

FEBS NewsLetter



July 2004 (4/2004)

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FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Camilla Krogh Lauritzen,
FEBS Information Manager, editor of FEBS Newsletter
FEBS Secretariat,
co/the Danish Cancer Society
Strandboulevarden 49, DK-2100, Denmark
E-mail: camilla@febs.org
FEBS website: www.febs.org



The annual FEBS Congress in Warsaw, which marked a milestone in the history of FEBS — namely our fortieth anniversary — has just ended; for one week approx. 1,400 scientists from 49 countries joined in the Polish Capitol for a memorable celebration and contribute to science and to unity between scientists.



The colleagues from EJB, Vanessa Wilkinson and Richard Perham, at the FEBS Congress 2004 in Warsaw.

In addition to this, the Congress also marked a historic event for one of two FEBS Journals, EJB, as its transformation into **The FEBS Journal** was announced at this occasion (more on p. 11).

With reference to our Anniversary Competition, which you might have learned about from the previous issues of FEBS Newsletter, some of the Congress participants in Warsaw, were FEBS members, who had won a free registration by sharing their view on Future Challenges for European scientists and FEBS. In this issue (p. 3), you will be presented to one more winner, Tatiana Borisova from Ukraine.

If you missed the views from the first four winners, these can be found in the March and May issue of FEBS Newsletter (available from the "News Pages" at our website).



Tatiana Borisova, Warsaw 2004.

In this issue, you can also get updates on activities related to our Scientific Apparatus Recycling Scheme (SARS), our Publications Committee, our two journals, our Volunteer Aid Panel (VAP), and learn about new opportunities and upcoming congresses, workshops, seminars, etc.

Kind regards

Camilla

About FEBS Newsletter:

FEBS Newsletter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting in January), and e-mailed directly to approx. 16,000 subscribers (mainly FEBS members).

Subscription is free; 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.

Advertising of academic positions and openings are free to members of FEBS. We also warmly welcome other contributions (e.g. news from our member societies, science debate material, etc.).

Deadline for all types of entries to the next issue of the FEBS Newsletter is **August 27, 2004**.



CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SCIENCE

(V/V)

By **Tatiana Borisova**, PhD
Member of the Ukrainian Biochemical Society

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

Nowadays the investigation of functioning and dysfunction of the brain, in order to gain new insight into mental processes, to combat neurological disorders and diseases, and to improve brain repair has a priority in Europe. The related area of research, which is the study of the molecular and cellular bases of brain function and damage under altered gravity conditions, does not play a profound role. At the same time this area seems to be very important to provide further insight into neurochemical changes in central nervous system of animals exposed to extreme conditions and to identify neurochemical basis for plasticity and repair, developing strategies for prevention and management of neurological disorders and diseases. This direction is not in the main stream of the European research, but it appears to attract certain attention in the US. Therefore, it seems to be of advantage for European Science and scientific bodies -FEBS in particular, to pay attention to above mentioned area.

The long-term staying in altered gravity conditions leads to the changes of a wide variety of neuronal systems ranging from motor to hypothalamic. Such changes likely involve both functional and morphological alterations in brain. Influence of altered gravity on the process of nerve signal transmission is essentially unknown. Most of the research has shown that exposure of animals to centrifuge-induced hypergravity leads to a changes in cerebral blood flow, arterial oxygen saturation etc. Since this alterations can cause a brain hypoxia, it is important to study the synaptic processes in brain under high -G exposure. There is substantial evidence linking excessive glutamate neurotransmission to the development of neuronal death following hypoxic-ischemic events (Diemer 1993, Schwartz-Bloom 2001). Disturbance of the transmembrane gradient of Na^+ concentrations is an important factor in hypoxia-induced neuronal damage and corroborates the participation of the glutamate and GABA transporters in hypoxia-induced neuronal injury (Yamaguchi 1998). Not surprisingly, the neuroprotective efficacy of drugs that modulate or block glutamate neurotransmission in animal models has been a major area of study. While many neurotransmitter systems play a role in hypoxic-ischemic neuronal injury, the GABAergic system may be of particular import because

it functions in opposition to that of glutamate. Neuro-protective strategies to increase GABA neurotransmission target preventing GABA reuptake in synapse.

For the first time we have recently demonstrated that hypergravity stress affects nerve signal transmission. Comparative analysis of uptake and release of glutamate and GABA showed that hypergravity loading evokes oppositely directed alterations in excitatory and inhibitory signal transmission. The studies of maximal velocities of high-affinity Na^+ -dependent plasma membrane transporter activities of glutamate and GABA revealed the significant lowering of glutamate and more than twofold enhancement of GABA transporter activities. We have also shown significant changes in the exocytotic release of neurotransmitters. Depolarization-evoked Ca^{2+} -stimulated release was essentially decreased for glutamate and was more abundant for GABA after exposure of animals to artificial gravity loading. Changes occurred in depolarization-evoked exocytotic release seem to be in a concordance with alterations of plasma membrane transporters activity observed. Perhaps, lowering of glutamate transporter activity and increase of the velocity of GABA uptake correlated with diminution and augmentation of exocytotic release of these neurotransmitters, respectively.

Together all these data indicate that exposure of animals to hypergravity had a profound effect on synaptic processes in brain. It is possible the changes observed in the activity of the processes responsible for the uptake and release of excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters are physiologically important and reflect making protective mechanisms more active for neutralization of harm influence of hypergravity stress.





Continued...

The experimental data of our research were published in *Advances in Space Research* (2003), *Journal of Gravitational Physiology* (2002, 2003), etc.; were presented as oral speech in 24th Annual International Gravitational Physiology Meeting, Santa Monica, California, USA, 2003; -World Space Congress, Houston, USA, 2002; as poster in 8th European Symposium on Life Sciences Research in Space, Stockholm, Sweden 2002, Jacques Monod Conference "Glutamate receptors and Transporters", France 2002, 4-th Parnas Conference, Poland 2002; and STCU NN-06 (2002-2003), COSPAR award (2002) and CRDF Travel Grant award (2003) were received.

It is possible; these activities develop new technologies that have implications beyond space exploration, such

as in the areas of human health and medicine. Data obtained may also have clinical application for maintenance of normal brain function, prevention of the development of different neurological disorders that impose an ever-increasing burden on modern society, discovery of new ways to survive under extremal conditions, finding a desirable target for pharmacological intervention to attenuate a harm influence of environment.

It may also have a significant social and economic impact since it conditions the future of Human in micro and hypergravity environment (space flight, training in centrifuge for pilot etc.). The findings also provide valuable experience for the use of artificial gravity during long-term or planetary exploration mission, especially concerning the future colonization of animals or people outside of Earth's gravity.

FEBS MESSAGE BOARD



Are you looking for a vacancy (e.g. a post doc position), free recycle material (e.g. a certain textbook, or a particular piece of lab equipment), then post your announcement at this message board! The service is free of charge to all members of FEBS, i.e. to any member of 42 biochemical and molecular biology societies

POST DOC WANTED!

When: 2005

Research field: Mitochondrial

Skills: Fluorescence, measurements, spectrophotometry, chromatography (Very good in English)

Contact: *Olga Vadzyuk*, Paladin Inst. Of BioChemistry, Kiev, Ukraine, E-mail: olga_vadzyuk@hotmail.com

From 2005 EJB will be changing its title to **the FEBS Journal**

THE FEBS JOURNAL PRIZE

From 2005, EJB — soon to be *the FEBS Journal* — will award a personal prize of €10,000 to the graduate or young post-doctoral researcher who is the first author of a paper judged to be the best in EJB during the year.

Get more info at:

<http://www.ejbiochem.com/>

FEBS LETTERS YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

FEBS LETTERS, the other FEBS publication, also award excellent papers; the prize consists of Euro 10,000 and is awarded to the most outstanding Research Letter published in a calendar year. Read more at <http://www1.elsevier.com/febs/show/doc/ysa.htm>



POST DOC WANTED!

I am currently looking for a post doc position having experience in molecular biology, biochemistry (cloning, cDNA synthesis, heterologous gene expression, protein purification) and cell culture. I have been working during my PhD studies on analysis of interaction of GPCR receptors expressed in human lingual epithelium with virus-like particles of HPV type 11. Apart from English I speak a fluent French (Polish-French co-thesis). I would like to work in a field related to virology and/or human genetics.

Contact: **Lukasz Durzynski**, ul. Lazurowa 14/76, 60-655 Poznan, Poland, tel.: 0048 -618 -224- 343, 0048-501-959-412; E-mail: biologiste@tlen.pl

POST DOC WANTED!

When: 2005

Research field: Molecular Biology—Toxicology
Experience in cell culture, Western and Northern Blot, PCR, RT-PCR, transfections, several assays, etc.

Contact: *Anamaria Brozovic*, lab for genotoxic Agents, Zagreb; brozovic@rudjer.irb.hr

NEWS FROM FEBS SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS RECYCLING SCHEME (SARS) PROGRAMME — CALL FOR DONORS OF USED APPARATUS

There continues to be a shortage of apparatus among the biochemists in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The constituent societies in such countries are hereby invited to make known their more specific requirements for equipment in this NewsLetter. If any laboratory would like to contemplate making a gift of apparatus to those in need then they should contact the advertiser. Following agreement that the needs of the advertiser can be met the donor should contact the convenor of SARS so that funds can be provided for packing and dispatching.

If you would like to advertise for used apparatus, just send relevant details to newsletter@febs.org, and we will announce it in FEBS NewsLetter for you (free of charge). Remember to state "SARS" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Best wishes,

Prof. **Peter Campbell**, Coordinator of the SARS Programme & Camilla Krogh Lauritzen, Information Manager, FEBS
E-mail: p.campbell@biochemistry.ucl.ac.uk

CALL FOR USED LAB APPARATUS

Professor Armen Galoyan, President of the Armenian Association of Biochemists, is looking for:

UV-Vis scanning spectrophotometers

(e.g. Hitachi U3100, Hitachi F 2000, Shimadzu 26, Perkin Elmer Lambda)

Gilson-Pump 305

UV-detector with variable wave length of 190-360nm

Software for controlling pumps and detectors

Laser spectrophotometer-densitometer

If you are in possession of any of the above, please contact Prof. Galoyan immediately via e-mail (gkarine@sci.am).

This announcement is published on behalf of Prof. Yerevan by the SARS programme.

ELSO MOBILISES RESEARCHERS' SUPPORT FOR A EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)

The European Life Scientist Organization, ELSO, is running an online petition 'for a new and ambitious European science policy'. The petition aims to gather grass-roots support from European researchers in all disciplines for the creation of a new funding agency for basic research (the ERC), and to express to the European Parliament, Council and Commission scientists' frustrations with the bureaucracy of the Framework Programmes. To read more about the aims of the petition, please see *The ELSO Gazette* at <http://www.the-also-gazette.org>. To view or sign the petition, please go to <http://ultr23.vub.ac.be/petition/>



HOW FEBS CAN HELP YOU TO ACCESS THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE ONLINE

By **Willy Stalmans**, Chairman of the FEBS Publications Committee

Afdeling Biochemie, Campus Gasthuisberg, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, B-3000 Leuven, E-mail: Willy.Stalmans@med.leuven.ac.be

Dear scientist,
Are you living in an economically less-favoured FEBS area?
Then go on reading this information.

In 2000 FEBS launched a modest programme to provide selected scientific libraries in countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) with free printed copies of Eur J Biochem and/or FEBS Letters. During the ensuing years I received 32 requests from several FEBS Constituent Societies in CEE, and 28 free journal subscriptions have been granted to institutions in Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Serbia & Montenegro, Russia and Ukraine. The usefulness of this aid will be examined in a few years time.

Free electronic access to the FEBS publications

The phenomenon of the empty libraries is becoming epidemic since scientists, and especially those of the younger generation, are massively turning to electronic consultation of the literature. In agreement with the publishers of our journals, i.e. Blackwell (Eur J Biochem) and Elsevier (FEBS Letters), we are now launching a programme to provide scientific institutions in less-favoured FEBS countries with free online access to the FEBS publications.

Do you qualify for this programme? The minimum requirement is that you belong to a FEBS Constituent Society in a country listed in Table 1. These are the FEBS countries and regions in CEE (the former Soviet bloc), plus a few countries in the Mediterranean area. However, since the number of applications may ultimately exceed our financial means, FEBS may have to be selective in granting free electronic access. The programme is not primarily intended for citizens of the rather well-off countries (i.e. some of the recent member states of the EU). In this respect it is noteworthy that Václav Pačes, president of the Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has recently issued a statement that laboratories in the Czech Republic have no need for further developmental aid, and that FEBS should direct its support to other countries. And obviously FEBS has no intention of replacing current institution-paid subscriptions by FEBS-paid electronic access! On the other hand, institutions in countries with the lowest income level must make use of existing schemes (HINARI, AGORA) that allow free electronic access to a large part of the relevant scientific literature (see Table 1 and details in the next sections).

Please note also that you already have full-text electronic access if your institution subscribes to a hard copy of a FEBS publication - consult the following websites: for Eur J Biochem <http://www.ejb.org/> and for FEBS Letters <http://www.febsletters.org/febs/show/> or <http://www.elsevier.com/febs/show/>.

And access is always free for contents and abstracts, and for the full text of reviews and special issues. Furthermore, the full text of *all* articles in any issue of Eur J Biochem and FEBS Letters becomes available without restriction 12 months after publication.

How should you proceed to obtain free online access? If you qualify (see above) and if you have adequate internet facilities, then consult your librarian. Check whether your institution isn't already entitled to free electronic access via HINARI or AGORA, or can have access to FEBS publication (s) via a consortial agreement or via another programme listed in Table 1. Your request to FEBS should affirm that such access does not exist for your institution. It should also contain the institutional IP number (to be provided by your librarian) to which our publisher(s) should connect. Address your request by e-mail to the FEBS Information Manager, Camilla Krogh Lauritzen (camilla@febs.org), and we will contact you as soon as possible

Free electronic access to more journals

The HINARI programme.

(<http://www.healthinternetwork.org/index.php>)
The "Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative" (HINARI, phase 1) was launched in January 2002 by Gro Harlem Brundtland, director of the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the world's six largest medical journal publishers (including Elsevier and Blackwell). Since then many more publishers and medical and scientific associations have joined (see "partners" on the programme website). HINARI aims at providing free (or nearly free) online access to the medical literature in the broad sense (indeed, including both FEBS publications). Currently over 2,400 publications are covered in the HINARI scheme. If you live in an eligible country (Table 1) you can apply by completing with the assistance of your librarian a simple registration form available at the programme website. The list of registered institutions that I received from one of our publishers reveals a high proportion of hospitals, medical faculties, medical libraries, public health institutes etc., but "medical" is clearly not a prerequisite since I spotted also a number of entire universities and even two Faculties of Sciences.

HINARI phase 1. This scheme applies to countries in the "HINARI list I", i.e. with a gross national product (GNP) per capita under 1,000 USD. It provides free online access to the medical/biological publications of the partners.





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It applies to the following countries with a FEBS Constituent Society (in parentheses the - not too recent - number of registered institutions): Armenia (5), Azerbaijan (0), Georgia (7), Moldova (3) and Ukraine (14).

HINARI phase 2. This scheme applies to countries in the "HINARI list II", i.e. with a GNP per capita between 1,000 and 3,000 USD. Institutional access requires an annual fee of 1,000 USD, which is very modest indeed if one considers that it gives access to a package of literature currently worth more than 750,000 USD. Furthermore, that fee is ultimately returned to the participating institutions, since it is collected in a fund that it used to train librarians and researchers in information technology. The HINARI list II comprises 11 countries or regions in the FEBS area (with the number of institutions on 5 March 2004): Belarus (9), Bosnia & Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (*), Kosovo (3), Latvia (*), Lithuania (*) Macedonia/FYROM (6), Morocco (14), Romania (*), Serbia & Montenegro (12) and Tunisia (*). Unfortunately, some countries (*) are being excluded by some publishers from phase 2, apparently for commercial reasons.

The AGORA programme

(<http://www.aginternetwork.org/>)

AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations fairly recently (October 14, 2003) as the counterpart of HINARI in the area of agriculture. Its different orientation is apparent from the subject categories offered at the website to browse groups of journals: Agriculture - Animal Science - Biology - Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology - Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biophysics - Economics & Social Science - Entomology & Pest Control - Environment, Ecology & Natural Resources - Fisheries & Aquatic Science - Food Science & Nutrition - Forestry - Multidisciplinary/ Miscellaneous - Plant Science & Soil Science.

The AGORA site provides access to over 500 journals from major scientific publishers (including both FEBS Publications). Although there is a partial overlap between AGORA and HINARI, universities often will find advantage in joining both programmes.

AGORA operates in a similar way to HINARI. Even the registration forms at the websites are almost identical. One drawback is that AGORA is currently limited to the countries in the HINARI list I (although there is a definite intention to move on to phase 2). 200 institutions in 47 countries had registered by 1 March 2004. However, with respect to the FEBS area AGORA provides free online access only to scientists in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

INTAS (International Association) (<http://www.intas.be>)

INTAS is an EU-funded initiative to promote the scientific potential across the New Independent States (NIS). Blackwell participates in the INTAS Library Action, which consists of electronic document delivery and of training in Information and Communication Technologies. Table 1 shows that,

as far as the FEBS countries are concerned, the full programme runs only in Armenia, Belarus and Moldova. Three other countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine) only receive the benefit of the training aspect. It is to be noted that all these countries can also make full use of the HINARI and AGORA schemes.

Other initiatives

The eIFL foundation and network

(<http://www.eifl.net/>)

The eIFL (Electronic Information For Libraries) is a foundation with quite different aims and operation. On one hand it negotiates affordable online subscriptions on a multi-country consortial basis, and on the other hand it supports the enhancement of emerging national library consortia in member countries. In Table 1 it is referred to as EBSCOHOST/SOROS: EBSCO is indeed a major provider, while it is supported by the Soros Foundation. Blackwell participates in the network.

Nearly all the FEBS countries in CEE are members (Table 1). On the website, the name of each member country links to specific information such as the name of the national consortium, the number of participating sites, and the name and coordinates of the consortium coordinator.

If your institution is in one of these member countries and would like to join the eIFL.net, you are invited to get in touch with your country coordinator. New countries can also apply for membership - contact details can be found at the website.

Blackwell and Elsevier have also concluded their own consortial deals with a number of sites in several FEBS countries (Table 1). Your librarian should know about the involvement of your institution, or we can check it.

INASP stands for International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (<http://www.inasp.info/peri/index.html>), in which Blackwell also participates. A branch programme known as PERI, the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information, negotiates access to as many required resources as possible with content owners and publishers. The exact cost of each resource is related to the GNP of the country, and although many of the resources are available without cost as part of PERI, others are obtainable at a discount of up to 98% on the normal subscription rates.

Finally, I have been made aware of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), which is a self-governing state organization whose primary goal is to support research initiatives in all fields of fundamental science in Russia. The RFBR has sponsored access in over 300 institutions across Russia to the Blackwell Publishing collection of journals. Researchers and students can access the journals via Blackwell Synergy or on local servers (<http://www.rfbr.ru/>). ➔

NEWS FROM FEBS: THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE



Continued...

Your feedback

Since I, as a citizen of a Western-European country, am unable to register for the programmes discussed above, I lack practical experience of them, and I would therefore

welcome your comments as registered users at mail@willystalmans.be.

I wish to thank the publishers of the FEBS journals, Blackwell and Elsevier, for providing me with keys to the various information and many useful comments.

Table 1. List of countries in the FEBS area that are eligible for certain programmes and/or contracts providing electronic access to scientific publications.

	HINARI list I (GNP <\$1000)	HINARI list II (GNP <\$3000)	Elsevier Consortia	Blackwell Consortia	Blackwell INTAS NIS	Blackwell INASP (PERI)*	Blackwell EBSCOHOST SOROS
Armenia	YES		YES		YES	YES	YES
Azerbaijan	YES		YES	YES		YES	
Belarus		YES	YES		YES	YES	YES
Bosnia/Herzegovina		YES	YES			(YES)	YES
Bulgaria		YES					YES
Croatia			YES				
Czech Republic			YES	YES		(YES)	YES
Estonia			YES	YES			YES
FYROM (Macedonia)		YES	YES				
Georgia	YES		YES	YES		YES	YES
Hungary			YES				
Kosovo		YES	YES				YES
Latvia		YES	YES			(YES)	YES
Lithuania		YES	YES				YES
Moldova	YES		YES		YES	YES	YES
Morocco		YES				(YES)	
Poland			YES	YES			YES
Romania		YES				(YES)	
Russia			YES			(YES)	YES
Serbia & Montenegro		YES	YES	YES		(YES)	YES
Slovak Republic			YES	YES			YES
Slovenia			YES			(YES)	YES
Tunisia		YES				(YES)	
Turkey			YES	YES		(YES)	
Ukraine	YES		YES	YES		YES	YES

* in brackets: still in progress, not live

FEBS MEMBER SOCIETIES

- A 2004 UPDATE



In the following you will find an updated list of the FEBS member societies, incl. URL's to their websites (if available). At our website, you will find all relevant contact details for each individual society.

Membership of any of the listed societies = membership of FEBS

What this means to you? - Find the answers at our website!

Country:	Name of Society:	Website (if available):
Armenia:	Armenian Biochemical Society	None
Austria:	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie	http://www.bcc.univie.ac.at/ogbm/
Azerbaijan:	Azerbaijan Society of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists	None
Belarus:	Belarusian Biochemical Society	None
Belgium:	Société Belge de Biochimie et de Biologie Moleculaire/ Belgische Vereniging voor Biochemie en Moleculaire Biologie	http://www.biochemistry.be/
Bulgaria:	Bulgarian Society for Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology	None
Croatia:	Croatian Biochemical Society	http://www.hdbmb.hr/
Cyprus:	Biochemical Society of Cyprus	http://www.mendelcenter.org/cy-biological.html
Czech Rep.:	Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://csbmb.vscht.cz/
Denmark:	Danish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://www.biokemi.org
Estonia:	Estonian Biochemical Society	None
Finland:	Societas Biochimica, Biophysica et Microbiologica Fenniae	http://www.biobio.org/bioengl.html
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM):	Macedonian Biochemical Society	http://e20.manu.edu.mk/rcgeb/mbs/
France:	Société Française de Biochimie et de Biologie Moléculaire	http://botrytis.polytechnique.fr/sfbbm/
Georgia:	Association of Georgian Biochemists	None
Germany:	Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie	http://www.gbm-online.de
Great Britain:	The Biochemical Society	http://www.biochemistry.org/default.htm
Greece:	Hellenic Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	http://www.eebmb.gr/
Hungary:	Magyar Biokémiai Egyeslet	http://195.228.254.34/mbke/



FEBS MEMBER SOCIETIES

- A 2004 UPDATE



Continued..

Country:	Name of Society:	Website (if available):
Iceland:	Lífefnafræði Íslands	None
Ireland:	The Biochemical Society, Irish Area Section	http://www.biochemistry.org
Israel:	Israel Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://isbmb.md.huji.ac.il/
Italy:	Società Italiana di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare	http://www.biochimica.it/
Latvia:	Latvian Biochemical Society	None
Lithuania:	Lithuanian Biochemical Society	None
Moldova:	Moldovan Society of Biochemistry	None
Morocco:	Société Marocaine de Biochimie	http://www.smbbm.org
Netherlands:	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Biochemie en Moleculaire Biologie	http://www.kncv.nl/nvbmb/
Norway:	Norsk Biokjemisk Selskap	http://www.biokjemisk.com/
Poland:	Polish Biochemical Society	http://www.ptbioch.edu.pl/
Portugal:	Sociedade Portuguesa de Bioquímica	http://www.itqb.unl.pt/spb/
Russia:	The Russian Biochemical Society	None
Romania:	Societatea Romana de Biochimie si Biologie Moleculara	http://www.biochim.ro/
Slovak Republic:	Slovak Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://molbiochem.savba.sk/
Slovenia:	The Slovenian Biochemical Society	http://bio.ijs.si/sbd.htm
Spain:	Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular	http://sebbm.bq.ub.es
Sweden:	Svenska föreningen för biokemi och molekylärbiologi	http://www.sfbm.org/
Switzerland:	Swiss Society for Biochemistry	http://www.swissbiochem.unibe.ch/
Tunisia:	Tunisian Association of Biological Sciences	None
Turkey:	Turkish Biochemical Society	http://www.biyokimya.org/
Ukraine:	Ukrainian Biochemical Society	None
Yugoslavia:	Yugoslav Biochemical Society	http://www.chem.bg.ac.yu/ybs/



July 2004

Dear Fellow Scientists,

Introducing the FEBS Journal, from 1 January 2005

The *European Journal of Biochemistry* has a long and distinguished history, stemming from its first issue in 1967 as the new title of another distinguished and even older journal

that had played a major part in the earliest days of the foundation of the emerging subject of biochemistry, the *Biochemische Zeitschrift*. The present international nature of EJB can be judged from the fact that papers from authors in more than 60 different countries were published in the journal in 2003, and that well over a third of these came from outside Europe.

In the past four decades, biochemistry has changed dramatically. The old subject boundaries are dissolving. We live in exciting times scientifically, when the multi-disciplinary approach to the molecular life sciences can be seen to be bringing enormous dividends.

In keeping with this spirit of change and new horizons, FEBS and the Editorial Board of EJB have taken the decision to retitle EJB as the *FEBS Journal* from 1 January 2005. Further expansion of an already distinguished Editorial Board will reflect the new broader aims and scope of the journal, not least in the areas of bioinformatics, genomics and proteomics, molecular cell biology and the molecular biology of disease, systems biology and nanoscience.

FEBS and the Editorial Board of EJB, together with our publishing partner, Blackwell Publishing, hope that you will find these changes as exciting as we do, and that you will wish to see your work published in the *FEBS Journal*. We look forward to working together with you. For further details, as they are announced, please visit the current journal website (<http://www.ejb.org>).

The FEBS Journal Prize 2005

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>).

Reviews

Since the last FEBS newsletter, three minireview series have been published in the journal:

In Vol. 271/10, a minireview series coordinated by V. Di Marzo with an Introduction entitled: *Signalling at vanilloid TRPV1 channels*. The series comprises:

Biochemical pharmacology of the vanilloid receptor

TRPV1. An update, by D. N. Cortright and A. Szallasi; *Molecular architecture of the vanilloid receptor. Insights for drug design*, by A. Ferrer-Montiel, C. García-Martínez, C. Morenilla-Palao, N. García-Sanz, A. Fernández-Carvajal, G. Fernández-Ballester and R. Planells-Cases; *Endovanilloids. Putative endogenous ligands of transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 channels*, by M. van der Stelt and V. Di Marzo.

In Vol. 271/11, a minireview series coordinated by Michal Hetman with an Introduction entitled: *Role of extracellular signal regulated kinases in neuronal death and survival*. The series comprises:

Role of extracellular signal regulated kinases 1 and 2 in neuronal survival, by M. Hetman and A. Gozdz; *Role of extracellular signal regulated kinase 5 in neuronal survival*, by J.E. Cavanaugh; *Oxidative neuronal injury. The dark side of ERK1/2*, by C.T. Chu, D.J. Levinthal, S.M. Kulich, E.M. Chalovich, and D.B. DeFranco.

In Vol. 271/12, a minireview series coordinated by Annette Nicke entitled: *Learning about structure and function of neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. Lessons from snails*. The series comprises:

Physico-chemical characterization and synthesis of neuronally active α -conotoxins, by M.L. Loughnan and P.F. Alewood; *α -Conotoxins as tools for the elucidation of structure and function of neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subtypes*, by A. Nicke, S. Wonnacott and R.J. Lewis; *Structure-activity relationships of α -conotoxins targeting neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptors*, by E.L. Millard, N.L. Daly and D.J. Craik; *Computational approaches to understand α -conotoxins interactions at neuronal nicotinic receptors*, by S. Duterre and R.J. Lewis.

Reviews recently published:

Prokaryotic and eukaryotic DNA helicases. Essential molecular motor proteins for cellular machinery, by N. Tuteja and R. Tuteja (Vol. 271/10); *Unraveling DNA helicases. Motif, structure, mechanism and function*, by N. Tuteja and R. Tuteja (Vol. 271/10); *Structure and function of plant aspartic proteinases*, by I. Simões and C. Faro (Vol. 271/11); *Chromatin dynamics at DNA replication, transcription and repair*, by A.E. Ehrenhofer-Murray (Vol. 271/12); *Enzymes in organic media. Forms, functions and applications*, by M. N. Gupta and I. Roy (Vol. 271/13).

Forthcoming reviews:

How mammalian transcriptional repressors work, by G. Thiel, M. Lietz and M. Hohl; *Biochemical and enzymological aspects of the symbiosis between the deep-sea tube-worm *Riftia pachyptila* and its bacterial endosymbiont*, by Z. Minic and G. Hervé; *Cold survival in freeze-intolerant insects - the structure and function of β -helical antifreeze proteins*, by S.P. Graether and B.D. Sykes.

You can read reviews online and download them free of charge from the time of publication.





CONTINUED...

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 hot-links from the EJB website (<http://www.ejb.org>).

Mathematical model database

A further model from a paper published in EJB will soon be freely available on the mathematical modelling website linked to EJB:

The principle of flux minimization and its application to estimate stationary fluxes in metabolic networks, by Hermann-Georg Holzhütter (available on OnlineEarly at the time of going to press).

You can access and try out the mathematical models published in EJB 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/>).

Change in the Editorial Office

Laraine Kerr will be leaving Cambridge next month. We thank her for all the hard work and effort she has put into her time in the EJB Editorial Office and wish her and her husband well in their new lives in Edinburgh.

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

FEBS Letters

July 2004

Dear fellow scientist,

The 2004 FEBS Congress was recently held in Warsaw, where the recipient of the 2004 FEBS Letters Young Scientist Award gave an excellent presentation. The award is presented to the

most outstanding research letter published in FEBS Letters during the previous calendar year. This year's winner, Dr. Jie-Oh Lee, was presented with the 10 000 Euro prize by Professor Giorgio Semenza, a former managing editor, and current honorary chairman, of *FEBS Letters*. Dr. Lee is an internationally renowned researcher in his field. He received his Ph.D. in 1995 from Harvard University and following a period of post-doc study in the United States, he returned to Korea to take up the position of Associate Professor at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. Dr. Lee gave an enlightening talk explaining the mechanism of inhibition of an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE). He also presented the crystal structures of the interaction of the *Drosophila* ACE with two inhibitors: captopril and lisinopril. The talk was especially timely, and fitted in very well with the Sir Hans Krebs Lecture that was presented on the first day of the conference by Ryszard Gryglewski. Dr. Gryglewski described the pharmacology of the vascular epithelium, from the initial discovery of aspirin by Sir John Vane to the present day. His talk included a description of the angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, and provided the perfect introduction to Dr. Lee's presentation.

FEBS Letters held a well-attended social cocktail for young scientists at the conference, providing them with

an opportunity to meet and interact in a relaxed atmosphere. Of course the free drinks and hors d'oeuvres helped to keep the conversation flowing!

The editorial office would like to welcome Professor Francesc Posas (Barcelona), the newest member of the Editorial Board, to the journal. Francesc will begin as an editor for the journal later this summer and will handle manuscripts in the areas of yeast genetics, cell-cycle regulation, metabolism and signaling.

The composition of the Editorial Office has undergone some changes this summer. Kara Bortone (former Assistant Managing Editor) left the journal a few weeks ago to pursue a career in marketing and communications in Belgium. Dr. Patricia McCabe joined the journal this month as the new Assistant Managing Editor. Patricia is a native of Scotland and has a background in molecular biology and several years experience as a Scientific Coordinator for the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). Another recent addition to the journal's editorial staff is Tine Walma, a Canadian who graduated from the University of Nijmegen with a Ph.D. in structural biology. Both Patricia and Tine look forward to working with the *FEBS Letters* team, authors, editors and the FEBS organization in the years to come!

With best wishes,

The *FEBS Letters* Editorial Office

Felix Wieland, Managing Editor
Patricia McCabe, Assistant Managing Editor
Eva-Maria Emig, Assistant Editor
Tine Walma, Assistant Editor
Anne Mueller, Editorial Assistant



**Imperial College
London**



**THE UNIVERSITY
of LIVERPOOL**



**MANCHESTER
1824**

Glycochips - strategies for high-throughput analysis of the glycome

Applications are invited for positions in a multidisciplinary consortium involving the Universities of Dundee, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford and Imperial College London. The aim of the programme is to develop carbohydrate arrays as highly innovative tools to map out carbohydrate-protein interactions in cells or tissues. An understanding of such interactions of the glycome (the complete set of carbohydrate structures produced by a cell or tissue) will complement data from studies of the proteome and represents an essential facet of postgenome technology. The studies will underpin the development of novel glycotherapeutics for exploitation in diverse applications as cancer, infectious diseases, inflammation, neurodegeneration, wound healing and tissue engineering. The programme is funded by a £3.5M Basic Technology Grant from the EPSRC. The following positions are available:

Imperial College London

Department of Biological Sciences - Postdoctoral Research Associate in the group of Professor Anne Dell FRS, Professor Howard Morris FRS and Dr Stuart Haslam. The aim is to develop proteomic strategies using MALDI-TOF-TOF instrumentation for identifying carbohydrate-binding proteins that have been captured on glycochips. Applicants should hold a PhD in the biological or physical sciences and have experience of biopolymer analysis. Experience in mass spectrometry is desirable but not essential. The appointment will be for two years in the first instance starting from 1 October 2004. Salary will be on Level A of the Research and Education Job Family in the range £21,368 - £31,142 depending on qualifications and experience.

Further information: a.dell@imperial.ac.uk

Glycosciences Laboratory Division of Medicine: 2 Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the group of Professors Ten Feizi and Alexander Lawson. The aim is to develop new and high throughput microarray approaches for carbohydrates as a lead to proteome- and glycome-wide studies of carbohydrate-recognition systems. Applicants for *Post 1* should hold a PhD in immunological and immunochemical sciences. Extensive experience in cell and protein research is required. Experience in glycobiology would be an advantage but is not essential. Applicants for *Post 2* should hold a PhD in chemistry or biochemistry. Experience in carbohydrate chemistry would be an advantage but is not essential. The appointments will be for two years in the first instance starting from 1 September 2004. Starting salaries will be at appropriate levels of the Research and Education Job Family in the range £23,761 - 32,007 depending on qualification and experience

Further information: t.feizi@imperial.ac.uk

University of Liverpool

School of Biological Sciences - Postdoctoral Researcher in the group of Professor Jerry Turnbull. The aim is to develop and apply novel heparan sulphate saccharide microarrays for studying saccharide-protein interactions in high-throughput formats. Applicants should hold a PhD, and have a background in bioconjugate/surface chemistry and molecular interactions. Experience in carbohydrate-protein interactions and in HPLC/FPLC techniques would be advantageous. The appointment is available immediately for two years in the first instance. Salary will be within the R1A scale: £21,010 - £26,327, depending on qualifications and experience. Further particulars and details of the application procedure should be requested from the Director of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210 (24 hr answerphone) or via email: jobs@liv.ac.uk. Web site at <http://www.liv.ac.uk>. Quote Ref: B/283. Informal enquiries may be made to Prof. Jerry Turnbull. (Tel: +44 (0)151 795 4427. Email: J.Turnbull@Liverpool.ac.uk).

University of East Anglia

School of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy - Postdoctoral Research Associate in the groups of Professor's Robert Field and David Russell. The aim is to devise novel linkers and surface chemistries for optimal presentation of carbohydrates and proteins on gold surfaces. These will be used for the development of new assay systems for detecting and analysing protein-carbohydrate interactions based on surface plasmon resonance. Applicants should hold a PhD in chemistry or biochemistry, and should ideally have experience of the deposition of carbohydrates and/or proteins on gold planar and/or nanoparticle surfaces. Direct experience of surface plasmon resonance would be an advantage. The appointment will be for two years in the first instance starting from 1 October 2004. Salary will be in the Research and Analogous I scale: £18,265 - £27,339, depending on qualifications and experience. For exceptional candidates appointment can be made on the Research and Analogous II salary scale.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Rob Field (Tel: +44 (0)-1603 593983; email: r.a.field@uea.ac.uk) or Professor David Russell (Tel: +44-(0)1603 593012; email: d.russell@uea.ac.uk)

University of Edinburgh/Manchester

School of Chemistry - 3 research posts: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Technical Research Assistant, PhD Studentship in the group of Professor Sabine Flitsch. The group is currently located at Edinburgh but will transfer to the University of Manchester, Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB, <http://www.mib.umist.ac.uk/>) in summer 2005. The aim of the project is to develop the use of broad glycosyltransferases, obtained from natural sources or by forced evolution, for the synthesis of oligosaccharides and glycoconjugates. Applicants for *Postdoctoral post* should have completed a PhD in chemical or biological sciences, and preferably have a background in organic synthesis, biocatalysis, biological chemistry or enzymology. The appointment will be for one year in the first instance starting from 1 October 2004 in the scale £18,893 - £28,279, depending on qualifications and experience. Applicants for the *Technical assistant* post should have a degree in biological or related sciences. The assistant will be responsible for more routine molecular biology and enzymology experiments. The appointment will be for one year in the first instance starting immediately. Salary will be within the TGC scale: £13,547-15,131, depending on qualifications and experience. The *PhD studentship*, which will involve the chemo-enzymatic synthesis of oligosaccharides on microarrays, will start in October 2004. Applicants should have a first or upper second degree in chemistry or biological sciences.

Project Manager will be responsible for the overall management of the multi-centre project. Duties will include financial administration of the project, organisation of regular meetings, preparation of regular reports and coordination of the interactions with scientists outside the core project. Applicants should ideally have a degree in science (although this is not essential) and some previous administrative experience. The appointment will be for one year in the first instance starting immediately. Salary will be within the scale: £15,603- 21,469, depending on qualifications and experience.

Informal enquiries for these 4 posts may be made to Professor Sabine Flitsch (+44 (0) 131 650 4737 or email: S.Flitsch@ed.ac.uk).

Unless otherwise stated, the closing date for applications is 3rd August 2004

OPPORTUNITIES



Continued...

PHD AND POST DOC POSITION AVAILABLE THE FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY, THE NETHERLANDS

Date of availability: *ASAP*

Fellowship Available: *Yes*

Research Project: *ER Stress and Protein Folding, Chaperones and Folding Enzymes*

For further details: *Please contact **Ineke Braakman** (I.braakman@chem.uu.nl)*

POST DOC FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED CEINGE BIOTECNOLOGIE AVANZATE



CEINGE Biotecnologie Avanzate is a consortium with University of Naples Federico II, committed to advanced research in medical biotechnology.

Currently we have **15 openings for post-graduate Training Fellowships:**

- A) Junior level: 6 fellowships. Salary: Euro 17,878.00 gross per year, renewable for another two years.
- B) Expert level: 5 fellowships. Salary: Euro 24,920.00 gross per year, renewable for another two years.
- C) Group Leader level: 4 fellowships: Euro 32,975.00 gross per year, renewable for another two years.

Full details of the terms and conditions of these positions are posted on the CEINGE website <http://www.ceinge.unina.it>, or can be obtained from:

CEINGE Biotecnologie Avanzate S.C.a.r.l.,
Via S. Pansini 5, Ed. 19, 80131, Naples, Italy
E-mail: presidenza@ceinge.unina.it
Ph. +39 081 746 3132 +39 081 3722 832
Fax +39 081 746 3650.

Application deadline: 14 July 2004

FEBS VOLUNTEER AID PANEL (VAP)

As prior announced in FEBS NewsLetter, FEBS Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe (WOGCEE) has established a panel of volunteers to assist fellow colleagues/FEBS members, who need help from native English speakers in connection with submitting papers in English — e.g. grant and fellowship applications, scientific papers etc. So, if you need help to give your paper the final "polish", or have questions regarding VAP, feel welcome to contact Prof. Guy Dirheimer, chairman of WOGCEE/coordinator of VAP.

Guy Dirheimer
34, Sentier de l'aubépine, F-67000 Strasbourg, France
E-mail: guy.dirheimer.febs@wanadoo.fr

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

FEBS offers free advertising in FEBS NewsLetter and at FEBS website of academic fellowships, grants and vacancies in European basic research institutions. Please contact Camilla Krogh Lauritzen (camilla@febs.org) for further details.



What: 4th International Conference on Cysteine Proteinases and Their Inhibitors

For detailed information please see:

When: September 11-15, 2004

<http://bio.ijs.si/CONF/P2004.html>

Where: Portoroz, Slovenia

What: 46th International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids (ICBL)

For detailed information please see:

When: September 20-24 2005

<http://www.icbl.unibe.ch>

Where: Ajaccio, Corsica

What: 2nd European Consortium on Progeria and related disorders

For detailed information please see:

When: September 22-24, 2004

<http://www.mcocongres.com/europrogeria/programme.pdf>

Where: Marseille, France

What: VIIIth International Meeting on Cholinesterases (IMC)

For detailed information please see:

When: September 26-30, 2004

<http://www-b.unipg.it/~cholinpg/>

Where: Perugia, Italy

What: From Structural Genomics to Drug Discovery

For detailed information please see:

When: September 27-28

<http://alice.bio.unipr.it/course2004>

Where: Parma, Italy

What: Biophysical Chemistry meets Molecular Medicine

For detailed information please see:

When: June 1-4 June, 2005

<http://www.ycw.fc.ul.pt>

Where: Sesimbra Beach, Portugal

What: FEBS 30th Congress — 9th IUBMB Conference

For detailed information please see:

When: July 2-7, 2005

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

Where: Budapest, Hungary

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