

Besides, the rules are changing with time with little apparent logic. In the 1990s, we were advised not to patent sequences and even their identification ... but sequences were patented. Now the requirements are much tougher but many sequences have been patented and remain enforced.

So, contrary to the huge public relations brainwash and to the dogma of financial and economic journals the answer is: Patent system is the best protection of multinationals.

So you have now a few general questions but fewer answers. Think about it.

1. Do we accept the transposition of "Brand promotion by the music industry" to "Brand names in the research industry"?
2. Can we replace scientific committees with computer algorithms ? The tyranny of impact factors.
3. Are scientists the cuckolds of the publishing industry ?
4. Is the European Community on the right track to promote European science ?

Is the patent system the best protection of the inventor or of the financial conglomerate?

Continued..



THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL, FOR, AGAINST, DON'T KNOW.

By Prof. Peter Campbell, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University College London, London WC1E 6BT,
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In the FEBS Newsletter No. 5 Federico Mayor wrote a most interesting article on "The European Union: a knowledge-based economy". Among the matters he raised was the objective of the Union to invest 3% of its GNP in research and development by 2010. He noted that for Spain the figure was at present 1%, 1.6% if innovation is included, and he said the situation in France was similar. In fact we have been hearing of severe cuts in the funding of the CNRS. In Germany the situation is far from rosy and in Italy we read about the major brain drain of scientists because of lack of support. After years of comparative neglect it is good to report that the British Government has substantially increased the science budget even though we scientists do not always welcome the strings attached. Moreover, our salaries continue to be pathetic compared with other professions. Among Federico's suggestions for amelioration of the lack of support for science is the creation of an independent European Research Council (ERC).

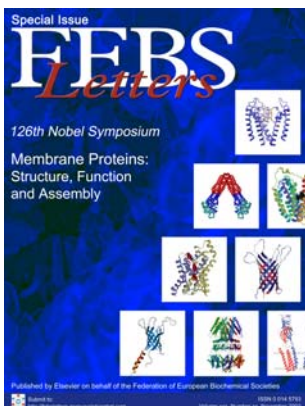
My thought about the failure of the governments to support scientific research is that since they are democratic they must reflect the attitudes of the public which seem not to be interested in spending the necessary funds. I do not believe that the creation of an ERC will in itself help to correct the situation. Rather we scientists should be more active in persuading our governments to take scientific research more seriously.

The EU already puts a great deal of money into its Framework Programmes; for the VI Programme some 17.5 billion Euros have been assigned. The thrust of the Programme is to foster the formation of large consortia involving at least three countries. The requirements are so complex that professional consultancies have to be employed to prepare applications. The so-called "Scientific Targeted Research Projects" (STREP) can be used for response mode grants but the budget is small. This lack of support for basic research and the complexities I have mentioned

may be the main cause of the disappointing number of grant applications received and why only some 25% have been successful (*Nature*, **424**,605). I suspect that the Editor of "Science" is right when he says that the widespread dissatisfaction with the Framework Programmes has merely jump-started discussions on the formation of a ERC. It is good that EMBO plans to test the need for response mode grants in the life sciences in their new programme (*The Scientist*, Sept.8th,2003). As Luc Van Dyke has said this could help test whether it will be possible to implement an ERC on a larger scale.

What then is one to make of the present attempts to promote an ERC? I certainly have much sympathy for those scientists who need support in countries that cannot afford a respectable research budget. This will surely become more acute with the expansion of the EU, involving the so-called "accession countries". Academia Europaea has called for the ERC to be funded by new money, not funds earmarked for thematic research schemes, such as the Framework Programmes. They also request that "any ERC should not be tainted or burdened by the need to respond to political expediency. Our experience in the UK suggests that it is rather naïve to think that new money could be found that had no strings attached.

The way forward is discussed in a splendid article by Luc van Dyck "Footing the bill" (*EMBO Reports* **4**,544-546). As I have mentioned one of his suggestions has already been initiated by EMBO. Another is to incorporate the basic concepts for an ERC within a modified European Science Foundation which already fulfils many of the functions of an extended ERC. The response mode grants should give priority to applications from the accession countries and the poorer countries of Europe linked with a partner from a wealthier country. All grants must be peer reviewed by a well understood procedure. This road map seems much to be preferred to the setting up of yet another separate organisation.



November 2003

Dear Fellow Scientists,

This November we will hold our annual editorial board meeting in Leuven, Belgium. We anticipate that more than two-thirds of our 35 editors will attend the meeting. Having board

members with such a diverse range of expertise means it is vital that we meet on a regular basis to discuss the standardization of our handling procedure. Other topics that will be open for discussion include: proposals for next year's special issues, suggestions on ways to further improve our already successful electronic submission and peer review system, and a discussion about the future direction of *FEBS Letters*. A representative from our publisher will also give a presentation highlighting our most frequently downloaded and cited articles. Also, we will have a demonstration of the latest version (3.0) of the Manuscript Central submission system, which we will be converting to later next year. Additionally, the meeting is an ideal opportunity to introduce the newest members of our editorial board to the other members and give them a chance to become better acquainted with our editorial procedures.

Speaking of new editors - we would like to update you on the latest changes to the *FEBS Letters'* Editorial Board. After more than 13 years of dedicated service, Guido Tettamanti (Milan) will retire from the *FEBS Letters'* editorial board at the end of this year. We would like to thank Professor Tettamanti for his many years of outstanding service and wish him well in his future scientific endeavors. The fields of glycobiology and lipid biochemistry, which Professor Tettamanti so adeptly covered, are rapidly expanding. Therefore, the publication committee felt two new editors should fill this vacant position: Gerrit van Meer (Utrecht), a specialist in membrane biology and biochemistry, and Sandro Sonnino (Milan), who has expertise in neurobiology and glycobiology. We at the

editorial office are delighted to have two such experienced and knowledgeable specialists join our editorial team and we look forward to working with them in the coming years.

Look for our much-anticipated Nobel Symposium Special Issue on the structure, function, and assembly of membrane proteins, which will appear at the end of this month. The special issue, edited by Gunnar von Heijne, Peter Brzezinski, and Jan Rydström, features contributions (research letters and mini-reviews) from most of the participants of the 126th Nobel Symposium held in Örsundsbro, Sweden last August. The conference, which was sponsored by the Nobel Foundation, focused on the latest discoveries in the structure and function of several classes of membrane proteins. The top researchers in membrane protein biochemistry and structural biology were invited to present their work at this prestigious meeting. The timeliness of this special issue is illustrated by last month's announcement that two of the contributors, Peter Agre and Roderick MacKinnon, will receive this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their contribution to the "discovery of channels in cell membranes".

At the beginning of the new year we look forward to improving service for our authors by adopting an all-electronic handling procedure. Last July we implemented an electronic online system for the submission and review process, but our publisher currently requires that our authors still send high quality hard-copies for the printing process. Just last week, our office met with production staff at Elsevier to discuss the journal's conversion to all electronic production. We are pleased to announce that we will implement all-electronic handling early next year. This improved handling procedure will result in even faster production speed and give our readers a higher-quality printed product!

With kind regards,
 Felix Wieland, Manager Editor
 Kara Bortone, Assistant Managing Editor
 Eva-Maria Emig, Assistant Editor
 Anne Mueller, Editorial Assistant



CONTINUED...



November 2003

Dear Fellow Scientists

A new prize: The FEBS Journal Prize

Science is not perceived, perhaps, as being as attractive a career as it once was; the falling enrolments in science courses around the world are a cause for concern if we are to have a

flourishing scientific community in the years to come. FEBS, and the Editorial Boards of its journals, have pondered ways in which they can help. This is not the place to review the longstanding activities of FEBS to support young scientists, but we are pleased to announce that EJB will be introducing a new prize in 2004. This prize will be awarded to the graduate student or young post-doctoral research worker (no more than 3 years from the time of award of the PhD degree when the paper is submitted) who is the first author of a paper judged to be the best in EJB during the calendar year. The choice will be made by the Editorial Board of the journal, whose decision will be final, and a prize of 10,000 euros will be offered. It is hoped that the prize can be awarded to the successful author at an appropriate FEBS meeting. Full details of the prize will be appearing shortly on the journal website (<http://www.ejb.org>). A comparable prize was introduced by our sister journal, FEBS Letters, last year.

Online submission and time to first decision

The alert reader will have noticed that the URL of the journal website quoted above is different from that given in earlier newsletters. That is because FEBS has introduced a change in the EJB URL, which we hope our readers and others wishing to find out more about us and how to submit papers will find helpful.

As described in the previous FEBS newsletter, our online submission system has been under review and a new version of Manuscript Central will be available for all EJB authors and referees early in 2004. Trials are currently under way. Full details of any changes will be posted on the EJB website (<http://www.ejb.org>) when the time comes.

The journal continues to work at cutting its handling time and increasing its speed of publication. The average time to first decision on papers submitted to EJB is currently 5 weeks from receipt, but many papers are now receiving their first decision in 3-4 weeks. Thus, a good paper that requires little or no revision can be published in 3-4 months.

If that isn't fast enough for you, why not try a Priority Paper? A Priority Paper is an article of sufficient impor-

tance to merit expedited handling by a member of the Editorial Board; it is not a short communication but essentially a full-length report written in the style of the Journal but not exceeding five printed pages (for a guide about 4 300 words or 24 000 characters without spaces). A Priority Paper should contain no more than five displayed items, i.e. figures and tables. The submission letter should clearly indicate that it is requested that the paper be treated as a Priority Paper. If the paper is judged by the Editor to be unsuitable for treatment as a Priority Paper, this decision will be communicated to you and you will be given the option of having the paper evaluated for publication as a Regular Paper in the normal way.

Reviews

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

Investigating RNA polymerase II carboxyl-terminal domain (CTD) phosphorylation, by Benoît Palancade and Olivier Bensaude (Vol. 270/19),

Human haemoglobin: A new paradigm for oxygen binding involving two types of β -contacts, by Keiji Shikama and Arika Matsuoka (Vol. 270/20),

Deflavination and reconstitution of flavoproteins: Tackling fold and function, by Marco H. Hefti, Jacques Vervoort and Willem J.H. van Berkel (Vol. 270/21),

Unraveling the catalytic mechanism of lactoperoxidase and myeloperoxidase. A reflection on some controversial features, by Elena Ghibaudi and Enzo Laurenti (Vol. 270/22),

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

The protein tyrosine phosphatase PTP-Basophile/Basophile-like: Interacting proteins and molecular functions, by Kai Sven Erdmann

Glutamate signaling in periphery, by Eiichi Hinoi, Takeshi Takarada, Taichi Ueshima, Yuriko Tsuchihashi, Yukio Yoneda

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: the Blackwell Publishing service *Synergy* (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/>) and the *Highwire* platform (<http://www.ejbiochem.org> and <http://highwire.stanford.edu/>). These sites are easily reached by hotlinks from the EJB website (<http://www.ejb.org>).

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Mathematical model database

Two further models from papers published in EJB are now freely available on the mathematical modelling website linked to EJB. These come from the papers:

Mathematical modelling of the urea cycle: A numerical investigation into substrate channeling, by Anthony D. Maher, Philip W. Kuchel, Fernando Ortega, Pedro de Atauri, Josep Centelles and Marta Cascante (Vol. 270/19)

A kinetic model of the branch-point between the methionine and threonine biosynthesis pathways in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, by Gilles Curien, Stéphane Ravel and Renaud Dumas (available on OnlineEarly at the time of going to press).

You can access and try out the mathematical models associated with these two papers free of charge online (<http://jjj.biochem.sun.ac.za/database/index.html>). Full

details of how to submit models for inclusion on the mathematical model database can be found in our Instructions to Authors (at <http://www.ejb.org>) and at the relevant website (<http://jjj.biochem.sun.ac.za/ejb/>).

We wish you happiness and success in your scientific work and look forward to seeing your papers flowing to EJB. Who knows, one of you could be the winner of the FEBS Journal prize for 2004!

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

OPPORTUNITIES



POST-DOCTORAL POSITION AVAILABLE

We are seeking a highly motivated scientist/post-doc to join a research program focused on the physiological functions of the P2Y₆ receptor.

These are the projects we are currently carrying out:

- 1) Elucidation of the role of the P2Y₆ receptor in the early stages of mouse development.**
- 2) Conditional P2Y₆ gene targeting in mouse**

Experience in cell biology, biochemistry and molecular biology is absolutely required. Post is available from October 2003, for a 3 years period.

Investigators interested in spending a period of working in our lab are kindly requested to send a c.v., a short description of previous/current research experience and a list of publications.

Contact details:

B. Robaye, PhD
IRIBHM (IBMM-ULB)
Rue des Profs Jeener et Brachet 6041 Gosselies Belgium
E-mail: brobaye@ulb.ac.be
Fax 32 2 6509820



Continued...

RESEARCH OPENINGS



Marie Curie Host Fellowships

Marie Curie Training Sites offer opportunities for young researchers pursuing doctoral studies to benefit from short stays in internationally recognised groups.

Industry Host Fellowships allow young postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers to receive training in an industrial or commercial environment.

Development Host Fellowships seek young researchers with experience capable of transferring knowledge and technology to institutions in less-favoured regions.

Open positions for young researchers to be appointed in Marie Curie Host Fellowships are advertised at:

<http://improving.cordis.lu/mc/>

Research Training Networks

Positions are also available within "Research Training Networks". These networks consist of at least five research groups from at least three countries who undertake a joint research project and a joint training programme.

Open positions for young pre- and postdoctoral researchers in the Research Training Networks are advertised at:

<http://improving.cordis.lu/rtn/home.cfm?path=vacancy>

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the Commission of the European Communities offers individual research fellowships to interested scientists under various schemes which fall under the JRC's research areas.

Further information on research fellowships in the JRC are advertised at:

http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/default.asp@sidsz=what_we_offer&sidstsz=work_opportunities.htm

Researchers from Developing Countries

Young researchers from developing countries may apply to work in an European laboratory participating in a research project under the Fifth Framework Programme. See: <http://www.cordis.lu/inco2/src/res-b.htm>

Do you have a vacancy in your lab; are you e.g. looking for a post doc?
- send your announcement to newsletter@febs.org, and have it posted here for free!
(please write 'Opportunities' in the subject title)



What: IBC's Third Annual Conference:
Nuclear Receptors as Drug Targets

For detailed information please see:

When: December 1-2, 2003

<http://click.cminteractive.com/?1Lttm01s=600566>

Where: Munich, Germany

What: Global Biotechnology Forum

For detailed information please see:

When: March 2-5, 2004

<http://www.gbf2004.cl/index1.html>

Where: Concepción, Chile

What: 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition: Drug
Discovery Technology Europe 2004

For detailed information please see:

When: March 8-10, 2004

[http://www.drugdisc.com/europe/default.asp?
src=DDT04pv](http://www.drugdisc.com/europe/default.asp?src=DDT04pv)

Where: London, UK

What: Human Genome Meeting

For detailed information please see:

When: April 4-7, 2004

<http://hgm2004.hgu.mrc.ac.uk/>

Where: Berlin, Germany

What: ASBMB Annual Meeting and 8th IUBMB
Conference

For detailed information please see:

When: June 12– 16, 2004

<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMB/site.nsf>

Where: Boston, USA

What: 8th International symposium on Resistance
Arteries

For detailed information please see:

When: June 20 –23, 2004

[http://www.med.univ-angers.fr/~leftheriotis/
ISRA2004/index.htm](http://www.med.univ-angers.fr/~leftheriotis/ISRA2004/index.htm)

Where: Angers, France

What: 12th European Congress on Biotechnology

For detailed information please see:

When: August 21 –24, 2005

<Http://www.ecb12.dk>

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark