



# FEBS NEWS

*Issue 6/November, 2005*

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## For Your Information

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Dear Colleagues,

FEBS Advanced Courses (AC) Committee have finalised the FEBS Advanced Courses programme for 2006, and in this issue of FEBS News I am happy to present you with a brief outline of the many courses, meetings and special workshops that we put on offer in the year to come (p. 11-13). As you will see, this is in both size and content an ambitious programme. And talking about FEBS' ambitions; this is a topic that will be elaborated further on by this month's debater, Karl Kuchler, who is the chairman of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee (see p. 9).

In this issue, you will also get the first two "Tips of the Month" - you will find the winning links and the names of their endorsers at p. 4. You can read more about this new feature in the September issue of FEBS News, which is available on-line at the "FEBS Newspages" at [www.FEBS.org](http://www.FEBS.org)

As usual, you will also be able to get the latest news on the two FEBS publications, information on upcoming meetings, etc.

Finally, since this is the last FEBS news this year, I will hereby take the opportunity to wish you all happy holidays.

See you in 2006!

Kind regards,

Camilla

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### About FEBS News:

- FEBS News is published every second Monday in every second month (starting January).
- E-mail alerts containing a link to FEBS News, are sent to approx. 16,000 subscribers in more than 50 countries, whenever a new issue is out.
- To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your contact details simply send an e-mail to [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org), stating "subscribe", "unsubscribe" or "change" in the subject line. You can also subscribe on-line at [www.febs.org/e-mail\\_registration.asp](http://www.febs.org/e-mail_registration.asp). Do notice that we will not distribute, in any way, your data to third parties without your consent.
- 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) in this newsletter and at our website.
- This issue as well as all back issues of FEBS News are available online at [www.FEBS.org](http://www.FEBS.org)
- Question and enquiries about FEBS News should be addressed to Camilla Krogh Lauritzen ([camilla@febs.org](mailto:camilla@febs.org)).
- Next issue will be out on **January 9, 2006**. Deadline for entries (all types) is **January 2, 2006**.



## FEBS Q&A

### FEBS ADVANCED COURSES 2006

**Q: Is the list of 2006 FEBS available?**

**A:** Yes, a complete list of our FEBS Advanced Courses (AC), Special Meetings and workshops in 2006 is now available (see p. 10).

Detailed information on each individual course, workshop and meeting is available at [www.FEBS.org](http://www.FEBS.org). Please notice that applications to attend individual Advanced Courses should be made directly to each course organiser.

Applications for organising a course should be sent to the Chairman of the Courses Committee, Prof. Dr. Karl Kuchler:

K. Kuchler,  
Medical University Vienna, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Division Molecular Genetics, Max F. Perutz Laboratories, Campus Vienna Biocenter, Dr. Bohr-Gasse 9/2,  
A-1030 Vienna, Austria,  
Tel.: + 43-1-4277-61807,  
Fax: +43-1-4277-9618,  
E-mail: [Karl.Kuchler@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:Karl.Kuchler@meduniwien.ac.at).

Please note the **NEW** deadlines for ONLINE submission of proposals will be February 1 and August 1 in each calendar year. Applications for FEBS Special Meetings have to be submitted at least 18 month before the special meeting.

You can find more information on our 2006 AC programme under "Activities" at our website.

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### FEBS WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE (WISE)

**Q: You have a Working Group on Women in Science (WISE); what activities is this working group involved in?**

**A:** Briefly, WISE is to explore ways for FEBS' engagement on the topic of Women in Science.

WISE is composed of a chairman elected by the Council, and of four ordinary members who are selected by the chairman and approved by the executive committee.

The chairman is elected for a period of 3 years, not

renewable.

Terms of reference:

1. To advise the FEBS Committees on measures to improve the situation for women in science and to recommend expenditure on these actions to the Council.
2. To facilitate awareness on the issue of Women in Science and to encourage people to participate actively in promoting gender equality in science.
3. To organise workshops at each FEBS congress, one of which is in close collaboration with the local organising committee.
4. To undertake initiatives with the aim to expand the probabilities for women to pursue a career in science
5. To advise, on request, Constituent Societies and Institutions in FEBS member countries on the issue of Women in Science.
6. The Working Group members meet once a year to discuss strategies.
7. The Working Group will be dissolved when the perceived need for its activities has ended.

If you have questions regarding WISE, you are welcome to contact Saskia M. van der Vies, Chairman of WISE:

S. M. van der Vies  
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit,  
De Boelelaan 1083  
NL-1082 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
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Fax: +31 20 444 7553  
E-mail: [vdvies@few.vu.nl](mailto:vdvies@few.vu.nl)

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*If you have questions regarding FEBS or any of our activities, you are welcome to forward these to [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org).*

*FEBS Q&A brings you the answers to the most frequently asked questions from FEBS members. Any questions regarding FEBS can be sent to [newsletter@febs.org](mailto:newsletter@febs.org)*



## the Message Board

### "TIPS OF THE MONTH"

"One of my favourite e-sources to find scientific information is Scirus, [www.scirus.com/srsapp/](http://www.scirus.com/srsapp/). It results in more "to the point" scientific info compared to e.g. Google. Another valuable source is ProFusion, [www.profusion.com/index.htm](http://www.profusion.com/index.htm) although the searches can take some time, the site returns a huge amount of information concerning the query."

**Peter Vanhoenacker**, Belgium

"My favourite link is <http://scholar.google.com>. It really gives you a powerful and handy search tool throughout the literature and the web, including a direct link to other papers citing the one you are interested in. As great as Google, but well focused on scientific literature"

**Federico Maisano**, Italy

What is **your** favourite e-source of knowledge? Send us the link to the website that you find most useful as a scientist, include a few words on why you find it particularly useful, and you might win a 126 MB FEBS memory stick to store your e-data on!



Read more about the competition in the forum "FEBS e-newsletter" at **FEBS Bulletin Board**, [www.febs.org/FebsBB/](http://www.febs.org/FebsBB/)

Deadline for sending candidate links to the November/December draw is **January 2, 2005**. The winning links and their endorsers will be presented in the January issue of FEBS news.

### NEWS FROM THE NORWEGIAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY: NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

FEBS' Norwegian member society (NBS) has built a very nice new website that provides information e.g. on the society's activities and offers. An introduction to the society in English is also available via the website.

### POST DOC WANTED

I am a Brazilian neurosurgeon interested in epilepsy, molecular biology and neuroimaging. I am at the end of my PhD program, and interested in a postdoctoral position in that area. If this profile matches a position that you offer or are aware of, please contact me, and I will send you my CV. Thanks a lot.

Alexandre Magno da Nóbrega Marinho  
 PG da Faculdade de Medicina da USP de Ribeirão Preto- SP PhD candidate  
 1491 Maracaju st. ap 31  
 Ribeirão Preto - SP  
 ZIP 14.051-120  
 Tel +55 16 39664296 or +55 16 81226143  
 BRAZIL

### PMC — NEW ORGANISATION FOR SCIENTISTS WITH EXPERTICE IN PROTEIN DOMAINS

A new scientific (non-profit) organisation which combines a panel of experts in the field of protein domains/modules, has been established. This organisation, PMC, is open for membership of scientists with research interests in this area. Further information is available via [www.proteinmodules.org](http://www.proteinmodules.org)



## News from the FEBS Journal

the **FEBS**  
Journal

Formerly known as EJB (European Journal of Biochemistry)

Dear Fellow Scientists,

### The latest on FEBS Journal

*FEBS Journal* has been having a very good year: the number of papers submitted for publication is up again over last year, which in turn was higher than the year before. The electronic version of the journal now has an extraordinarily wide penetration, over and above the hard-copy versions that go to many libraries. And the benefits that go with publication in *FEBS Journal* remain, such as no page charges, free colour if judged necessary, a free PDF of the published paper together with 25 hard copies, publication online ahead of print version, and an impressive speed of publication (3 months for a full paper that needs little or no revision). This is reflected in the rising impact factor (3.260 in 2005, compared with 3.001 in 2004) for the *European Journal of Biochemistry* as it was; and the half-life of citations is the longest for any journal in the molecular life sciences other than the major review sources (*Annual Reviews*, etc).

New appointments to the Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board are strengthening our profile in exciting and developing areas, such as bioinformatics, genomics and proteomics, molecular cell biology, molecular biology of disease, systems biology and nanoscience.

### Reviews in FEBS Journal

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

The following reviews have appeared in recent issues of *FEBS Journal*:

*3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase and short-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase in human health and disease* by S-Y. Yang, X-Y. He and H. Schulz (Vol. 272/19)

*Dynamamin-related proteins and Pex11 proteins in peroxisome division and proliferation* by S. Thoms and R. Erdmann (Vol. 272/20)

*Histones in functional diversification. Core histone variants* by R-H. Pusarla and P. Bhargava (Vol. 272/20)

*Mammalian initiator apoptotic caspases* by P.-K. Ho and C.J. Hawkins (Vol. 272/21)

The following minireview series have also appeared in recent issues of the journal:

*A vital link between energy and signal transduction: Regulatory functions of NAD(P)* The minireview series coordinated and introduced by Mathias Ziegler is published in *FEBS Journal* issue 272/18. It comprises:

*Second messenger function and structure-activity relationship of cyclic adenosine diphosphoribose (cADPR)* by A.H. Guse

*Small molecule regulation of Sir2 protein deacetylases* by O. Grubisha, B.C. Smith and J.M. Denu

*Calcium signalling by NAADP* by M. Yamasaki, G.C. Churchill and A. Galione

*Poly(ADP-ribose): The most elaborate metabolite of NAD<sup>+</sup>* by A. Bürkle

*Physiological relevance of the endogenous mono-ADP-ribosylation of cellular proteins* by M. Di Girolamo, N. Dani, A. Stilla and D. Corda

*Meet the serpins.* A minireview series coordinated and introduced by Robert Medcalf is published in *FEBS Journal* issue 272/19. It comprises:

*Control of the coagulation system by serpins: getting by with a little help from glycosaminoglycans* by R.N. Pike, A.M. Buckle, B.F. le Bonniec and F.C. Church

*The undecided SERPIN: the ins and outs of plasminogen activator inhibitor type 2* by R.L. Medcalf and S.J. Stasinopoulos

*Antiplasmin: the forgotten serpin?* by P.B. Coughlin

To accompany the minireview series on serpins, we published a Meeting Report in the same issue of the journal: *Serpins 2005 – fun between the  $\beta$ -sheets* by J.C. Whisstock, S.P. Bottomley, P.I. Bird, R.N. Pike and P. Coughlin.

*Identifying protein interactions. Computational approaches.* A minireview series coordinated and introduced by Ettore Appella and Carl Anderson is published in *FEBS Journal* issue 272/20. It comprises:

*Protein database searches using compositionally adjusted substitution matrices* by S.F. Altschul, J.C. Wootton, E.M. Gertz, R. Agarwala, A. Morgulis, A.A. Schäffer and Y.-K. Yu

*Utilizing logical relationships in genomic data to decipher cellular processes* by P.M. Bowers, B.D. O'Connor, S.J. Cokus, E. Sprinzak, T.O. Yeates and D. Eisenberg

*Identifying remote protein homologs by network propagation* by W.S. Noble, R. Kuang, C. Leslie and J. Weston

*Flexible nets. The roles of intrinsic disorder in protein interaction networks* by A.K. Dunker, M.S. Cortese, P. Romero, L.M. Iakoucheva and V.N. Uversky





## News from the FEBS Journal *continued...*

*Identifying protein interactions. Experimental approaches.* A minireview series coordinated and introduced by Ettore Appella and Carl Anderson is published in *FEBS Journal* issue 272/21. It comprises:

*High-throughput two-hybrid analysis. The promise and the peril* by S. Fields

*Advances in functional protein microarray technology* by P. Bertone and M. Snyder

*Emerging tools for real-time label-free detection of interactions on functional protein microarrays* by N. Ramachandran, D.N. Larson, P.R.H. Stark, E. Hainsworth and J. LaBaer

*Examining multiprotein signaling complexes from all angles. The use of complementary techniques to characterize complex formation at the adapter protein, linker for activation of T cells* by J.C.D. Houtman, M. Barda-Saad and L.E. Samelson

### Forthcoming reviews and minireviews

The following reviews and minireview series will shortly be appearing in *FEBS Journal*:

*Evolutionary mechanisms acting on proteinase inhibitor variability* by J.T. Christeller

*Structural and functional specificities of PDGF-C and PDGF-D, the novel members of the platelet-derived growth factors family* by L.J. Reigstad, J. E. Varhaug and J. R. Lillehaug

*The C-type lectin-like domain superfamily* by A.N. Zelensky and J. E. Gready

*Orphan GPCRs, sleep and circadian rhythms.* A minireview series coordinated by Olivier Civelli comprising:

*The hypocretins and sleep* by L. de Lecea and J.G. Sutcliffe  
*Neuropeptide S as a novel arousal-promoting peptide transmitter* by R.K. Reinscheid and Y.-L. Xu

*Sleeping with the fishes: Urotensin II as a sleep modulator* by H.-P. Nothacker and S. Clark

*PK2 and circadian clock output* by Q.-Y. Zhou and M.Y.

Cheng

*Amyloid fibrils.* A minireview series coordinated by Jan Johansson comprising:

*Mechanisms of amyloid fibril self-assembly and inhibition: model short peptides as a key research tool* by E. Gazit

*The yin and yang of protein folding* by T.R. Jahn and S.E. Radford

*Structures for amyloid fibrils* by O.S. Makin and L.C. Serpell  
*Aspects on human amyloid forms and their fibril polypeptides* by P. Westermark

### Mathematical model database

Mathematical models from papers published in *EJB* and the *FEBS Journal* are available on the mathematical modelling website linked to *FEBS Journal*. You can access and try them out 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 [www.febsjournal.org](http://www.febsjournal.org) and at the relevant website <http://jjj.biochem.sun.ac.za/febsj>.

Paper with mathematical models appearing soon in *FEBS Journal*:

*Optimal observability of sustained stochastic competitive inhibition oscillations at organellar volumes* by K.L. Davis and M.R. Roussel

We look forward to receiving papers from you for publication in *FEBS Journal*. We will be looking to your help in maintaining this excellent progress in 2006 and we take this opportunity to wish you all the best of seasonal greetings and a happy and successful New Year. And don't forget the *FEBS Journal* Prize for 2006....

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



## News from FEBS Letters

**FEBS**  
*Letters*

Dear Fellow Scientist,

We are pleased to announce that FEBS Letters is now fully electronic! In September we launched a new electronic submission system that has direct links to our publisher. This means that once a manuscript is accepted, the staff at Elsevier can immediately access it and process it for publication. This has considerably shortened the time for the publication of accepted manuscripts, as these are now available on the web 3-5 working days after acceptance. As soon as the article is available online it is given a unique DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number, which means that it is immediately citable. These changes mean that FEBS Letters retains its position as one of the fastest journals in its field.

If you would like to submit your manuscript to the new submission site please go to: <http://ees.elsevier.com/febsletters>. From there you will be able to track the status of your manuscript as it moves through the reviewing process. In addition, the corresponding author will receive an email when any important decisions are made.

The final FEBS Letters Special Issue of 2005 has just been released. The forth Special Issue this year, the issue on **RNAi: mechanisms, biology and applications** brings together 21 contributions from all areas of RNA silencing. Each article focuses on a major topic in the field and provides a comprehensive report on the state of the field including an extensive literature report and a detailed discussion on future directions. The issue is edited by Shou-Wei Ding of the University of California, Riverside, and covers RNA silencing in viruses, fungi, plants, insects, and animals. In addition there are also articles on the applications and therapeutic potential of RNA interference.

Don't forget that all articles from this Special Issue can be downloaded free of charge from our website. Visit

[www.febsletters.org](http://www.febsletters.org) to download articles from this years' Special Issues on **Molecular Mechanisms of Biological Systems, Systems Biology**, the **Budapest Special Issue** and all of our very popular issues from previous years.

Look out for our next Spotlight on... featuring an interview with one of our newer editors: Laszlo Nagy. Laszlo is a native of Hungary, and is a group leader at the Medical and Health Science Centre at the University of Debrecen. He joined the FEBS Letters Editorial Board earlier this year, and has already handled many manuscripts in the fields of epigenetics and hormone signaling.

To all of our authors who are 40 years old or less, don't forget to include your date of birth when you submit your manuscript to be eligible for the FEBS Letters Young Scientist Award. This €10,000 personal prize will be awarded to the young scientist who is the corresponding author of the most outstanding research letter published in 2005.

We look forward to receiving your manuscripts!

Best wishes,

**The FEBS Letters Editorial Office**

Felix Wieland, Managing Editor

Patricia McCabe, Assistant Managing Editor

Tine Walma, Assistant Editor

Anne Mueller, Editorial Assistant



Upcoming FEBS Courses

	<p><b>EMBO-FEBS workshop on Amyloid formation</b>                  Structure, mechanism of formation and cellular effects of amyloid aggregates                  25-28 March 2006, Florence - Italy</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HOME</li> <li>WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS</li> <li>INVITED SPEAKERS</li> <li>TENTATIVE PROGRAM</li> <li>HOW TO REACH THE MEETING SITE</li> <li>ABSTRACT SUBMISSION</li> <li>REGISTRATION</li> <li>FEBS YOUTH TRAVEL FUND</li> <li>CONTACTS</li> </ul>	<p><b>EMBO - FEBS workshop on Amyloid formation</b>                  Structure, mechanism of formation and cellular effects of amyloid aggregates</p> <p><b>DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION (Abstract submission): 15 DECEMBER 2005</b></p>	<p><b>IMPORTANT DATES</b></p> <p>WORKSHOP DATES:                  25-28 MARCH 2006, FLORENCE ITALY</p> <p>DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION (Abstract submission):                  15 DECEMBER 2005</p> <p>DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:                  31 JANUARY 2006</p> <p><b>SPONSORS</b></p> <p> </p>

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

**SPETSAI SUMMER SCHOOL 2006**



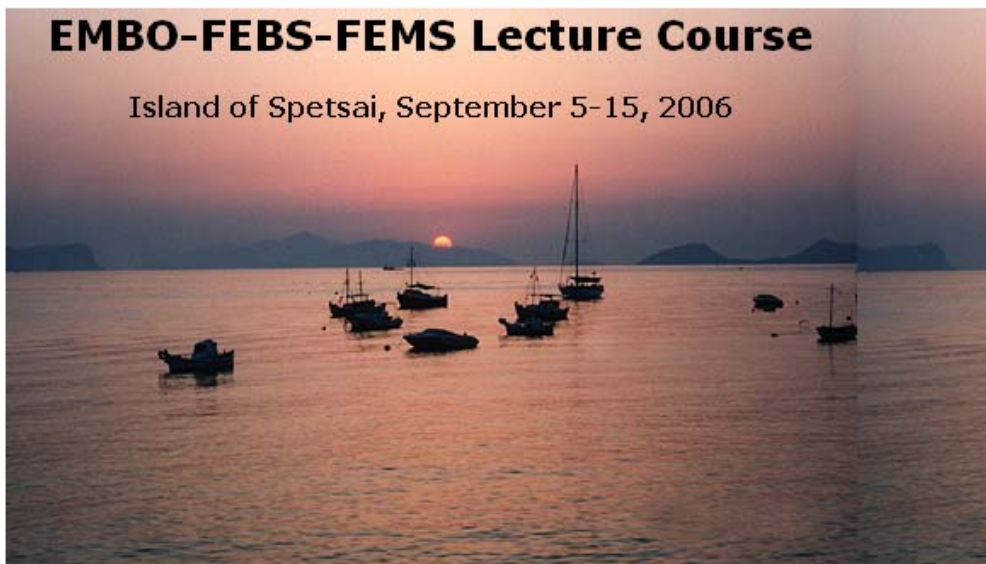
Molecular

*Basis of Bacterial Virulence and Survival Within Infected Hosts and in the Environment*

<http://spetses.med.harvard.edu/>

**EMBO-FEBS-FEMS Lecture Course**

Island of Spetsai, September 5-15, 2006



Co-Organizers:

**Pascale Cossart**  
 Institut Pasteur, France  
[pcossart@pasteur.fr](mailto:pcossart@pasteur.fr)

**Roberto Kolter**  
 Harvard Medical School, USA  
[rkolter@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:rkolter@hms.harvard.edu)

Application form can be found under [Course Info](#).  
 Application deadline: **April 15, 2006**.





## FEBS Debate

**FEBS – A Charity at the Cross-Roads to the Future of Life Sciences in Europe****By Karl Kuchler**

More than 40 years of FEBS history started in 1964, when several biochemical societies founded what today has become THE European umbrella society, with more than 42.000 members in more than 40 constituent and several associated societies. The FEBS charity has been very successful in fostering biochemistry and molecular biology across Europe, and in particular in Eastern countries. The beginning integration of Eastern countries into the European research landscape at large poses new challenges for both scientists and scientific societies. A closer look at the current situation clearly illustrates the dramatic situation in Europe. Hence, it is imperative for Europe to recognize the relevant problems now and address the requirements in the training of the next generation of scientists without delay.

In recent years, biomedical research experienced numerous exciting revolutions and remarkable progress. Unravelling the genetic blueprints from many species sparked new technologies including genome-wide and large scale approaches, microarrays, protein chips or today's high-end mass spectrometry, and the waves of innovations keep rolling. The “-omics” progress, biotechnology, nanotechnology, nano- and biomedicine, and last but not least, systems biology, prompted high-flying promises for medicare and drug discovery, motivating numerous funding bodies to increase support of applied science. Unfortunately, this occurred at the expense of basic research, which has been traditionally suffering from severe underfunding already. Many research institutions or funding bodies have been chronically slow or unable to deal with this situation, mainly because of inadequate budgets, outdated infrastructures, sprinkle-funding strategies, and often vague priority definitions. Today, European science seems more fragmented than ever. Many countries on their own lack the ability or resources to keep up, all in all diminishing European competitiveness in basic science, with only a few islands remaining as top in the world.

How can Europe regain competitiveness in basic science or at least get a bit closer to reaching the Lisbon goals? The inauguration of the European Research Council (ERC) may be one appropriate way to reboot basic science. FEBS, other renowned institutions including EMBO, EMBL, ELSO, ELSF, ISE, as well as many visionary unnamed individuals, were instrumental in establishing the ERC. The way ERC is set up is a great start and unique chance indeed, since funding is confined to basic research, and grant-giving will be based purely on the excellence of applicants and their proposals. However, the bad news is that the ERC will need about 20-30 times more money to finance basic research in all disciplines comparable to the levels provided by leading countries in the world. Basically, the ERC requires “only” political courage for permanent implementation. However, it will nevertheless be a delicate and most difficult task for EC politicians to fully and unconditionally hand over control of the ERC to scientists, yet at the same time secure the enormous funds necessary to make the ERC successful in a global context in the years to come.

Naturally, universities will also play critical roles in paving the way for Europe to become a competitive player again. In addition to having state-of-the-art infrastructures for research, universities must train countless brilliant, dedicated and motivated, simply the best scientists in many fields just to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for researchers.

But how can we motivate today's high school generation kids to become scientists when many countries, and often even their political decision makers, do not really value basic science except for some infrequent media hypes? How can we as scientific community convince governments, the EC commission and national funding bodies that time is slowly running out? How can one accomplish the integration of Eastern countries when little or no infrastructures are locally available, not even speaking about the costs to establish new research institutions?



FEBS Debate *continued...*

In fact, many Eastern countries experienced almost a stand-still in science for the past decades due to political turmoil, instability, mismanagement, and in most cases simply a complete lack of money. Defragmentation strategies by the European commission have not worked so far due to ill-defined concepts or artificial and inefficient networking strategies. Young scientists bring in motivation and hands but they NEED perspectives, opportunities as well as modern infrastructures. Hence, a joint EUROPEAN research agenda covering both applied and basic research funding, as well as training and education seems the only feasible solution. Although this appears out of reach for the moment, it is nevertheless mandatory for Europe to realize the need and gradually work it out. The continuing European brain-drain is the direct consequence of fragmentation, a lack of visions and limited opportunities. However, the good news is that a brain-drain can easily be converted into a brain-gain, since opportunities (i.e. sufficient funding) will keep European students in Europe, but at the same time draw scientists from all over the world to Europe.

Scientific societies will also play important roles in reshaping European science. For instance, a major focus of FEBS has been postgraduate training of young scientists across Europe. FEBS provides research fellowships and travel grants to support student attendance at meetings, conferences or advanced lecture and practical courses. Several thousand students take advantage of FEBS' support every year. Of course, integrating young scientists from the „new“ countries into the highly competitive Western European research landscape has been a major aim yet very difficult to achieve. Hence, FEBS has to step up these efforts, since many more Eastern European scientists must reach qualification levels, enabling them to start and run independent research groups. FEBS must pick up the words of the European commission promising more money for young scientists. Therefore, in addition to FEBS' charity funds, we should also receive substantial support from future EC framework programmes to boost our invaluable efforts in mobility and networking. FEBS should also seek and establish strategic alliances with institutions such as EMBO or ESF to create additional synergies. This way, FEBS, EMBO and ESF

may gain a stronger voice and possibly aid decision-making in setting research policies. In fact, today FEBS is in a historic position to play a crucial role in this process, since FEBS is perhaps the only organization with established and reliable networks in Eastern European countries.

No question, the devil is always in the details and FEBS will face difficulties and drawbacks, as success in the past never guarantees the same in the future. However, FEBS will prevail, since we shall act as a modern and flexible society, with crystal clear definitions of excellence and transparent decision-making processes. The FEBS Advanced Courses Committee is certainly ready to face the challenges ahead, because the road map is simple. We have to provide chances for as many as possible, but support only the gifted, particularly students whose thinking is not fenced by borders in the heads when talking science in EUROPE. The downstream benefit of removing borders is a greatly facilitated spreading of excellence. Thus, mobility is a key buzz-word, but so is building confidence in young scientists. Only well-trained, mobility-oriented and open-minded researchers can create opportunities for themselves, as well as for Europe to eventually become THE top knowledge-based society in the world as laid down in the Lisbon declaration. Europe simply cannot afford to miss out on these chances, because we have got an incredible large pool of highly talented students. No doubt it will take many years, but the FEBS Advanced Course Committee is ready to contribute its part in building the next generation of young European scientists.

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**Karl Kuchler** is Chairman of FEBS Advanced Courses Committee ([www.febs.org/Activities/Activities.htm](http://www.febs.org/Activities/Activities.htm)) and professor at Medical University Vienna. Tel.: +43-1-4277-61807; FAX: +43-1-4277-9618; E-mail: [karl.kuchler@meduniwien.ac](mailto:karl.kuchler@meduniwien.ac).

*We encourage you to share your view on the issues raised by this month debateur — join the debate in the "A Charity at the Cross-roads" forum at **FEBS Bulletin Board**, [www.febs.org/FebsBB/](http://www.febs.org/FebsBB/)*

*If you have questions or technical problems related to the **FEBS Bulletin Board**, please contact the administrator, Peter Ott ([peter.ott@febs.org](mailto:peter.ott@febs.org)).*



## FEBS Advanced Courses 2006

### **ALC06-01: Biology & Pathophysiology of Poly-(ADP-ribosylation)**

Advanced Lecture Course (10 lecturers / 50 students)  
Granada, Spain, January 26-29, 2006  
Organizer: Dr. F. Javier Oliver  
Instituto de Biomedicina Lopez Neyra, CSIC  
Avda. Del Conocimiento, 18100, Granada, Spain  
Tel.: +34-95818-1655, FAX: +34-95818-1632  
e-mail: joliver@ipb.csic.es

**Deadline for applications: November 15, 2005**

### **ALC06-05: DNA & Chromosomes: Physical & Biological Approaches**

Advanced Lecture Course (20 lecturers / 80 students),  
Corsica, France, June 19 – July 1, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Marie-Claude Marsolier-Kergoat, DSV-DBJC-SBGM (Bat. 144) , CEA/Saclay, 91 191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France  
Tel.: +33-1-6908-8354, FAX: +33-1-6908-4712  
e-mail: mcmk@cea.fr

**Deadline for applications: January 20, 2006**

### **ALC06-36: Free Radical Summer School 2006: Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress & Responses**

Advanced Lecture Course (18 lecturers / 80 students)  
Spetses Island, Greece, October 1 – 7, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Steffen Loft, University of Copenhagen, Health Science Faculty, Øster Farimagsgade 5, opg. 1014 Copenhagen, Denmark  
Tel.: +45-353-27649, FAX: +45-353-27610  
e-mail: s.loft@pubhealth.ku.dk

**Deadline for applications: June 1, 2006**

### **PC06-29: Microarray & Genosensor Techniques in Biomedical Applications**

Practical Course (7 lecturers / 7 tutors / 20 students)  
Prague, Czech Republic, September 22 – 30, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Wilhelm J. Ansorge  
Center for Applied Genomics, Charles University of Prague, Ke Karlovu 212000 Prague 2, Czech Republic  
Tel.: +420-224-937-691, FAX: +420-224-919-392  
e-mail: ansorge@lf1.cuni.cz

**Deadline for applications: June 15, 2006**

### **PLC06-22: MicroSpectroscopy: Imaging Biochemical Dynamics in Living Cells**

Practical & Lecture Course (17 lect./ 15 tutors / 20 students), Wageningen, The Netherlands, September 21-30, 2006, Organizer: Prof. Dr. Ton Visser  
MicroSpectroscopy Centre Wageningen, Laboratory of Biochemistry, Wageningen University  
Dreijenlaan3; 6703 HA Wageningen, The Netherlands  
Tel.: +31-317-482-868, FAX: +31-317-484-801  
e-mail: info.mscwu@wur.nl

**Deadline for applications: August 1, 2006**

### **ALC06-04: FEBS/EMBO Course on Molecular Basis of Bacterial Virulence & Survival Within Infected Hosts & in the Environment**

Advanced Lecture Course (16 lecturers / 80 students)  
Spetses, Greece, September 5-15, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Pascale Cossart, Institut Pasteur, Unité des Interactions Bactéries-Cellules, INSERM U604, INRA USC2020, 28, rue du Roux, 757 24 Paris Cedex 15, France  
Tel.: +33-1-4568-8841, FAX: +33-1-4568-8706  
e-mail: pcossart@pasteur.fr

**Deadline for applications: April 15, 2006**

### **ALC06-30: EMBO/FEBS Course Protein Targeting & Translocation**

Advanced Lecture Course (20 lecturers / 120 students)  
Gdansk, Poland, September 30 – October 5, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Soll, Department Biology I, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Menzinger Str. 67; 80638 Munich, Germany  
Tel: +49-89-17861-244/245, FAX: +49-89-17861-185  
e-mail: soll@lmu.de

**Deadline for applications: July 27, 2006**

### **PC06-06: Frontiers in Molecular Biochemistry of Mitochondria**

Practical Course (12 lecturers / 24 students)  
Warsaw, Poland, June 9-17, 2006, Organizer: Prof. Dr. Adam Szewczyk, Nencki Institute of Exp. Biol, Polish Acad. of Sciences 3 Pastur St., 02-093 Warsaw, Poland  
Tel.: +48-22-5892-491, FAX: +48-22-5892-490  
e-mail: a.szewczyk@nencki.gov.pl

**Deadline for applications: April 1, 2006**

### **PC06-41 - EMBO/FEBS Practical Course Electron Microscopy & Stereology in Cell Biology**

Practical Course (10 lecturers / 6 tutors / 20 students)  
Oslo, Norway, June 20 – 29, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Norbert Roos  
Dept. of Molecular Biosciences, University of Oslo  
P.O. Box 1041 Blindern; 0316 Oslo, Norway  
Tel.: +47-228-561-91, FAX: +47-228-577-86  
e-mail: norbert.roos@imbv.uio.no

**Deadline for applications: May 1, 2006**

### **PLC06-25: EMBO/FEBS Practical Course Fundamentals of Modern Methods of BioCrystallography – BioCrys 2006**

Practical & Lecture Course (17 lect./ 16 tutors / 35 students)  
Oeiras, Portugal, October 6 – 13, 2006, Organizer: Dr. Maria Armenia Carrondo, Instituto de Tecnologia Quimica e Biologica (ITQB), Avenida Da Republica 2784-505 Oeiras, Portugal  
Tel.: +35-121-4469-657, FAX: +35-121-4433-644  
e-mail: carrondo@itqb.unl.pt

**Deadline for applications: July 15, 2006**



## FEBS Advanced Courses 2006

### **PLC06-27: Human & Microbial Genomics: DNA arrays applied to human pathogens & diseases**

Practical & Lecture Course (15 lect./ 3 tutors / 40 students)  
Athens, Greece, March 30 – April 7, 2006  
Organizer: Dr. Odile Ozier-Kalogeropoulos  
Institute Pasteur, Unité de Génét. Moléculaire des Levures  
25 rue du Dr. Roux, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France  
Tel.: +33-1-4061-3804  
FAX: +33-1-4061-3456  
e-mail: odozier@pasteur.fr  
**Deadline for applications: December 16, 2005**

### **PLC06-40: From Functional Genomics to Molecular Proteomics: Basic Techniques of Gene Analysis**

Practical & Lecture Course (9 lecturers/ 5 tutors / 20 students)  
Yerevan, Armenia, October 2 – 13, 2006  
Organizer: Dr. Noona Ambartsumian  
Institute for Cancer Biology, Danish Cancer Society  
Strandboulevarden 49, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark  
Tel.: +45-35-2573-56  
FAX: +45-35-2577-21  
e-mail: na@cancer.dk  
**Deadline for applications: June 2, 2006**

### **PLC06-35: Advanced Methods in Macromolecular Crystallization II**

Practical & Lecture Course (15 lecturers / 20 students)  
Nove Hradky, Czech Republic, October 6 – 13, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Ivana Kuta Smatanova  
University of South Bohemia Ceske Budejovice  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
Zamek 136, 37333 Nove Hradky, Czech Republic  
Tel.: +420-608-106-109  
FAX: +420-386-361-219  
e-mail: ivanaks@seznam.cz  
**Deadline for applications: June 15, 2006**

## FEBS Workshops 2006

### **WS06-14: Structure of Amyloid Aggregates, Mechanisms of Formation & Dysfunction.**

Workshop (30 lecturers / 70-90 participants)  
Firenze, Italy, March 25-28, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Fabrizio Chiti  
Dipartimento di Scienze Biochimiche  
Universita di Firenze, 50134 Firenze, Italy  
Tel.: +39-055-413765, FAX: +39-055-4222725  
e-mail: fchiti@scibio.unifi.it  
**Deadline for applications: January 15, 2006**

### **WS06-24 - FEBS/EMBO Workshop: Programming Pancreatic Beta-cells, a pancreas development & regeneration workshop**

Workshop (30 lecturers / 90 students)  
Sitges, Spain, October 18 – 21, 2006  
Organizer: Dr. Jorge Ferrer, Institut d'Investigacions Biomédiques August Pi i Sunyer, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona  
Villarroel 170, 08036 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel.: +34-93-227-5400, FAX: +34-93-451-6638  
e-mail: jferrer@clinic.ub.es  
**Deadline for applications: August 1, 2006**

### **WS06-33 – FEBS/EMBO Workshop: Macromolecular Complexes in Microbial Pathogenesis, Membrane Trafficking & Cell Signaling**

Workshop (32 lecturers / 35 tutors / 70 students), San Feliu Guixols, Spain, September 23 – 28, 2006, Organizer: Prof. Dr. Harald Stenmark, Department of Biochemistry, The Norwegian Radium, Hospital, Montebello 0310 Oslo, Norway  
Tel.: +47-2-29349-51, FAX: +47-2-25086-92  
e-mail: stenmark@ulrik.uio.no  
**Deadline for applications: May 31, 2006**

### **WS06-15: Spatial & Temporal Regulation of Signalling**

Workshop (30 lecturers / 60 participants)  
Oslo, Norway, September 21-24, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Kjetil Tasken  
The Biotechnology Centre of Oslo, University of Oslo  
P.O. Box 1125 Blindern, 0317 Oslo, Norway  
Tel.: +47-2284-0505, FAX: +47-2284-0506  
e-mail: kjetil.tasken@biotek.uio.no  
**Deadline for applications: August 31, 2006**

### **WS06-26 - FEBS/EMBO Workshop: Spatial Dynamics of Intracellular Communication**

Workshop (30 lecturers / 20 tutors / 70 students)  
Kibbutz Ein Gedi, Israel, October 28 – November 2, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Michael Fainzilber, Department of Biological Chemistry, Weizman Institute of Science  
761 00 Rehovot, Israel  
Tel.: +97-28-934-4266, FAX: +97-28-934-4112  
e-mail: mike.fainzilber@weizmann.ac.il  
**Deadline for applications: July 28, 2006**

### **WS06-44: Computational Approaches to Non-Coding RNAs**

Workshop (25 lecturers / 55 participants)  
Benasque, Spain, July 16 – 28, 2006  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. Eric Westhof  
Université Louis Pasteur  
Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire du CNRS  
15 rue René Descartes, 670 84 Strasbourg Cedex, France  
Tel.: +33-38-841-7046, FAX: +33-38-841-7066  
e-mail: e.westhof@ibmc.u-strasbg.fr  
**Deadline for applications: March 15, 2006**



## FEBS Workshops 2006 *continued...*

### **WS06-47: EMBO/FEBS Workshop**

#### **Molecular & Cell Biology at Spetsai: Past, Present & Future – A Forty Years Anniversary**

Workshop (60 lecturers / 30 students)

Island of Spetses, Greece, September 2- 4, 2006

Organizer: Prof. Dr. Horst Feldmann

Adolf-Butenandt-Institut, University of Munich

Ludwig-Thoma-Str. 22B, 85232 Bergkirchen, Germany

Tel.: +49-81-3127-6294, FAX: +49-81-3127-6295

e-mail: horst.feldmann@med.uni-muenchen.de

**Deadline for applications: May 15, 2006**

## FEBS Special Meetings 2006

### **SM06-07: New Concepts in Lipidology from Lipidomics to Disease**

Special Meeting (35 lecturers/ 300 participants)

Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, October 21-25, 2006

Organizer: Prof. Dr. Gerrit van Meer

Utrecht University, Bijvoet Center for Biomolecular Research

Department of Membrane Enzymology

Padualaan 8, 3584 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands

Tel.: +31-302-533427, FAX: +31-302-522478

e-mail: g.vanmeer@chem.uu.nl

**Deadline for applications: June 30, 2006**

### **SM06-11: ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) Proteins: From Multidrug Resistance to Genetic Disease**

Special Meeting (36 lecturers / 300 participants)

Hotel Grauer Bär, Innsbruck, Austria, March 4-10, 2006

Organizer: Prof. Dr. Karl Kuchler

Medical University Vienna, Max F. Perutz Laboratories

Dept. of Medical Biochemistry, Campus Vienna Biocenter

Dr. Bohr-Gasse 9/2, A-1030 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43-1-4277-61811, FAX: +43-1-4277-9618

e-mail: karl.kuchler@meduniwien.ac.at

**Deadline for applications: December 15, 2005**

### **SM06-10: Cellular Signaling – Dubrovnik 2006**

Special Meeting (33 lecturers / 300-400 participants)

Cavtat, Croatia, May 26 – June 1, 2006

Organizer: Ivan Dikic, MD, PhD

Institute of Biochemistry II, Building 75

Frankfurt University Medical School

Theodor-Stein-Kai 7, 60590 Frankfurt, Germany

Tel.: +49-69-6301-83647, FAX: +49-69-6301-5577

e-mail: ivan.dikic@biochem2.de

**Deadline for applications: n.a.**

*Please note that detailed information on all courses/workshops/special meetings can only be obtained from the main course organisers. All inquiries and applications should be addressed to the organisers listed.*

## INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS TO THE ADVANCED COURSE COMMITTEE

FEBS supports Advanced Lecture Courses covering all timely topics related to biochemistry and molecular biology. Hence, the Advanced Courses Committee invites proposals to organize such courses, especially courses with strong practical hands-on elements. Up to 38.000 € is available for the organisation of a Practical Course, and up to 32.000 € for the organisation of an Advanced Lecture Course. Special funds of up to 50.000 € (including a special grant for small equipment) are available to organise Practical Courses in Eastern Europe. Finally, grants to a maximum of 50.000 € are available to support FEBS Special Meetings and FEBS Workshops on specialized topics of high scientific interest. Youth Travel Funds (YTF) assists the attendance of young scientists (Ph.D. and postdoctoral fellows within five years of obtaining their PhD). All YTF recipients must be members of FEBS constituent or associated societies to be eligible. Importantly, additional funds are available to course organizers to support attendance of two African students at each FEBS course or workshop.

For more information, detailed guidelines, as well as application forms, please visit the FEBS website, [www.FEBS.org](http://www.FEBS.org)



## Opportunities

### POSTDOCTORAL POSITION AVAILABLE

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGICAL SCIENCES — UNIVERSITY OF MILANO, ITALY

The “Giovanni Galli” Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Lipids at the Department of Pharmacological Sciences of the University of Milan is offering 1 (one) postdoctoral position in the field of pathophysiology of atherosclerosis and lipid metabolism.

The University of Milan has been recognized as one of the twelve Universities of excellence in Europe and in particular the Department of Pharmacological Sciences is internationally acknowledged for its studies on atherosclerosis and lipid metabolism.

Studies are focused on:

- analysis of the role of orphan nuclear receptors and other transcription factors on the regulation of cholesterol catabolism;
- identification of the signalling pathways modulating the activity of orphan nuclear receptors and other transcription factors involved in the regulation of cholesterol catabolism;
- systematic analysis of target genes regulated by the above mentioned nuclear factors;
- role of chromatin structure and remodelling on the transcription of genes involved in cholesterol metabolism.

The candidate is expected to master the followings techniques:

*Cell cultures:* stable cell lines such as HepG2, CV-1, CHO, THP-1 cells and monocyte-derived macrophages isolated from human blood.

*Biochemistry:* enzyme assays, Western blotting, SDS-PAGE, protein electrophoresis, trypsin digestion of proteins and determination of their sequence by ESI-MS/MS, expression of recombinant proteins in mammalian and bacterial cells.

*Molecular Biology:* Screening of and cloning from cDNA and genomic libraries, Southern blotting, nucleic acid electrophoresis, site-directed mutagenesis, PCR techniques, RNA isolation, quantitation of RNA by Northern blotting and Real Time RT quantitative PCR, transient and stable transfection of mammalian cells, mapping promoter sequences by reporter gene assay, Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay, protein-protein interaction studies by GST pull-down assay/far Western blotting and co-immunoprecipitation, Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP) Assay, siRNA.

The program is sponsored by Telethon, a non-profit Italian foundation financing research in genetic diseases. The title of the program is:

IDENTIFICATION OF NOVEL MOLECULAR TARGETS FOR THE THERAPY OF MONOGENIC FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA AND THE PREVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATED PREMATURE CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE

Applications, including detailed curriculum vitae, should be sent to:

Dr. Maurizio Crestani  
Department of Pharmacological Sciences  
University of Milan  
via Balzaretti, 9  
20133 Milano - Italy  
Tel. +39-02-50318393/18391  
Fax +39-02-50318391  
E-mail: Maurizio.Crestani@unimi.it

**Application Deadline: November 30th 2005.**



## WWW of upcoming events

**What:** 9th Annual Protein Expression

For detailed information please see

**When:** January 10—11, 2006

[www.chi-PepTalk.com](http://www.chi-PepTalk.com)

**Where:** California, USA

**What:** Signal Transduction Pathways as therapeutic targets

For detailed information please see

**When:** January 25—28, 2006

[www.transduction-meeting.lu](http://www.transduction-meeting.lu)

**Where:** European Conference Centre, Luxembourg

**What:** ESH -AACR International Conference: Molecular Basis for Targeted Therapy for Leukaemia

For detailed information please see

**When:** February 2–5, 2006

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

**Where:** Cascais, Portugal

**What:** The Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium on "Angiogenesis in Cancer and Vascular Disease"

For detailed information please see

**When:** February 4-8, 2006

[www.med.miami.edu/mnbws](http://www.med.miami.edu/mnbws)

**Where:** Florida, USA

**What:** 20th IUBMB Congress

For detailed information please see

**When:** June 18–23, 2006

[www.congre.co.jp/iubmb](http://www.congre.co.jp/iubmb)

**Where:** Kyoto, Japan

**What:** 31st FEBS Congress

For detailed information please see:

**When:** June 24-29, 2006

[www.febs2006.org](http://www.febs2006.org)

**Where:** Istanbul, Turkey

**What:** Third International Conference of "Enzymes in the Environment"

For Programme information please contact:

**When:** July 15–19, 2007

**Pr. Richard P. Dick**, School of Natural Resources Ohio State University, USA,  
E-mail: [Richard.Dick@snr.osu.edu](mailto:Richard.Dick@snr.osu.edu)

**Where:** Viterbo, Italy