FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

FEBS NewsLetter

May 2004 (3/2004)

FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,
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In less than two months from now, the annual FEBS Congress will take place in Warsaw. As many of you will know by now, this congress will mark the 40th Anniversary of FEBS, and indeed having the opportunity to celebrate this in Poland, one of the new members of EU, makes the celebration complete.

With reference to our Anniversary Competition, which you might have learned about from the previous issues of FEBS NewsLetter and our website, some FEBS members will be attending the 2004 Congress as winners of a free registration. In this issue (p. 6), you will be presented to two more FEBS members, who by sharing their view on the challenges for European science have won a free registration to the 2004 Congress. If you missed the views from the first two winners, these can be found in the March issue of FEBS NewsLetter (available from the "News Pages" at www.febs.org).

In the present issue of FEBS NewsLetter you will also find an update on activities from the Coordinator of our Scientific Apparatus Recycling Scheme (SARS), Prof. Peter Campbell (p. 6.), a presentation of a FEBS Advanced Course (p. 7), news from the FEBS Community (4) our two journals (p. 8-9), a selection of current job and fellowship openings within the FEBS community, as well as a list of upcoming scientific events.

Finally I would like to say: We look forward to seeing many of you in Warsaw! Please remember to come by the FEBS booth, where you — like last year — can get loads of FEBS information on our advanced courses and fellowships, win prizes, get a talk with the FEBS staff, etc. Also, this year we will have a huge message board for your disposal in the booth; So, if you are looking for a post doc position within the FEBS community, or have one to offer, posting your message at this board offers the ideal way to meet your future colleague on the spot!

Kind regards

Camilla

About the FEBS NewsLetter:

FEBS NewsLetter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting in January), and e-mailed directly to approx. 15.000 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 **June 30, 2004**.

FEBS ANNUAL CONGRESS — A CELEBRATION OF EUROPEAN SCIENCE

By Julio E. Celis

Institute of Cancer Biology and Danish Centre for Translational
Breast Cancer Research, The Danish Cancer Society, Strandboulevarden 49,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark, E-mail: jec@cancer.dk

FEBS will celebrate its 40 years with the occasion of the forthcoming 29th FEBS Congress that will take place in Warsaw on June 26-July 1st this year. The meeting will give us the opportunity to highlight our achievements, and to discuss and define our role in the new Europe. The Heads of Governments intend to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world, and the role of the scientific organizations in the realization of this dream has become increasingly clear during the ongoing debate to establish a European Research Council (ERC) to support basic research of the highest quality. Basic research is a pillar of the knowledge-based society, and as a major stakeholder in the life sciences, FEBS has an important role to play as our membership comprise young and established researchers from the whole of Europe.

Today there is a political mandate for basics research in Europe, and we must seize the opportunity by committing efforts and resources to the realization of the Barcelona objectives. Let's make this Congress a milestone in our endeavour to achieve this.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Warsaw!

Julio E. Celis,
Secretary General

REGARDING THE HUNGARIAN RESEARCH STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND THE NETWORK OF YOUTH EXCELLENCE

We all know: it should be never too early to start science. An exceptional practice proved this theory in the beginning of the 20th century: the scientific workshop-system of a few Hungarian high schools, where the young generation could indulge themselves in scientific and research projects. This practice raised an outstanding generation (sometimes called: "the Martians") like János Neumann, Albert Szent-Györgyi, Leo Szilárd, Edward Teller, Jenő Wigner and others. Starting science at this very early age, students escaped the indoctrination of the traditional education system, and were able to save their original way of thinking, the childish staring at the world even when they got older.

The aim of the Hungarian Research Student Association (HRSA; www.kutdiak.hu) is to revive this system. It was founded in 1995 by Prof. Peter Csermely who asked some exceptional researchers from wide range of scientific fields to be mentors for the HRSA and let high school students into their lab to get a first hand experience on science and do their very own scientific project. None of them rejected the request and later even found great pleasure teaching these students (treating them like their colleagues), who are not afraid to doubt 'facts' since they do not have preconceptions and open minded enough to think in terms of interdisciplinarity.

Ms. Mészáros as the best Hungarian high school student scientist of 2002 with Imre Kertész, the Hungarian Nobel Laureate of literature at the Nobel ceremonies.

Today HRSA has around five thousand students and more then six hundred mentors. The opportunity to present the project is also given: a National Student Conference is held every year, where the winners of the regional conferences are allowed to take part. The conference is divided into sections from biochemistry through psychology to economy and the students must do a presentation followed by a discussion with the members of the jury who are recognized scholars of their field. The winners get the possibility to take part at the annual summer camp (traditionally taking place at the Lake Balaton), where they can talk to celebrities of Hungarian science and culture.

The Foundation of the HRSA helps the best students to participate other scientific programs as well. The best molecular biologists get the opportunity to participate at the BioGen camp (www.biogentabor.hu), an exceptional initiative of Ágnes Tátrai at Bio-Science Inc. to introduce the cutting edge molecular biological techniques and let students a try-out. The High School Research Camp for Life Sciences (www.szbk.u-szeged.hu/kek2/), arranged by László Vígh at the Biology Center of Szeged (an EU Center of Excellence) has the same aims, but offers a wider range of scientific fields.

The HRSA also has connections with similar associations around the world through the Network of Youth Excellence, so the possibility of traveling abroad is also given. Based on the idea of the Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman and Peter Csermely, a NATO-UNESCO Advanced Research Workshop (http://www.chaperone.sote.hu/natowork.htm) was held in 2002 April at Visegrád (Hungary) with the participation of fifty leading specialists of the best talent helping networks from more then twenty countries. The aims were to change experiences about gifted high school students and scientific programs, to create student and teacher exchange programs and to help creating similar programs in countries where they are not exist yet. The participants founded the Network of Youth Excellence (NYEX) to make these plans come true. Although the official foundation of the NYEX will only be in 2004 October at the 2nd NATO-UNESCO Conference the network is functioning and student exchanges has already been arranged.

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The real success of the HRSA is that it helps these students who normally do not find their place in their original environment to find themselves, to find real friends and to find the path they want to take in the rest of their life. This path is science, which makes the long-lasting impact of this "science-imprinting" very strong. Indeed, our first students already finished their PhD and became mentors themselves or returned to their high school as teachers and recruit new students to keep the "tradition". It is our great pleasure that besides other international organizations FEBS also offered support to this initiative for which we are very thankful. Starting from 2005, high school student scientists will take part in the organization of FEBS Congresses and we also established a mutual information exchange between the two organizations.

Ms. L ivia Mészáros
Head of the foreign section of HRSA, (nyexbox@hotmail.com)

FEBS VISISTS ARMENIA — MARGARIAN MEETS FEBS DELEGATION

Yerevan, April 29, ARMENPRESS:
Armenian prime minister Andranik Margarian received today a delegation of the Federation of European Biochemistry Societies (FEBS), led by Professor Guy Dirheimer. Welcoming members of the delegation, Margarian said he was pleased to see prominent scientists representing different countries to have come to Armenia to explore ways for assisting its biochemistry's development. Margarian thanked FEBS for its assistance to several Armenian research institutes and helping the Armenian Association of Biochemists to become FEBS member.

Margarian was also quoted by government's press office as saying that he expects FEBS's to identify most perspective achievements of Armenian biochemists and outline ways for attracting European funds to support new studies.

THE MESSAGE BOARD

LOOKING FOR A PARTICULAR MEETING OR CONGRESS?

- Then a visit to http://www.hum-molgen.de/meetings/ might be worth while. At this site, you are able to make selective search for the type of event that matches your field.

VACANT POST DOC'S NOW ONLINE!

http://www.findapostdoc.com is a new site exclusively dedicated to advertising Post-Doctoral positions in e.g. UK, Italy, Germany and France.

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SCIENCE (III/IV)

By **Marina Knyazeva**, Ph.D. and Professor of Biochemistry Department in Kharkov National University, Member of the Ukrainian Biochemical Society,

One of the winners of a free registration to the 2004 FEBS Congress in Warsaw

Highly appreciating the significance of FEBS informational letters in uniting biochemists and molecular biologists of the world, I would like to call attention to the problem we are facing in our country (Ukraine).

I have devoted 23 years of my life to the problems of applying biochemistry in Orthopaedics and Traumatology, oncological gynaecology, cardiology and cardiovascular surgery (see e.g. http://www.mknyazeva.narod.ru).
Unfortunately the teaching and training programmes in biochemistry at Medical departments of our Universities do not provide a course of clinical biochemistry as a special subject (see the materials of the VIII Ukrainian Biochemistry Congress, Chernovtsy, 2002// The Ukrainian Biochemical Journal. Vol.74, N4a (Supplement 1), 2002.-P.196-208) which results in a considerable gap between theoretical knowledge and clinical practice.

Since biochemical methods of investigation provide a considerable part of diagnostic information, the practitioners' inability to interpret the results of biochemical analyses may cause grave diagnostic mistakes.

That is why it is utterly necessary to work out a programme including a special course of "clinical biochemistry" to develop a sort of "clinical thinking"- a system of methods of applying biochemical data in therapy.

Exchanging experience with our European colleagues at the FEBS- 2004 Congress might of great help to us and I look forward to join the celebration.

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SCIENCE (IV/IV)

By **Ranjan Ramasamy**, Prof., The National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
Member of the Biochemical Society

One of the winners of a free registration to the 2004 FEBS Congress in Warsaw

I do not believe that shortage of funds will constitute a major limitation in most European countries for science. However the challenges may be listed as the following:
1. Continuing to attract the more capable students into scientific research.

2. Improving career structure and security for young scientists.

3. Minimising bureaucracy in funding.

4. Greater cooperation and coordination in European science.

5. Taking up challenges of renewable energy, sustainable development and of the third world populations, in the European science effort.

6. Coping with the new scientific information being generated worldwide.

7. The increasing compartmentalisation of expertise given the information overload and diversity of scientific effort.

8. Helping to develop molecular life sciences in poorer and less fortunate countries.

FEBS can help by:
1. Giving greater publicity to these issues among scientists.

2. Actively canvassing decision makers and politicians.

3. Tasking members to develop suitable strategies to overcome these problems.

4. Activating efforts coordinate science within Europe and for helping poorer countries.

FEBS' SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS RECYCLING SCHEME (SARS)

By Prof. Peter Campbell, Coordinator of the FEBS SARS Program
Department of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology, University College London,
London WC1E 6BT,
E-mail p.campbell@biochemistry.ucl.ac.uk

News of the Scientific Apparatus Recycling Scheme, Spring 2004

During 2003 I sent books to Dr. Mariela Odjakova at the University of Sofia and a mixed load of books and apparatus to Prof. Alexandra Dascaliuc at the Plant Physiology Institute at Chisinau, Moldova. I was particularly pleased to be able to make contact with Prof. Leonid Nefyodov at the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Grodno, Belarus. Together we had many bureaucratic obstacles to overcome to get the load accepted as Humanitarian Aid. Another load went to Lviv in the Ukraine but in this case I ran into a series of problems. Prof.Andrei Sibirny at the Institute of Cell Biology showed interest in receiving two Fluorescence Microscopes which had been donated by the University of Plymouth.

An American student at Lviv State Medical University had asked me for some books for their library. In the Ukraine you have to get permission from the Government before you can embark on sending any humanitarian gift. So I and Sibirny struggled to meet all the requirements including the labelling of all 192 books as a "Donation to their Library from FEBS". I then sent the apparatus and the books to Sibirny assuming that the books would be transferred to the Medical University. (It would have cost much more to have divided the load.) Alas the microscopes proved to be too old and then it was impossible to transfer all the books . Since the Institute and the Medical University are under separate ministries, Sibirny felt he was only able to lend some of the books for a period of 5 years. Prof. Alexander Lutsyk,of the Medical University, felt unable to accept the books on these terms and so my naïve intention was defeated.

I had a request from Dr. Baumlein at the Institute of Plant Genetics in Gatersleben, Germany to send apparatus to Moldova and also from Dr Reynaud at EMBL to send apparatus to Albania and the University of Cherkasy in the Ukraine. I was pleased about these requests for I would like SARS to help donors and recipients from all over Europe. I made contact with Dr. Ziso Thomollaris of the University of Elbasan in Albania. While I can support these requests, we are having difficulty in finding agents to effect the transport.

I am now arranging a load for Prof. Almaz Aldashev in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. Bishkek is now a very important junction between Asia and Europe. Some of our medical students last autumn worked happily with Prof. Aldashev who is keen on joining FEBS. He has invited me to attend a NATO conference in September when I can see what other help we can provide.

I have also been much concerned with Iraq. In February we had a meeting in London with representatives of 12 Iraqi universities. Irrespective of the background to the present state of Iraq we academics should do all we can to support the universities which formerly had a good reputation. I have been in contact with Prof. Waad Mula-Abed at the College of Medicine in Mosul. He was a brilliant student of clinical biochemistry with us in London ,1981-87. I have been able to sent him journals and books, some even of the newest editions, thanks to financial support from The British Council.

I can only hope that things continue to improve and that I will before long be able to send simple apparatus for teaching.

COURSE CODE: AC 04-13C

The course is intended for undergraduate (5th year) and postgraduate students and post docs with an interest in macromolecular crystallization.

The crystallization of biological macromolecules is still poorly understood and, as a consequence, success of the common trial-and-error experiments is not predictable. On the other hand, more rational approaches have been developed in the past few years and prospects for the science of crystallogenesis are in fact good. Many of the new approaches are based on an improved theoretical insight into the processes of nucleation and crystal growth.

The planned course is designed to bring over the message of the benefits of more rational approaches to macromolecular crystallization. The course will consist of theoretical lectures, seminars as well as practical work and demonstrations (lectures 40%, practical work 50%, seminars 10%). For crystallization experiments, typical recipes using commercial proteins (Lysozyme, Concavaline A, etc.) will be used. In addition, students can bring their own proteins and carry out crystallization trials on these during the course.
A poster section is planned in order to encourage participants to present their own work.

Location
The town Nove Hrady is located in the south of the Czech Republic. The Academic and University Center resides in a very stylish chateau, which provides many facilities such as two lecture halls, laboratories, apartments and a student dormitory.

Important Dates

Registration deadline:	July 31, 2004
Abstract deadline :	July 31, 2004
Deadline for YTF application:	July 31, 2004
FEBS AC date:	October 1-8, 2004

More information and on-line registration form: http://www.img.cas.cz/igm/cc/

Are you - or do you wish to become — organiser of a FEBS Advanced Course? Or would you like to attend one of our Courses?

Detailed information on all FEBS Advanced Courses is available at our website, www.febs.org.
Clicking this URL: http://www.febs.org/Activities/Advanced_Courses/Advc04.htm will take you directly to the relevant web page.
All organisers of a FEBS Advanced Course are offered free on-line advertising at FEBS' website as well as in FEBS NewsLetter. For further information, please contact Camilla Krogh Lauritzen (camilla@febs.org).

May 2004

Dear fellow scientist,

Each year *FEBS Letters* awards a 10,000 Euro prize for the most outstanding research letter with a corresponding author forty years of age or younger. A few weeks ago, this year's prize committee members (Veli Lehto, Judit Ovadi, Giulio Superti-Furga, Amy McGough, chaired by Gunnar von Heijne) met at the Biomedicum in Helsinki, Finland. From a group of twenty-four papers nominated by the editorial board, nine were shortlisted by the prize committee. The remaining papers were judged on the basis of technical merit and potential scientific impact. The selection committee chose Dr. Jie-Oh Lee (South Korea) as the winner of this year's award for the paper entitled "Crystal structure of Drosophila angiotensin I-converting enzyme bound to captopril and lisinopril". This paper, which was edited by Hans Eklund, describes the determination of the crystal structure of an Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) with bound inhibitors. ACE inhibitors are amongst the most widely used drugs against cardiovascular disease. Together with a simultaneously determined structure of another ACE homolog, this study provides the basis for future structure-based drug design. Dr. Lee previously solved the structures of several other medically relevant proteins, such as PTEN, BAFF-BAFF-R complex, retinoblastoma tumor suppressor and several human phosphodiesterases. Dr. Lee will be awarded the prize at this year's FEBS Congress in Warsaw, where he will also give a short talk. We would like to congratulate Dr. Lee on winning this year's award, and also want to thank the many young scientists who submitted outstanding papers to *FEBS Letters* in 2003!

Additionally, we would like to draw your attention to our latest special issue, entitled "Structure, Dynamics, and Function of Proteins in Biological Membranes". This special issue contains contributions inspired by the 2nd International Conference on "Structure, Dynamics, and Function of Proteins in Biological Membranes" held last October in Ascona, Switzerland. As was also illustrated by our recently published 126th Nobel Symposium on Membrane Proteins Special Issue, this latest issue conveys the fast-paced progress and excitement, which currently pervades the membrane protein community. As editors Fritz K. Winkler and Andreas Engel point out in the preface of this special issue, recent advances in molecular biology and biophysical methods have advanced membrane protein research tremendously and this issue helps to highlight these achievements.

The *FEBS Letters* Editorial Office would also like to welcome the newest member of the Editorial Board, Frances Shannon of Canberra, Australia. Dr. Shannon will handle papers in the field of molecular immunology, an area where we have recently seen a sharp increase in the number of submissions. We are certain that Dr. Shannon's expertise in cytokine gene expression will complement and strengthen our already diverse team of 36 editors.

We look forward to meeting all of you at this year's FEBS Congress in Warsaw and especially to seeing you at the "Cocktails for Young Scientists" on Monday, June 28th!

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

May 2004

Dear Fellow Scientists,

The FEBS Journal Prize

You are reminded that the FEBS Journal prize will be awarded to a graduate student or young post-doctoral research worker who is the first author of a paper judged to be the best in EJB during the year 2004. The prize is worth 10,000 euros, and the winner will be chosen by the Editorial Board of the journal.
Further details can be found on the journal website (http://www.ejb.org). There is no need for you to take any further action unless you believe you have been overlooked, in which case please send a message to ejb@camfebs.co.uk explaining the situation.

The reviewing process and speed of publication.

EJB is proud to announce that our average time to first decision on manuscripts submitted for publication is now down to 32 days, significantly below the 6 weeks that we have previously stated for regular papers. Together with the appearance of papers accepted for publication on the website under OnlineEarly, this constitutes very rapid publication indeed of full-length, properly peer-reviewed papers.

Reviews

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

Collectins: Players of the innate immune system, by J.K. van de Wetering, L.M.G. van Golde and J.J. Batenburg (Vol. 271/7).
Fifty years of muscle and the sliding filament hypothesis, by H.E. Huxley (Vol. 271/8).
Well-defined secondary structures. Information-storing molecular duplexes and helical foldamers based on unnatural peptide backbones, by A.R. Sanford, K. Yamato, X. Yang, L. Yuan, Y. Han and B. Gong (Vol. 271/8).
Programmed cell death. Apoptosis and alternative deathstyles, by C.A. Guimarães and R. Linden (Vol. 271/9).
A minireview series was published in Vol. 271/9 coordinated by T.J. Magliery and L. Regan with an Introduction by the coordinators entitled: *Library approaches to biophysical problems*. The minireview series comprises:
Combinatorial approaches to protein stability and structure, T.J. Magliery and L. Regan
Selection of stably folded proteins by phage-display with proteolysis, Y. Bai and H. Feng
Searching for folded proteins in vitro and in silico, A.L. Watters and D. Baker
Phage-display as a tool for quantifying protein stability determinants, J.D. Kotz, C.J.Bond and A.J. Cochran
Deciphering enzymes. Genetic selection as a probe of structure and mechanism, K.J. Woycechowsky and D. Hilvert.
The following minireview series will be published in a forthcoming issue of EJB coordinated by Vincenzo Di Marzo with an Introduction entitled: *Signalling at vanilloid TRPV1 channels*. The minireview series comprises:
Endovanilloids. Putative endogenous ligands of transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 channels, by Mario van der Stelt and Vincenzo Di Marzo
Biochemical pharmacology of the vanilloid receptor TRPV1. An update, by Daniel N. Cortright and Arpad Szallasi
Molecular architecture of the vanilloid receptor. Insights for drug design, by Antonio Ferrer-Montiel, Carolina García-Martínez, Cruz Morenilla-Palao, Nuria García-Sanz, Asia Fernández-Carvajal, Gregorio Fernández-Ballester and Rosa Planells-Cases.
Forthcoming reviews:
Prokaryotic and eukaryotic DNA helicases. Essential molecular motor proteins for cellular machinery, by Narendra Tuteja and Renu Tuteja
Unraveling DNA helicases. Motif, structure, mechanism and function, by Narendra Tuteja and Renu Tuteja

You can read reviews online and download them free of charge from the time of publication. All reviews published in EJB in recent years 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.

FEBS Congress in Warsaw

The 29th FEBS Congress will be held in Warsaw, Poland from 26 June to 1 July 2004. There will be the customary reception for younger scientists hosted by the FEBS journals, EJB and FEBS Letters, on Monday 28 June. Details will be posted on the FEBS website (http://www.febs2004.pl/). The Editorial Manager and the Chairman of the Editorial Board, together with others closely associated with EJB, will be attending.

Change in the Editorial Office

Following the departure of Ms Louise Sanders, our new Editorial manager is Dr Vanessa Wilkinson, formerly the Deputy Editorial Manager. A new Deputy, Dr Gail Entwistle, has been appointed and began her duties on 4 May 2004.

With best regards,

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

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER (UK)

Two positions are available for 3 years in the group of Professor Gordon Roberts, which uses NMR and other methods to study enzyme structure & mechanism. The two projects involve work on (a) metallo-β-lactamases, enzymes responsible for antibiotic resistance, and (b) cytochrome P450 reductase, an essential component of the key drug metabolising system in man. A PhD in a relevant discipline is essential, together with, for (a) experience in protein NMR, and for (b) experience in molecular biology, particularly intein methods; in both cases experience in protein production and purification would be an advantage.

Downloadable application forms and further particulars are available by following the link below, or in hardcopy from the Personnel Office, tel: +44 (0)116 252 5114, fax: +44 (0)116 252 5140, email: personnel@le.ac.uk, www.le.ac.uk/personnel/jobs.

Informal enquiries to Prof. Gordon Roberts +44 (0)116 252 2978; gcr@le.ac.uk; http://www.le.ac.uk/nmrc/bire.html#ESF)

Please note that CVs will only be accepted in support of a fully completed application form.

Closing date: 14 May 2004

For additional information, please see: http://www.le.ac.uk/biochem/

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

A vacancy exists for a post-graduate research assistant to join a research group based in the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research. The research programme studies molecular mechanisms mediating antigenic variation in African trypanosomes (causative agent of African Sleeping Sickness).
Trypanosomes are single-celled eukaryotes capable of continuously changing their Variant Surface Glycoprotein (VSG) coat during the course of a chronic infection. We are attempting to understand how this operates through molecular approaches including genetic modification (gene knock-outs) and double-stranded RNA inhibition (*RNAi*). The research involves basic molecular biology techniques including recombinant DNA cloning, RNA and DNA analysis, sterile cell culture, cell transfection, PCR, Pulsed Field Gel electrophoresis, immunofluorescence and FACS analysis.

For further information, please see http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/jobs/jobpages/br119.html

Informal enquiries about the post and research area can be addressed to Dr Gloria Rudenko (gloria.rudenko@medawar.ox.ac.uk). Applications, including two copies of a detailed CV, the names and addresses of two referees, (one of which must be the current employer), and two copies of a letter setting out, with examples, how you meet the selection criteria, should be sent to:

The Deputy Administrator
Department of Biochemistry
University of Oxford
South Parks Road
Oxford
OX1 3QU
Please quote reference number: BR/119/W

Closing date is May 14th 2004.

POST DOCTORAL POSITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

The Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried is an internationally renowned research institution with a scientific focus on cell biology, molecular biology and structural biology. It is located in the middle of a thriving science campus close to the city of Munich.

Two positions in the computational group are available in the Department of Structural Biology; a suitably qualified individual will be considered to become head of the group after the retirement of the present head in 2005. This department has a leading role in the development and application of cryoelectron tomography for structural studies at the molecular and cellular level. It is equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation for electron microscopy, image analysis and has all facilities needed for molecular biology and biochemistry.

The computer group of the department is involved in the development and application of programs for automated electron tomography. The 3-D reconstruction of molecular and cellular data, template matching, innovative denoising methods for 3-D data sets and high end 3-D visualization. Our computer center is equipped with Unix / Linux workstations, a Linux cluster and has access to the Bavarian supercomputer center for demanding parallel processing applications.

Qualified candidates with expertise in single particle image processing or tomography, visualization techniques, a strong mathematical background and good programming skills are encouraged to apply. Experience with parallel programming would be advantageous.
Please submit CV, a statement of research interests and background and names of two to four referees to:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Baumeister
Department of Structural Biology
Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry
D-82152 Martinsried
Germany
E-mail: baumeist@biochem. mpg.de; website: http://www.biochem.mpg.de

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE/ RESEARCH ASSISTANT

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH/ DEPARTMENT OF HAEMATOLOGY (UK)

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral and a graduate researcher to join an established research programme focusing on transcriptional regulation in stem cells (EMBO J 21: 3039, 2002; Mol Cell Biol. 24: 1870, 2004; Nature Biotech 18: 181, 2000): The post-doctoral position is funded for up to 35 months in the first instance by the BBSRC/MRC "Stem Cell Science and Engineering Initiative".
Experience of studying transcriptional regulation using transgenic mice or isolating haematopoietic and/or mesenchymal stem cells would be a strong advantage. The research assistant post is funded for up to 35 months in the first instance by the LRF. Previous experience with ES-cells, experimental haematology or the generation/handling of transgenic mice would be an advantage. Proposed start date: 1 July 2004.

Informal enquiries to Dr Bertie Gottgens (bg200@cam.ac.uk). Formal applications including CV, contact details of two referees and a completed PD18 form (available at: www.cimr.cam.ac.uk) should be sent to: Mrs Lee Creswell, Department of Haematology, CIMR, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2XY, Tel +44 1223 336820. Fax +44 1223 762670. E-mail: cnlc1@cam.ac.uk.

Closing Date: 28 May 2004
For additional information, please see:
http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/personnel/jobs/latest.html#heading31

OPPORTUNITIES

Continued...

POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS FROM THE HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Human Frontier Science Program has published the latest guidelines for their postdoctoral fellowship programs. The Long-Term Fellowships and the new Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships are aimed at young scientists who wish to obtain advanced research training abroad. **Long-Term Fellowships** are for scientists with a PhD or equivalent in the life sciences who aim to broaden their training by gaining experience in another field of research. The new **Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships** are for young scientists trained in a field outside biology, particularly in physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science or engineering, who seek training in the life sciences.

These three year postdoctoral packages for training abroad are particularly attractive due to their flexibility and the chances they offer young scientists in the critical period during their move to independence. Fellows can either remain in their host laboratories for the three years of the fellowship, or they can take the third year in a laboratory back in their home countries. The return home may be deferred for up to two years if the host is prepared to support the Fellow from other sources. Those who return home are eligible to apply for a Career Development Award to help them start up their own independent laboratories.

More details are available on the HFSP web site at http://www.hfsp.org

Would you like to post a vacancy or a fellowship here?

FEBS offers free advertising of fellowships and vacancies in European basic research institutions in FEBS NewsLetter and at our website, www.febs.org.

Please contact Camilla Krogh Lauritzen (camilla@febs.org) for further details.

THE WWW OF UP-COMING EVENTS

What: Workshop on the Gas-phase Electrophoretic Mobility Macromolecule Analyzer (GEMMA)

When: June 14-15, 2004

Where: Vienna, Austria

For detailed information please see:

http://www.tsi.com/particle/seminars/vienna/agenda.htm

What: Developing Concepts for Systems Biology

When: September 3-6, 2004

Where: Oxford, UK

For detailed information please see:

http://mudshark.brookes.ac.uk/BTK2004/

Continued...

What: XXIXth European Symposium on Hormones and Cell Regulation.

When: September 17-20, 2004

Where: Alsace, France

For detailed information please see:

http://www.signal-transduction.de

What: 17th FAOBMB Symposium/2nd IUBMB Special Meeting/7th A-IMBN Conference

When: November 22-26, 2004

Where: Bangkok, Thailand

For detailed information please see:

http://www.thaibmbsymp2004.org/#rotate

What: The 27th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS)

When: December 8 – 11, 2004

Where: Texas, USA

For detailed information please see:

http://www.sabcs.org/ProgramSchedule/program.asp

What: The III Moscow International Biotechnology Congress

When: March 14-18, 2005

Where: Moscow, Russia

For detailed information please see:

http://www.biotechworld.ru/eng/

What: 14th Scientific Seminar CNIC 2005

When: June 28-30, 2005

Where: Havana, Cuba,

For detailed information please contact:

seminario@cnic.edu.cu

What: 7th International Symposium on Biocatalysis and Biotransformations

When: July 3-8, 2005

Where: Delft , Netherlands

For detailed information please see:

http://www.biotrans2005.bt.tudelft.nl/

Do you wish to make fellow FEBS members aware of a relevant Symposium, Workshop, Congress or Seminar? - then send an e-mail including the What, When, Where details + website details to **newsletter@febs.org**