

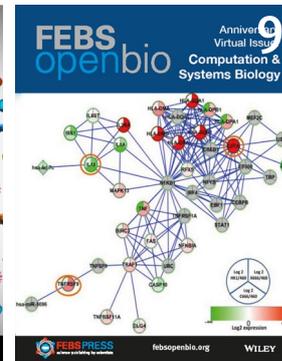
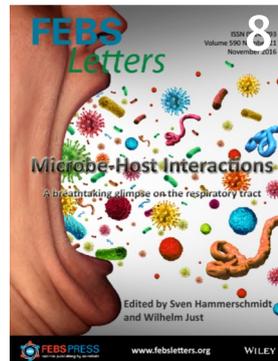
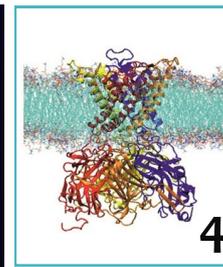
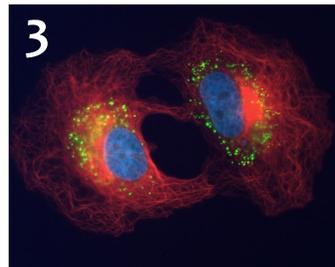
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Cover: Word cloud generated by Tagxedo (www.tagxedo.com/) from the main titles of FEBS Advanced Courses 2017. Topics range from extracellular matrix to DNA receptors, and the events take place at locations across Europe from Scandinavia

to the Mediterranean – explore the full list on pages 3–4!
Cover design inspired by Kinga Nyiri.



About FEBS News: FEBS News is published two or three times a year. An e-newsletter containing a link to FEBS News is sent to subscribers and to FEBS Constituent Societies whenever a new issue is out. This issue as well as all former issues of FEBS News are available online at www.febs.org. To subscribe, simply sign up to the e-newsletter in the [News section](#) of the FEBS website. Questions and suggestions about FEBS News should be sent to the FEBS News Editor, Carolyn Elliss (elliss@febs.org).

FEBS website postings: FEBS offers free advertising of academic positions (PhD students, postdocs, etc.) in the [Career Opportunities](#) section of the website, and scientific events can be listed in our [Conference Calendar](#). Selected postings may also be included in FEBS News, according to space available. In addition, Constituent Societies of FEBS are able to post news on the FEBS website; see the [Our Members](#) section.

Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS):
www.febs.org

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FEBS Advanced Courses 2017

The full list of FEBS-supported lecture courses, practical courses and workshops taking place next year is out! These ‘FEBS Advanced Courses’ provide forums for research knowledge exchange and networking on important focused topics in the molecular life sciences, with an emphasis on education and training. They are a good opportunity to learn from and meet experts in your research area, engage with peers working on similar questions, and present your work to fellow enthusiasts from across Europe and beyond. The course formats include elements to stimulate interaction between senior and junior scientists, and they take place at attractive locations throughout Europe – all helping to create a convivial atmosphere for scientific discussion.

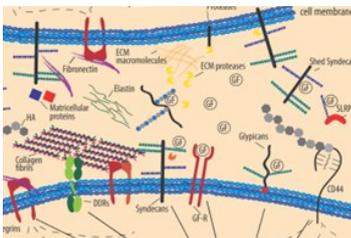
For all these events there are now summaries in the [Advanced Courses 2017](#) section of the FEBS

website that highlight the scopes of the meeting topics and mention some of the course features – from ‘meet the PI’ sessions, to ‘beach workshops’ to ‘data blitzes’. For more-detailed information on each course, you’ll also see links to the individual webpages of several earlier 2017 courses in the list below.

In addition to providing course grants for event organization, FEBS offers Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants for all FEBS Advanced Courses to help support participation of early-career scientists. Eligibility criteria for [YTF grants](#) are on the FEBS website, and applications should be made through the individual course websites.

Check the application dates carefully in the course list below: the events run between May and October 2017, but many application deadlines are early in the year.

FEBS ADVANCED LECTURE COURSES

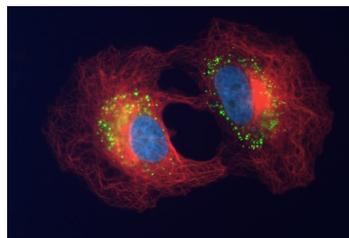


Matrix pathobiology, signaling and molecular targets

Spetses Island, Greece; May 25–30, 2017

www.febs-mpst2017.upatras.gr

Organizer: Nikos K. Karamanos
Apply by: Feb 15 & 28, 2017

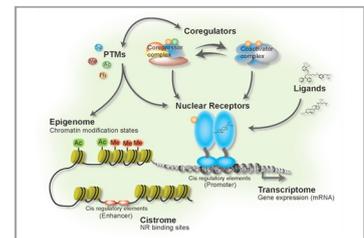


Oncometabolism: from conceptual knowledge to clinical applications

Figueira da Foz, Portugal

June 18–24, 2017

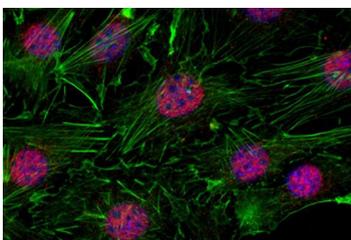
Organizer: Ana Urbano
(amurbano@ci.uc.pt)
Apply by: Mar 1, 2017



Nuclear receptors and epigenomic mechanisms in human disease and aging

Spetses Island, Greece
August 27 – September 1, 2017
ki.se/en/bionut/spetses-2017

Organizer: Eckardt Treuter
Apply by: May 8, 2017

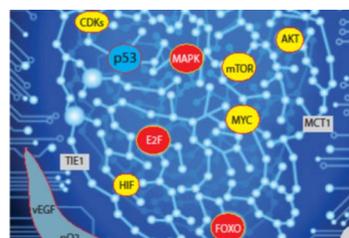


FEBS Advanced Lecture course and ECF2017 meeting on “cytoskeleton: mechanical coupling from the plasma membrane to nucleus”

Helsinki, Finland; June 4–8, 2017

www.cytoskeleton2017.com

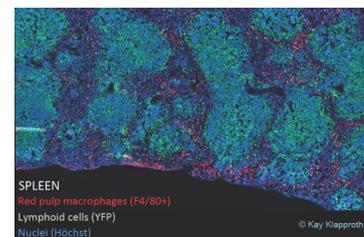
Organizers: Maria Vartiainen, Johanna Ivaska and Pekka Lappalainen
Apply by: Apr 10, 2017



Molecular mechanisms of signal transduction and cancer

Spetses Island, Greece
August 16–24, 2017

Organizers: Boudewijn Burgering
(b.m.t.burgering@umcutrecht.nl),
Richard Marais and René Medema
Apply by: Apr 1, 2017



Immune system: genes, receptors and regulation

Hvar Island, Croatia
September 23–30, 2017
www.febs-immunology-course.org/
Organizer: Hans-Reimer Rodewald
Apply by: Jun 15, 2017

**FEBS PRACTICAL /
PRACTICAL+LECTURE COURSES**

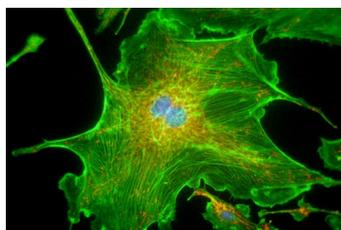


**8th International practical course
in systems biology**

Göteborg, Sweden
June 5–16, 2017

www.icysb.se

Organizers: Stefan Hohmann
and Marija Cvijovic
Apply by: Mar 25, 2017

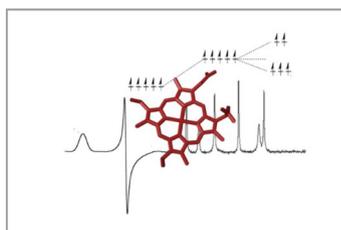


Functional imaging of cellular signals

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June 11–16, 2017

intranet.lcam-fnwi.nl/

Organizer: Mark Hink
Apply by: Mar 15, 2017



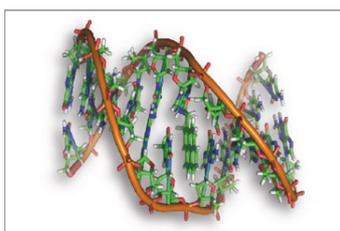
**Chemistry of metals in
biological systems**

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
May 21–28, 2017

cpaquete.wixsite.com/louvain2017

Organizer: Ricardo O. Louro
Apply by: Jan 31, 2017

FEBS WORKSHOPS

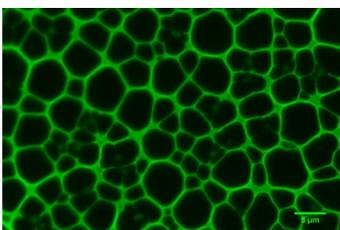


**Nucleotide excision repair and
crosslink repair – from
molecules to mankind**

Smolenice, Slovakia; May 7–11, 2017

www.exon.sk/smolenice2017/

Organizer: Peter McHugh
Apply by: Feb 24, 2017

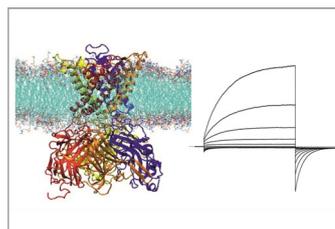


Biological surfaces and interfaces

Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain
July 2–7, 2017

mimeresearch.com/biointerfaces2017/

Organizer: Manuel Salmeron-Sanchez
Apply by: Mar 24, 2017

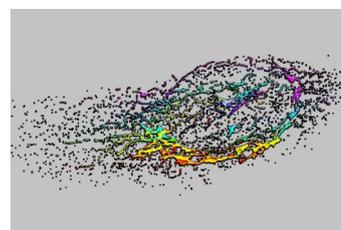


**Biophysics and medicine of channels
and transporters: electrifying new
insights**

Erice, Sicily, Italy; May 14–20, 2017

channels.ge.ibf.cnr.it

Organizer: Paolo Tammaro
Apply by: Mar 15, 2017



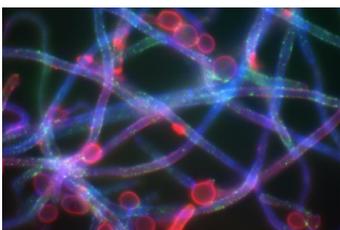
**Molecular architecture, dynamics
and function of biomembranes**

Cargèse, France; June 12–22, 2017

web.science.uu.nl/cargese2017

Organizer: Eefjan Breukink
Apply by: Apr 1, 2017

EVENT WITH FEBS YTF SUPPORT

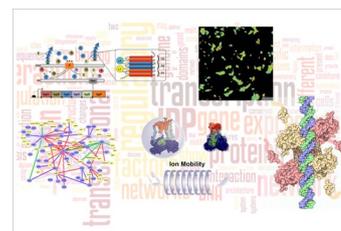


**HFP2017: molecular mechanisms of
host–pathogen interactions and
virulence in human fungal pathogens**

La Colle sur Loup, France
May 13–19, 2017

www.abdn.ac.uk/hfp2017/

Organizer: Carol Munro
Apply by: Feb 1, 2017

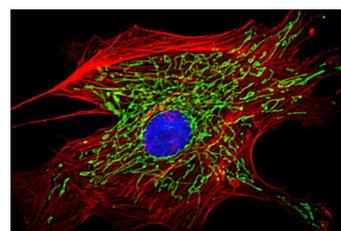


Proteins and organized complexity

Spetses Island, Greece
September 24 – October 1, 2017
Organizer: Daniel Otzen (dao@inano.au.dk)
Apply by: May 1, 2017

FEBS YTF AWARDS

[FEBS Youth Travel Fund](#) (YTF) grants support participation in FEBS Advanced Courses of PhD students and young postdoctoral scientists from outside the host country. Depending on the course arrangements, they are used to cover all or part of the registration fee (including accommodation and meals), and may also support travel costs. Applications for FEBS YTF awards should be made through the individual course websites.



Mitochondria in life, death and disease

Selva di Fasano, Italy; October 9–13, 2017

Organizer: Palmiro Cantatore
(palmiro.cantatore@uniba.it)
Apply by: Jul 31, 2017



FEBS Advanced Courses 2018: call for proposals

Planning starts early for FEBS Advanced Courses – the deadline for applications for funding for events running in 2018 will be 1st March 2017. The FEBS Advanced Courses programme is under the direction of the Advanced Courses Committee, made up of scientists elected by FEBS Council. Here, Beáta Vértessy, Chair of this Committee, explains the aims of the programme and what it offers for event organizers, and introduces the application and evaluation process for course submissions. The Advanced Courses Committee looks forward to receiving proposals for 2018 events!



Vision of the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee

The mission of the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee is to promote education on the latest research approaches and findings to early-career researchers in the fields of biochemistry, molecular biology and related disciplines throughout the Constituent Societies of FEBS and beyond. As the Chair of this Committee I wish to emphasize that I am truly convinced that this is a highly significant endeavour for supporting young scientists. In order to serve this honourable goal, each year the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee funds a range of courses with the sum of €20,000–30,000, plus up to €10,000 dedicated to enhance participation of young scientists through FEBS Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants. Aside from the benefit to scientists in the early stages of their career, these courses also provide a great opportunity for organizers to extend their scientific network and contribute to the advancement of their field.

Which kind of courses are in the FEBS portfolio?

FEBS Advanced Courses include 'Lecture courses', 'Practical courses' and 'Workshops'. For Lecture courses the major emphasis is teaching and training, and lecturers are asked to present introductory lectures followed by state-of-the-art presentations. The number of participants at these events should not exceed 120, including up to 20 speakers. At Practical courses of advanced experimental and computational methods, the focus is on hands-on experiments so that young scientists can apply these methods in their home laboratories.

To better serve this purpose the number of participants is limited to 24. Our framework also offers the possibility to organize a combined Practical and Lecture course. In addition to these five- to ten-day courses, we also promote shorter, more-focused Workshop events that address topics of high scientific interest and facilitate enhanced interactions among lecturers and students.

What makes FEBS Advanced Courses special?

Over and above the basic course grant funding, FEBS also provides YTF grants to support the participation of a number of young scientists (PhD students and postdoctoral fellows) at the event. Following the allocation of a set sum for YTF grants by FEBS, the organizer selects the candidates on merit, bearing in mind a few eligibility criteria set by FEBS. YTF grants can be awarded to a maximum of 20–50% of the participants (depending on the course type) which substantially enhances the number of applications for FEBS courses.

FEBS also initiates applications by promoting the courses through *FEBS News*, the FEBS website and on printed FEBS posters and flyers.

Besides this support, our main goal has been to keep the level of administration as low as possible, in order to let the organizers focus on the arrangement of the high-level scientific content and the establishment of the optimal conditions of these events. Towards this aim, we delegate one member of our Committee as a 'Member-In-Charge' to each of the events to ease communication and interaction of the organizers with FEBS.

How to apply

Internationally recognized scientists may apply as a main organizer by submitting course application forms and a CV through the FEBS online application system – accessed via the [Course Organizers](#) page of the FEBS website. The deadline for applications is 1st March each year for courses of the next year. More details about the course application process can be found in the 'FEBS Advanced Courses Guidelines' downloadable from the Course Organizers webpage. In the meantime we would be pleased to provide more information for applicants through the advanced.courses@febs.org email.

What happens after you submit a proposal for a FEBS Advanced Course?

Your application will be reviewed by at least two members of our [Committee](#). Committee members are nominated by FEBS Constituent Societies and are elected by the FEBS Council for a term of four years. Applications are discussed in a panel jury meeting of the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee, based on the reports of the reviewers and comments from the Committee members. The Committee meeting ends with a graded list of applications, and grants to courses are awarded in the order of this graded list. Applicants will receive the decision letter with helpful comments, if needed. The FEBS Advanced Courses budget will allow funding for approximately 20 courses in 2018. I look forward to receiving your comments and applications!

Beáta Vértessy
Chair, FEBS Advanced Courses
Committee

Show me the data

In 2007, many members of the scientific, technical and medical (STM) publishing community announced their support of the [Brussels Declaration](#) that 'raw research data should be made freely available to all researchers'. However, progress towards this end has been slow. One major stumbling block to open data, according to a [2014 Wiley survey](#), is that funders and institutions are not yet compelling researchers to make their raw data publicly available.

This is starting to change. Indeed, the European Union Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020 includes an [Open Research Data Pilot](#), in which participating researchers are 'asked to make the underlying data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications and other scientific information available for use by other researchers, innovative industries and citizens'. The pilot suggests that data be deposited in a repository and that participating researchers take steps to ensure that users can freely use, reproduce and share the data. In the United States, a [2013 memorandum](#) from Dr John P. Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, instructed that 'digitally formatted scientific data resulting from unclassified research supported wholly or in part by Federal funding should be stored and publicly accessible to search, retrieve, and analyse'.

Although nearly a decade has passed since the Brussels Declaration, funding organizations are still looking to increase the free access to and reuse of publicly funded research data. Researchers undoubtedly recognize the

importance of this initiative, but how can authors ensure that they abide by funder directives with a minimum of hassle?

We at FEBS Press are determined to support our authors at every step of the publication process, including compliance with funder and institutional requirements. To this end, we are delighted to announce that Wiley, our publisher, have partnered with the [figshare](#) repository to facilitate data sharing.

Authors who wish to use this service may upload their raw experimental data as 'Data Files' in ScholarOne Manuscripts during submission (see screenshot). What do we mean by 'raw experimental data'? In a nutshell, these are all the files, images, movies and other data that are generated in the course of a project but are not included in the final manuscript files – for example, spreadsheets containing the original data that are turned into histograms, replicates of data included in the manuscript, uncropped western blots, and unprocessed microscopy images. Importantly, Data Files should not duplicate figures or data that are shown in the manuscript or supplementary information. Furthermore, authors must not submit data that is sensitive in nature or should not be made

publicly available due to privacy, security and/or safety concerns. If in doubt, email the journal's editorial office; we'd be happy to help.

On acceptance of the manuscript, the Data Files will automatically be deposited at figshare under a CC-0 license, at no cost to the authors. All Data Files associated with a manuscript receive a single DOI, which is then reported in the manuscript in a special 'Data Accessibility' subsection of the Methods. At figshare, all Data Files from a published manuscript are displayed on a single webpage, with a link back to the original FEBS Press paper. Readers are then free to use the data as they see fit – as the basis of their own research, to corroborate published work, and so on. Wiley have their own [portal](#) on figshare, where you'll eventually be able to find all Data Files from *The FEBS Journal*, *FEBS Letters*, *Molecular Oncology* and *FEBS Open Bio*.

We recognize that the recommendations and requirements surrounding open data are constantly evolving, so do [get in touch](#) if you have questions or feedback about the link to figshare, or any other FEBS Press initiative.

Emily Chenette
Editorial Manager, *The FEBS Journal*

File Upload  Edit

SELECTION	FILE DESIGNATION
 Main text.docx 	Main text
 Luciferase assay.xlsx 	Choose File Designation ...
 Select File 3 ...	Choose File Designation ...
 Select File 4 ...	Main text
 Select File 5 ...	Figure
	Table
	Data Files
	Supplementary tables/figures
	Supporting Document
	Response to Referees (for Resubmitted Manuscripts only)
	Multimedia
	TeX/LaTeX Suppl File
	Upload zipped files

Uploading Data Files during submission to a FEBS Press journal.

FEBS Press: Special and Virtual Issues

Special Issues from our journals shine a spotlight on fast-developing research areas that are of outstanding interest to our readership. Reviews in these issues are commissioned from experts, who provide a brief history of their fields and recent progress towards the major unsolved questions, as well as

their views on future directions. All content in Special Issues is freely available from the moment of publication.

Virtual Issues are collections of articles previously published in FEBS Press journals. They are coordinated by the journals' editorial offices, often in

conjunction with editorial board members, and highlight research in a topical, timely field.

The journal editorial offices thank the authors, referees and editors for their contributions to the recent and upcoming collections featured here, and hope you enjoy exploring them!

Cell Death Control

This [Special Issue](#) of *The FEBS Journal* presents a broad range of topics in the ever-growing field of cell death control. The issue gets off to a rousing start with Doug Green's unmissable, entertaining overview of the diverse modes of cell death¹. Reviews from Thomas Brunner and colleagues² and Julie Blander³ provide insight into the process and functional consequences of cell death in the intestinal epithelium, and Seamus Martin posits that IL-1 family cytokines act as DAMPs in necrosis-initiated inflammation⁴. Joseph Opferman reviews the recent advances and challenges in targeting anti-apoptotic BCL-2 proteins in cancer⁵, and Mark Luna-Vargas and Jerry Chipuk, and Richard Kriwacki, Tudor Moldoveanu and colleagues, provide insight into the structural features of BCL-2 family members and how these regulate mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization and apoptosis^{6,7}.

Also in this issue, Andrew Oberst explores the outstanding questions in the field of necroptosis⁸, and Guy Salvesen and colleagues discuss the divergent mechanisms of protease-induced cell death in animals and plants⁹. Three reviews – from Henning Walczak and colleagues, Raffaella Iurlaro and Cristina Muñoz-Pinedo, and Elodie Villa and Jean-Ehrland Ricci – highlight the role that various physiological stimuli, including ubiquitination¹⁰, endoplasmic reticulum stress¹¹ and metabolism¹² have in regulating cell death. Finally, Dario Vignali and colleagues discuss regulatory T cells as targets for immune-based cancer treatments¹³. This Special Issue was coordinated by Jerry Chipuk and Seamus Martin, who also wrote an enlightening introduction to the topic¹⁴.



CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Editing

The selection of reviews in this [Special Issue](#) of *The FEBS Journal* explores various aspects of the breakthrough technology that is CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. The issue starts with Discovery-in-Context Review by Francisco Mojica and Francisco Rodriguez-Valera, who bring to life their story of the system's serendipitous discovery in archaea and bacteria¹. The following reviews highlight the immense potential that CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology holds.

Geulah Livshits and colleagues review in vivo applications of CRISPR/Cas9 technology for the study of gene function², and Mostafa Zamanian and Erik Andersen highlight its potential use for tackling diseases caused by parasitic nematodes³. Jennie Lin and Kiran Musunuru continue on this theme, further demonstrating the power of CRISPR/Cas9 in disease modelling, whilst also drawing attention to the current challenges in deploying this technology⁴.

George Church and colleagues discuss recent advances in the application of CRISPR/Cas9 for epigenetic regulation, and the implications such advances hold⁵. A review by Linde Miles, Ralph Garippa and John Poirier delves deep into the issues that need to be addressed when designing in vitro CRISPR/Cas9 screens⁶.

Similarly, Stephanie Mohr and colleagues highlight the importance of using optimized methods for designing guide RNAs for various CRISPR/Cas9 applications⁷, and describe how to navigate the currently available design tools. In his review, Jiing-Kuan Yee acknowledges how off-target effects can limit the use of CRISPR and other engineered nuclease techniques, and provides insight into how such issues can be detected and circumvented⁸. Finally, Dirk Haussecker closes the issue with a comparative analysis of the use of CRISPR and RNAi technologies for therapeutic gene inhibition, and discusses future applications of CRISPR in this field⁹. Special thanks to John Doench for coordinating this Special Issue and providing an insightful introduction to this important topic.





Microbe–Host Interactions:

A breathtaking glimpse on the respiratory tract

The microbiota of the upper and lower respiratory tract of humans and animals is, in contrast to the gut microbiota, less well studied, and its relevance in pulmonary health and disease is still a matter of debate. The fitness of bacteria and the repertoire of virulence factors that facilitate adherence to host tissue or influence the host immune system are critical determinants of commensalism or pathogenesis. Fluctuations in microbiota composition, dictated by environmental changes, inter-microbial communication and the concerted action of virulence factors of commensals and pathobionts, can determine the potential of a pathobiont for establishing local or pulmonary infections. *FEBS Letters* presents an exciting new Special Issue on ‘[Microbe–Host Interactions](#)’ edited by Sven Hammerschmidt and Wilhelm Just, which brings together an exclusive collection of high-standard reviews by renowned specialists that illustrates the state-of-the-art in this developing field.



Shedding light on hematopoietic stem cells: formation, regulation and utilization

Hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) have been the focus of intense research since scientists introduced the ‘stem cell’ theory at the beginning of the 20th century. Their inherent multipotency and self-renewal properties confer on them the capacity to re-establish the entire hematopoietic system and therefore to cure the thousands of patients affected with blood-related diseases every year. However, recapitulating all steps leading to HSC production in vitro has proven to be very challenging. A better understanding of HSC fate determination, generation and regulation, as it occurs in vivo in the course of embryonic and adult life, is a pre-requisite to determine what a cell needs to become and to remain a transplantable HSC in a Petri dish. This *FEBS Letters* Special Issue on ‘[Hematopoietic Stem Cells](#)’, edited by Catherine Robin, Georges Lacaud, Thierry Jaffredo and Wilhelm Just, presents a collection of review articles authored by invited international experts, discussing our current understanding of HSC generation as well as recent exciting fundamental and technical developments, and also revealing their views on future research directions.

Autophagy: The 2016 Nobel Prize – a celebratory *FEBS Letters* Virtual Issue

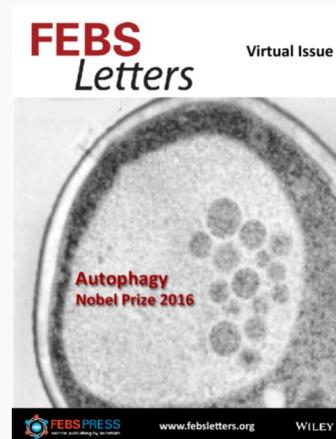
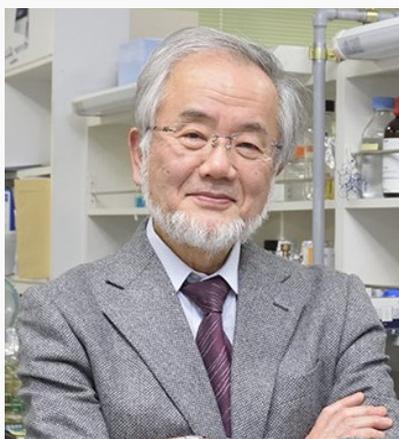
FEBS Letters congratulates Prof. Yoshinori Ohsumi on winning the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his groundbreaking research on the molecular mechanisms underlying autophagy in yeast.

In an outstanding [FEBS Letters article](#) from 1993, Ohsumi isolated 15 mutants with defective accumulation of autophagic bodies under conditions of starvation. The mutants indicated that at least 15 independent genes encoded components of the autophagic machinery in yeast.

Following this pioneering study, the proteins encoded by these genes were functionally characterized.

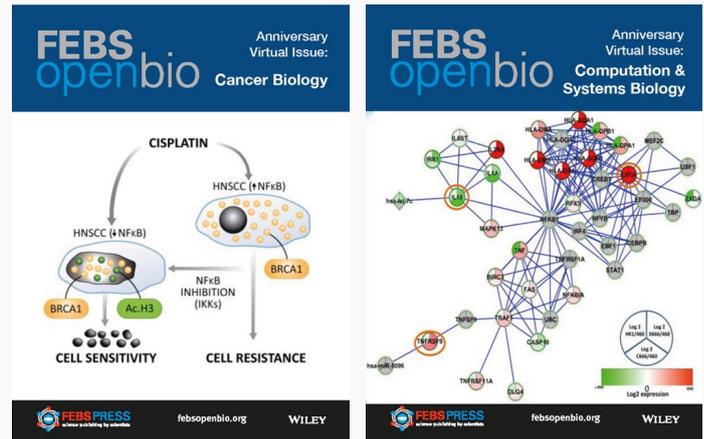
Autophagy is now known to be a very important physiological process involved in the cellular response to stress and infection, and to play a role in development and aging. Defects in the autophagic pathway have been linked to cancer, Parkinson’s disease and diabetes as well as other genetic diseases.

FEBS Letters is proud to have had the honour of publishing this as well as many other excellent articles by Ohsumi, and to have contributed to the dissemination of Nobel Prize-worthy science. To celebrate the occasion, we have created a [Virtual Issue](#) collecting elegant studies on autophagy by Ohsumi and his co-workers that were published in *FEBS Letters*.



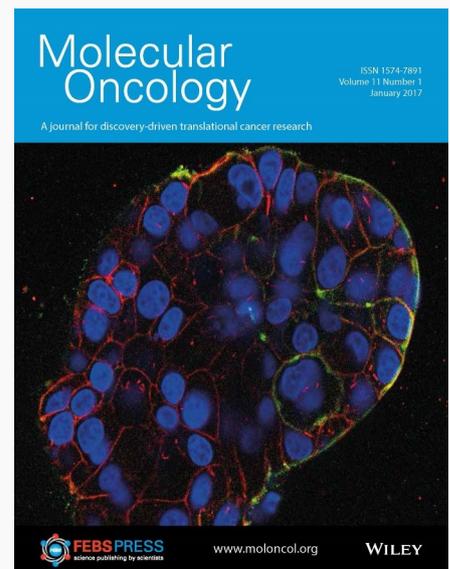
FEBS Open Bio Anniversary Virtual Issues

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the launch of *FEBS Open Bio* in November 2011, we have put together four Virtual Issues, each focusing on a particular subject area and showcasing articles across five years of publication of this open access journal. Many of these articles have been highly cited while others, only published in the past 12 months, have been highly downloaded. The Virtual Issue on [Cancer biology](#) contains our most cited paper, by Takahashi et al. Published in 2014, this paper provides mechanistic insights into acquired chemoresistance in hepatocellular carcinoma, in particular the role of noncoding RNAs in extracellular vesicles. The [Plant biology](#) Virtual Issue contains three of the four papers published in 2011, all of which have accrued six or more citations to date. Also in this issue is our second most highly cited paper, by Jensen et al. (2013), which reports a proteomics approach to find gene targets of the ATAF1 transcription factor in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Another Virtual Issue features articles on [Microbiology](#), ranging from a bacteriocidin that is active against both Gram-positive and -negative bacteria to the role of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* PE25/PPE41 protein complex in inducing necrosis in macrophages. The final Virtual Issue gathers together papers on [Computational & systems biology](#), from a report on a meta-database for gene set analysis, to transcriptome analyses building network models for specific types of cancer and for brain metabolism.



Metastasis

A Special Issue of *Molecular Oncology* on Metastasis is due out as the first issue in 2017 – on the journal's new FEBS Press platform. Edited by Eduard Batlle, Roger Gomis and Joan Massagué, this Special Issue will provide insight from internationally recognized researchers into a broad range of developing topics in the metastasis field, providing overviews of recent work and highlighting outstanding questions – and thus setting the stage for future research. Among other prominent researchers, Jin Yang addresses our current understanding of the process of epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) and provides a summary of both historic and recent studies on the role of EMT in the metastatic cascade from various experimental systems, including cancer cell lines, genetic mouse tumor models, and clinical human breast cancer tissues. Our current knowledge of the role of circulating and disseminated tumor cells in the metastatic process is discussed by Cyrus Ghajar. Victoria Sanz-Moreno provides an overview of the modes of invasion during tumour dissemination, and the influence of epigenetics on the metastatic process is reviewed by Sakari Vanharanta. The Special Issue will also present points of view from the editors in charge of the issue, with Roger Gomis providing an overview of the field of tumor cell dormancy and Eduard Batlle addressing the dependency of metastasis on the tumor microenvironment.



Molecular Oncology is turning open access

The journal *Molecular Oncology* is to become fully Open Access in 2017 when it joins the other FEBS journals on the FEBS Press platform with the publisher Wiley. From January 2017, all articles in *Molecular Oncology* will be published under the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY), allowing everyone to read the journal irrespective of speciality, host institution, or location.

The journal will continue to highlight new discoveries, approaches, as well as

technical developments, in basic, clinical and discovery-driven translational cancer research. Priority will be given to work that significantly advances our understanding of disease processes leading to human tumour development and/or establishes novel concepts of clear clinical significance in diagnosis, prognosis and prevention strategies. We publish research articles, science policy reports, reviews (by invitation only), and thematic

issues (by invitation only). Please visit our developing home on the FEBS Press platform [here](#) for full journal information, and to explore articles that are in press.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our previous publisher Elsevier for the continuous support we received during the past ten years.

Julio E. Celis, Editor in Chief
José Moreira, Managing Editor

Writing a scientific paper (it's like filmmaking)

The FEBS Journal recently launched a new series called [‘Words of Advice’](#) aimed especially at graduate students and postdocs, and the first article tackles manuscript writing. Here, The FEBS Journal’s Editorial Associate Rita Gemayel shares practical tips from this article on how to make your paper stand out for editors, reviewers and the scientific community. To enjoy the full discussion, see the original version ([‘How to write a scientific paper’](#)) in The FEBS Journal.



At its core, a scientific manuscript is held together by the science it reports. But an incoherent manuscript can undermine even the most meticulous scientific study. If you think about it, writing a scientific paper is a lot like filmmaking. Consider how to frame your story, what to put in sharp focus and how to edit. And just like in films where inadequate framing or editing can ruin an otherwise good script, a substandard manuscript can undermine the communication of a good scientific study. Here are my recommendations on how to write a standout paper.

The basics

Begin with a blueprint. While developing your research project, have in mind your goal for publishing the work and the general scope of the dataset, as this will influence the key decision of when to stop experimenting and start writing.

When you have identified your key discovery (and well before all your experiments are complete), imagine how you would best communicate this discovery to the scientific community. Start by drafting a blueprint of the manuscript that outlines how your central discovery will be framed. A manuscript blueprint is like a storyboard, where the individual acts are the figures. Each figure should have a key point and develop the central discovery in some significant way. This is a very good way of designing a paper as it lets you see, very early on, what type of experiments you will need to do and where they will fit into the big picture.

Once you’ve decided to write up your work, having the blueprint will allow you to organize the manuscript in a coherent, stepwise narrative. Use the blueprint as a foundation from which to expand your draft. When your manuscript is well developed, it’s time to edit. Keep your writing clear and concise by avoiding very long sentences. Combine the goal with the action in the same sentence. Don’t overuse

phrases such as ‘We showed that’, ‘In order to’, or ‘Next, we investigated’ (and their kin). In a sense, good writing is one that mimics the scientific method: well defined, accurate and clear.

Most journals now use plagiarism-detecting software at some stage of the review process. Don’t risk immediate rejection by copying sentences from another paper – or from Wikipedia! If necessary, consider English language editing services that provide assistance for scientists.

Top tips

Here are eight top tips to help your paper stand out and reach the community that it deserves:

Choosing the title. The title should be the key new observation that you have made. The best titles are short ([read more](#)), in the active form, contain identifiable keywords and few or no acronyms. Try to avoid long, rambling titles: less is more. Avoid passive and descriptive phrases that merely describe what you have done.

Approaching the abstract. Think about the abstract as an invitation for readers, and write it in a way that will appeal to the widest possible audience. Include key words that will likely be used as search terms on PubMed or Google Scholar.

Introducing the subject. Begin your introduction with a broad assessment of the state of your field. Keep it short: think of the introduction as a developed abstract. Cite a few relevant reviews when setting the broad framework but make sure to reference original papers for key discoveries, including papers that report conflicting results.

Describing the data. In the results section, report the motive for each experiment, its setup and your observations. Leave the interpretation for the discussion. Group the results into subheadings in a logical manner that allows each subsection to build on the preceding ones.



The interpretation. The discussion should highlight the implications of your study and the advancement it brings to the field. It should be written with both a generalist and a specialist audience in mind. Compare your study with what has been published in the field and mention studies that report conflicting results and possible reasons for such conflict (this demonstrates thoroughness and transparency). Discuss unanswered questions or any limitations of your study, new questions that arose and make suggestions for future experiments.

The methods. Use subheadings to allow your readers to find the relevant information quicker. Be accurate, comprehensive and give enough details to allow other researchers to reproduce the experiment if needed.

Figures. When it comes to figures, all colours are the new black... except grey. *The FEBS Journal* does not charge for colour figures, so take advantage. Keep in mind that figures are usually reduced during page layout. As a rule of thumb, use font size 14 for axes

numbering and 16 for titles. Try to make the overall shape of each figure a neat square or rectangle, avoiding unnecessary white space between panels.

Legends. Figures and their legends should be stand-alone items. A great way to introduce coherence and consistency in your manuscript is to use your results section subheadings as your figure titles (or vice versa). When describing individual figure panels, start with a conclusion, followed by the relevant and necessary technical information. Try to strike a balance between including enough technical details and re-writing the methods section. As a rule of thumb, prioritise what is present in the figure. Presenting the figure legend beneath each figure in your submitted manuscript will make your reviewers happy – our [submission system](#) makes this simple.

And remember, in the end it's all about the big picture.

Rita Gemayel

The FEBS Journal Editorial Office
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Lecture 'flipping': a student-centred approach for undergraduate teaching

'Flipping' describes an educational approach where students typically acquire new information through online lectures or reading (rather than the first delivery of knowledge through a traditional lecture), which is then followed by a session of student-centred learning. In such a class, active, engaging strategies with the instructor and peers allow the student to use higher-level thinking approaches and take charge of their learning and assessment. Here, Jeremy Pritchard (Birmingham, UK) – who was due to speak in a FEBS Education session on student engagement at the cancelled 2016 FEBS Congress – shares an experience of introducing this strategy at his School of Biosciences.

I started lecture flipping because I was bored: bored of the same old didactic delivery, bored of the weary faces in front of me and bored of the constant question 'will this be in the exam?'. Lecture flipping has become very trendy – a buzz word at teaching conferences across the globe – but it is actually very simple and just good teaching. So for these reasons and also to try to deliver a deeper set of skills to the students, including group work, presentation and critical analysis, I undertook to 'flip' part of a final-year module in a BSc Biology degree at the School of Biosciences at the University of Birmingham, UK. A central part of this was to use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Canvas, to facilitate



Photo by WavebreakMediaMicro

delivery and student engagement. The topic was plant adaptation to a changing environment and I had previously lectured conventionally on this course and so had all the relevant material available.

Student control of the curriculum

In addition to wanting to make more engaging and interactive use of the teaching time, I also sought to deliver material in a modern context. My starting point was a recently published report from the Royal Society of Biology on '[UK Plant Science: Current status and future challenges](#)', which revealed that the UK's position as a world leader in plant science is under threat from a shortage of

funding and a lack of stable investment in essential skills, and outlined actions to ensure the UK can respond to significant global challenges such as guaranteeing food security. Before the session, via Canvas students were asked to read the report, complete a proforma to pick out the main issues, and upload this to Canvas. They then peer reviewed two other proformas and on the basis of those and their own submission listed the top five stressors of plants. The five ranked stresses formed the topics for subsequent teaching, effectively giving students control of the curriculum and context.

Examples of flipped sessions

For me, the most challenging part of lecture flipping is designing the flipped class session to make sure the students are prepared and engaged – this is essential for its success. Various approaches were taken to deliver a diverse range of skills

The first topic, as chosen by the students, was pests and diseases. One of 11 subtopics was allocated to each student group, who were asked to produce a one-page report to be presented in class (and also uploaded on Canvas). The students then pulled all the information back together in the flipped session as a ‘mind map’ compilation on the board at the front of the class.

For the topic of drought, each group member independently identified a research paper. The group then agreed the ‘best’ paper and uploaded the title and abstract to the VLE with one line justifying its importance. The students next had to indicate where their paper fitted on a ‘test tube to plate pipeline’ diagram on the blackboard, and were asked to consider what they would need to do to move their paper towards the ‘food on a plate’ end. In essence this is the sort of critical analysis of the literature that they should be doing generally in all modules.

For the ‘elevated CO₂’ topic, groups were asked to draft a seminar question based on four relevant papers listed on the VLE in advance of a 20-min talk from Prof. Rob Mackenzie, Director of the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research – thus giving them some supported experience of the research seminar environment.

Writing an exam question

Innovating in teaching using flipping is good, but doesn’t fit with conventional, knowledge-based final exams. Accordingly, I asked the students to develop their own exam question for this module component. After being presented with a generic structure for this – (1) Context, (2) What do we know? (3) What

do we need to do or know to make a difference? – each student drafted an exam question to submit to Canvas, which was followed by selection of the best by group and then class. Over the next few weeks of the course, students edited the question draft on Google Docs and we discussed progress. Following my approval, the class-authored question was then used as one question option in the final exam.

Conclusions

Students generally appreciated the flipped sessions and understood the move away from knowledge recall and the real world connection with comments such as: ‘*Seen*’ exam questions encourage wider reading...’ and ‘*Like the approach and seen question as it stops us just having to learn lectures*’. However, presentation is key as this negative comment from a student shows: ‘*Really disliked how little effort he put in to lectures [and] felt like we had to teach ourselves everything*.’ The latter is an interesting comment as in this final-year module students are concerned about good performance and unsettled by a different delivery they are not used to.

Setting up flipped teaching delivery can have benefits in staff time in future but does have upfront set-up costs. Students need to see that their engagement is delivering benefits in terms of improved study skills as well as enhanced employability prospects. I will continue to use this flipped approach as I think it’s the right way to go, However I don’t expect to please all of the people all of the time!

Jeremy Pritchard

School of Biosciences; Director of Education, College of Life and Environmental Sciences; University of Birmingham, UK

Recommendations

- Tie flipped classroom content very obviously to assessment, so students see the value
- Be clear with students what is being done and how it will help them learn
- Make sure there is a strong plan for the face-to-face sessions
- When contact time is more interactive, go with the flow if students want to take things in a different direction
- Not everything lends itself to flipping, so make choices depending on resources and the students.

Further information

More introductions to flipping

Flipping the Classroom, Vanderbilt University: <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/flipping-the-classroom/>

Flipping at the University of Birmingham: <https://panopto.docsend.com/view/za2jbip>

Investigations of effectiveness

There are links to several papers at <http://www.flippedclassroomworkshop.com/results-studies-supporting-benefits-of-flipped-classroom/>



The 41st FEBS Congress – a lesson in crisis management?

Preparations for the 41st FEBS Congress, to be hosted by the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) in Kuşadası, Turkey, 3–8 September 2016, began over three years ago – following approval of the TBS bid by FEBS Council. An excellent scientific programme was developed by the Organizing Committee, an exciting Young Scientists' Forum was planned by its young local committee, a new FEBS Congress platform was brought into play, and an attractive coastal location near the ancient ruins of Ephesus beckoned. But it was not to be. For the first time in the history of FEBS, a Congress was cancelled.

Why?

The one and only reason the FEBS Executive Committee cancelled the Congress was that, in the urgent final check of this event's viability in terms of its scientific programme, only about a third of the invited speakers confirmed their attendance. Sadly, there had been several terrorist attacks in Turkey in 2016, and although the western tourist coast of Turkey where the Congress was due to be held was unscathed, the overall security and political situation in the country deteriorated significantly at a late stage in the run up to the Congress – with an attack on the Atatürk International Airport in Istanbul on 28th June, an attempted coup on 15–16th July and declaration of a state of emergency on 20th July. As events within Turkey unfolded, the safety of FEBS Congress participants was considered carefully, and additional security arrangements were requested and provided. The FEBS Executive Committee remained set on having the Congress but on the key condition that its scientific programme was unaffected.

Couldn't the event have been moved elsewhere?

Participant numbers for the 2016 event had held up well (over 1600), and included a large contingent of Turkish scientists. Moving the event out of Turkey would have made it difficult for them to attend. Postponement was also considered, but, among other problems such as unknown availability of speakers, it was not clear that circumstances in Turkey would improve during 2016; indeed, the state of emergency was extended for another three months from 19th October.

How did views on the decision vary?

Cancelling the Congress was a very complex decision. There were different views within the FEBS

Executive Committee, and also between FEBS, TBS and Kenes (the Congress-organizing company). In particular, the local Organizing Committee, having invested so much effort into planning the event and looking forward to hosting the meeting with particular benefit to Turkish scientists, were understandably frustrated and disappointed by the decision. There were also serious concerns for the TBS and Kenes about financial losses.

FEBS interests are science and scientists, and it has always sought to avoid politics. In this particular case, there were contrasting opinions about whether holding an event in Turkey would show support for Turkish scientists or whether FEBS should take a stance on curtailment of academic freedoms in Turkey, by cancelling the event. However, the general attitude was one of solidarity with the Turkish scientific community as expressed in the decision of maintaining the Congress with the one crucial requirement of assuring its quality.

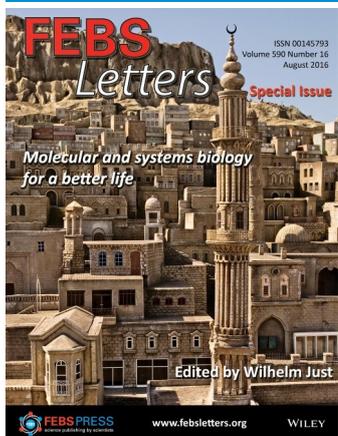
FEBS sincerely thanks the local Congress Organizing Committee, TBS, the Young Scientists' Forum committee and Kenes for all their hard work developing the event and trying to make it a success despite the circumstances. While the Congress was cancelled as a result of events beyond FEBS' control, FEBS provided funds for the return of participant registration fees by Kenes. FEBS is also funding specific schemes to benefit Turkish scientists in 2017 in our Advanced Courses and Short-Term Fellowships programmes.

Could there still be some knowledge transfer from the FEBS 2016 scientific programme?

Although the live Congress event could not happen, FEBS endeavoured to support as much scientific knowledge exchange around the intended scientific program as possible in the new situation.

The *FEBS Letters* Kuşadası Special Issue of review articles, featuring insights, discussion and updates from several invited speakers at the Congress, was published in August. In the absence of the live event, this issue took on a special significance.

Abstracts from delegates accepted by the Congress Organizing Committee, as well as the summaries from invited speakers, were searchable on the Congress website from late August as the body of work associated with the planned event – and *The FEBS Journal* Congress Special Issue (supplement) of abstracts formally collated these.



5 August | 2016



The 41st FEBS Congress is cancelled

We are very sorry to announce that the 2016 FEBS Congress in Kuşadası has been cancelled.

5 September | 2016



Registered delegates can now access research presentations uploaded to the Congress website

Several speakers and delegates have kindly made available their slidesets and posters for others to browse, learn from, and enjoy.

From top: 41st FEBS Congress banner, Congress journal issues, and news posts from the FEBS Congress website.

(Delegates were given the opportunity to withdraw their abstracts if they wished following event cancellation.)

In the immediate aftermath of the cancellation, FEBS also explored possibilities with speakers for online hosting of talks/slidesets. Obviously, this could not properly substitute for a live event, but there was potential for this approach to achieve some of the original scientific aims of the Congress. However, while many speakers were keen to help with this, others had reservations, particularly about sharing unpublished data in such forums. In the end, as a pilot project FEBS offered a facility for upload of slidesets from speakers as well as posters or slidesets from delegates to the Congress website for viewing by delegates only, from 5th to 30th September – thanks to the rapid modification of the Congress platform by its provider Effi-Sciences. FEBS is very grateful to the 25 speakers who then generously provided their slidesets, some with audio, in this way for the benefit of Congress delegates.

The use of this new Congress website facility was analysed to inform plans for future events.

Uploading/downloading activity in the pilot project was low, but a majority of those answering a survey on it indicated they would welcome poster uploading at future Congresses, and so this will be offered again on an optional basis alongside the 2017 Congress. The winner of the delegate vote in the survey for favourite uploaded speaker ‘talk’ was Bruce Alberts (San Francisco, USA) with ‘The Problems and Challenges in Biomedical Sciences’ – which would have been the Closing Lecture at the event. Congratulations also go to Mourad Bekhouche (Liege, Belgium) and Inmaculada Pérez-Dorado (London, UK) who received *FEBS Open Bio* poster prizes in recognition of their excellent posters uploaded to the FEBS Congress website. Merve Diler (Ankara, Turkey) was the lucky winner of the prize draw from the survey.

FEBS honours three plenary speakers with FEBS medals at each Congress, as well as awardees of the FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award and FEBS Anniversary Prizes. We were sorry to be unable to present these awards in person this year, but recognize the recipients’ achievements on pages 15–16.

What are the implications for future Congresses?

One issue the cancellation underlined, perhaps more than expected, was how much the live Congress is appreciated and looked forward to, and how well the format works for the presentation of recent findings by speakers. It seems clear also that separation from routine work by travel to a Congress venue, and the enjoyment and benefit of direct personal interactions at a live gathering, continue to have significant value in scientific knowledge exchange, despite our increased virtual connectivity nowadays.

On a practical level, this year’s Congress cancellation has already started to tighten several aspects of FEBS Congress planning, from the initial assessment of Congress locations, to the agreements between FEBS, hosting societies and professional congress-organizing companies, to the clarification of cancellation procedures – and all in the context of FEBS’ responsibilities as a charity to manage risk and effectively deliver its aims. While we sincerely hope cancellation procedures are not needed in the future, it has at least been demonstrated that the event has standards and that the apparently unstoppable train of an upcoming FEBS Congress does in fact have an emergency brake should difficult circumstances develop.

Miguel A. De la Rosa, FEBS Congress Counsellor
Israel Pecht, FEBS Secretary General



FEBS Medal Winners (Kuşadası, 2016)

Sir Hans Krebs medal: Kári Stefánsson, deCODE genetics, Iceland

Kári Stefánsson has served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director since he founded deCODE genetics in August 1996. He was appointed the Chairman of the Board of Directors of deCODE genetics in December 1999. From 1993 until April 1997, Kári Stefánsson was a professor of Neurology, Neuropathology and Neuroscience at Harvard University; from 1983 to 1993, he held faculty positions in Neurology, Neuropathology and Neurosciences at the University of Chicago. Kári Stefánsson received his MD and Dr. Med. from the University of Iceland and is board-certified in neurology and neuropathology in the USA. He has published numerous articles on the genetics of common/complex diseases and has been among the leaders of the world in the discovery of variants in the sequence of the human genome that associate with the risk of common/complex traits. Kári Stefánsson was chosen by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential men of the year for 2007 and by *Newsweek* as one of the ten most important biologists of the 21st century. He was the recipient of the Jakobus Award 2007, The World Glaucoma Association Award for present scientific impact 2007, The European Society of Human Genetics Award 2009, and The Andre Jahre Award 2009.



Kári Stefánsson was due to speak at the 41st FEBS Congress on 'Genetics of common diseases'.

Theodor Bücher medal: Elena Conti, Max-Planck-Institut für Biochemie, Germany

Elena Conti studied Chemistry at the University of Pavia in Italy and received her PhD in 1996 from the Faculty of Physical Sciences at Imperial College London. For her post-doctoral studies, she joined the laboratory of John Kuriyan at the Rockefeller University in New York, where she worked on the mechanisms by which proteins are imported into the nucleus. In 1999, Elena Conti established her own research group at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, where she started to work on the mechanisms of RNA export to the cytoplasm. Her research developed to tackle how RNA export is connected to previous steps of RNA maturation and to subsequent steps of RNA surveillance and turnover. In particular, her group has been studying the molecular mechanisms of nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (an mRNA surveillance pathway that detects and degrades defective mRNAs with premature stop codons), as well the chemical mechanisms of RNA degradation, with a particular focus on the exosome complex. To obtain molecular insights into these processes, her group uses a combination of structural biology, biochemistry and biophysical approaches. Since 2007, Elena Conti has been a director at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Munich, where she is head of the Structural Cell Biology Department. In recognition of her work, she received the Leibniz Prize in 2008, the FEBS Sir Hans Krebs medal in 2011 and the Louis Jeantet Prize in 2014.



Elena Conti was due to speak at the 41st FEBS Congress on 'Molecular mechanisms of RNA degradation'.

Datta medal: Anthony Turner, Linköping University, Sweden

Anthony (Tony) Turner's name is synonymous with the field of biosensors. In the early 1980s, in collaboration with colleagues at Oxford University, he led the team that developed the type of in vitro mediated amperometric glucose biosensors for home use by diabetics that now dominates the US\$10 billion market. He went on to create a wide range of electrochemical, optical and piezoelectric biosensors with applications in medicine, process control, food safety, environmental monitoring and defence. His current research focuses on bioelectrochemistry, nanomaterials and synthetic receptors, with an emphasis on the interface between biomolecules and electronics, mass production of sensing systems and on the practical application of mobile sensors. He has over 750 publications and patents (>350 refereed journal papers and reviews) in the areas of biosensors and biomimetic sensors, published the first textbook on Biosensors, co-founded and is Editor-in-Chief of the principal journal in the field, *Biosensors & Bioelectronics*, and founded and chairs the World Congress on Biosensors. He has helped create several biosensor start-ups, advised numerous leading companies and institutions worldwide, been an expert witness in major biosensor patent litigations, and served as a high-level expert to the European Commission, for example in formulating Framework Programme calls. In November 2010, Tony joined Linköping University in Sweden to create a new Centre for Biosensors and Bioelectronics. His previous 35-year academic career in the UK culminated in the positions of Principal of Cranfield University at Silsoe and Distinguished Professor of Biotechnology. His work has been recognized with numerous honours and awards, including Ukraine's highest academic honour, the Vernadsky Gold Medal from the National Academy of Sciences, and the UK Royal Society of Chemistry's Theophilus Redwood Medal for Analytical Science.



Anthony Turner was due to speak on 'Digital health – The biochemical interface' at the 41st FEBS Congress; following cancellation of the event, he kindly supplied an audio slideset for delegates, hosted on the FEBS Congress website.



FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award 2016

Fiona Watt, King's College London, UK

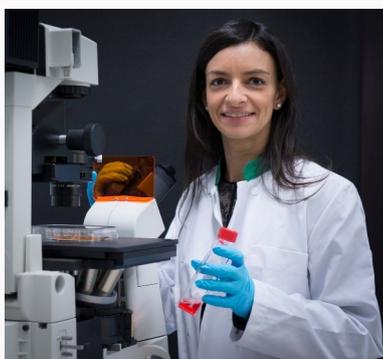
Fiona Watt, Director of the Centre for Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine at King's College London, was awarded the 2016 FEBS|EMBO Women in Science Award in recognition of her work uncovering the mechanisms that control mammalian epidermal stem cell renewal and differentiation, and for discovering how these processes are deregulated in cancer, wound healing and inflammatory skin disorders. Fiona Watt has made numerous fundamental discoveries, most recently about how the epidermis interacts with different classes of dermal fibroblasts, and how these normal signalling mechanisms go awry in cancer and skin disease. She was one of the first to discover that processes such as inflammation, physical forces and epigenetics influence skin stem cell behaviour.



Fiona Watt obtained her first degree from Cambridge University and her DPhil, in cell biology, from the University of Oxford. She was a postdoc at MIT, where she first began studying differentiation and tissue organization in mammalian epidermis. She established her first research group at the Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology and then spent 20 years at the CRUK London Research Institute (now part of the Francis Crick Institute). She helped to establish the CRUK Cambridge Research Institute and the Wellcome Trust Centre for Stem Cell Research, and in 2012 she moved to King's College London to found the Centre for Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine. Fiona Watt is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. She is internationally recognized for her work on stem cells and their interactions with the niche in healthy and diseased skin and she leads the UK Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Initiative. Fiona Watt will now deliver her award plenary lecture at the 42nd FEBS Congress in Jerusalem, 2017.

FEBS Anniversary Prizes (Kuşadası, 2016)

The awardees of the FEBS Anniversary Prizes of the Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie (GBM) are selected for their outstanding achievements in biochemistry, molecular biology or related areas from among researchers under the age of 40 invited to give a lecture at a FEBS Congress. The recipients from the planned 41st FEBS Congress 2016 were Milena Bellin (Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands) and Sven Diederichs [University of Freiburg; and German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany].



After a PhD at the University of Padua, Italy, **Milena Bellin** merged her long-standing interest in human pluripotent stem cell (hPSC) biology with her expertise in cardiac genetics by joining the group of Prof. K-L. Laugwitz at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, where she described one of the first hPSC models of long-QT syndrome (LQTS). She next joined Prof. C. Mummery's laboratory (Leiden, The Netherlands) with a personal IEF Marie Curie Fellowship, where she derived the first cardiac isogenic hPSC pairs for unravelling the molecular mechanisms underlying the type-2 LQTS, and generated a hPSC model to study the rare and recessive Jervell and Lange-Nielsen syndrome. The group led by Milena Bellin at the Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Leiden University Medical Center is now using patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells and gene targeting for cardiac

disease modelling, for developing hPSC-based platforms to be implemented in drug-screening and in safety-testing processes, and for generating 3D cardiac microtissues. Milena Bellin kindly provided a slideset of her intended 41st FEBS Congress talk on 'Isogenic human pluripotent stem cell pairs to study long-QT syndrome' for the Congress website's presentation feature following cancellation of the event.



Sven Diederichs conducted his PhD studies at the University Hospital, Münster and the University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany, and was then a postdoc at the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center in Boston, USA. In 2008, he was appointed independent junior group leader at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and the Institute of Pathology at the University Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, and from 2015 has headed the division 'RNA Biology & Cancer'. He also has a full professorship at the University of Freiburg and leads the division of 'Cancer Research' in the Department of Thoracic Surgery there. His current research focuses on long non-protein-encoding RNAs (lncRNAs), as well as their interacting RNA-binding proteins (RBPs). He discovered the lncRNA MALAT1 as one of the first lncRNAs linked to cancer and proved its active role as epigenetic regulator in the development of lung cancer metastases.

Sven Diederichs kindly contributed an audio slideset of his lecture 'Long non-coding RNAs – Messages from the dark matter of the lung cancer genome' to the FEBS Congress website following cancellation of the event.



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Israeli Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is delighted to invite you to the 42nd Congress of The Federation of the European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) on September 10–14th, 2017. This Congress will be held in the multi-cultural and historical city of Jerusalem at the well-known international convention center “Binyane Hauma”. The center is located at the entrance to Jerusalem and is only an hour away from Tel Aviv, the city that never sleeps. Less than an hour in the other direction brings you to the famous Dead Sea.

The 2017 FEBS Congress, entitled “From molecules to cells and back”, will cover the entire spectrum of molecular life sciences with symposia that include:

Cancer biology • Chromatin structure and epigenetic modifications • Molecular neuroscience • Mechanisms for protein homeostasis • Medicinal chemistry • Metabolomics and signaling • Molecular machines in action • Protein degradation • Signaling across membranes: receptors, channels and transporters • Systems biology • Structural computational biology

Pioneers and leading researchers from all aspects of molecular life sciences have confirmed their participation. Among the plenary speakers are Nobel laureate Robert J. Lefkowitz (Duke University), Patrick Cramer (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen), Carol Robinson (University of Oxford), Marcelo Rubinstein (University of Buenos Aires), Jonathan Weissman (University of California) and Feng Zhang (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

In addition, there will be early-bird practical sessions, and discussion sessions on topics such as science and society, careers and education. Active participation of delegates is encouraged through mini-lectures, speed talks, and poster sessions. Furthermore, the FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum (YSF), intended to promote interactions between pre- and post-doctoral scientists, is scheduled just before the Congress, on September 7–10th, 2017.

The preliminary program is on the Congress website at www.febscongress.org and registration is now open. To support participation of early-career scientists, FEBS bursaries are available.

We believe that the Congress will offer unique opportunities for scientific interactions, which will facilitate the initiation of friendships, collaborations, and joint projects.

We look forward to welcoming you in Jerusalem in 2017!

Abdussalam Azem, Chair • Amnon Horovitz • Israel Pecht • Michal Sharon • Hermona Soreq

Key Congress Dates

Congress Abstract Submission opening:	January 3, 2017
FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum application deadline:	March 24, 2017
FEBS Bursary Application deadline:	May 4, 2017
Abstract Submission deadline:	May 8, 2017
Early Bird Registration deadline:	June 1, 2017
Regular Registration deadline:	August 25, 2017

Farewell to Israel Pecht, FEBS Secretary General



Professor Israel Pecht has served as FEBS Secretary General, a pro bono position in the FEBS Executive Committee, with energy and commitment since 2008, following election for three successive terms. He steps down at the end of 2016, and in this interview looks back and shares thoughts on the role he served.

Israel Pecht has worked at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, for most of his career. His field is biophysical chemistry, where he focused on resolving elementary steps of key biochemical processes, from antigen recognition by the immune system and its coupling to effector processes to electron transfer reactions mediated by proteins, publishing over 350 research articles. Beyond research and teaching, he has served on a variety of national and international bodies including chairing the Israel Science Foundation (1989–1996) and serving as President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (1995–1998)

and of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (1999–2002). His many contributions have been recognized through numerous honorary positions and awards, such as being elected member of EMBO (1977) and honorary member of the Swedish Biophysical Society (1980), Hungarian Society for Immunology (1997) and the Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2012). He was a Distinguished Fairchild Scholar at the California Institute of Technology (1981–1982), and has honorary doctorates from the Debrecen University Medical School (1998) and the University of Athens (2013). In 1998 he was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Captain of the ship, strategist, advocate, problem solver... how have you seen the role of FEBS Secretary General?

It was certainly a hybrid of these roles at different levels. And there were some points in time akin to a captain guiding a ship – in a storm. I had first learnt about the day to day aspects of the role from observing my immediate predecessors, Vito Turk and Julio Celis, as Secretary Generals, but I mainly brought my own experiences and principles to the position. As in any function you discover and learn as you go along, and I hope I did a reasonable job.

One important responsibility was to encourage a harmoniously working FEBS Executive Committee (made up mainly of the Chairs of the various FEBS programmes). During most of my tenure, the Committee has benefited from many devoted members doing their best to deliver FEBS' aims.

You have dedicated considerable time to FEBS in different positions. What led you to get involved and continued to motivate you?

FEBS is very unique. It is a nongovernmental organization operating on its own funds. Its independence from any political interest and its leadership by scientists working for scientists, as well as the responsibility of connecting scientists across 'one Europe', made FEBS very attractive. While still a rather active and committed scientist, I chaired the Fellowships Committee for nine years (1993–2001). This brought me into contact with young scientists

from both sides of Europe's former iron curtain. I was elected to the role of Secretary General upon my retirement from the Weizmann Institute, allowing me to devote time to this demanding role while building on my previous experience in FEBS.

How do you think your personal history and experiences shaped your roles at FEBS?

I was born in Vienna, but luckily for my parents and myself we were able to emigrate in 1938 to what was then Palestine – shortly after the Anschluss [joining of Austria to Nazi Germany] where the life-threatening anti-Jewish measures started overnight. Although I grew up in Tel Aviv, away from Europe, it was in an environment deeply rooted there. So I felt personally very connected to Europe. Independently, I felt it is important for Israel as my country to work with and for Europe.

Another motivation was my experience as a postdoc in Göttingen, West Germany, in 1967–1970, working in the lab of Nobel laureate Manfred Eigen. The decision to move to post-holocaust Germany was a difficult one, as I was the first Israeli postdoc to work there after the Second World War. It was a time when Germany started to come to terms with its past, and Eigen's lab was an exceptional one, rather international yet embedded in a relatively provincial university town. My wife and I were there with our young children, and being fluent German speakers adapted well. Looking back, it was an interesting and most enriching scientific



and cultural experience that certainly had its impact on our future life.

This gave some background to my later work on FEBS Fellowships, and more broadly demonstrated the possibilities and value of bridge-building between countries through collaboration in scientific research.

What have been some of the highlights and challenges of your tenure as Secretary General?

There were many highlights, but the recent 50th anniversary of FEBS in 2014 comes clearly to mind – notable activities were publishing two books presenting overviews of FEBS' impressive achievements, and the successfully planned and scientifically strong joint anniversary conference with EMBO, hosted by the French society SFBBM.

Another recent highlight is the forward-thinking handling of our journals, under the direction of the FEBS Publications Committee Chair László Fésüs. During current times of upheaval in journal publishing, it culminated in the formation of FEBS Press this year, and this is a very significant positive development in FEBS history.

Together with the late great friend Mathias Sprinzl we devoted thought and considerable efforts trying to build supportive links with less well connected communities in Europe and beyond. It was not an easy task but we experienced some success, such as the recent welcoming of the biochemists of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the FEBS family.

It has also been good to see how the FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award has developed – there was initially some resistance to its introduction, but it has highlighted an outstanding group of female scientists to inspire others. Related to this, it is also encouraging that we have been able to have a strong representation of women among our FEBS Executive Committee.

There have certainly been challenges for FEBS along the way, such as dealing with the implications for learned societies of the move away from subscription journals. I also have to mention the recent cancellation of the FEBS Congress in Turkey, which was a most disappointing experience for all concerned, and forced many of us to deal with complex and unprecedented issues.

As FEBS Secretary General, how did you view the range of activities in the FEBS portfolio and what did/do you see as the priorities?

FEBS has rather diverse activities with different impacts and costs. The journals of FEBS are naturally always of prime importance, as the source

of FEBS' income, as well as directly contributing to one of its objectives in publishing research and as one of FEBS' touchpoints with the scientific community. Of all FEBS' programmes, Fellowships take the most funding, and undoubtedly make a significant impact on the individuals who receive them. While compared with large numbers of long-term postdoctoral fellowships offered by other organizations, FEBS' overall contributions in this area will remain modest, smaller elements of this programme, such as the Short-Term Fellowships, have been in great demand and deserve development.

I am more convinced than ever that our annual Congress, with its broad coverage across the molecular life sciences, is needed. The rate of increasing depth of insight in different research areas is incredible, and exposure to a range of work and learning directly from those who have carried it out is particularly important for senior PhD students or early postdocs deciding on their future.

Reaching out to scientists somewhat cut off from the main stream in Europe continues to be crucial for FEBS. We still have huge divergence in the quality of scientific activities and output across Europe and its neighbouring regions – in contrast, say, to more modest differences across regions of North America. More than before, talented individuals can move to work in European countries where resources and inspiring scientists are concentrated, but one also wants to see science developing in their own countries, where of course it can also have social and economic benefits. In addition to Europe still having some insular, isolated communities, we are also currently seeing increasing tendencies towards nationalism and segregation. Thus, I am sure that FEBS' leading role in connecting scientists is far from over. And this is even more so if FEBS considers areas beyond Europe's strict borders, east and south.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?

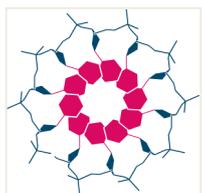
Yes – to read more! In my youth, I used to be a real bookworm, and am now looking forward for more time for that.

I will naturally be available for assistance to FEBS and its incoming Secretary General, and will be playing a part in the Organizing Committee of the 2017 FEBS Congress in Jerusalem.

*Interview by Carolyn Ellis
FEBS News Editor*

Prof. Vaclav Paces (Prague, Czech Republic) takes over as
FEBS Secretary General from 1 January 2017.

FEBS Constituent Society meetings: FEBS National Lectures



Prof. Michael Lisanti
(Director of the
Manchester
Breakthrough Breast
Cancer Research Unit

and the Manchester Centre for Cellular Metabolism; and Muriel Edith Rickman Chair of Breast Oncology, Institute of Cancer Sciences at the University of Manchester) gave a FEBS National Lecture entitled 'On the road to eliminating tumor initiating cells in breast cancers: are we there yet' at the plenary keynote session of the 2016 Annual Congress of the Hungarian Biochemical Society (MBKE). His talk outlined promising possible new ways of suppressing the proliferation of cancer stem cells. The discussed strategies exploit the evolutionary origin of mitochondria from aerobic bacteria, according to the endosymbiotic theory. Based on this idea, Michael Lisanti and coworkers have identified several classes of antibiotics that target mitochondrial biogenesis and thus can be repurposed to halt breast cancer stem cell proliferation.

The National Lecture was preceded by an introduction to the FEBS National Lecture Awards by Mihály Kovács, Secretary General of MBKE,



FEBS National Lecturer Michael Lisanti (second from left) with (left to right) László Buday (President, MBKE), Mihály Kovács (Secretary General, MBKE) and György Keserű (President, Drug Biochemistry Section, MBKE).

and an introduction to the lecturer by György Keserű, President of the Drug Biochemistry Section of MBKE. The Award was presented to the lecturer by László Buday, President of MBKE.

The English-language conference was held in Szeged, Hungary, from 28th to 31st August 2016, with around 170 participants representing molecular biology researchers working at Hungarian universities, and academic and industrial research units, as well as several invited speakers from foreign institutions.

Mihály Kovács
Secretary General, MBKE



Alan Warren (Cambridge, UK) was presented with a FEBS National Lecture Award at the recent 8th ÖGMBT Annual Meeting 2016 in Graz, Austria.

Alan Warren is a leading expert in the research field of ribosome biogenesis and its linkage to hereditary diseases, and gave a splendid and inspiring keynote lecture entitled 'Linking leukemia to quality control of ribosome biogenesis'. His talk focused on analysis of the structural and functional consequences of mutations in the highly conserved *SBDS* gene leading to the autosomal recessive disorder Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome (SDS). By combining genetic approaches in model organisms with biochemical and high-resolution structural studies including cryo-EM and single-particle imaging, Alan provided exciting new insights into the molecular mechanism underlying the SDS disorder.



Alan Warren, holding the FEBS National Lecture Award, with ÖGMBT President Angela Sessitsch.

The annual meeting of the Austrian Association of Molecular Life Sciences and Biotechnology (ÖGMBT) together with 'Biophysics Austria' was



held at the University of Graz, Austria, from 12th to 14th September 2016, and attracted around 400 participants. About 20 plenary speakers from over ten countries contributed to hot topics of current life science fields. With the overall title of the meeting as 'Life Sciences for the next Generation', it was the intention to shed light on future research fields and to discuss future balance of basic funding and science education. Furthermore, young scientists were encouraged and contributed to the meeting with their own session, the first of a permanent satellite, called 'ÖGMBT Young Life Scientists Austria'.

The meeting was organized into 20 sessions and included 50 short talks and 153 posters. The session topics included: Lipid Metabolism, Disorders and Cancer, Aging and Neurodegeneration, Enzymes and Nanomachines, Secretion Systems, Infectious Diseases and Novel Treatments, Microbiota Today, Systems and Synthetic Biology, Single Molecules and

Membranes, Translational Oncology and sessions devoted to Biophysics Austria. The meeting was accompanied by social programs and an industrial-partner exhibition. Additionally, a public roundtable discussion addressed the future of basic funding in Austria, with representatives of the Austrian government BMWF, the funding agencies FWF (Austrian Science Fund) and FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency), and ÖGMBT.

The local organizers Günther Koraimann and Joachim Reidl from the University of Graz were greatly satisfied with the success of the meeting, which was made possible by the efforts of Alexandra Khassidov (ÖGMBT) and the enthusiasm of all participants. The next annual meeting of ÖGMBT will be held in Innsbruck, in September 2017.

*Helmut Bergler, Günther Koraimann and Joachim Reidl
University of Graz, Austria*

FEBS Constituent Society updates

Over the following few pages, some of our larger Constituent Societies from across the FEBS area (France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and UK) present their recent news and upcoming plans – from 2017 annual meetings to calls for prize nominations.



Strong and active ties with the FEBS family

In 2014, its centenary year, the **French Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SFBBM)** hosted the joint FEBS–EMBO Conference in Paris, demonstrating the excellent and tight collaboration between SFBBM and FEBS for promoting and supporting research and education in biochemistry and molecular biology in France, Europe and beyond.

The adventure now continues since, on the initiative of Alain Krol, the SFBBM General Secretary, a joint conference project gathering the strengths of three FEBS Constituent Societies

– namely the SFBBM, the Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM) and the Portuguese Biochemical Society (SPB) – is becoming a reality, having recently been awarded funding under the FEBS3+ Meeting Programme. We are thus pleased to announce the '1st FEBS3+ Joint Meeting of the French–Portuguese–Spanish Biochemical and Molecular Biology Societies' which will be held in Barcelona, Spain, October 23–26, 2017.

Further evidence of the close relationships between SFBBM and FEBS is the strong involvement of five SFBBM members in FEBS Committees. This takes place at the highest level, not only with the outgoing SFBBM President, Prof. Frédéric Dardel, acting as the Chair of FEBS in

2016, but also with the very recent election of Alain Krol, SFBBM General Secretary, as Chair of the Fellowships Committee from next year. In this regard, it is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Jacques Henry Weil, Chair of the FEBS Science and Society Committee, on October 6th. Jacques was also a mainstay of our Society, acting in recent years as International Relations Secretary, and a very active member in many other organizations such as EMBO, IUBMB and EMBC. Jacques was the first director of the Institute of Plant Molecular Biology in Strasbourg and a great scientist. He will be truly and dearly missed. An obituary appears on page 25 of this *FEBS News* issue.

*Dominique Legrand
President, SFBBM*



Fall Conference 2017 and 68th Mosbacher Kolloquium

The biennial international fall conference of the **German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (GBM e.V.)** will take place from September 24th to 27th, 2017, at the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. The GBM will bring together about 800 scientists and over 60 speakers from Germany and from across the globe to explore the 'Molecular Basis of Life'.

The congress will cover the entire spectrum of molecular life sciences. In addition, there will be sessions on research in the bioscience industry, spectroscopic methods and biomarkers, career

development and education, as well as activities tailored specifically for scientists in the early stages of their careers. GBM will award the Otto Warburg Medal, the Fritz Lipmann and the Otto Meyerhof prize, two PhD awards and several poster awards.

For registration, abstract submission, details of the scientific program and all congress-related information, please visit our congress website at www.molecular-basis-of-life.org.

The Mosbacher Kolloquium is the traditional annual spring meeting of GBM. The topic of the 68th meeting is 'Cell Organelles – Origin, Dynamics and Communication'. The conference will take place from March 30th to April 1st, 2017, in Mosbach/Baden. The scientific organizers are Chris Meisinger (Freiburg), Jan Riemer (Köln) and



International Conference of the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

September 24 - 27, 2017
Ruhr University Bochum

Blanche Schwappach (Göttingen). During the conference, GBM will award the Feodor Lynen medal to Jodi Nunnari (Davis, USA) and the Eduard Buchner Prize to Manu Hegde (Cambridge, UK).

For registration, abstract submission and detailed information about the program and the venue, please visit the conference website at www.mosbacher-kolloquium.org.

Anke Lischeid
Managing Director, GBM



Annual Congress 2017, and Meeting of PhD Students

The **Italian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SIB)** is busy planning activities for next year. The main efforts will be dedicated to the organization of the 2017 National Annual Congress, a three-day meeting hosted in the Naples district (September 20–22, 2017). The Scientific Committee is working hard to provide an excellent opportunity for Italian biochemists to present their latest results in the diverse fields of life science and to highlight cutting-edge and stimulating topics of common interest.

SIB will strongly encourage Junior Members to play an active part in the meeting, with Mini-Lectures during the Symposia sessions, or at Speed Talks.

There will be special low Congress registration fees for young researchers, and bursaries to assist participation of early-career researchers. Two Junior Members will be selected and honoured with a fellowship for their outstanding early-career research. Members from other FEBS societies are welcome.

In 2017, SIB will also be involved in the promotion and organization of the 29th National Meeting of PhD Students in Biochemical Sciences (June 5–9, 2017), in the traditional site of



Brallo di Pregola, a small village in the hilly neighbourhood of Pavia, 35 km south of Milan (www.3.unipv.it/bralweb/). Since the first such meeting in 1988 (photo above is from a previous event), students at these gatherings of entirely Italian PhD students have enjoyed the opportunities for debates with senior speakers and for establishing long-lasting relationships with fellow students. Informal discussions and social activities will also be organized.

Bruno Giardina
President, SIB



Winter Meeting 2017

The **Norwegian Biochemical Society (NBS)** is looking forward to its 53rd annual meeting in January. The annual NBS meetings, also known as the NBS Contact Meetings and more informally as simply The Winter Meetings, traditionally take place in January, preferably in the high mountains and as far as possible away from civilization. That being said, Norwegian high mountain resorts generally are very civilized nowadays, so many will associate the Winter Meetings with well-equipped hotels with good food and drink, in addition to a varied and high-class scientific program

and an exhibition of instruments and equipment. There is also time for skiing, both cross-country and downhill!

The Norwegian Biochemical Society has had the fortune to have as members not only biochemists, but also molecular biologists and students and researchers from other molecular life science disciplines. The society presently has 700 members, and we expect about 300 of these to participate in the meeting.

The 2017 meeting is arranged at Storefjell Resort Hotel (pictured) by the NBS branch at The Norwegian University of Life Sciences, who have put together an attractive program that can be studied at the NBS website www.biokjemisk.no. Briefly, the plenary speakers include Thomas



Helleday, Vincent Lynch, Emmanuelle Charpentier, Ines Thiele, Ralph Bock, Sophien Kamoun, Dan Tawfik, Gideon Davis, Marianne Fyhn and Eric Martens, and minisymposia cover the breadth of the molecular life sciences. The meeting is open for NBS members as well as members of our sister organizations in FEBS and IUBMB.

*Tom Kristensen
General Secretary, NBS*



2017 SEBBM Prizes

The **Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM)** announces the following Prizes, with the primary aim of rewarding the work carried out by its members, especially young researchers. An awards ceremony will take place at the next Meeting, which will be a joint one with the French Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Portuguese Biochemical Society, under the FEBS3+ Meeting Programme, to be held in Barcelona, October 23–26, 2017.

• The ‘Margarita Lorenzo’ Scientific Prize (sponsored by Lilly Foundation) will reward with €2000 the best communication

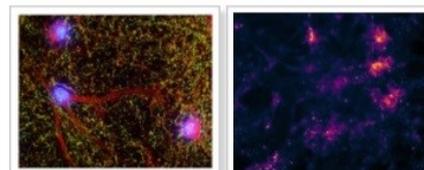
presented by researchers under 35 years in the area of ‘Diabetes, obesity and metabolic regulation’.

• The ‘José Tormo’ Prize (sponsored by BRUKER Española) will reward with €1000 the best Structural Biology research paper published during 2016–2017 by candidates under 33 years.

• The Roche Prize will reward the best communication panels with a €600 prize and two accessits of €200. Candidates must be under 31 years.

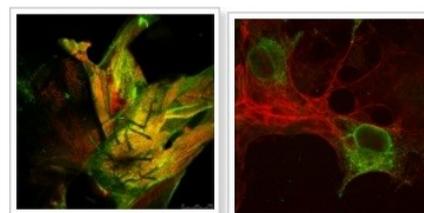
• The Fisher Scientific Prize offers a €1000 award and a second prize of €500 for the best two scientific papers published by SEBBM members under 32 years. Papers will be selected from those previously published as ‘Articles of the month’ on SEBBM’s website.

• The ‘Young Researcher’ SEBBM-BIOTOOLS Prize aims to recognize with an award of



Octubre 2016

Septiembre 2016



Julio 2016

Agosto 2016

€2500 all the work of a young biochemist under 40 years.

• The ‘Best scientific picture’ Prize (sponsored by Eppendorf) awards with €600 the best among the pictures published monthly in SEBBM’s ‘Science Art Gallery’, one of our website sections (pictured above).

More information on the awards can be found at: www.sebbm.es.

*Almudena Porras
Scientific Secretary, SEBBM*



A merger and upcoming events

LS² (Life Sciences Switzerland, www.ls2.ch) is the largest non-profit organization for life scientists in Switzerland. It emerged from the former USGEB (Union of Swiss Societies for Experimental Biology) when three societies – Swiss Society for Molecular & Cellular Biosciences, Swiss Proteomics Society, and Swiss Physiological Society – merged into a single grass-root organization in January 2016 and became LS² sections. Other societies established strong partnerships with LS² to enhance collaboration and expand its

scope and mission. With this backbone, LS² represents a unique platform to foster and support the interests of life sciences and their scientists in Switzerland.

LS² organizes the renowned LS² Annual Meeting (Zurich, February 2–3, 2017; www.ls2-annual-meeting.ch) and the Annual Physiology and Proteomics section meetings. With support from the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), LS² provides 30–40 travel grants to PhD students each year.

In addition, the LS² office and board have implemented LS² Satellite Meetings to promote early-career scientists at major Swiss life sciences events. The first event preceded the prestigious Louis-Jeantet symposium in Geneva, while the second will open the ‘Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry’ meeting in



Bern in February 2017 (follow updates on: www.meetings.ls2.ch). To reach out to the public, LS² will present a booth during ‘Planète Santé: LIVE’ (November 24–27, 2016, SwissTech Convention Center, Lausanne), expecting inspiring public debates and interactions with the around 30,000 participants.

Altogether, we aim at providing our nearly 1200 members and the public with a unique communication and interaction platform across the country.

*Carolin von Schoultz
Scientific Officer, LS²*



BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

Biochemical Society Awards 2018

[Nominations](#) are now open for the [2018 awards](#) from the **Biochemical Society (UK)**. The awards recognize established and early-career researchers, scientists, educators and industry partners for their contribution to the molecular biosciences; we encourage nominations that reflect the diversity of the biosciences community. For 2018 we are delighted to introduce three new awards:

[International Award](#)

Recognizes distinguished and independent interdisciplinary research conducted outside of the

UK and Ireland that illustrates the importance of molecular biosciences in the advancement of life science research.

[Teaching Excellence Award](#)

Recognizes an outstanding individual working in Higher Education who champions the importance of excellence and innovation in biochemistry teaching in order to advance student learning and achievement, both within and beyond their own department and institution.

[Industry and Academic Collaboration Award](#)

Awarded to an outstanding individual who has made an inspirational contribution to the biosciences and to industry–academia interactions.

Nominations can be submitted by members and non-members of



the Biochemical Society. Nominations close on 31st January 2017.

We would also like to draw attention to the [EMBO Conference – Helicases and Nucleic Acid-Based Machines](#) (23–28 July 2017, Kloster Banz Conference Centre, near Bamberg, Germany), which is sponsored by Harden Conferences. Biochemical Society members can save up to £100 on the registration fee.

*Laura Woodland
Head of Membership Engagement
Biochemical Society*



In Memoriam

Jacques Henry Weil
1934–2016

Jacques Henry Weil, who died on 6th October 2016 in Strasbourg, had been Chair of the FEBS Science and Society Committee and a member of the FEBS Executive Committee since 2011, where his experience, conscientiousness and considerate nature were much valued. He was also a member of the Organizing Committee of the FEBS–EMBO 2014 Conference in Paris. However, these contributions to the work of FEBS were only a very small part of the many national and international activities that he performed during his life.

After studying pharmacy in Strasbourg, he obtained a Fulbright fellowship in 1956 to work as a teaching assistant to the School of Pharmacy of the University of Wisconsin, USA – and it was from this time that Jacques spoke and wrote English fluently. On returning to Strasbourg in 1957, he took up a researcher position at the CNRS (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) with the support of J.-P. Ebel, who had just become Professor of Biochemistry and was building up a research laboratory. Jacques then began to work on polyphosphates and nucleic acids. He presented his PhD in 1964, moved along with other groups of J.-P. Ebel to the newly built *Institut de Physiologie et de Chimie biologique* in 1965, and became Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Strasbourg in 1966.

At this time he also spent another year in the USA, as a postdoc in Yale in the laboratory of Alan Garen where he worked on the suppression of nonsense mutations in *E. coli*. Upon his return to Strasbourg he started to study chloroplast tRNAs and demonstrated that fmet-tRNA is involved in the initiation of protein synthesis, as had been shown to be the case in *E. coli*. He became Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Strasbourg in 1970, and between 1977 and 1981 was Vice-President for research of the University.

In the meantime, the CNRS built an *Institut de Biologie moléculaire et cellulaire* (IBMC), which opened in 1973 with three laboratories – those of J.-P. Ebel, G. Dirheimer and J.H.Weil. At this time, Jacques' group comprised 11 researchers, university assistants and PhD students focusing on comparative studies on plant mitochondria and chloroplast tRNAs and aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Jacques stayed 14



years at IBMC, until the building in 1987 of the nearby *Institut de Biologie moléculaire des Plantes* (IBMP), where his laboratory took the name 'Department of plant genomes' and expanded to 35 CNRS researchers, assistants and students. Jacques became the first Director of IBMP, which comprised up to 200 people, and remained in this post until 1999. Jacques was a great traveller and his numerous international contacts led to many PhD students or postdocs from countries including Madagascar, India, Japan, Belgium, Italy and Portugal coming to study and work at IBMP.

Beyond his role at IBMP, Jacques' other contributions included President of the EMBL Council 1985–1987, President of the EMBO Conference (EMBC) 1988–1994, and Scientific Adviser of the Human Frontier Science Programme 1989–1999. He was also involved in journal editorial activities, including as Editor-in-Chief of *Plant Science* and as an Editor on *Plant Molecular Biology*, *FEBS Letters* and *IUBMB Life*.

Jacques retired in 1999. But a man as dynamic as he was could not have stayed at home doing crosswords or playing patience. Thus, he left his office in IBMP for another one at the Botanical Institute and became General Secretary of IUBMB from 2001 to 2009. In addition, he continued to edit his popular book of biochemistry (*Biochimie générale*), the 11th edition of it having appeared in 2009.

The numerous people, all around the world, who got to know him will always remember Jacques as a very open-minded man, easily building friendly connections with others, helping developing countries to advance biochemistry, and never losing his sense of humour.

Guy Dirheimer
FEBS Secretary General 1985–1989
FEBS Chair 1999–2002

Scientific Events Calendar



The 42nd FEBS Congress is preceded by:

17th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum

Jerusalem, Israel; September 7–10, 2017

bit.ly/FEBSYSF2017

IUBMB–FEBS conference: New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education

Rehovot, Israel; September 6–8, 2017

www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017/

1st Biology for Physics Conference: Is there new Physics in Living Matter?

Barcelona, Spain

January 15–18, 2017

www.bioforphys.org/

Norwegian Biochemical Society Annual Meeting: The 53rd NBS contact meeting

Gol, Norway

January 19–22, 2017

www.biokjemisk.no/contact-meeting-2017/

LS² (Life Sciences Switzerland) Annual Meeting

Zurich, Switzerland

February 2–3, 2017

ls2-annual-meeting.ch/

Fatty Acids & Lipids Course: Chemistry, Biology and Analysis

Dundee, UK

February 23–24, 2017

www.huttonltd.com/lipids-course-2017.aspx

68th Mosbacher Kolloquium – “Cell Organelles: Origin, Dynamics and Communication”

Mosbach/Baden, Germany

March 30 – April 1, 2017

www.mosbacher-kolloquium.org

FEBS Workshop

Nucleotide excision repair and crosslink repair – from molecules to mankind

Smolenice, Slovakia

May 7–11, 2017

www.exon.sk/smolenice2017/

HFP2017: molecular mechanisms of host–pathogen interactions and virulence in human fungal pathogens

La Colle sur Loup, France

May 13–19, 2017

www.abdn.ac.uk/hfp2017/

Joint FEBS/EMBO Lecture Course Biophysics and medicine of channels and transporters: electrifying new insights

Erice, Sicily, Italy

May 14–20, 2017

channels.ge.ibf.cnr.it

FEBS Practical and Lecture Course Chemistry of metals in biological systems

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

May 21–28, 2017

cpaquete.wixsite.com/louvain2017

FEBS Advanced Lecture Course Matrix pathobiology, signaling and molecular targets

Spetses Island, Greece

May 25–30, 2017

www.febs-mpst2017.upatras.gr

Keystone Symposium: Single Cell Omics

Stockholm, Sweden

May 26–30, 2017

www.kestonesymposia.org/17E3

FEBS Advanced Lecture course and ECF2017 meeting on

“cytoskeleton: mechanical coupling from the plasma membrane to nucleus”

Helsinki, Finland

June 4–8, 2017

www.cytoskeleton2017.com

FEBS Practical Course

8th International practical course in systems biology

Göteborg, Sweden

June 5–16, 2017

www.icysb.se/

FEBS Practical Course

Functional imaging of cellular signals

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

June 11–16, 2017

intranet.lcam-fnwi.nl/

Joint FEBS/EMBO Lecture Course Molecular architecture, dynamics and function of biomembranes

Cargèse, France

June 12–22, 2017

web.science.uu.nl/cargese2017

FEBS Workshop

Biological surfaces and interfaces

Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

July 2–7, 2017

mimeresearch.com/biointerfaces2017/

FEBS Advanced Lecture Course

Nuclear receptors and epigenomic mechanisms in human disease and aging

Spetses Island, Greece

August 27 – Sept 1, 2017

ki.se/en/bionut/spetses-2017

The 42nd FEBS Congress: From Molecules to Cells and Back

Jerusalem, Israel

September 10–14, 2017

www.febscongress.org

GBM Fall Conference 2017 – The Molecular Basis of Life

Bochum, Germany

September 24–27, 2017

www.molecular-basis-of-life.org

FEBS Advanced Lecture Course

Immune system: genes, receptors and regulation

Hvar Island, Croatia

September 23–30, 2017

www.febs-immunology-course.org/

Other meeting listings:

EMBO|EMBL Symposia 2017

www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2017

EMBL/EMBO Courses and Conferences 2017

<https://goo.gl/Xjibz7W>

To announce a scientific event in *FEBS News* and on the FEBS website, please email brief details to the [webmaster](#). Priority will be given to events in the FEBS area on topics within the molecular life sciences.