FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

FEBS NewsLetter

September 2004 (5/2004)

FEBS — FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Dear Colleagues,

FEBS — having just turned forty — continues to move mission-oriented ahead at a high speed, expanding our activities and offer new ones to our more than 40,000 members, as well as to scientists outside the "FEBS Community" (being our 42 constituencies). One new initiative that matches this description is the **FEBS African Youth Travel Fund** (p.9). The latter aims to support African colleagues, many of whom are committed to combat major diseases that large populations on the vast African continent are struggling with.

Turning the focus back to Europe, FEBS also remains actively engaged in the debate related to the European Research Council (ERC). Thus, the latter was an obvious topic for one of several special sessions at this years annual FEBS Congress in Warsaw. At p.5. you can get a sense of the discussions in this session from Prof. Guy Dirheimer, who was among the many participants.
Furthermore, FEBS — as one of the members of the *Initiative on Science* (ISE) Group — is behind a major Conference on the ERC. This Conference, "Making a reality of the ERC – A novel Approach to Science Policy Making", will be hosted by UNESCO in Paris on October 25-26, 2004. The tentative program is available at p. 21.

Indeed — as p. 4, 7 and 9-11 are yet another few examples of — life science politics and policies, as well as the role, future potentials and future challenges for European life science, appear to be areas that are gaining (and attracting) an increasing interest on all levels within life science. Needless to say, FEBS strongly supports this development, and I encourage you to write me, should you wish to express your view on this in FEBS NewsLetter.

Speaking of support; this issue of FEBS NewsLetter also contains news from the two FEBS publications: **EJB – The FEBS Journal** and **FEBS Letters** (p. 14-15). As many of you know, these two publications are in fact more than "just" a couple of quality journals. They are also the very cornerstones in FEBS, enabling us to offer you fellowships, advanced courses, the annual FEBS Congress, etc.
Soon, one of these publications, namely EJB — The FEBS Journal, will transform into ***FEBS Journal***. This will happen on January 1, 2005. Apart from a new name and layout, the transformation will result in several added qualities and benefits (see http://www.febsjournal.org/). On top of this, FEBS Journal — like FEBS Letters — will award an annual prize of 10,000 Euro to the author of the best paper.
You can read much more about our two journals in the next issue of FEBS NewsLetter, which will be out on November 8.

If you are looking for a Post Doc or a PhD, this issue might help you in the right direction (see p. 16-18). Remember that we offer free advertising of positions whether you are looking for one, or offering one — more information available at p. 20.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to p.3, where you will find a brief presentation of the five people, who were appointed as new members of a FEBS Committee or Working Group (starting January 1, 2005) in connection with this years Council Meeting in Warsaw.

Kind regards,

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED FOR FEBS COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

At this years FEBS Council Meeting, which took place on June 30th in Warsaw, the following persons were appointed as members of a FEBS Committee or Working group:

Saskia Van der Vies (Holland) was elected to chair the FEBS Working Group on Women in Science (WISE), starting January 1, 2005. Her fields of expertise e.g include: Protein folding, Biology of Molecular Chaperones, Protein-misfolding and disease, Stress response and Signal transduction.
For further info, see http://www.niwi.knaw.nl/en/oi/nod/onderzoeker/PRS1239901/toon

Prof. Van der Vies replaces Sissel Rogne (Norway), who will be ending her term as Chairman on 31.12.2004.

Karl Kuchler (Austria) was elected to chair the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee, starting January 1, 2005. His fields of expertise e.g. include: Mechanisms of cellular stress response and multidrug resistance (MDR) development in eukaryotic organisms, including tumour cells and fungal pathogens, mechanisms of MDR reversal and development of diagnostic tools for monitoring and therapy of infectious disease caused by fungal pathogens
For further info, see http://www.at.embnet.org/molg/kuchler/

Prof. Kuchler replaces Karel W.A. Wirtz (the Netherlands), who will be ending his term as Chairman on 31.12.2004.

Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada (Portugal) was elected to chair the FEBS Working Group on Young Scientists Career, starting January 1, 2005. Her fields of expertise e.g. include: Mechanisms of the regulation of gene expression in Saccharomyces cereviseae under various forms of environmental cues and the bioenergetic mechanisms and in the genomics of Desulfovibrio gigas. For further info, see http://www.itqb.unl.pt/Research/Biological_Chemistry/Genomics_and_Stress/

Prof . Rodrigues-Pousada, will replace Marja Makarow (Finland), who will be ending her term as Chairman on 31.12.2004.

Tomas Zima (Czech Rep.) was elected as member of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee, starting January 1, 2005. His fields of expertise e.g. includes: Oxidative stress and antioxidants mostly in renal and metabolic diseases and alcohol metabolism.
For further info, see http://www1.lf1.cuni.cz/ukb/a_welcome.htm

Prof. Zima will replace Knut-Jan Andersen (Norway), who will be ending his term as member of this Committee on 31.12.2004.

María Teresa Miras-Portugal (Spain) was elected as member of FEBS Publication Committee, starting January 1, 2005. Her fields of expertise e.g. include: Neurochemical mechanisms and pathways for nucleotide receptors, adenosine receptors, P2X receptors and P2Y purinoceptors. For further info, see http://www.ucm.es/info/bbm4/
Prof. Miras-Portugal will replace Marten Wikström (Finland), who will be ending his term as member of this Committee on 31.12.2004.

SCIENCE (BIOLOGY) COMMUNICATION IN POLAND

By Prof. **Magdalena Fikus**,
Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, PAS
Science Festival, Warsaw, Deputy Director
02-106 Warszawa, Pawińskiego 5a
E-mail: magdaf@ibb.waw.pl
Member of the Polish Biochemical Society

Science has become the most ubiquitous achievement of the human race; the practical applications of scientific results profoundly affect our day-to-day existence and the face of our planet.

The last years have been favourable for the development of molecular biology, which developed on the basis of biochemistry, biophysics, genetics. Subsequently, the resulting practical applications in the form of biotechnology created a firm basis for the dissemination of molecular biology in society. Genomic discoveries, progress in cellular biology, developments in molecular diagnostics and genetic therapies, GMO – plants and animals – are widely discussed by laymen. At the same time, sophisticated methods and scientific language create need for the reciprocal contacts between scientists and the general public, who after all are the taxpayers.

During the past three years at Warsaw University, the most prominent Polish scientists have discussed general scientific topics at lectures open to the general public.
Congresses of the Biochemical, Biophysical and Biotechnological Societies have featured special sessions on the popularisation of science – also frequently open to the general public. Although very helpful, these events are not enough to meet the extensive needs in the area of popularisation of biological sciences.
These needs are being fulfilled in Poland in various additional ways.
For the past several years, we have been witnessing an increase in understanding of scientific problems – not only in the form of scientific "news" – by the media. Daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines have set up good-quality science desks. Biological sciences are being popularised by the educational "Polskie Radio BIS" public radio station, which broadcasts programmes aimed at students of all levels of education, as well as the general public. Public and commercial TV broadcast educational programmes on biology and medicine. In addition, there are two monthly science magazines - "Wiedza i Życie" (Life and Knowledge), and Polish edition of Scientific American (Świat Nauki). Such progress has been possible only thanks to the appearance of an ever-growing group of professional science journalists and writers.

The annual Warsaw Science Festival was first held eight years ago, since that time, 12 Polish academic centres and cities have begun hosting their own Science Festivals. The main debates at these festivals have concerned topics related to biochemistry, biophysics, molecular and cell biology (e.g. Judgement of biotechnology, Animal cloning, Gene cloning, GMOs and safety, Genetic therapy, Stem cells, Cancer and novel therapies, Biological secrets of human sexuality). Many various workshops, "hands-on" programs and demonstrations were offered (Check your DNA, DNA in your garden, Mysteries of the human body, Computer-assisted pharmaceuticals research, Medicinal plants and plant cell technology, Bioethics). High school students are invited for special "Festival classes" given by scientists in their institutions (Genetic recreation area, Healthy animals in friendly environment, Protein structure and activity, What we see in EM, Watching chemical molecules, Protein factory, Cells protecting us, How enzymes work, How to purify enzymes and make money).
The Science Festivals have attracted at least 500,000 visitors. As Poland has no Science Centres, the Festivals are the country's largest and most popular science event.

They were developed by numerous groups of scientists, who work on them on a voluntary basis. Consequently, the Science Festivals have become a way for scientists to reinforce and improve their image in society.
The Warsaw Festival has led to the creation of Poland's first and only Molecular Biology Laboratory for high school students, which has been operating for the past two years. More then 3000 students performed experiments on DNA and genetic engineering and attended lectures in the field, given by outstanding Polish scientists.
Finally, it is in Warsaw that the first Polish Science Café was initiated and hosted monthly meetings for the past three years. The Café has been the forum for animated discussions on biological and medical problems are discussed (e.g. Addictions, Memory and its mechanisms, Brain – healthy and sick, Pain, Chemistry of love, Evolution of hominids, Radiation - natural and produced by humans, Bioethics in medicine and biology, DNA on its 50th anniversary).

SPECIAL SESSION AT THE FEBS CONGRESS IN WARSAW - THE ERC

By Prof. **Guy Dirheimer**, Chairman of FEBS Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe

34, Sentier de l´aubépine, F-67000 Strasbourg, France
E-mail: guy.dirheimer.febs@wanadoo.fr
Member of the French Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

A special session of the FEBS Congress in Warsaw was devoted to the European Research Council (ERC). It had been organised on June 29 by Luc Van Dyck, Executive Coordinator of the European Life Science Forum (ELSF), and by Julio Celis, Secretary General of FEBS.

First Prof. Celis detailed the historical background and reasons to establish an ERC as well as the expectations of the scientific community (see his recent paper: *Promoting basic research in Europe*. FEBS Letters 563 (2004), 1-2), and the excellent document published in October 2003 by the ELSF : *ERC — the life scientist's view*).
He described the characteristics of ERC that are subject to consensus. He particularly insisted on the need to reform European and National science policies in order to promote basic research to face the challenge posed by the European Research Area (ERA), which is to be attained in 2010, and the goal of European leadership in the "knowledge based economy ". He also emphasised the need to increase research infrastructures and the number of centres of excellence.

Prof. Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Laureate, declared that scientific excellence should be the sole selection criterion in ERC programmes. This can be achieved in the centres of excellence (7-10 in Germany in the life sciences). A model which can be followed is that of the National Science Foundation in the USA.

Professor Federico Mayor , president of the ERC Expert Group and former Director General of UNESCO, discussed the recommendations of the Expert Group (see: *The European Research Council. A cornerstone in the European Research Area* http://www.ercexpertgroup.org/documents/ercexpertgroup_final_report.pdf.)

It defines the role of ERC which should be to support investigator-driven research of the highest quality selected through European competition. He emphasised that, with the active and imaginative initiative of FEBS from the beginning, this has achieved the full support of the scientific community and the understanding and commitment of the Commissioner Philippe Busquin and his team. The role of the Universities has been emphasised before the European Parliament as well as the absolute requirement for specific administrative mechanisms. He underlined once again the immense brain drain to the USA. The exodus of European talents is the main argument for action (about 150,000 European researchers flew out in the past 25 years), as well as the relocalization out of Europe of the research laboratories of many industrial corporations and the powerful emerging scientific development of China and other countries. He insisted on the financing of basic research (There is no applied science if there is no science to be applied). The fund for ERC should be of 2 billion euros per year and should appear in the financial perspectives of 2007-2012. It is up to the European Parliament to change the financing procedures of research. It appears that now most of the actions must concentrate on the political level where the initiative took place.

The last speaker of the first part of this session Dr Anastasia Andrikopoulou, Principal Administrator with the European Commission, raised the legal problems which will appear if ERC is administered by scientists. She stated that if EU money finances ERC it must be administered by a EU body. There is no model so far for an independent organisation financed by EU, except the Galileo programme. ERC could be part of the FP7, for which the proposals will be asked for early 2005. The decision on FP7 will be taken in 2006 and the first funding will start in 2007.

The second part of the session was devoted to the views of the new EU Member States on the ERC. It is evident that a funding instrument based essentially on competition , without *juste retour,* creates fear in countries where research system performs less well, suggesting that scientists in these countries would have fairly low chances to be successful. In the life sciences , however, the example of EMBO programmes, which are also based exclusively on scientific excellence, shows that Eastern and Central European countries perform, proportionally, rather well: the quality of the science and the scientists is there. On the other hand, the ERC will offer real possibilities for training, networking, technology transfer and mobility. According to Prof. Maciej Nalecz, Director of the UNESCO Basic and Engineering Sciences Division, a restructuring of national science policies, practices and systems is required in the new EU Member States. The best practices exemplified by the ERC may contribute to this and should trigger national investments. He however regretted that the politicians often do not understand that one can invest in something which will only be fruitful 20 years later. It is the duty of the scientists to make them understand it.

Prof. Andrzej Legocki, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, insisted on the high level of education in the CEE counties. Poland has a number of Centers of excellence, however only 0.74% of the GDP is devoted to basic research. Prof. Vito Turk from Ljubliana (Slovenia) gave three advises to prepare for ERC: (i) lure back excellent young scientists from the USA by building incubator houses for research i.e. competitive and independent centres with stipend and infrastructure where young promising scientists will set up research groups which will be transferred after 5, maximum 10 years, to Universities or Research institutes, (ii) help women scientist more, (iii) find and commit excellence early i.e. already in high-schools. In this context Prof. Péter Csermely from Budapest pointed to the Hungarian Research Student Association and the Network of Youth excellence (see FEBS NewsLetter 3/2004, which is helped by FEBS. Similar associations should be started in other European countries.

In conclusion this Special session was very interesting and showed, as stated by Julio Celis, that FEBS has an important role to play in the new Europe of science as our membership comprises both young and established researchers from the whole of Europe.

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SCIENCE (VI/VIII)

By **Edward Irobi**, PhD
Member of the Biochemical Society,

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

It is my pleasure to write about my view on the challenges that European Scientists are facing in the future, and what keeps me awake at night, and the role I see FEBS playing in facing the challenges.

The major challenge I can visualize is finance. Scientific researches across Europe should have adequate financial support from EU and various individual nations. With this, quality of research will increase and massive exodus of European Scientist to the United States of America will be reduced.

Apart from laboratory equipment, good and attractive pay package should be offered to Scientists while also programmes and avenues to encourage young scientists should be created.

What keeps me awake at night is the massive exodus of eminent European scientists from Europe's renowned institutions moving to America and Canada in the name of seeking for "greener pastures."

FEBS should engineer a mechanism of liasing with the EU and other member countries to tackle this problem from the grassroots level.

Advocating for greater financial involvement by EU and as well as other constituent member nations. Furthermore, FEBS should continue in it's numerous good and laudable scientific programmes and fellowships to encourage both old and young scientists.

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SCIENCE (VII/VIII)

By **Knorre Dmitry**, PhD
Member of the Russian Biochemistry Society,

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

Main problem of the future, I believe, would be informational overload. I propose that scientists of the future could resist this with use of virtual cell models. Even now scientists attempt to create computer models of bacteria, erythrocyte or eukaryotic cell organelles. However, so far they were unproductive.

I believe that in the future the amount of information will reach a point, at which we have enough critical data to make models that can actually be used for precise predictions.

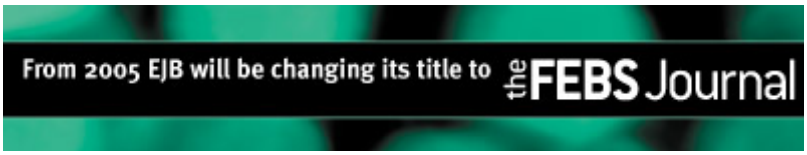
Excess of information provides another problem.

I am inclined to believe that scientists should be absolutely sincere about their scientific interests. However, questions of common interest seems much more interesting to some researchers than special problems. On the other hand scientific community has more concern to such special problems, and thus these are easily granted.

I see FEBS' role in providing scientific community integration. This will reduce effect of hyper specialization, and provide appearance of integrated databases. In the future such integrated databases could be transformed to virtual cell (or even organism) prediction services.

FEBS MESSAGE BOARD

Are you looking for something, e.g. a PhD or Post Doc position? Then post your announcement at this message board for ***free*** !
All you need to do, is to include your text (all relevant details related to the position you are looking for) plus a specification of which FEBS society you are a member of in an e-mail, and send it to newsletter@febs.org.



Both messages below relate to the FEBS Scientific Apparatus Recycling Scheme (SARS). For further information on this scheme, please see http://www.febs.org/Activities/SARS.htm or contact the coordinator of the SARS Programme Prof. Peter Campbell (e-mail: p.campbell@biochemistry.ucl.ac.uk).

If you are looking for used apparatus or have some to offer, please send all 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.

CALL FOR USED APPARATUS

Department of Pharmacognosy at the Medical University in Sofia would highly appreciate to be donated the following equipment:

Gradient HPLC system including autosampler, variable wavelength UV-VIS Detector and relevant software e.g. Hewlett Packard, Waters, Varian.

Mass spectrometer with LC interface e. g. Hewlett Packard, Schimadzu, Funnigan.

Should you be in the possession of any of the above, please contact:
Prof. **Iliana Ionkova**
Biotechnology Section
2 Dunav St.
Sofia 1000
Bulgaria
E-mail: ionkova@pharmfac.acad.bg

CALL FOR USED APPARATUS AND HANDBOOKS

On behalf of the newly established Department of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology at the Moldovan Free International University, the Moldovan Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB) hereby calls for recycled apparatus and books.

Department of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology is the first department in Moldova, specialized in training specialists in the mentioned area.

Should you have any used but good apparatus or books at hand, please contact:
Alexandru Dascaliuc,
President of the MSBMB and Head of The Center of Advanced Biological Technologies (CABT),
26/1 Padurii str., Chisinau, Moldova, 2002-MD
Tel.: (37322)53-01-77; Fax.: (37322)34-07-84;
E-mail: adascal@iatp.md;
URL: hhtp://www.iatp.md/cabt

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEBS AFRICAN YOUTH TRAVEL FUND

By **Karel W. A. Wirtz**, Chairman of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee

Centre for Biomembranes and Lipid Enzymology, Dept. Biochemistry of Lipids, Utrecht University, P.O. Box 80.054, 3508 TB Utrecht, the Netherlands
E-mail: k.w.a.wirtz@chem.uu.nl

Dear Colleagues,

Last November, I, as chairman of the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee, attended the Fourth Congress of the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB), which was held in Yaounde, Cameroon (November 25-28, 2003). This meeting was hosted by the Cameroon Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and was organized with financial support of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), IUBMB and FEBS. Chairman of the meeting was Prof. Vincent Titanji, President of FASBMB, (University of Buea) who was very effectively assisted by Prof. Wilfred Mbacham (University of Yaounde).
Along the theme 'Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for the Development of Africa' most lectures focused on HIV/AIDS and parasitic diseases, such as malaria, river blindness, sleeping sickness, but also on malnutrition and epidemiology of certain cancers. Apart from lectures, many posters were presented giving young researchers an opportunity to discuss their results.

When talking to these young people, I was struck by their enormous dedication and inspiring enthusiasm for biochemical research, mostly focussed on finding cures for the diseases that cripple many people young and old in the African countries.
Since progress in this field of research requires knowledge about the most modern techniques in biochemistry and molecular cell biology, I discovered that there was a great demand from the young researchers to have a chance to learn about these techniques by attending FEBS Advanced Courses.

A proposal to this end was accepted by the FEBS Council in Warsaw (June 30, 2004). As a result a ***FEBS African Youth Travel Fund*** has now been established effective as of September 1, 2004.

This implies that the organizer of a FEBS Advanced Course is allowed to accept 1-2 students from Africa and that the expenses to attend this course are covered from this fund.
For details on how to apply one is referred to the FEBS website (http://www.febs.org/Activities/Advanced_Courses/ADVCINFO.HTM).

VISITING TO THE ARMENIAN CONSTITUENCY

By **Guy Dirheimer**, Chairman of FEBS Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe

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

The FEBS Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe, invited by the Armenian Association of Biochemists (which is Associated member of FEBS since 2002), met in Yerevan from April 24 to April 29. The participants were, A. El'skaya, P. Campbell, G. Dirheimer, I. Mowbray, S. Szedlacsek, K. Wirtz and I. Safarik. The visit was perfectly organised by Professor A. Galoyan, President of the Armenian Association of Biochemists with the help of Dr V. Knaryan, Secretary of the Armenian Association of Biochemists and Mrs K. G. Gevorgyan, Secretary of the Council on International Cooperation. The Working Group was received in the most friendly fashion and much appreciated the outstanding Armenian hospitality.

CONTINUED...

During their stay in Yerevan the members of WOGCEE had several meetings with Armenian scientists and officials: Professor F. Sargsian, president of the National Academy of Sciences, and the members of the Armenian Association of Biochemists, Prof. L. Mkrtchyan, President of the Academy of Medicine and the Deputy-Minister of Health in presence of the members of the Academy (at this occasion Prof. P. Campbell was accepted as a new member of the Academy) and finally Mr A. Margaryan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. At these occasions the activities of FEBS and of the WG were explained and fruitfull discussions took place. It was particularly emphasised that good higher education is not possible without good research. Several Research Institutes and Faculties were also visited: the H. Buniatan Institute of Biochemistry headed by Prof. A. Galoyan and the Institute of Molecular Biology headed by Prof. K.G. Karageuzyan, which both belong to Academy of Sciences, the Heratsi Yerevan State Medical University (President Prof. V. Hakobian and Prof. M. Aghajanov, Head of the Biochemistry Department, the Yerevan State University, Faculty of Biology (Dean Prof. E.S. Gevorgyan, Dean, Prof. A. Ch. Agadjanyan, Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Prof. R. M. Aroutiounian, Head of the Department of Genetics).

The research activities going on in the different Institutes are the following. The H. Butanian Institute of Biochemistry essentially focuses on Neurochemistry with an emphasis on a new brain neuroendocrine immune system. The protective effects of new hypothalamic neurosecretory cytokines against neurodegenerative disorders is studied. It is interesting to underline that several groups in Yerevan are working on the same system establishing a critical mass. In addition, these groups work in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry of the Yerevan State Medical . The Butanian Institute has about 90 researchers. Many international collaborations are going on. Some laboratories were visited and their projects were discussed with the researchers. Concerning the equipment, several pieces of apparatus, even those provided by FEBS via SARS, are no longer working, due to parts failures (pump of HPLC Gilson 305, cells for the spectronic 20 etc.). In addition there is no good internet connection. Thanks to FEBS the library has many books and journals which are available to all scientists.

At the Institute of Molecular Biology we were told that many different research projects were going on. This is a large building with laboratories available for biochemical research . However the WG was unable to meet the researchers (about 100) because the Institute was closed for 6 months (November 15 to May 15) as they have no money to heat the institute during the winter! The researchers stay at home and are paid 20 euros a month ! Under these conditions it is not surprising that many of them prefer to emigrate.
The situation is much better in the Heratsi Yerevan State Medical University where there is no heating problem. In the laboratory of Prof. Aghajanov the protection against neurodegeneration, and Alzheimer's disease particularly, by the new hypothalamic neuropeptide of Prof. Galoyan is studied. The laboratory lacks particularly chemicals, and reagents.

At the Faculty of Biology of the Yerevan State University the molecular and cellular mechanisms of hormone action, particularly estradiol, hydrocortisone and insulin, are studied in the laboratory of Prof. Gevorgyan. In the laboratory of Prof. Trchounian the research concerns the biophysics and energetics of ion transport and their role in bacterial cell physiology. Finally in the laboratory of Prof. Aroutiounian interesting studies of genotoxicology are performed.
The Institute of Biotechnology focuses its activities on the synthesis of purified amino acids for medicine and food industry. The Branch of China Xinjian-Armenia Bioengineering and Development Centre was founded in 2001 at this Institute and an important contract has been signed. Many international cooperations are going on.

During the formal and informal meetings and discussions with the Armenian scientists the members of the WG noticed the high determination

among most of the biochemists they met, to perform high quality research. The research topics of several groups contain exciting and new scientific ideas which would deserve financial support. Researchers were open to suggestions and criticism related to the possibility to improve their scientific achievements. Many researchers and laboratories, still have strong connections/collaborations with important Russian biochemical research centres, but the WG stressed the necessity to publish the scientific results in English in high quality peer reviewed international journals. However, the number of people able to understand and speak English is relatively low; even in the research and academic groups we met, the presence of an interpreter was essential for our communicating with them. Concerning the equipment much of it was outdated The same was true for the techniques used; for instance, very few of the research groups which were met (some 2-3), are currently using the methods of recombinant DNA – which represent probably among the most popular and useful techniques in modern biochemical research.

At the meeting with the Prime-Minister, the WG presented the following conclusion:

- FEBS could help to train the new generation in modern biological sciences. The danger is that these people will permanently leave Armenia unless the government invests in infrastructure.

- The WG would recommend that the government seriously considers devising a strategy to maximise the resources available. For example, it was concerned to learn that some institutes were closed half a year due to lack of heating. No viable and competitive research is possible under these conditions.

- Finally, it recommended that a competitive peer-reviewed state grant system be established, given the successful expansion of the Armenian economy. This will help to attract matching funds from abroad.

The Minister promised to do everything that is possible.

At their final round table the members of the WG recommended:

- That Armenian biochemists try to organise an Advanced course in Armenia (K. Wirtz who stayed longer in Armenia investigated this)

- That FEBS favourably considers requests to pay for improved internet connections (satellite dishes/servers/slave computers)

- That a subscription to EJB should be sough from the Publications Committee Chairman who can also provide information on free internet Journal access under the Hinari scheme

- That a list of equipment required by Armenia and similar countries be compiled and published in FEBS NewsLetter and in *Regard sur la Biochimie* to seek more widely for donations to SARS

- That FEBS offers to provide via SARS spare parts for pieces of donated equipment where these are still available

- That the Association of Armenian Biochemists be encouraged to recruit the substantial number of scientists since this is a prerequisite for their access to FEBS aid

- That the Armenian researchers should consider the establishment of central facilities for sharing expensive equipment in the short term, a strategy which was already used by the Medical University

- That researchers, particularly those at the beginning of a scientific career, be encouraged to become more proficient in English; in this way, they will be able to establish much better scientific communication with foreign researchers working in their specific field of activity

- That meritorious young researchers be appointed as group leaders where possible in an effort to mitigate the brain drain from Armenia.

FEBS ADVANCED COURSE (CODE 05-17):

MODERN APPROACH IN GENOME ANALYSIS FOR MEDICAL APPLICATION

RIGA, LATVIA, JUNE 5-18, 2005

Participants:
Graduated students, research fellows, PhD students. Participants will be restricted to 20 students plus 30 lecture course only.

Objectives:
The human genome holds an extraordinary throve of information about human development, physiology, medicine and evolution. The scientific progress made during last decade opens wide opportunities to find new disease genes of unknown biochemical function. The aim of Training Course is to acquaint participants with a theoretical basis and experimental methods of genome research. The Course includes a series of lectures about biological, evolutional, medical and analytical aspects of investigations made in this field. These theoretical aspects will be complemented by laboratory work during which students become familiar with methods based on capillary electrophoresis and used for a sequencing, microsatellite mapping, single nucleotide polymorphism detection. The workshop focused to analytical approaches in genome study is also planed.

Pratical or Lecture course:
Both

Venue
University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia

Important dates

Registration deadline:	March 1, 2005
Application submission deadline:	March 1, 2005

Important notes:
All accepted applicants will be notified by April 15, 2005.
15 youth travel grants are available.

Contact:
Applications and questions regarding the course and/or the travel grants should be addressed to:

Prof. **Elmars Grens**,
Biomedical Research and Study Centre
University of Latvia
Ratsupites 1
LV 1076 Riga, Latvia
Tel.: 371-7808003; E-mail grens@biomed.lu.lv

Further information: See http://bmc.biomed.lu.lv/febs/

FEBS ADVANCED COURSE (CODE 05-04C) :

COURSE ON ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF MITOCHONDRIA AND CHLOROPLASTS

GERMANY, MARCH 12 – 17, 2005

Objectives:

Chloroplasts and mitochondria are eukaryotic cell organelles of endosymbiotic origin. Descendants of these organelles are also found in many parasitic-living organisms, which cause severe diseases in men and livestock, organelles descended from mitochondria or chloroplasts. This lecture course will bring together expertise from different fields to look at phylogenetic, biochemical and cellular processes during organelle development differentiation, and division. The multidisciplinarity will stimulate new ideas and will expose students and young scientists to different scientific thinking and experimental approaches over a fascinating range of organisms, from *Plasmodium falciparum* to higher plants.

Pratical or Lecture course:

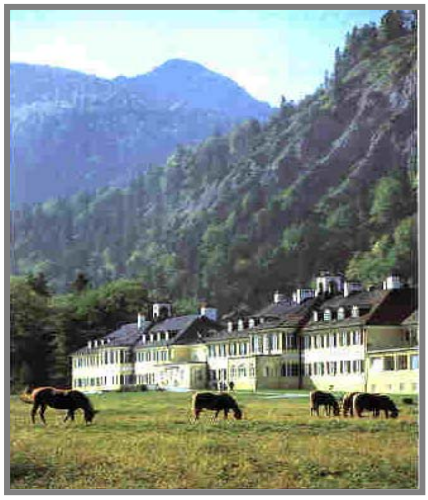
Lecture course

Venue:

Wildbad Kreuth, Germany

Important dates:

Abstract Submission deadline:	January 31, 2005
(if applying for YTF Fellowship):	January 15, 2005
Proposed Application Deadline:	January 31, 2005



Contact:

Applications and questions regarding the course and/or the travel grants should be addressed to:

Prof. Dr. **J. Soll**
Department Biologie I
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Biochemie und Physiologie der Pflanzen
Menzinger Straße, 60638 München, Germany
Tel.: +49-89-17861-254; Fax: +49-89-17861-185
e-mail: soll@uni-muenchen.de

Further Information: Please see http://www.chloroplasts.de

FEBS Letters

Dear Fellow Scientist,

The FEBS Letters Editorial office has had a busy summer. Following the 29th International FEBS Congress in early July, we returned to more than the average number of submitted manuscripts. If the number of submissions continue as they have been, we will receive 10% more manuscripts in 2004 than in 2003, a significant increase. We also noticed that, following the FEBS Congress in Warsaw, we received more submissions from authors in Poland. We think that this is a direct result of our presence at the FEBS congress, and would like to thank all of the authors who met us at the congress and then decided to submit a paper to FEBS Letters.

In September the FEBS Letters website will have a new look (www.febsletters.com). The website has been updated by our publisher, Elsevier, and will offer all of the features of the former website, such as free access to recent Minireviews, and Hypothesis, and free access to all papers over 12 months old. In addition the new website is fully searchable and will offer free access to Jeff's Views and other Editorials, such as those written by the FEBS Secretary General Julio Celis on forming a European Research Council, and Horst Feldmann's article celebrating Forty years of FEBS.

Our website is also an excellent place to find out about the FEBS Letters Young Scientist award, a € 10,000 award given annually to the corresponding author of the best paper published in FEBS Letters in the previous year. The only stipulation to qualify for the award is that the corresponding author of the research letter must be 40 years old or younger.

We decided that launching of the new website was the perfect time to update our "Notes to Authors". There have been a number of policy changes recently, and now we have all of the information listed comprehensively in one document. Some of the changes that you might notice are that we no longer have a correspondence section in the journal. It was decided to remove this section to try to further improve the FEBS Letters impact factor. We are continuing to solicit Minireviews and ideas for Special Issues. If you are interested in sending a Minireview or Hypothesis to FEBS Letters you can send an abstract of your idea to the editorial office (FEBSLetters@urz.uni-heidelberg.de) where we will prescreen for suitability for the journal. Also if you have an idea for a Special Issue, please contact us.

We are pleased to announce a new member of the FEBS Letters editorial board, Christian Griesinger. Prof. Griesinger is head of the Max-Plank-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen and his expertise is in the area of structural biology with an emphasis on NMR. He joined the editorial board on 1st August and he has already been working hard editing manuscripts.

In 2005 FEBS Letters will start a new feature. Every month we will spotlight one Editor from the FEBS Letters Board. In this way readers of FEBS Letters can get to know the editorial board, their background and subject area. As well as making a very interesting read, these articles will help submitting authors identify the member of the editorial board best suited to handle their manuscript, should they choose to recommend one. We are looking forward to learning more about our editors in the coming months.

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

September 2004

Dear Fellow Scientists,

The *FEBS Journal*

Don't forget that EJB will be embarking in new directions and changing its name to *FEBS Journal* from 1 January 2005. Full details are being posted and updated on the EJB website (http://www.ejb.org), as are the details of the new *FEBS Journal* prize of 10,000 euros to 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.

FEBS Congress in Warsaw

The 29th FEBS Congress was held in Warsaw, Poland from 26 June to 1 July 2004. What has become the customary reception for younger scientists was hosted by the FEBS journals, EJB and *FEBS Letters*, on Monday 28 June. The reception was attended by a large number of people, and the refreshments provided undoubtedly contributed to the jollity of the occasion!

The abstracts of the papers presented at the meeting were published in a special issue of EJB and are accessible free of charge online at the EJB website (www.ejb.org).

Reviews

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

How mammalian transcriptional repressors work, by Gerald Thiel, Michael Lietz and Mathias Hohl (Vol. 271/14).

Biochemical and enzymological aspects of the symbiosis between the deep-sea tube-worm Riftia pachyptila and its bacterial endosymbiont, by Zoran Minic and Guy Hervé (Vol. 271/15).

Cold survival in freeze-intolerant insects. The structure and function of β-helical antifreeze proteins, by Steffen P. Graether and Brian D. Sykes (Vol. 271/16).

The role of histones in chromatin remodelling during mammalian spermiogenesis, by J. Govin, C. Caron, C. Lestrat, S. Rousseaux and S. Khochbin (Vol. 271/17).

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 (http://www.ejb.org).

Change in the Editorial Office

As announced in the previous NewsLetter, one of our Editorial Secretaries, Ms Laraine Kerr, left the journal in July to embark on a new career in Edinburgh. We are pleased to announce that she will be replaced by Ms Juanita Goossens who will take up her post in September.

With best regards,

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

TWO EU-FUNDED POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, ISRAEL

Two postdoctoral positions in "Evolutionary Neurogenomics" within Dept. of Biological Chemistry are available; as part of a 9 lab' European network working on a wide range of model organisms. Due to EU restrictions, the applicants must be nationals of the EU or associated states, moving to a different country from their current residence**.**
Starting date is October 2004.

Focus:
The focus will be on the functional genomics of neuronal signalling gene products across phyla.
Approximately 40% of the 30,000 genes required to build a human being are thought to be primarily required for the building and functioning of the complex primate brain. Striking examples correlating increased organismal complexity with the evolutionary expansion of critical gene families have recently been described (see e.g. Jaaro et al., 2001: Trends in Neurosciences 24: 79-85). Our current understanding of these phenomena is limited by the highly biased sample of available genome sequences. We will aim to obtain novel insights by extensive sequencing of the secreted and cell-surface expressed gene products in the CNS of a series of organisms of differing brain complexity, ranging from the few hundred neurons highly plastic *Hydra* nervous system through the 25,000 neurons of the freshwater snail *Lymnaea*, to the complexity of cephalopods and chordates. The experimental approaches will be focused on functional genomics and proteomics methodologies, including selective signal sequence and plasma membrane trap cloning in yeast systems, large scale EST sequencing, design and application of comparative microarray experiments, and differential and affinity proteomics. We expect two categories of interesting molecules to be identified in these analyses: (1) Genes correlated with increasing complexity of the CNS, and that therefore might be considered candidate complexity enabling/determining genes; and (2) Genes that are involved in neuronal regeneration, especially interesting in this context will be genes occurring also in the human genome that are not yet functionally annotated.

Applications and requests for information to:
Dr. **Mike Fainzilber**
E-mail: mike.fainzilber@weizmann.ac.il

Further information on this vacancy: Please see
http://www.weizmann.ac.il/Biological_Chemistry/scientist/Fainzilber/Fainzilber.html

SENIOR POST DOC AVAILABLE
UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

A position as senior Post Doc. is available for research on signaling in normal-, tumor-, virus-infected, or stem cells via Raf, Akt, Bcr, Wnt, or CCR5, or on a newly identified kinase transporter, on PDZ proteins, or on virus-host interaction. Initially joining into ongoing projects is desired. Grant applications by the candidate for building a personal profile is encouraged. Government position. Send application and info on two referees as soon as possible to:

Prof. Dr. **K. Moelling**,
Institute of Med. Virology, University of Zurich, Switzerland.
E-mail: moelling@immv.unizh.ch; tel: +41 1 634 26 52

Further information on this vacancy: Please see http://www.imv.unizh.ch

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY, SINGAPORE

The Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB), the leading biological research institute in Singapore, conducts fundamental research in selected areas of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and medical-relevant fields. Research in the IMCB is currently being carried out in the following areas: signal transduction; cell movement and adhesion; protein trafficking and polarity; DNA repair and transcription; apoptosis; cancer; stem cells; immunology; zebrafish genetics and development; *Fugu* genomics (http://www.fugu-sg.org); *Drosophila* neurobiology; yeast molecular biology; microbial bio-signaling; hepatitis and coronavirus; fungal pathogenesis; translational research; structural biology; and functional proteomics (http://www.imcb.a-star.edu.sg/research/research_group/index.html).

As from 1 August 2004, Professor Sir David Lane is the Executive Director of IMCB. Sir David is internationally recognized for his original discovery of the p53 protein SV40T antigen complex and for his many subsequent contributions to the field. The IMCB is inviting applications from new PhD graduates and postdoctoral fellows with interest or experience in any of the above or related programs. Applicants should have at least one first author English language publication in a recognized international journal. Renewable contracts are normally for three years, and there are good opportunities for career advancement.

A competitive gross starting salary is offered in the range S$39,000 – S$58,500 per annum, plus a housing subsidy for expatriates, which covers 75% of the rent (1 US$ = approx. S$1.73). The entry point depends largely on publication record and experience. Additional benefits include a settling-in allowance, air passage for staff and family, and group medical insurance.

Applicants should post, fax or e-mail their c.v.'s, stating research interests, the names of three referees and indicates the advertisement as FEBS Newsletter to:

The Administration Office,
Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
61 Biopolis Drive
Proteos
Singapore 138673
Fax (+65) 6779-1117;
E-mail: recruit@imcb.nus.edu.sg

Deadline for application: As soon as possible

VACANT PHD POSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLA-C.S.I.C., SPAIN

At Instituto de Bioquímica Vegetal y fotosíntesis one PhD student position is available. Keywords for the position are: *Molecular Dynamics*, *NMR spectroscopy* and protein nitration. The successful applicant will be involved in Molecular Dynamics calculations and NMR spectroscopy studies on nitrated metalloproteins

Applicants with a Diploma (master) in Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biology are encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will be offered a fellowship financed by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The salary will be in the range of 1000 €/month. Start time: By appointment.
Do you wish addition information on this position or wish to apply for it, please contact as soon as possible:

Antonio Díaz Quintana
Instituto de Bioquímica Vegetal y Fotosíntesis, Universidad de Sevilla-C.S.I.C.
Avda. Américo Vespucio 49, 41012 Sevilla, Spain
Fax: +34 954 46 00 65; phone +34 954 48 95 74
E-mail: antonio.diaz@ibvf.csic.es

VACANT POSTDOC POSITION & PHD POSITION
BIOPHYSICS INSTITUTE, JOHANNES KEPLER UNIVERSITY LINZ, AUSTRIA

"Immunology at a Nanoscopic View: A Single-Molecule Approach."
Biological cells can be regarded as the most complex compositions in nature with structural features of a variety of sizes, ranging from nanometers up to millimeters. While micrometer objects can be easily monitored in living cells using optical microscopy, no such method exists for smaller structures. Within this START-project, we will establish single molecule fluorescence microscopy as a novel instrument to open up the biological "Nanocosm" for scientific investigations. Our research will be focused on the investigation of T cell activation. The interplay of individual receptors, co-receptors, adaptors and downstream signalling molecules during the activation process will be directly watched. For details on the project, please visit our home-page (http://www.biophysics.jku.at/bioph/res/sdt/).
For this ambitious goal, we wish to assemble a team of immunologists and biophysicists, who have a strong interest on interdisciplinary research for novel life sciences. We offer an innovative and aspiring environment, exceptional instrumentation and outstanding international partners.
Candidates for a PostDoc or a PhD position are welcome. Please send your application including C.V. and a list of publications to:
Gerhard J. Schuetz (gerhard.schuetz@jku.at)

Further information on this vacancy: Please see http://www.biophysics.jku.at/bioph/res/sdt/

VACANT POSTDOC AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS
INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT (IRCC), ITALY

IRCC invites applications for post doctoral and research positions in the areas of Cancer Genomics, Genetics, Angiogenesis, Pathology and Biology of animal models. Tenure-track group leader positions in Proteomics and Immunology of cancer are also offered.
Candidates should have a doctoral degree (PhD and/or MD), outstanding research potential and publications record. IRCC offers competitive salaries according to experience and qualification.

Applications should be submitted without deadline to the Search Committee at recruitment@ircc.it.
Applications for postdoctoral and research assistant positions should include a CV, a summary of past accomplishments, the names and contact information of three referees and reprints of at least two peer-reviewed articles. Application for faculty positions should also include a detailed research proposal.

IRCC is an International biomedical research and treatment centre affiliated with the university of Torino Medical School and the Armenise-Harvard Foundation.

Further information on this vacancy: Please see http://www.ircc.it/education/index.html

PHD POSITION AVAILABLE
INSTITUTE FOR INORG. CHEMISTRY, UNI WIEN, AUSTRIA

Exploratory synthesis and characterization of early transition metal arsenides, germanides and gallides. Main objectives are the preparation of new ternary compounds and their structural and physical characterization. Special emphasis on the analysis of chemical bonding and structural aspects of the observed substitution mechanisms. Basic experiences in solid state preparation techniques and X-ray diffraction are required. Additional experience in electronic calculations or thermodynamic modelling will be highly welcome.
Please send your application including C.V. and a list of publications to:
Dr. **Klaus Richter**
(Klaus.Richter@univie.ac.at)

Further information on this vacancy: Please see http://mailbox.univie.ac.at/Klaus.Richter/

What: ABIC 2004

When: September 12 - 15, 2004

Where: Cologne, Germany

For detailed information please see:

http://www.abic2004.org/

What: First International Conference on "Ethics, Science and Moral Philosophy of Assisted Human Reproduction"

When: September 30 - October 1, 2004

Where: London, UK

For detailed information please see:

http://www.humanreproethics.org

What: Functional Organization of the Nuclear Envelope in Health and Disease

When: October 7 - 9, 2004

Where: Berlin, Germany

For detailed information please see:

http://userpage.chemie.fu-berlin.de/~hotto/Fabisch.html

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/

What: Signal Transduction — Targets for Effective Therapeutics

When: November 8-9, 2004

Where: Boston, USA

For detailed information please see:

http://www.healthtech.com/2004/str/index.asp

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: 5th International Fructan Symposium

When: December 5 – 9, 2004

Where: Havanna, Cuba

For detailed information please see:

http://fructan2004.cigb.edu.cu.

What: Metabolic Profiling — Pathways in Discovery

When: December 13-14, 2004

Where: Florida, USA

For detailed information please see:

http://www.healthtech.com/2004/mbp/index.ASP

THE WWW OF UP-COMING EVENTS

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: Congress of Molecular Medicine

When: April 16-19, 2005

Where: Istanbul, Turkey

For detailed information please see:

http://www.molekuler.org

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/

About FEBS NewsLetter:

FEBS NewsLetter is published every second Monday in every second month (starting January), and e-mailed directly to approx. 16,000 subscribers in over 50 countries.

Free e-subscription is offered; subscribers will receive the newsletter as a PDF file when ever 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.

As a service to our more than 40,000 members, FEBS offers **FREE** advertising of academic positions (PhD's, Post Doc's and Senior Post Doc's), as well as other offers which corresponds to the mission and activities of FEBS. To post a vacancy in the FEBS NewsLetter and at the FEBS website, please forward all relevant details — including relevant deadlines — to newsletter@febs.org.

This issue as well as all back issues of FEBS NewsLetter are available online at http://www.febs.org/News/Newsletter/Febs_Newsletter.htm

Next issue will be out on **November 8, 2004**. Deadline for entries, incl. advertisements, for the November issue is **October 29, 2004**.

Enquiries about FEBS NewsLetter should be addressed to Camilla Krogh Lauritzen (camilla@febs.org).

ISE Conference: Making a reality of the ERC – A novel Approach to Science Policy Making
UNESCO, Paris, 25-26 October 2004

25 October

13:00 Welcome address and introduction Jose Mariano Gago, ISE Chair

13:10 The role of the ERC in strengthening ERA
Panel discussion with Peter Tindemans (EUROSCIENCE), Reinder van Duinen (European Science Foundation), Achilleas Mitsos (European Commission)
Chair: Jose Mariano Gago, ISE

14:20 The EUROHORCs views, Chair: Julio E. Celis (FEBS)
Introduction: Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker and Peter Nijkamp, EUROHORCs

The ERC and the National Research Councils
Followed by a panel discussion on the EUROHORCs recommendations on the ERC:
1. Governance, autonomy and the role of scientists
2. Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
3. Evaluation and peer review
4. Over-subscription
5. ERC instruments (characteristics of the grants)

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 The scope of the ERC, Chair: Catherine Dargemont (SLR)
Introduction: Frank Gannon (EMBO)

Pierre Bergé (SidAction), Eric Froment (European University Association), Horst Soboll (DaimlerChrysler) Luc Soete (Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology)

18:00-18:10 Conclusions of the first day
Jean-Patrick Connerade (President, EUROSCIENCE)

26 October

9:00 ERC and the world – A novel Approach to Science Policy Making, Chair: Karin Metzlaff (EPSO)

The International Basic Science Programme — Maciej Nalecz (UNESCO)

Science in developing countries: possible input of the ERC — Mahamed Hassan (TWAS)

The ERC, model for other regions: bottom-up approach as a way to structure and fund research — Julia Hasler (UNESCO)

10:00 The NSF experience – David Schindel (NSF)
Discussion Chair: Tim Hunt

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Specific ERC policy issues, Chair: Iain Mattaj (EMBL)

1. How do European laboratories relate with the ERC? – Colin Carlile, Institute Laue-Langevin

2. Is there a role for the ERC in planning and funding new research infrastructures? – Hans Chang, European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures

3. The balance between the different ways of doing science: Experiments, theory and modelling work – Martin Huber, European Physical Society

4. Specificities of the social and human sciences – Speaker pending

12:30 Concluding remarks, Chair: Bertil Andersson (ESF)

New European Commissioner
Dutch Minister (EU Presidency)

12:50 Summary and conclusions, Jose Mariano Gago (ISE)

13:00 End of the meeting

For further info, please contact:

Dr Luc Van Dyck
Secretary, Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)
Executive Coordinator, European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF)
Meyerhofstrasse 1, D-69117 Heidelberg
Tel: +49 (0)6221 8891 552 – Cell Phone: +49 (0)174 3435499
Fax: +49 (0)6221 8891 210 –
E-mail: luc.vandyck@elsf.org