



# FEBS News

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

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2021  
IUBMB  
46TH  
FEBS  
PABMB  
2022  
9-14 JULY  
LISBON PORTUGAL

THE BIOCHEMISTRY  
**GLOBAL** SUMMIT LISBON



## Inside this issue:

Scientific event  
formats

Page 4

FEBS 2021 Congress  
round-up

Page 8

FEBS Press

Page 15

FEBS Community

Page 23

IUBMB-FEBS-PABMB  
Congress 2022

Page 29

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**Contents:**

<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Scientific meetings: the pandemic shake up</b> What should happen now?	<b>4</b>
<b>The 45th FEBS Congress round-up</b> A look back at a unique virtual Congress and YSF	<b>8</b>
<b>FEBS Press</b> The Editors-in-Chief talk about their journals	<b>15</b>
<b>FEBS Fellowships &amp; FEBS Excellence Award</b> An overview of current schemes	<b>18</b>
<b>FEBS Education activities</b> Recent events for educators in pandemic times	<b>19</b>
<b>FEBS and the ENABLE conference</b> A new role for FEBS and IUBMB starts	<b>21</b>
<b>FEBS Network</b> Brief news and highlighted content	<b>22</b>
<b>FEBS Science and Society</b> A call for Constituent Society proposals	<b>22</b>
<b>FEBS Community</b> A FEBS 3+ meeting, National Lectures, Council elections, interviews	<b>23</b>
<b>IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress &amp; YSF 2022</b> Registration and abstract submission are open – find out ten reasons to be part of it!	<b>29</b>
<b>FEBS Advanced Courses</b> Choose from a plethora of events in 2022	<b>32</b>



**Cover:** Save the dates for the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress in 2022 ('The Biochemistry Global Summit')! The Congress and preceding YSF are introduced on pages 29–32.



**About FEBS News:** This issue as well as all former issues of *FEBS News* are available online at [www.febs.org](http://www.febs.org). To receive an email when a new *FEBS News* issue is out, 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](mailto: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](#). In addition, Constituent Societies of FEBS are able to post news on the [FEBS Network](#) platform.

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Dear colleagues,

Since the last issue of *FEBS News*, the COVID-19 pandemic has upturned our personal lives, our work as scientists, and also the operation and some programmes of FEBS.

FEBS has long championed international scientific meetings for presentation and discussion of latest research, and for training and networking, and this has of course been an area particularly curtailed or altered over the past 18 months or so. To what extent are online conferences here to stay as the pandemic recedes? The first section of this *FEBS News* issue looks at some of the pros and cons in this topical discussion, with opinions from recent event organizers (pages 4–7).

On this note, I would like to convey our special thanks to the Slovenian Biochemical Society and the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for their sterling efforts with the 45th FEBS Congress and the 20th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum, first in 2020 dealing with postponement, and then in 2021 adapting to the continued difficult situation and efficiently arranging the conversions of these events to new virtual formats – this was a significant achievement. We missed very much meeting in person in Ljubljana for the Congress but

appreciated a safe way at this time to hear and discuss top science from many excellent speakers, and also to explore new ways of scientific event delivery (pages 8–14).

The next section of *FEBS News* features the esteemed Editors-in-Chief of our four FEBS journals and their journal aims (pages 15–18). As stressed by the Editors, the journals of FEBS not only provide excellent routes for research publication, but also income that funds other FEBS activities, from Fellowships to scientific meetings. Regarding developments with open access, we are pleased to see our two fully open access journals – *FEBS Open Bio* and *Molecular Oncology* – are attracting increasing submissions, and we congratulate *FEBS Open Bio* on its 10th anniversary next month! Our older, subscription journals – *The FEBS Journal* and *FEBS Letters* – now also offer open access options, and the number of countries (many in the FEBS area) where scientists can benefit from 'read and publish' and similar transitional arrangements made by our publisher Wiley, to facilitate open access publishing at no direct cost to the author, has continued to rise.

Among the many FEBS activities covered in this issue of *FEBS News* I would next like to highlight two new initiatives, and I encourage you to inform your Society members and institutes about

them. First, the FEBS Excellence Award is a prestigious new funding scheme offering €100,000 for early-career group leaders in FEBS countries; find details on page 18. Second, FEBS with IUBMB has begun funding the ENABLE conference series as a winter postdoc–PhD meeting, with benefits for delegates and the organizing host institute alike. A call for a new host institute from a FEBS country for the 2023 event is now open (page 21).

Towards the end of this issue, we look ahead to 2022. There will be a wide choice of FEBS Advanced Courses to choose from next year (pages 32–33), and we are looking forward to a wonderful opportunity to get together in person to present and discuss work across the molecular life sciences, celebrate achievements, and meet new and old friends at the joint FEBS, IUBMB and PABMB Congresses in Lisbon next July – 'The Biochemistry Global Summit' (pages 29–31).

Václav Pačes  
FEBS Secretary General



## Upcoming FEBS application deadlines

### IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress 2022

Young Scientists' Forum:  
15 December 2021

Congress abstracts:  
10 March 2022

FEBS Congress bursaries:  
10 March 2022

FEBS Congress Mathias Sprinzl scheme:  
10 March 2022

### 2022 FEBS Advanced Courses

See individual event websites

### 2023 Advanced Courses proposals

1 March and 1 August 2022

### FEBS Fellowships

Summer Fellowships: 15 May 2022

Short-Term Fellowships and Collaborative Developmental Scholarships: applications can be sent throughout year

FEBS Excellence Award: 1 September 2022

### FEBS Constituent Society 'Science & Society' proposals

15 November 2021

### 2022 FEBS3+ meeting proposals

30 November 2021

### 2023 FEBS–IUBMB–ENABLE hosting

31 January 2022

## Scientific meetings: the pandemic shake up

Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck and pushed event organizers and platform developers together to rapidly deliver reimagined scientific meetings online, all was not rosy in the garden of face-to-face academic conferences. The carbon footprint from travel to such events, the financial costs for science and for individuals for these trips, the time away from family and other work commitments – these were important issues of concern. Surely the demonstration of a variety of quite successful virtual formats for meetings over the past 18 months means things will now not go back to how they were?

Well, it seems it is not that simple. While researchers have enjoyed easy access to a greater range of talks, and saving of money and time, the changes have forced questions on what exactly are the aims and value of a scientific meeting for different groups involved and different types of event, and how are they best achieved. Over 70% of participants answering the virtual 45th FEBS Congress survey said it was extremely, very or somewhat likely that they would attend a large scientific conference online after the end of the pandemic, yet it seems many researchers can't wait to get back to in-person meetings. For some, the

trip itself is an important element of an event, a luxury allowing distance and time from normal distractions and so the chance to focus on and be reinvigorated by new ideas and discussions. For others, casual face-to-face chats and shared enjoyment of science and a venue in person are crucial to the overall experience and establishing contacts, and hard to recreate online. Could it also be the case that there is more reticence about sharing latest findings in online and more permanent presentations? 'Hybrid' events are presented as a future solution, taking something from the best of both worlds and suiting different circumstances and preferences, but in reality may not be simple to achieve or solve all issues.

To enlighten our thinking, here two scientific event organizers – a FEBS Constituent Society president overseeing online national meetings, and a FEBS Advanced Course organizer running a physical event again – share some thoughts on the virtual versus physical meeting debate in the light of their recent event experiences. This is followed by brief views from the scientists in the FEBS Executive Committee overseeing FEBS events such as FEBS Advanced Courses, FEBS meetings for educators, and the FEBS Congress.



**Lukas Huber**  
Innsbruck, Austria

### Your background

I'm president of The Austrian Association of Molecular Life Sciences and Biotechnology (ÖGMBT), a FEBS member Society. My research interests include signal transduction, proteomics and translational research. I'm Director of the Institute of Cell Biology at the Biocenter of Innsbruck Medical University.



### Why an online national meeting?

In both 2020 and 2021 the ÖGMBT annual meetings (see 2021 banner above) have been held virtually. We took the decision early in the pandemic in 2020 to try this when many other organizations were postponing events because we felt we owed it to the young scientists to provide a platform where they could meet and present their results and where we could celebrate achievements. This year we could build on the positive experience from

the 2020 meeting while the pandemic persists to some extent, to provide a marvellous, high-quality online meeting.

### What do you like or feel is important about virtual events?

For me, the best thing is all the time and trouble saved by not travelling – the actual travel and also administering applications for travel support and so on. Taking travel out of the equation also means we've been able to attract some excellent speakers far away from Austria to



deliver key talks. In addition, I've really liked seeing new and creative approaches to communication evolve – one example that comes to mind is a great flash talk video presentation on autophagy by a young scientist where assembly of components is sketched by hand. We have streamed and kept key lectures from the meetings on YouTube, allowing them to be appreciated again or beyond the normally closed auditorium of a meeting. It is also pleasing to see high numbers of participants at our live talks when they are delivered online. All in all, I feel online meetings allow very efficient consuming and speeding up of the spread of good science.

#### What about the drawbacks of online meetings?

We've tried hard to consider them and devise ways to minimize them. For

example, to help interactions we use Zoom breakout rooms for interested audience members to talk further with speakers directly after presentations. We spread out our meeting schedule, with sessions on certain afternoons over three weeks this year, so people do not have intense days following many talks on their laptops. In addition, we listened carefully and worked with our exhibitors and sponsors when we realised our virtual exhibition in 2020 was not working optimally for them; this year we integrated company sessions more directly into the program, which have given them more benefits.

The lack of in-person contacts can be considered a drawback for career steps and job hunting at virtual meetings, but talks from representatives of companies and non-profits organized by our young scientist section have worked

well online. Finally, we produce and mail a printed program to delegates to help the online event seem special and to encourage engagement.

#### What are your predictions for scientific meetings for next year and beyond?

After two years of online meetings, ÖGMBT would like to provide a face-to-face experience in autumn 2022, pandemic allowing. But we will keep some things we have learned or developed from the online events, so overall our meeting experience will be enhanced and have some 'hybrid' elements. From my own perspective, I will enjoy meeting old friends and colleagues at certain meetings face to face, but I will certainly still have one eye open for virtual meetings and talks in future because of the greater convenience and safety for health of attending this way.



**Ute Vothknecht**  
Bonn, Germany



#### Your background

I am a plant cell biologist at the Institute of Cellular & Molecular Botany at the University of Bonn, where I lead a lab focused on organellar biogenesis, function and regulation. I was the scientific co-organizer (with Markus Teige, Austria) of the FEBS Workshop 'Plant Organellar Signalling' held 19–23 September 2021 at Primošten, Croatia (group event photo above).

#### How did you decide about going ahead with a face-to-face FEBS Workshop this September?

We quite quickly discarded the idea of a digital-only workshop: we'd found something missing at other virtual

meetings and our gathering happens only every couple of years so we did not want to miss meeting up in person if it was possible. Postponements are also not simple, and in addition we were aware that many other events are already rescheduled for 2022. However, it was important for us to monitor how our speakers and delegates were feeling about attendance in person this year. Aside from two speakers from Australia, who were not allowed to travel, most of our invited lecturers were willing and able to travel, even from the USA, and we had a good level of delegate registrations for the physical event by July. We were fortunate in the setting

of our event (a roomy airy hotel on a semi-island, with outside space and separation from the public), a cancellation option offered till quite late by our hotel and our event organizer, and also the timing (after progress with vaccination programs and after the tourist holiday season), which allowed the event to be run in a COVID-safe way. There were controls on entry into Croatia and at the hotel, and we had additional checks/tests at the registration desk.

#### What do you like or feel is important about in-person events?

Talks can be delivered and questions asked online – although discussions

can be more lively with a physical audience. But I think what is special about physical events that cannot be reproduced well at an online event currently is what happens in between the scheduled program: it is often in the casual informal chats in a relaxed atmosphere or over meals where collaborations are forged, career connections are made, and ideas spring into one's mind from discussions – whether these are chats between junior and senior researchers or among the same generation. I speak from my own experience where I discovered next early-career steps from such interactions. Such conversations are often between just two or three people and things can be said that would not be presented in front of a large audience or in a digital space with unknown people.

Our workshop also brought everyone together in one place away from their normal distractions and we saw that

people were so eager to fully engage with all aspects of the face-to-face event, to hear science and discuss science at any time of day.

#### What about the negatives of physical events?

Right now for organizers a negative is certainly managing effectively and safely the COVID situation ahead of and during the event. It is also extra effort for travellers, depending on test requirements for their country for arrival and return. In addition, regarding the well-known environmental and financial costs of physical scientific meetings, I think a useful approach may be for individual scientists to just be more selective in what physical meetings they attend, choosing very carefully, and so travelling to fewer overall.

The problem of barriers for attending physical events due to certain situations may be met in some other

ways. For example, at our event we had a couple of delegates who could not attend for personal reasons, and we made some arrangements for a low-key Zoom access for them.

#### What are your predictions for scientific meetings for next year and beyond?

I think scientists will be very keen to get back to in-person meetings next year after this long break, and there will be a large choice of events due to postponements. But I also expect that after this pandemic period there will be some reflection, with scientists asking themselves whether they really missed out so much by not attending so many meetings. Going forward, some researchers will likely consider also online attendance at hybrid or fully virtual events where these are offered, where perhaps they can dip into a few talks that particularly interest them rather than travelling to and attending a whole meeting.

## Views from FEBS events programmes



### FEBS Advanced Courses

We have found that most Advanced Courses organizers have wanted to postpone their events during the pandemic rather than convert them to an online experience, and the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee has supported these postponements – in some cases from 2020 to 2021 and then again to 2022. A smaller number of Advanced Courses have experimented with fully virtual or, more recently, hybrid formats; for example, a couple have used a FEBS-provided site related to the FEBS Network to support the online event experience. The adaptation to provide such virtual opportunities for research presentation, learning and connections for

early-career scientists during this difficult time of restricted travel has been welcomed.

Looking ahead, it is the current view of the Advanced Courses Committee that treasured aspects from the long tradition of FEBS Advanced Courses – the informal atmosphere at the event, many relaxed opportunities for chats between senior and junior scientists, the chance to focus fully on the event away from everyday life – are best met with a live in-person meeting at a special location, and this chimes with how most of our event organizers wish to proceed. It is also worth noting that some of our Advanced Courses include practical training elements that need hands-on



participation. However, to be receptive to new advances in event delivery and to organizers and delegates who may be interested in online approaches for various reasons, the committee will be open to proposals for virtual/hybrid events in the calls for applications in 2022 for Advanced Courses event funding, as well as offering its established popular in-person event formats.

*Beáta G. Vértessy*  
*Chair, FEBS Advanced Courses Committee*

### **FEBS Education events**

Almost all educators had to move abruptly to online teaching in the first weeks of the pandemic. Since the FEBS Education Committee's role is to support and empower educators and students in the necessary transformations of these challenging times, our motto in this period (from Vivian Greene) was:

“Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.  
It's about learning how to dance in the rain.”

We initiated a Seasonal Webinar series on education, with key speakers sharing their knowledge and experience. These were well attended and we plan to keep these activities for this academic year as well. We also organized the Education Ambassadors Meeting as virtual this year, using a range of online tools (see page 20 for further details). Although ambassadors were glad to have participated in a structured meeting in the comfort of their homes or offices, they preferred to have a physical meeting next, expressing the benefit and joy of in-person networking.

*Ferhan G. Sağın*  
*Chair, FEBS Education Committee*

### **The FEBS Congress**

The conversion of the 45th FEBS Congress to a virtual format in 2021 was an insightful process for FEBS, and despite drawbacks we were pleased to work with the local organizers and event companies to be able to offer this alternative approach for scientific knowledge exchange during the COVID-19 pandemic. When converting the event, we lost some registered participants who preferred a physical meeting but gained others interested in the new plans, and overall the event survey showed the virtual Congress was well received.

However, following two summers without a physical Congress we are looking forward very much to an in-person event in Lisbon in 2022.

Almost all of us have had the opportunity to attend a virtual event during the past 18 months and draw our own conclusions. My view is that, while the virtual format can be very convenient for some smaller meetings and has certain benefits, an event with many participants and activities and longer duration, such as a FEBS Congress, is best served by an in-person gathering if this is possible.

There are three reasons in particular that are important in this conclusion. First, at an in-person Congress, the priority for any participant is the Congress itself – attending the sessions, viewing posters and stands, and relaxed chatting at breaks and over meals. In contrast, at a virtual event with long days at the computer, full focus on all aspects of the conference may be lost because lab work, teaching and other pressures beckon. Second, the important ‘networking’ aspects of the Congress – for young scientists to meet senior scientists known before only through papers or protocols, to explore a visit to another lab for postdoctoral work, to start to form their own networks with their peers, or to chat with exhibitors, as well as for senior participants to meet long-time colleagues and friends – seem most effective and enjoyable when people can meet in a relaxed way in person. Third, posters and sponsors are core elements of a large scientific meeting like the FEBS Congress. Despite online opportunities for poster presenters such as poster videos and video connections, we feel the experience for poster presenters at a Congress may be best with in-person interactions in a poster hall and with full focus on the event. Similarly, although 3D virtual exhibition booths were provided by our online platform, we saw reduced interaction of exhibitors and participants with this format.

Of course, we will continue to consider trends, technologies and concerns around scientific events, and the views of Congress organizers, speakers, delegates and sponsors, in future strategies for the FEBS Congress. However, for the 2022 Congress, held as a joint event with IUBMB and PABMB and organized by the Portuguese Biochemical Society, and given progress with control of the pandemic, we have all agreed our focus now is on preparations for a traditional in-person event in Lisbon. We look forward to a long-awaited opportunity to gather together again in person to hear, discuss and celebrate outstanding science, and to enjoy chats about ideas and thoughts with our fellow scientists.

*Miguel De la Rosa*  
*FEBS Congress Counsellor*

## The 45th FEBS Congress Virtual, 2021

The virtual 45th FEBS Congress, held from 3rd to 8th July 2021, was organized by the Slovenian Biochemical Society together with the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The Congress was planned originally to be hosted in July 2020 in the GR Congress Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with the preceding FEBS Young Scientists' Forum in Lovran, Croatia. Although the Congress Local Organizing Committee and PCO prepared everything for a successful gathering in Ljubljana, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic the arrangements had to be changed: first, the Congress was postponed to July 2021, and second, faced with the reality of the continuing pandemic situation in 2021, we converted the Congress to an online experience.

The conversion to a virtual Congress was a challenge; however, in close collaboration with FEBS, the PCO Dekon and the virtual platform provider C-IN, we organized a virtual event that provided several benefits to participants, including access to recorded talks from all parallel sessions. Most importantly, we were able to keep the attractive scientific programme, prepared already in the previous year, as well as almost all excellent plenary and invited speakers.

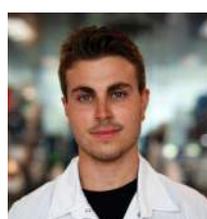
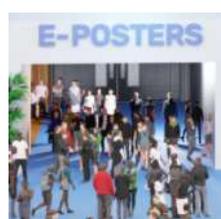
The title of the 45th FEBS Congress, 'Molecules of Life: Towards the New Horizons', pointed out the importance of life sciences to find answers to key questions addressed by mankind in these turbulent times. The scientific programme covered

the most prominent topics in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology and related sciences. Following the opening ceremony, which included an address from Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, the Opening Plenary Lecture was delivered by Richard Roberts, Ipswich, MA, USA, a Nobel Prize laureate, who presented benefits of GMOs and the Nobel Laureate campaign for their support. Another Nobel Prize laureate, Emmanuelle Charpentier, Berlin, Germany, gave a very interesting Closing Lecture, discussing her pioneering results on CRISPR-Cas technology. Other plenary lectures were also given by world-class experts: David Baulcombe, Cambridge, UK – FEBS Sir Hans Krebs Lecture; Guido Kroemer, Paris, France – EMBO Lecture; Nenad Ban, Zurich, Switzerland – FEBS Plenary Lecture; Elly Tanaka, Vienna, Austria, and Molly Stevens, London, UK – FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award Lectures; Hermona Soreq, Jerusalem, Israel – IUBMB Lecture; Bruce Alberts, San Francisco, USA – FEBS Education Plenary Lecture; Roman Jerala, Ljubljana, Slovenia – FEBS Datta Lecture; Tim Bartels, London, UK – *FEBS Letters* Award Lecture; Motoko Shibamura, Tokyo, Japan – *The FEBS Journal* Richard Perham Prize Lecture; and Rafael Radi, Montevideo, Uruguay – PABMB Lecture.

In addition to excellent plenary lectures the Congress offered participants a scientific programme covered by 40 symposia topics including 118 symposia lectures delivered by the



The FEBS 2021 virtual lobby area of the virtual event platform, provided by C-IN.



(top half of page, clockwise) A nod to coronavirus on the event registration website; virtual laudations for FEBS medal plenary lecturers Sir David Baulcombe, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Roman Jerala (see page 11); Quintet Spectrum at the Welcome session, playing music including SARS Orf1; Janko Kos, Congress Chair, presenting at the closing session — image demonstrates the standard virtual platform display of speaker and slides, and shows the city of Ljubljana, the originally planned destination for the event. (bottom half of page, top row) Panel discussion during the FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award lectures with Cecilia Arraiano (FEBS, left), Molly Stevens (2021 awardee, right) and Gerlind Wallon (EMBO, central); example of a 3D booth (the FEBS booth) at the virtual exhibition. (bottom half of page, lower row) Overall FEBS Press journal poster prize awardees at the Congress (photos from after the event) — Rafael Romero Becerra, Spain (*The FEBS Journal*), Spela Koren, Slovenia (*FEBS Letters*), Ana Victoria Lechuga-Vieco, UK (*Molecular Oncology*) and Martin Toul, Czech Republic (*FEBS Open Bio*); heart confectionery for plenary and invited speakers with the original planned year of the event — luckily with a long 'best before' date.

invited speakers and 78 short talks selected from submitted abstracts, four Early Bird sessions with 16 lecturers from both host countries, and six Speed Talk sessions with 59 selected presentations.

Moreover, the programme offered FEBS Special Sessions on Education, Gender Issues in Science, Science and Society, and on Research and Career Skills, a FEBS Workshop on networking, the FEBS YSF Bridge, workshops on European Research Infrastructure and Structural Biology Publications, and the chance to meet FEBS journals' editors.

A total of 1285 posters were accepted for the event and poster presenters were invited to upload video poster teasers as well as poster PDFs to the virtual platform. Besides being able to join poster presenters via video connection during scheduled poster sessions, participants were able to communicate with poster presenters individually using virtual platform tools. FEBS Press journals selected excellent poster presentations for prizes.

An exhibition and updates from non-academic partners and industry represented an important part of the Congress: 14 partners provided presentations within four Meet the Expert sessions; additionally, 16 partners prepared virtual exhibition booths presenting detailed information on their products and facilities. All together, 28 partners participated either as presenters, exhibitors or sponsors.

The lack of getting together and exploring Ljubljana and Slovenia in person were the main drawbacks of the virtual event; however, through the virtual social events the organizers tried to bring to participants a little flavour of the originally planned locations of the Congress and YSF. During the opening ceremony and 'Welcome from Ljubljana' session participants were able to listen to excellent music from Giovanni Massi and Quintet Spectrum, including SARS Orf1, a piece of music, composed in honour of the 45th FEBS Congress.

The 45th FEBS Congress attracted 1766 registrants from 59 countries who accepted the new virtual experience well, as also evident in the Congress feedback survey. Countries with the highest participant numbers were Russia, Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Poland, Spain, Germany, Turkey, UK, Hungary, Czech Republic and Portugal and, interestingly, this time young scientists (under 35 years) made up more than 70% of all participants.

According to tradition, at the end of the closing ceremony the FEBS flag was passed symbolically to the organizers of next year's event, the joint IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. We wish them good luck and a successful organization, and hope to meet everyone again in person in Lisbon in 2022.

*Janko Kos, 45th FEBS Congress Chair*

## FEBS Special Sessions and FEBS Press at the 45th FEBS Congress

This year's 'Special Sessions' organized by FEBS committees and working groups to provide wide general interest to Congress delegates spanned expert lectures and discussion on bioplastics ('Science and Society'), application of cognitive science in education and responsibilities in PhD education ('Education' – page 20), views on current academic reward systems from academics at different career stages and a journal staff member ('Research and career skills'), and barriers and progress for women in science ('Gender issues in science').

The FEBS Press journals supported the Congress in several ways. Accepted abstracts were collated in an online supplement of *FEBS Open Bio*, and *FEBS Letters* produced a virtual issue of contributions from invited speakers. The most recent winners of the *FEBS Letters* Award and *The FEBS Journal* Richard Perham Prize delivered plenary lectures (page 8). FEBS Press staff shortlisted abstracts for poster prizes and visited presenters live during the virtual poster sessions to select daily prizewinners and



overall Congress poster prizewinners (page 9). In addition, *FEBS Open Bio* selected and presented speed talk prizes. With Congress session chairs, journal staff also contributed to a daily Congress round-up email newsletter, providing summaries and highlights.

**FEBS Congress Survey:** thanks to all delegates who completed the 2021 feedback survey, which was particularly helpful to gather views on virtual events. The free registration to the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress in Lisbon in 2022 goes to Ana Cláudia Leite, Porto, Portugal.

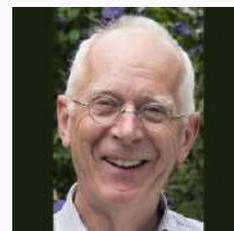


## FEBS Medal Winners (2021)

The **Sir Hans Krebs Medal**, the **Theodor Bücher Medal** and the **Datta Medal** are awarded annually by FEBS for outstanding achievements in biochemistry, molecular biology or related areas. This year's awardees – David Baulcombe (Cambridge, UK), Emmanuelle Charpentier (Berlin, Germany) and Roman Jerala (Ljubljana, Slovenia) – were honoured at the virtual 45th FEBS Congress, where they each delivered a plenary lecture.

### Sir Hans Krebs medal: David Baulcombe

**Sir David Baulcombe** received his BSc degree in botany from the University of Leeds in 1973 and his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, UK, and was then a postdoctoral fellow at McGill University and at the University of Georgia, USA. On returning to the UK, he joined the Plant Breeding Institute (PBI) in Cambridge and started his career as an independent scientist. In 1988 he joined the Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, and was appointed as Professor at the University of East Anglia, and in 2007 he became the Professor of Botany at Cambridge University. He serves on several committees and study sections, was President of the Biochemical Society, and was elected a Member of EMBO, Fellow of the Royal Society and Foreign Associate Member of the US National Academy of Sciences. He has received several distinctions and awards including the Wolf Prize for Agriculture, and he shared the Lasker Award for Basic Biomedical Science. Sir David Baulcombe's research has contributed to the fields of virus movement, genetic regulation, disease resistance, and gene silencing. With Andrew Hamilton he discovered the small interfering RNA that is the specificity determinant in RNA-mediated gene silencing. His group demonstrated that while viruses can induce gene silencing, some viruses encode proteins that suppress gene silencing. He also helped to unravel the importance of small interfering RNA in epigenetics and in defence against viruses.



Congress plenary lecture: *RNA silencing, disease resistance and the inheritance of acquired characteristics*

### Theodor Bücher medal: Emmanuelle Charpentier

**Emmanuelle Charpentier** studied biochemistry at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (UPMC) in Paris, France. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institut Pasteur, France, and at the Rockefeller University, USA, and a research scientist at New York University Medical Center, at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and at the Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, USA, at the Institute of Microbiology and Genetics at Vienna University, Austria, at Umeå University, Sweden, and at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig, Germany. She was Director at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin (2015–2018), and is now Founding, Scientific and Managing Director at the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens, Berlin. She is also an Honorary Professor at Humboldt University in Berlin. Emmanuelle Charpentier is best known for her role in deciphering the molecular mechanisms of the bacterial CRISPR/Cas9 immune system and repurposing it into a tool for genome editing. In particular she uncovered a novel mechanism for the maturation of a non-coding RNA which is pivotal in the function of CRISPR/Cas9. Her group showed that Cas9 could be used to make cuts in any DNA sequence desired. Researchers worldwide have employed this method successfully to edit the DNA sequences of plants, animals and cell lines. Emmanuelle Charpentier has received a number of outstanding awards and honours, and among others she is a member of 13 academies of science and Doctor Honoris Causa at five universities. With Jennifer A. Doudna, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 'for the development of a method for genome editing'.



Congress plenary lecture: *The biology of CRISPR–Cas*

### Datta medal: Roman Jerala

**Roman Jerala** is head of the Department of Synthetic Biology and Immunology at the National Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He received his PhD at the University of Ljubljana and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia, USA. His group contributed to the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of signaling of several Toll-like receptors in infection and cancer. He has been active in synthetic biology since 2006, where he notably pioneered the design of coiled-coil protein origami as a new principle of designing protein folds, and his group designed several strategies of information processing in cells, such as layered NOR genetic gates, polarized displacement of DNA-binding proteins and split protease orthogonal coiled-coil-based signaling pathways. Roman Jerala was elected a member of EMBO and Academia Europaea and is a recipient of an ERC Advanced Grant. In the synthetic biology community he is also known as a mentor of numerous successful iGEM student research projects.



Congress plenary lecture: *Designing nature, from protein origami to cellular circuits*

## FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Awards (2020, 2021)

The FEBS|EMBO Women in Science Award recognizes the exceptional achievements of a female researcher in the life sciences. The award winners in 2020 and 2021 – Elly Tanaka and Molly Stevens, respectively – were congratulated and delivered plenary lectures at the virtual 45th FEBS Congress.



**Elly Tanaka** (Vienna, Austria) was awarded the 2020 FEBS|EMBO Women in Science Award for her pioneering work developing a molecular understanding of limb and spinal cord regeneration. Elly Tanaka studied biochemistry at Harvard University before completing her PhD on the function of microtubules in morphogenesis at the University of California San Francisco, USA in 1993. During a postdoctoral fellowship at University College London, UK, she began studying regeneration in the salamander, a subject she has continued to investigate in her subsequent appointments. She is now a Senior Scientist at the Institute of Molecular Pathology, Vienna BioCenter, Austria. Elly Tanaka's current research interests are in further developing an understanding of regeneration and investigating the differences in regenerative abilities between species and at different phases of the life cycle. Most recently, she has used her knowledge of regeneration to engineer fully patterned three-dimensional tissue from stem cells, and is currently using these tissues to screen drugs that could potentially combat defects in pigmented retinal epithelium (RPE) cells that are known to cause progressive blindness. She has received many awards for her work, including the German Stem Cell Network Female Scientist Award (2017), the Ernst Schering Award (2017) and the Schrödinger Award of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2018).

Congress plenary lecture: *Defining intrinsic determinants of regeneration ability and inability*



**Molly Stevens** (London, UK) was awarded the 2021 FEBS|EMBO Women in Science Award for her innovative bioengineering approach that addresses key problems in regenerative medicine and biosensing. Molly Stevens FEng FRS is Professor of Biomedical Materials and Regenerative Medicine and the Research Director for Biomedical Material Sciences in the Department of Materials, in the Department of Bioengineering and the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College London, UK. She also runs a satellite laboratory at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. Her multidisciplinary research balances the investigation of fundamental science with the development of technology to address some of the major healthcare challenges. Her work has been instrumental in elucidating biomaterial interfaces. She has created a broad portfolio of designer biomaterials for applications in disease diagnostics and regenerative medicine. Molly Stevens holds numerous leadership positions including Director of the UK Regenerative Medicine Platform "Smart Acellular Materials" Hub, Deputy Director of the EPSRC IRC in Early-Warning Sensing Systems for Infectious Diseases, and President of the Royal Society of Chemistry Division of Materials Chemistry. She has received more than 30 awards and honours, including the Karen Burt Memorial Award of the Women's Engineering Society, UK, and the Rosalind Franklin Medal and Prize of the Institute of Physics, UK. She is a Fellow of eight learned societies in the UK, including the Royal Society, and has been elected a Foreign Member of the National Academy of Engineering, USA.

Congress plenary lecture: *Exploring the interface between living and non-living matter to transform health*

## FEBS Anniversary Prizes (2021)

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 who are invited to give a lecture at a FEBS Congress. This year's recipients were Simon Ebbinghaus and Michael Zimmermann.



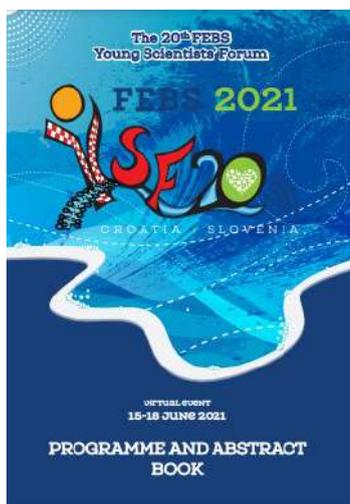
**Simon Ebbinghaus** is a Full Professor at the Technische Universität Braunschweig, Brunswick, Germany. The Ebbinghaus group studies the stability and folding of biomolecules directly in cells, and reveals how different cellular conditions, such as liquid-liquid phase separation or chaperone engagement, modulate biomolecular properties in health and disease conditions.

Congress talk: *Protein folding stability in the cell and its possible implication for phase separation*



**Michael Zimmermann** is a group leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany. His group combines high-throughput mass spectrometry, bacterial genetics, mouse models and computational approaches to investigate the metabolic interactions within the microbiome and between the microbiome and its host.

Congress talk: *The role of the gut microbiota in drug response and toxicity*



## The 20th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum

The 20th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF), originally scheduled for 2020 in Lovran, Croatia, and then postponed to 2021, was finally held for the first time in a virtual format from 15th to 18th June 2021. The virtual platform was run by C-IN who provided impeccable technical support and guidance so that everything ran smoothly. The organization was supported by the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Slovenian Biochemical Society, with the organizing committee – Maja Katalinić (Chair), Morana Dulić, Nino Sinčić, Jerica Sabotič and Anja Pišlar – formed from members of each Society. The committee was led by Prof. Irene Díaz-Moreno, Chair of the FEBS Working Group on the Careers of Young Scientists.

The YSF 2021 brought together 101 PhD students and postdocs from 32 countries of the FEBS area. The scientific programme included four keynote lectures delivered by distinguished scientists, as well as seven short talks from selected participants. All presented new and interesting findings in different areas of biochemistry and molecular biology. On the first day we heard an excellent lecture on lessons learned from COVID-19 by Ivan Đikić (Frankfurt, Germany), who showed us how dedication and quality with a pinch of luck can achieve anything. On the second day an excellent lecture was given by Eric Westhof (Strasbourg, France), from which we learned how betacoronaviruses hijack translation and replication in specific living cells. Next, we were impressed by selected short talks of the participants, who showed us that exercise affects N-glycosylation of IgG antibodies, that IGF-1 is important for metabolic homeostasis and that transcription factors are associated with chromatin folding. The third day's programme started with the inspiring keynote

lecture by Cecilia Arraiano (Lisbon, Portugal), who refreshed our knowledge about RNA and encouraged us to learn more about the amazing world of RNA. We continued with two excellent short talks by participants, one showing us how processes such as nucleosome unfolding occur in a tightly coordinated manner and the other pointing out the need of computational analysis in the field of biochemistry. On the last day, the keynote lecture by Nina Vardjan (Ljubljana, Slovenia) took us into the fascinating world of brain physiology and gave us an insight into the function of astrocytes in the brain and their contribution to disease. The interesting short talks by participants that followed presented a new method for in vitro directed evolution of enzymes and a novel probe for photoaffinity labelling.

The scientific programme was complemented by practical exercise sessions where participants had the opportunity to learn and develop new skills, guided by scientists and experts in the field of communication, writing and presentation of scientific results. For these, the participants were divided into four groups (one in action is pictured above) named with typical Slovenian and Croatian symbols: Lipa (linden tree, a symbol of the Slovenian nation), Zmaj (dragon, a symbol of the Slovenian capital Ljubljana), Marun (sweet chestnut variety widely spread around Lovran) and Lovor (laurel tree that gave its name to Lovran). The sessions on career skills provided the participants with the fundamentals for a successful scientific path, with pointers on how to prepare a good CV (Keith Elliott, UK), how to write an effective abstract (Duncan Wright, UK), how to keep a well-run lab book (Jason Perret, Belgium), how to prepare a catching





The four journals owned by FEBS – *The FEBS Journal*, *FEBS Letters*, *FEBS Open Bio* and *Molecular Oncology* – are published in partnership with Wiley. However, the editorial direction of these journals is driven by the scientific community, led by editorial boards of internationally renowned, active scientists. Here, the Editors-in-Chief of these journals describe their own research interests, and their aspirations for the journals they lead.



*Seamus Martin holds the Smurfit Chair of Medical Genetics at the Smurfit Institute of Genetics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. He obtained his PhD at the National University of Ireland, and then held post-doctoral fellowships with Ivan Roitt at UCL, London, UK, and Doug Green at The*

*La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, California, USA. He received the GlaxoSmithKline Award of the Biochemical Society for his work on unravelling the caspase activation cascade and was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2006 and EMBO in 2009. He is a co-author of the 11th, 12th and 13th editions of the classic immunology textbook 'Essential Immunology' and has been the Editor-in-Chief of The FEBS Journal since 2014.*

#### What is your research area?

I have been working on cell death control (especially apoptosis) for many years and this got me interested in the impact of cell death on the immune system, which is frequently an inflammatory one. We now realise that the links between cell death, as well as stimuli that can provoke cell death (i.e. stressors), and inflammation run very deep and that there is a complex web of interconnected pathways involved. My lab is currently working towards understanding how cell stress promotes inflammation and this is a very exciting frontier of immunology with important disease implications.

#### What is special about the journal?

*The FEBS Journal* is one of the oldest biochemistry and molecular biology journals in the world and holds a very special place in the hearts of many biologists, many of whom first published with the journal when it was known as the *European Journal of Biochemistry*. The journal was first established 115 years ago (in 1906) as *Biochemische Zeitschrift*, later acquired by FEBS in 1966 and re-branded as the *European Journal of Biochemistry*, which then became *The FEBS Journal* in 2005. The journal has always maintained a focus on quality, excellence and rigor, which is ensured by our editorial board of highly respected experts in their fields. It is an honour to be Editor-in-Chief of *The FEBS Journal* and, being a society journal, one very unique aspect is the strong sense of community associated with the journal and our role in supporting the myriad educational and career development activities of FEBS. A

major asset of *The FEBS Journal* is its excellent and highly engaged editorial board, members of which do their very best to secure constructive and timely peer review for authors. The journal editorial team and our editorial board all work very hard to secure helpful feedback on manuscripts submitted to the journal and we strive to be as fair and constructive as possible to our authors.

#### What are your current aims for the journal?

Since I joined the journal in 2014, we have made quite a few changes to how we do things and this has led to a progressive rise in the quality and impact of papers published in the journal in recent years. We have re-structured the journal by introducing a range of new review and viewpoint types, most of which are commissioned by dedicated commissioning editors who are members of our editorial board. This has brought a renewed vibrancy to the front-half of the journal. We have also intensified our focus on the very best manuscripts submitted to the journal and this has unfortunately made it somewhat tougher to publish with *The FEBS Journal* but, on the plus side, the papers that do make it into the journal benefit from increased visibility and impact as a consequence. The current aim is to keep on our present trajectory of 'onwards and upwards', to introduce the best of the many recent innovations in publishing to the journal, and to continue to serve the community of scientists that publish with us. Our unique combination of high visibility, breadth of focus, free colour figures, rapid decision times, international academic Editorial Board and lack of page charges makes *The FEBS Journal* a highly attractive choice when considering where to submit your next paper.

Hear Prof. Martin talk about plans for the journal and tips for article writing in a video [here](#).





*Michael Brunner obtained his PhD from Heidelberg University, Germany, and was a postdoctoral fellow with Jim Rothman at Princeton University and the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, USA. He was Dean of the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (2003–2005)*

*and Director of the Heidelberg University Biochemistry Centre (2010–2014 and 2019–2021), and presently holds a chair in Biochemistry. He is a Member of EMBO and of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. He was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of FEBS Letters in March 2021.*

### What is your research area?

My early research was on vesicular transport and on the biogenesis of mitochondria, but I have been working on circadian clocks since my appointment to the Heidelberg University Biochemistry Centre (BZH). Circadian clocks are biological timing systems that organize physiology and behaviour of organisms in a time-of-day specific manner. We are now beginning to understand the biochemical processes that enable circadian clock proteins to measure time at the molecular level.

### What is special about the journal?

*FEBS Letters* was founded in 1968 as a forum for the rapid publication of short reports on the forefront of biochemical research. Over time, the scope of the journal developed to include areas such as molecular cell biology, neurobiology, immunology and biophysics. As digital online publishing took over, and the volume of data that is required to investigate complex biological problems increased, *FEBS Letters* adjusted its portfolio by publishing full-length Research Articles as well as the traditional shorter Research Letters.

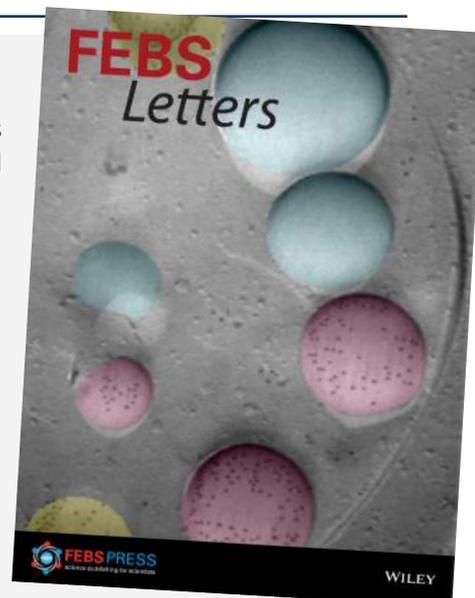
The most popular feature of the journal is its speed of publication. With an average of 17 days to first decision, *FEBS Letters* guarantees a rapid peer review process while maintaining high quality standards. We also offer a Fast Track option for studies that are submitted with Reviews from a higher-ranking journal, for which we are able to reach a first decision within a week from submission.

To ensure a highly professional and fair peer review, manuscripts submitted to the journal are handled by academic editors, who are internationally recognized active scientists specialized in your field. *FEBS Letters* is committed to science integrity, and systematically screens the figures of accepted articles using state-of-the-art technology to ensure reliability of the data, inspiring a sense of trust among its readers.

### What are your current aims for the journal?

As the number of competing scientific journals rapidly increases, *FEBS Letters* endeavours to embrace new developments in scientific publishing, while keeping in mind the needs of a diverse scientific community, and remaining a solid and reliable resource for all. To this end, the journal provides a lively platform for the discussion of scientific problems in the form of Communications, Hypotheses and Perspectives, and publishes The Scientists' Forum, a column focused on science and society. We are also proud of our freely available Special Issues, which collect state-of-the-art Reviews on rapidly expanding research fields, authored by prominent members of the community.

We must not forget that FEBS is a not-for-profit organization, and that the revenues of its journals are reinvested in science in the form of fellowships, advanced courses and conferences. As a society journal, *FEBS Letters* aims to inspire a sense of community among its authors and readers by providing a lively platform for the exchange of scientific knowledge, especially among European scientists and members of FEBS, who primarily benefit from the activities offered by FEBS.

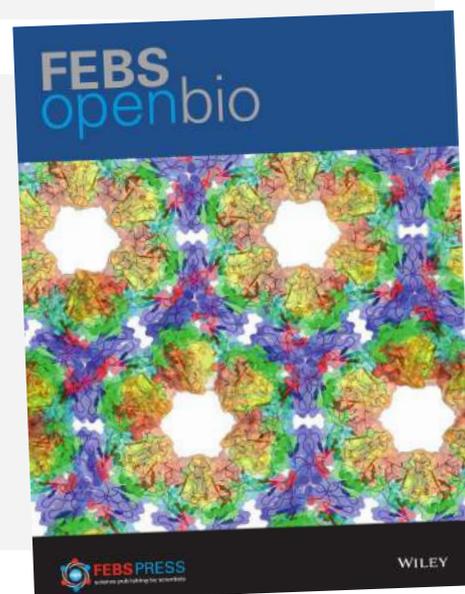


*Miguel De la Rosa obtained his PhD from the University of Seville, Spain, and was a postdoctoral fellow at King's College London, UK. He was founding Director of the Biointeractomics Unit at the Institute for Chemical Research, a joint institute of the Spanish*

*National Research Council (CSIC) and the University of Seville and was Director of the Scientific Research Center Isla de la Cartuja (icCartuja) from 2009 to 2018. Currently a Professor at the University of Seville, he was appointed as the first Editor-in-Chief of FEBS Open Bio in 2020.*

### What is your research area?

My research interests have always been focused on understanding the structure–activity relations of heme iron- and copper-containing proteins and, in particular, their interactions with photosynthetic and





respiratory membrane complexes. My current research projects are mainly aimed at unveiling and studying the wide network of cytoplasmic, nuclear and even nucleolar target proteins for extra-mitochondrial cytochrome c upon DNA damage and under programmed cell death, which are crucial for a very broad range of cell processes and diseases.

### What is special about the journal?

*FEBS Open Bio*, the youngest of the FEBS Press journals, was launched 10 years ago to provide a publishing outlet for sound science that makes a meaningful contribution to the scientific community, with the decision to accept or not based on the individual merit of the work and not on perceived impact. The journal is fully open access, at relatively low cost to authors. If a manuscript submitted to one of the other FEBS Press journals is rejected, the authors may be offered the opportunity to easily transfer their submission to *FEBS Open Bio*, and such transferred manuscripts receive a discount on the article publication charge if accepted. I joined the journal at a time when submissions were increasing dramatically, and it has been wonderful to see the journal flourish. In the last 18 months, the journal has further evolved, and we now publish a range of new article types, including Insight articles, which summarise findings published in the journal for a wider audience, and interviews with our editors. This year, we have published two special 'In the Limelight' sections, featuring review articles on exciting topics of

broad interest ([bioplastics](#) and [membraneless organelles](#)). *FEBS Open Bio* supports the FEBS Congress by publishing all talk and poster abstracts as a special supplement, and I have sought to strengthen ties with the Congress by introducing prizes awarded by the journal for the best speed talks. This year, the journal also awarded the inaugural *FEBS Open Bio* Article Prize to Arpit Katiyar, the first author of the excellent article '[HSF1 is required for induction of mitochondrial chaperones during the mitochondrial unfolded protein response](#)', as selected by a jury of editors. Finally, as this year is the 10th anniversary issue of the journal, to mark the occasion the December issue will feature review articles by members of our editorial board, research articles by editors and the authors of highly cited articles previously published in the journal, and editorials on the journal's past, present and future.

### What are your current aims for the journal?

My current goal is to build on its recent success by continuing to encourage the direct submission of manuscripts based on careful and rigorous experimentation. To further improve rapid and reliable peer review, we are appointing new members of the editorial advisory board. We also have plans for more diverse article types, including commissioning cutting-edge reviews to serve as a valuable resource for the scientific community.

For an earlier interview with Prof. De la Rosa, see the FEBS Network post [here](#).



*Kevin Ryan is a Senior Group Leader at the Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute and Professor of Molecular Cell Biology at the University of Glasgow, UK. After a PhD at the Beatson Institute, he moved to the US National Cancer Institute to work on the tumour suppressor p53 with*

*Karen Vousden. Kevin was awarded a Cancer Research Campaign (now Cancer Research UK) Senior Cancer Research Fellowship in 2002 to facilitate the formation of his own lab back at the Beatson Institute. He has been awarded a number of prestigious honours including the 'Cancer Researcher Award' from the European Association for Cancer Research and he is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was appointed co-Editor-in-Chief of *Molecular Oncology* in 2020 and became the sole Editor-in-Chief in 2021.*

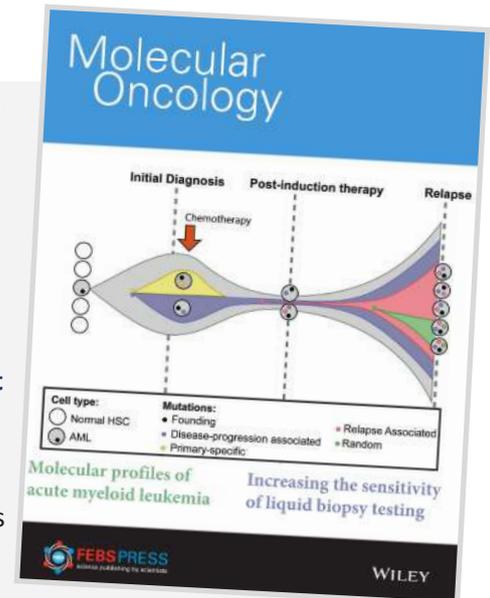
### What is your research area?

My research is focused on understanding how cells maintain homeostasis and how this determines their viability. In particular, we are interested autophagy, which orchestrates the degradation of misfolded proteins and damaged cellular components, recycling the component parts for biosynthetic reactions. Autophagy maintains the integrity and health of the cell and, as a result, protects against various forms of disease, including cancer.

However, cancer cells also rely on this process for their survival, making autophagy an attractive target for cancer therapy.

### What is special about the journal?

Perhaps the most special aspect of *Molecular Oncology* is that it is part of FEBS Press. As a result, all profits gained from publication in *Molecular Oncology* go back into science to fund FEBS initiatives such as Fellowships and the FEBS Congress. This is one important aspect that makes *Molecular Oncology* very much a society journal. In addition, manuscripts submitted to *Molecular Oncology* are handled by an excellent group of [academic section editors](#), who are all experts in their respective fields. Our editorial office is also highly skilled and receptive to work with authors during all stages of the publication process, to ensure integrity and peer review transparency, and facilitate rapid decision times and maximal exposure of





your published work. Lastly, I would say that another special aspect of *Molecular Oncology* is that we publish in all areas of cancer research, ranging from basic research, translational research and clinical research, as well as science policy papers, reviews and commentary articles relating to significant advances in cancer research. Publishing this broad and varied content in open access form is key for promoting cancer research on all fronts.

#### What are your current aims for the journal?

Since its inception some 15 years ago, *Molecular Oncology*

has become a well-respected journal, publishing high-quality manuscripts in all aspects of cancer research. In the coming years, I would like to promote the society aspect of the journal with the view to increasing submissions and output and further integrating the journal with the scientific community. I encourage you all to submit your work to *Molecular Oncology* where it will receive a fair, rapid and academic-based evaluation, while also supporting the very important work of FEBS in nurturing young scientists in the years to come.

Find an earlier interview with Prof. Ryan on the FEBS Network [here](#).

## FEBS Fellowships and the FEBS Excellence Award

### FEBS Fellowships

FEBS provides three different Fellowships schemes to support visits of scientists outside of their home labs to another country within the FEBS area for collaboration, advanced training or use of techniques not available in the normal place of work.

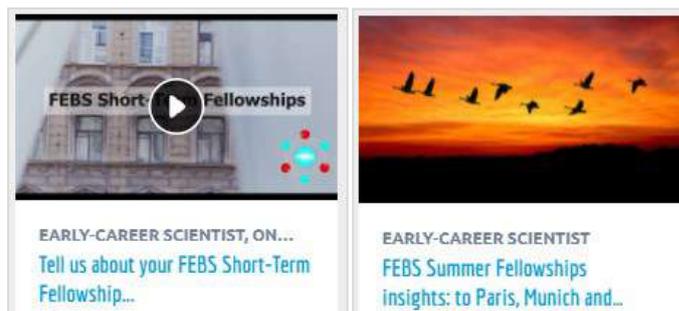
**Short-Term Fellowships** offer financial support for up to 3 months. They are aimed at researchers who have obtained their PhD degree within the last 6 years or have at least one published paper as main author. Past the 'period of semi-glaciation' due to the pandemic in 2020, the FEBS Fellowships Office in Strasbourg, France, was more than happy to notice a rebound in the number of submitted applications since the beginning of 2021: indeed, 25 applications were received and 16 were awarded from February until mid-August. Meanwhile, the Office offered flexibility to those awardees who could not travel in 2020 or early 2021 because of the pandemic, such as postponement of departure to a later date or increase of the per diem rate to compensate for the loss of time spent in quarantine in the host country.

**Collaborative Developmental Scholarships** offer PhD students of certain FEBS countries with HINARI status 2 or 3 months in well-equipped laboratories of the FEBS area. However, the number of applications received has been low in recent years. It is unfortunate that such opportunities of travelling abroad are under-utilised; I therefore advise FEBS Constituent Societies and PIs of these HINARI countries to strongly promote and encourage PhD students to apply all year round for these Scholarships.

**Summer Fellowships** are intended to provide experience to young promising students in an institution within the FEBS area in a country different from that where the applicants are based.

They should be engaged (as a Master or PhD student) in laboratory research in a FEBS country and have not yet submitted a doctoral thesis. Ten excellent applicants were awarded in 2021. Applications for Summer Fellowships in 2022 will open in the spring, with an expected deadline of 15th May 2022.

Full details of these schemes can be found in the FEBS website's [Fellowships section](#). You can also find out more on the FEBS Network about the experience of recent recipients of Short-Term Fellowships (via a [video](#)) and Summer Fellowships (via a [post](#)).



### The FEBS Excellence Award

The first call of the new [FEBS Excellence Award](#) programme was launched this spring. FEBS Excellence Awards do not provide fellowships but rather a financial support for the research of early-career group leaders. Applicants must be established as PIs in a salaried capacity in a FEBS country. The Award is granted over three years and amounts to €100,000 to be used to purchase equipment and/or consumables. The 2021 call closed on 1st September. Twenty-three applications have honoured this new flagship of FEBS and are under review. The call for applications for the FEBS Excellence Award in 2022 is expected to open in June 2022.

*Alain Krol*  
Chair, FEBS Fellowships Committee



## FEBS Education activities

FEBS promotes biochemistry and molecular biology education across Europe by supporting a range of events and through the development and dissemination of educational resources. The COVID-19 pandemic presented some challenges for holding education events over the past 18 months, but the FEBS Education Committee has encouraged and trialled the use of online formats where possible, with the aim of continuing to support and inspire educators in this difficult period.

### FEBS Education Ambassador workshops

FEBS offers grants for FEBS Education Ambassadors (education representatives from the FEBS Constituent Societies) to support the organization of educational workshops in their countries. Two such events were held online during the pandemic.

The Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM) held a Google Meet workshop on innovative education on 21–24 September 2020, titled '[Activate your Teaching](#)'. It was organized by Néstor V. Torres Darías and Guido Santos Rosales and promoted through the University of La Laguna. The objective of the workshop was to provide educators with active learning methodologies, namely flipped classroom, peer evaluation, service-learning, and active practical lectures. A total of 40 participants enrolled on the workshop and key findings and discussions from the sessions have been documented in a [post from Guido Santos Rosales](#) in the FEBS Network's Educator Channel.

The Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HDBMB) also held a FEBS Education Ambassador event in 2020, additionally supported by the Croatian Ministry of Education and Science. It was titled '[Better skills for better jobs: excellent lab book for an excellent career](#)' and was held online on 17–18 December 2020, over two afternoons. The organizers were Nino Sinčić, Morana Dulić and Jerka Dumić. A total of 25 attendees were granted access from 65 applicants. The workshop used group discussions and debates to address the need and benefits of a well-run lab book, focusing on how to structure it and how to log in laboratory information. Participants found the workshop useful and were keen to keep its online format. Key findings and discussions from the workshop sessions have been documented in a [post from Nino Sinčić](#) on the FEBS Network.

### A joint FEBS and Biochemical Society event

On 27–28 May 2021, the FEBS Education Committee and the Biochemical Society (UK) ran an online event over two half-days, titled '[A Biochemical Society and FEBS Training Event: Evolving Molecular Bioscience Education](#)'. The event had two main themes: (1) developing skills within a bioscience curriculum and (2) students as co-producers. Each theme was explored in depth through lectures, small-group discussions, and related flash-talk presentations selected from submitted abstracts. A total of 97 attendees, which also included the organizing committee and the speakers, participated in the different sessions and group discussions. Feedback from the event was positive, with over 90% of participants saying they would attend this or a similar event again. The quality of the speakers, and of the online platform, were particularly praised, with some feedback comments noting that future events might benefit from more engagement between participants and presenters of the flash talks.

### FEBS Education Committee Seasonal Webinars

This new webinar series aims to disseminate to a wide audience – and in a new format – evidence and best practice examples related to teaching and learning in the molecular life sciences. The webinars have attracted 40–100 attendees so far and initial feedback was encouraging.

The first webinar, on 10 March 2021, titled 'The pandemic brain: science and strategies for optimal learning', was given by Janet Zadina (USA), an educational neuroscientist, keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and consultant on using neuroscience to inform educational practices. Janet Zadina also gave a talk at the virtual 45th FEBS Congress and was [interviewed for the FEBS Network](#). The second webinar was the talk 'How to improve the evaluation of Technology Enhanced Learning interventions' on 2 June 2021, by John Sandars, a Professor in Medical Education at Edge Hill University (UK) and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Educators and Higher Education Academy.

The seasonal webinars will continue with an autumn event (date to be confirmed) planned with Jo Rushworth, Professor of Bioscience Education at De Montfort University (UK), who will speak on 'Beyond the bioscience lecture: ideas for co-creating a more engaging start to term'. She will

focus on the themes of active learning, students' partners, flipped classroom, and inclusion for all. Jo Rushworth is the youngest winner of a National Teaching Fellowship award for her innovative teaching methods and work on Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

### FEBS Education Ambassadors Meeting

The 5th FEBS Education Ambassadors Meeting was scheduled for 8–9 May 2020 in Vilnius, Lithuania, but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. A half-day event was held online on 20 May 2021, which was attended by committee members, the former Chair (Gül Güner Akdoğan), and 32 ambassadors representing their FEBS Constituent Society. It was an interactive meeting, with nine short presentations from ambassadors sharing their experiences of the COVID-19 period, as well as a surprise structured education-related activity on the learning platform Kahoot. Small-group discussions, which enabled further interaction, were run twice using break-out rooms and the digital whiteboard Jamboard. The groups discussed some of the challenges that might be stopping the FEBS Education Ambassadors initiative from reaching its full potential. The ambassadors then made a SWOT analysis (a technique used to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of an organization or project) and identified areas that contribute to good educational practices at national and FEBS levels. All these outcomes were shared again in the main group and key findings will be developed into a set of guidelines for the ambassadors, to be discussed and finalized in the online 2021 FEBS Council meeting.

Feedback from the meeting indicated good satisfaction with the organization and content of the meeting, with ambassadors valuing the networking, information exchange, discussions, and warm communication at the online meeting. However, although this first meeting online turned out to be an effective and enjoyable gathering in the pandemic period, when asked about the format for the next one, most attendees favoured a physical meeting, to be held in spring 2022, indicating they still prefer the networking and interaction opportunities afforded by in-person meetings.



### 20th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF)

The Chair of the FEBS Education Committee, Ferhan Sağın, participated in the career development sessions of the online 20th FEBS YSF, running practical exercises under the title 'Shaping your career (also as an educator) – Tips and tricks for a young scientist'. The session introduced teaching as an additional career option for PhD students and allowed the attending groups of YSF participants to explore new educational technologies through engaging activities, in an enjoyable, friendly and safe learning environment. The session is summarized on the FEBS Network, starting [here](#).

### Education sessions at the 45th FEBS Congress

The FEBS Education Committee organized its traditional 'Special Sessions' and poster sessions jointly with IUBMB at the FEBS Congress, as well as arranging a new education plenary talk with the Congress organizers. This well-attended FEBS Education Plenary Lecture was given by Bruce Alberts (USA) under the title 'Why science education is more important than most scientists think'.

For the first education special session, titled 'Learning and the brain: Translating the science of learning to educational practice', attendees enjoyed talks from Janet Zadina and from Ido Davidesco, both from the USA. The second session, titled 'You should... I should... – Let's clarify our roles and responsibilities in PhD education' had talks from Robert Harris (Sweden) and from Geula Hanin (UK). During the special poster session on education, which took place over Zoom, a lively discussion was carried out between attending poster presenters and Education Committee members.

*Ferhan G. Sağın,  
Chair, FEBS Education Committee*



## FEBS and the ENABLE conferences for early-career scientists

In July 2021, FEBS announced that with IUBMB it would be funding the ENABLE conference series from 2022 to 2025. These events are international and interdisciplinary three-day conferences organized by and for young researchers from the molecular life sciences, bringing together up to 300 participants from all over the world.

The conferences were initially funded (from 2017) by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, with additional sponsoring from FEBS and IUBMB for travel awards. The first four ENABLE conferences were held in the cities where the research institutes leading the project are based: the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona) in Barcelona, Spain; the Radboud Institute for Molecular Life Sciences (RIMLS) in Nijmegen, the Netherlands; The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research (CPR) in Copenhagen, Denmark; and the Scuola Europea di Medicina Molecolare (SEMM), in Milan, Italy.

To ensure the continuation of the project, FEBS and IUBMB will now provide €65,000 for the organization of each future conference from 2022 to 2025, as well as some additional funds to cover the cost of planning meetings before the event.

Among FEBS programmes, this initiative extends support for early-career researchers through broad meetings designed for and organized by PhD students and postdocs. The FEBS–IUBMB–ENABLE events will complement FEBS' summer Young Scientists' Forum, a satellite to the FEBS Congress, by providing an additional distinctive stand-alone event held at a research institute in the winter.

### Get ready for the FEBS–IUBMB–ENABLE Conference 2022 in Seville

After a call for a hosting institution for the FEBS–IUBMB–ENABLE 2022 conference, the role was awarded in September 2021 to the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville (IBiS), in Spain. IBiS now joins the four core research institutes in the organization of next year's event, which will take place in November 2022. An aim of the initiative is to empower young researchers by giving them the



necessary tools and inspiration to successfully organize a conference for their peers. With the support of representatives from the core institutions, as well as from the FEBS and IUBMB Young Scientists' Forum, PhD students and postdocs from IBiS will plan and deliver the conference, including developing the programme for the event. This will consist of a scientific symposium that includes talks from renowned international speakers as well as short talks from young researchers; a wide range of activities focused on employment opportunities, such as a career day, career workshops and a job fair; and a set of outreach and science communication activities aimed at the public. IBiS, as the local institution, will provide administrative and communications support to its young researchers, as well as take care of all logistical details related to the venue and associated catering.

The event is expected to open for registration by early summer 2022. Find more information, including on past ENABLE conferences, on the event website [here](#).

### Call for hosting institutes for FEBS–IUBMB–ENABLE Conferences in 2023 and 2024

The call for hosting institutions for the 2023 and 2024 events has just opened (details of how to apply are available on the FEBS website via a news post [here](#)). The 2023 event will be held in a country with a FEBS Constituent Society, while the 2024 event is open to any country with an IUBMB Adhering or Associate Adhering Body, except those allowed in 2023. We are excited to meet the new partners for the 2023 and 2024 events.

*Irene Díaz-Moreno, Chair, FEBS Working Group on the Careers of Young Scientists*



## The FEBS Network



### Explore the FEBS Network: recent posts

#### Early-Career Scientist

[The challenge of building a research group: unspoken keys to successful leadership](#), Arkaitz Carracedo

[On becoming a group leader: Rita Mateus, TU Dresden and Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Germany](#), Rita Mateus

#### Educator

[3D printing as a cheap way of creating macromolecular models usable for teaching](#), Marius Mihasan

[How to prevent cheating in online assessments](#)  
Ali Burak Özkaya

#### Viewpoints

[Why European learned societies and research organizations could help improve EU-13 R&I systems](#)

Marco Masia

[Visions: Giulio Superti-Furga, Scientific Director, Research Center for Molecular Medicine \(CeMM\), Vienna, Austria](#)

FEBS Communications

#### Research

[AlphaFold protein structure predictions - a step change for biology](#), Oana Stroe

[The future in an RNA molecule: from mRNA vaccines to therapeutics – An interview with Drew Weissman](#)

FEBS Letters

The [FEBS Network](#) platform offers an international online forum for molecular life scientists to share advice, news and insight and for connecting – complementing FEBS' existing work with events, its Societies, journals, education and other projects.

There is now a wide range of interesting and useful blog-style content in the site's themed 'channels' (see examples on the left), but the site is also a community platform for users to present their profiles and interact. Enhancements to the platform in 2021 have included a more advanced search function and a direct messaging tool. You can find a general introduction to the project on its [Welcome](#) page, and to join the FEBS Network, register [here](#).

Through the FEBS Network project we have also been able to provide support to a couple of FEBS Advanced Courses that decided to convert to a virtual format during the pandemic. Sites set as a subdomain of the FEBS Network and using some of the platform's features were able to provide program, poster and video hosting, and tools for attendee interaction through a directory, direct messaging and commenting. Talk videos from one such event on cancer systems biology are now available in an [open 'room'](#) on the FEBS Network.

Another new initiative is a FEBS Network room dedicated to exchange of information and connections among the junior sections of FEBS Constituent Societies, which you can find [here](#), and we are looking forward to more Societies joining.

We welcome suggestions for interesting content and further development of the FEBS Network: for ideas and queries, contact [comms@febs.org](mailto:comms@febs.org)

*The FEBS Network Working Group*

## FEBS Science and Society: call for Constituent Society proposals

After an engaging session at the 45th FEBS Congress on 'Plastics: revolution, pollution and substitution', the FEBS Science Society committee has launched a call for proposals from FEBS Constituent Societies to run a 'science and society' event or activity in 2022 under the same theme. The exact format of the event/activity is up to the organizing Society and the committee would like to support a range of ideas from speaker events to educational activities, including for public engagement on this issue.

Up to €1500 is available from FEBS to support this. Events or activities involving more than one FEBS Constituent Society or which enable the

sharing of an activity across FEBS Societies are encouraged.

Societies who wish to apply should check further details on the FEBS website [here](#) and submit a 1-page (A4) outline of their event/activity along with the proposed budget by 15th November 2021 to Prof. Raffaele Porta of the FEBS Science and Society Committee at [raffaele.porta@unina.it](mailto:raffaele.porta@unina.it)

Support material for the topic of plastics can be found on the FEBS Network among '[Green matters](#)' posts, and examples of public engagement activities on various topics from FEBS Societies and others are available in the [Outreach activities](#) room.



## FEBS3+ Meetings

The FEBS3+ programme supports scientific meetings equivalent to an annual national scientific meeting of a FEBS Constituent Society but organized through collaboration of at least three such Societies. The programme aims to increase international collaboration between molecular life scientists in a subset of countries within the FEBS area, such as those in a particular region or linked in

other ways, while also encouraging sharing of Society expertise and efforts. FEBS provides a grant of €20,000 towards event organization and travel awards; see guidelines on the FEBS website [here](#).

A brief Q&A style report on the most recent FEBS3+ Meeting is below. The deadline for applications for FEBS3+ Meetings in 2022 is 30th November 2021.

### A Central European FEBS3+ meeting

#### What, when, where

XXVI Annual Congress of Czech and Slovak Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with cooperation of Austrian and German Biochemical Sections, 29 August – 1 September 2021, Biology Centre CAS, Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic: [www.csmbm2021.cz](http://www.csmbm2021.cz)

#### The meeting in numbers

6 plenary talks, 16 sections, 119 posters, 264 participants + 28 company delegates, 2 awards (Best Poster Award and Josef V. Košťál Prize for significant scientific contribution).

#### Why FEBS3+?

The Czech and Slovak Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology traditionally cooperate for an annual event. For the first time, we decided to give the meeting a Central European dimension with participation of researchers from Austria, Germany and some other countries.

#### How COVID affected your plans

The congress was postponed from September 2020 to late summer 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks in particular to vaccination programs, the situation became much safer so we decided to do a 'live' congress in 2021 despite the circumstances.

#### Speaker program highlights?

Erik De Clercq (Belgium) and Rolf Hilgenfeld (Germany) on SARS-CoV-2, Jiri Friml (Austria) on auxin, Martin



Jínek (Switzerland) on CRISPR /Cas and Vladimír Beneš (Germany) on single-cell transcriptomics.

#### Hot topics?

SARS-CoV-2: structural biology of the coronaviral protease and its inhibitors; and mechanisms of antiviral action of replication inhibitors. Also bioelectronics and biosensors, and mechanisms and signalling pathways of auxin.

#### Especially for the next generation

Opportunities to present work as talks/posters at the international level, and presentation of a unique cross-border study program in Biological Chemistry between Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria and the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

#### Beyond the science?

A get together party was held on the first evening in South Bohemian Museum, and all participants were invited to see a theatre performance

called 'The Elegance of the Molecule' (a story about courage and risk when one is convinced of the correctness of an idea).

#### Favourite meeting moments

The Central European community of biochemists and molecular biologists present at the meeting were happy to finally be able to meet in České Budějovice in real time and real space after long-lasting pandemic restrictions.

#### What I would like to improve

Next time, we would like to include some lectures/programme for secondary school students.

#### Thanks

To FEBS, to the Biological Centre of the Czech Academy of Science, University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Science, České Budějovice, and to all the commercial sponsors.

*Libor Grubhoffer  
Chairman, Czech Society for  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

## FEBS National Lectures

FEBS National Lectures are FEBS-supported plenary lectures from distinguished scientists from outside the event-hosting country at scientific meetings of FEBS Constituent Societies. An engraved glass award is presented to the lecturer, as a memento of the speaker's selection and significant contribution to the meeting. Recent FEBS National Lectures are summarised below.



SEBBM  
SEBBM

Prof. **Anna Akhmanova** (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) was invited as a FEBS National Lecturer at the 43rd annual meeting of the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and

Molecular Biology (SEBBM). The congress was held online

19–22 July 2021 and hosted over 771 international participants, with several plenary lectures, as well as symposia, short talks, round tables and more than 430 poster presentations. We were pleased to host Anna Akhmanova, who gave an exceptional talk entitled 'The plus-end of microtubules and their relevance in multiple biological processes'. The lecture was inspiring and there was a lively discussion afterwards.

*Laura Herrero, Organizing Committee*



The Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) was pleased to host the FEBS National Lecture of Prof. **Mübeccel Akdiş** during the 32nd National Biochemistry Congress at Gaziantep, Turkey, 27–30 October 2021. Mübeccel Akdiş leads the Immune

Regulation Research Group at the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and gave an awe-inspiring talk entitled 'Mechanisms that trigger or break allergen-specific tolerance'.

The event hosted over 550 participants and provided an important opportunity for Turkish biochemists, especially the young researchers, to present and discuss many topics, from cancer metabolism to COVID-19. The congress included plenary lectures, mini-symposia, short talks and a large exhibition of products and services, as well as an exciting social program to visit the outstanding Zeugma Mosaic Museum.

*Ferhan G. Sağın, Vice-President, TBS*

## FEBS Council election outcomes (Online meeting, 21 October 2021)

### FEBS Executive Committee elections

*Secretary General:*

Miguel De la Rosa (Spain); first term from 1 Jan 2023

*Chair, Education Committee:*

Ferhan G. Sağın (Turkey); second term

*Chair, FEBS Network Working Group:*

Xavier Coumoul (France); first term

### Other Executive Committee positions\*

*Chair of FEBS Executive Committee 2022:* Piotr Laidler (Poland); *Vice Chair:* Janko Kos (Slovenia)

\*Chair and Vice Chair are normally one-year appointments for FEBS Constituent Societies that have organized a FEBS Congress in the previous two years. Due to the postponement of the 45th FEBS Congress in 2020, the current positions are two-year appointments (2021–2022).

### New Members of other FEBS Committees or Working Groups

*Fellowships Committee:*

Jussi Hepojoki (Finland)

*Publications Committee:*

Johannes Herrmann (Germany), Marcin Majka (Poland)

*Science and Society Committee:*

Melita Vidaković (Serbia)

*FEBS Network Working Group:*

Ali Burak Özkaya (Turkey)

Posts start on 1 January 2022, unless otherwise stated. Full current FEBS Committee lists are available in the FEBS website's [About us](#) section.

The next FEBS Council meeting will take place on 14th July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, following the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress. Further details will be sent to FEBS Constituent Societies in early 2022.



## Farewell to László Fésüs, long-serving FEBS Trustee



Professor László Fésüs held the position of Chair of the FEBS Publications Committee for three elected terms from 2012 to 2020, and through this role also served on the FEBS Finance Committee and Executive Committee, and more recently as Chair of the FEBS Working Group on the FEBS Network, with the latter positions continuing until the end of 2021. He will be awarded the FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur for outstanding service to FEBS at the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress in 2022. In this interview, he reflects on some of the highlights and challenges of his main roles at FEBS.

*László Fésüs entered biomedical research after qualification as an MD in Hungary and was a postdoc at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). He returned to Hungary to work at the University of Debrecen in the early 1980s, where he later became Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and then Chair of this department (1993–2013), and also held the posts of Rector (1999–2001, 2007–2010) and President of the Medical and Health Science Center (2001–2007) of the university. In addition, he has served as Chair of the Hungarian Biochemical Society (2006–2016). One of his major research interests has been the multifunctional enzyme transglutaminase 2, with investigation of its structure, function and roles.*

### For those not familiar with how FEBS works or how its journals are produced, what does the FEBS Publications Committee do?

This Committee oversees the publishing activities of FEBS. It makes decisions on appointment of the journals' chief editors (who report to the Committee) and editorial board members to ensure long-term quality and prestige, controls the professional editorial work through the FEBS Publisher (a FEBS staff position, which manages teams at the editorial offices), and selects and then monitors the activity of the commercial publishing partner (currently Wiley), which publishes, markets and archives the articles of FEBS journals. Members of the Committee serve one four-year term and regular rotations provide broad representation as well as new inputs from the FEBS community.

### FEBS committee positions are voluntary and your roles have been particularly demanding. What led you to become so involved with FEBS?

As a young researcher and later as a group leader I regularly attended annual FEBS Congresses and even organized scientific sessions at them when they were held in Hungary in 1990 and 2005, but I was not involved in the leadership activity of the Federation. Then it happened that in 2005 I was elected to the president position of the Hungarian Biochemical Society and delegated to the FEBS Council meeting, held during the 2006 Istanbul FEBS Congress, where two unexpected developments led to my 15 years of involvement in FEBS affairs. First, the Council elected me to be a member of the Publications Committee where I learned a lot, but did not plan to become Chair until some encouragement from colleagues, which resulted in my nomination and election in 2011 to this position. Second, following a debate in Istanbul the need arose to renew the FEBS Statutes and Bylaws and I was chosen to be included in an ad hoc committee

formed by the Council to prepare the new documents, as a member who had not been involved in decision making at FEBS earlier; the documents were eventually submitted to and accepted by the Council.

My tenure as Chair of the FEBS Publications Committee, and later also of the FEBS Network Working Group, was challenging, and sometimes demanding in time and efforts, but at the same time it turned out to be exciting and very much rewarding. It provided the opportunity to achieve progressive changes, to advance new initiatives and to serve a community from which I received so much during my academic career.

### The past ten years have seen continued upheavals in scientific publishing, not least with the open access movement. Tell us a little about open access developments at the FEBS journals.

I consider open access publishing a welcome opportunity for reaching wider readership and broader involvement of the public. However, we have had to face that FEBS income, which is used to support molecular life sciences and young researchers in Europe, has been almost exclusively derived from subscription revenues of our highly selective journals, which can't generate comparable income from APCs (article processing charges) without major compromises in quality of published papers. We made the strategic decisions to keep *The FEBS Journal* and *FEBS Letters* as subscription journals as long as their subscriptions dynamics reflects worldwide interest. In parallel, we have facilitated open access publishing by launching the full open access journal *FEBS Open Bio* in 2011, by flipping *Molecular Oncology* to an open access journal in 2017, and by allowing gold open access publishing in the two subscription journals which this way became hybrids. As a result, close to 60% of all articles published in our journals were open access in 2020.

Plan S, adopted in 2021 by a coalition of mainly

European research funders, has posed a new challenge since their grant-holding authors must now publish only in open access routes. Article submissions from Europe to our two subscription journals should continue as Wiley, our publishing partner, has negotiated 'read and publish' and similar transitional arrangements in many European countries, enabling authors to meet their funder's requirements at no direct cost.

### **Looking back over your time as Publications Chair, what would you pick out as important steps in the development of the FEBS journals?**

The quality and reputation of journals highly depends on their chief editors and editorial boards. During my term of nine years we could appoint prominent new Editors-in-Chief to all four FEBS Press journals (Seamus Martin to *The FEBS Journal*, Michael Brunner to *FEBS Letters*, Kevin Ryan to *Molecular Oncology*, and Miguel De la Rosa to *FEBS Open Bio*) while honouring their long-serving, successful predecessors (Richard Perham, Felix Wieland, Julio Celis and Mary Purton). By appointing 120 outstanding editorial board members with broad scientific and geographical background, including 40 women, we ensured continued excellence and worldwide representation.

When I started to chair the Publications Committee, FEBS had two publishing partners: Elsevier and Wiley. After a bidding process we selected one of them and signed a long-term publishing contract providing long-term financial stability for FEBS. We used this opportunity in 2016 to bring the four journals into the FEBS Press platform with the slogan 'science publishing by scientists'. The FEBS Press brand has become well known during the past five years, increasing strongly the value and visibility of our journals.

Successful journals need excellent editorial staff, who are professionally managed. It was decided to replace the previous fragmented editorial office structure with a cross-journal system. We established the position of FEBS Publisher, who is responsible for the operational management and quality assurance in editorial activities of FEBS Press staff and supervises training, career development, and performance. Mary Purton, who earlier served as executive editor of *FEBS Open Bio* and has long-term editorial experience with an impressive track record, was appointed to the position in 2019.

The FEBS Network platform, which I proposed during our negotiations with the publishers and has had financial support from Wiley during the past four to five years, provides an additional forum for our journals to generate higher visibility. However, the FEBS Network has become much more than that under the guidance of a newly established Working Group: it has been developed to a broad framework to provide

content and facilitate interaction in support of all FEBS activities, and especially resources and interest for career development, education, and science and society issues.

### **What challenges and opportunities do you see ahead for learned societies and for journals?**

Learned societies should continue to focus on training, quality assurance and excellence recognition in their respective scientific field and their journals have a critical role in this mission. They should avoid losing touch with new trends, the young generation of researchers and the fast-changing communication tools and opportunities. To achieve their goals they need full-time professional teams, as the recent history of FEBS clearly shows, and have to avoid the trap of organizational and generational rigidity.

In the Open Science era much more emphasis will be on high standards in science publishing requiring, among others, full data and method transparency, appropriate citations of data and material, preregistration of studies, encouragement of replicative works, and introduction of open review processes. The traditional format of research articles may also change and publishing of raw data will be much more common.

### **Do you have any special memories that you will take from your time at FEBS?**

I was fortunate to serve when we had the opportunity to contribute to the 50th anniversary celebrations of FEBS in 2014 by publishing a printed and an e-book on FEBS history, and initiating FEBS Constituent Society virtual issues of articles published by our two oldest journals. These also celebrated their own 50 years of activity – first *The FEBS Journal* in 2017, then *FEBS Letters* in 2018 with a special symposium.

If I have to pick one particular memory it is the day when after long and tough negotiation I signed with the then FEBS Treasurer Sir Alan Fersht and FEBS Secretary General Israel Pecht a long-term publishing contract with Wiley on 9th May 2015 in Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge, UK.

I have special memories of long discussions and exchanges of ideas, often beyond committee matters, with the many colleagues I worked with during my years of chairing the Publications Committee and in the FEBS Network Working Group.

### **What are you most looking forward to have more time for from next year?**

Beyond finishing some research projects and spending more time with my grandchildren, I hope to have time to start a long-planned book to reflect on various aspects of science and university, and facets of academic and personal life.



## Recent and new FEBS Executive Committee appointments



### Johannes Buchner, Chair, FEBS Publications Committee (from 1 Jan 2021)

After a PhD from the University of Regensburg, Germany, and postdoc at the National Cancer Institute of the NIH in Bethesda, USA, Johannes Buchner was an independent group leader at the University of Regensburg 1992–1998, and since then has been a full professor at the Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany. His research interests include mechanistic studies on different molecular chaperones, and principles of antibody folding and association, as well as their evolution, for which he has received prizes including the Hans Neurath Award of the Protein Society and the Schleiden Medal of the Leopoldina. He was President of the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2015–2017, and Vice-Chair then Chair of the

FEBS Executive Committee 2016–2017.



### Xavier Coumoul, Chair, FEBS Network Working Group (from 1 Jan 2022)

Xavier Coumoul is a Professor of Biochemistry and Toxicology at the University of Paris, France, where he leads the METATOX team in the T3S INSERM unit, studying the molecular effects of environmental pollutants and consequences for health. He participates in several national and international research programs including the EU projects Neurosome and Oberon, and was a member of two INSERM pesticide expertise projects. He leads a toxicology Master's degree program, and in 2020 was appointed vice-president of University of Paris (Culture and Scientific Influence). He was the main local organizer of the FEBS–EMBO 2014 Conference, hosted in Paris

by The French Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and has been a member of the FEBS Education Committee for two years.

## An interview with Guy Dirheimer, former FEBS Secretary General, on his 90th birthday

*Professor Dirheimer was born in Basel (Switzerland) in 1931 and grew up in Strasbourg (France). He and his family were arrested by the Gestapo in 1944 and sent to a SS camp in Germany, from where he was liberated by American forces in 1945. He studied pharmacy, physiology and biochemistry at Strasbourg University and became a researcher in 1955 at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He first worked on the structure and function of linear polyphosphates in yeast and bacteria but eventually turned to the study of tRNAs, which he researched for 35 years. His engagement with FEBS was extensive, through various voluntary positions. He was the first FEBS Fellowships Committee Chair (1979–1983), then Secretary General (1984–1989), Chair (1999–2002), the first WOGCEE Chair in 1999 (Working Group to explore ways to improve assistance to biochemists of Central and Eastern European countries), and Co-Chair of the FEBS Congress in Nice in 1999, amongst other roles with FEBS. He received the FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur in 1990 and he co-authored with Horst Feldmann the book [Fifty Years of FEBS – A Memoir 1964–2013](#) (Wiley Blackwell, 2014), to commemorate the organization's anniversary.*



### Why did you get involved with FEBS?

I was always interested in international collaboration, even as a student where I represented France at IPSF (International Pharmaceutical Student Federation) in 1957. This was facilitated because I spoke three languages: French, English and German. I thought that it would be the only way to stop those awful wars in Europe. Thus, I was very glad when FEBS, which I knew since the 10th FEBS meeting in Paris in 1975, decided to set up FEBS Fellowships. Professor Ebel

proposed me as Fellowship Officer and the Executive Committee presented me to the FEBS Council, who elected me in 1978.

**At FEBS you oversaw the start of the Fellowships schemes and helped initiate a group focused on biochemistry teaching. How do you think history can help those who plan today the education and training of young researchers?**

In my opinion the main task of FEBS is to work for



the future of biochemistry and molecular biology in Europe. This can only be done by giving gifted students an enthusiasm for the life sciences, and consequently for biochemistry, as most of the biological problems are solved by biochemistry. But only motivated teachers can motivate students. Thus, it is fundamental that FEBS helps the teaching of biochemistry and that young PhD students are helped by fellowships to go to excellent laboratories. All programs that help doing a postdoc at a foreign laboratory must be encouraged. The same is true for the very interesting FEBS Advanced Courses.

### **What did you find were the main challenges to widening participation in research in Europe while you were at FEBS?**

The FEBS Congresses are often the first time when young biochemists present their results and can discuss with the leading specialists of their field. Unfortunately, at least in France, their time for preparing their PhD is so tight that they are almost not able to travel, even if FEBS provides many Fellowships. Many PhD students don't even have time to follow Advanced Courses. This was not the case in my time when a thesis took 5–7 years! Therefore, I also started in France the SFBBM/FEBS Fellowships programme, intended for young researchers, to help them attend FEBS Meetings and Advanced Courses.

### **What do you think have been the landmarks and transformative moments in the molecular biosciences in your lifetime?**

In my opinion, it is the structure and function of nucleic acids and the deciphering of the genetic code. When I learned biochemistry at Strasbourg University in 1954, the double helix of DNA had just been proposed by Watson and Crick (1953), but nothing was known about RNAs. In France, when we defended our PhD, we had to write what was called a 'second thesis', which was a bibliographical review. As the second thesis in 1961, I was given the subject: 'The problem of the sequence of nucleotides in RNAs'. The only thing known was that sRNAs (now called tRNAs) all

started with pGp at the 5' end and were terminated by pCpCA at the 3' end. When I finished my scientific career, in the year 2000, human DNA was sequenced. What an extraordinary progress in 40 years!

### **What advice would you give researchers who join FEBS Committees and Working Groups, hoping to drive change and bring about improvements to the molecular biosciences in Europe?**

FEBS activities have prospered, since the beginning, thanks to many people of good will devoting their time and talent to FEBS. The success of FEBS is due to their voluntary work. Improvement is always possible, but what must be avoided is to increase bureaucracy. The advantage of FEBS is that it is a free and democratic organization that can take rapid decisions, without going through the straitjacket of many administrative rules. This must be maintained. FEBS is also a kind of family where the different members have to help the less favoured one. Thus, I started in 2000 the 'Working group for exploring ways to assist Central and Eastern European countries' (now Working Group for Integration, WGI). The aim was to go to these countries and meet colleagues in charge of the biochemical societies, finding out what were their problems (brain drain, reagents for experiments, books and journals, FEBS long-term fellowships, etc.) and try to find solutions. We also met the Ministers of Education and Science trying to convince them to increase the financial resources of their governments devoted to research. I remained chairman of this Working Group until 2003. For more details see the e-book [Fifty Years of FEBS – A Memoir 1964 to 2013](#).

### **Professor Dirheimer, if you had to do it all over again, would you do anything differently?**

Scientific research is certainly one of the nicest and most exciting jobs one can do. Thus, I was very lucky to do it for 45 years. One has not to regret what one did conscientiously, even if everything was not going as previewed. 'Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra.'

*This interview first appeared on the FEBS Network [here](#).*

## **In Memoriam**

**Prof. Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada** is particularly remembered at FEBS for overseeing the delivery of nine Young Scientists' Forum events in the period 2005–2017: for further details about her contributions, see posts on the FEBS website [[In Memoriam: Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada \(1940–2021\)](#)] and FEBS Network [[Tribute: Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada \(1940–2021\)](#)]

**Prof. Henry Arnstein** played a key role in the early development of FEBS, serving as the second FEBS Secretary General 1968–1974; see the FEBS website post [In Memoriam: Henry Arnstein \(1924–2020\)](#)

**Prof. Dan Tawfik** was an editorial board member of *The FEBS Journal* and is remembered also at FEBS for a royalties donation from a patent arising from his research as a FEBS Long-Term Fellow; see the FEBS website post [In Memoriam: Dan S. Tawfik \(1955–2021\)](#)



## The Biochemistry Global Summit: ten reasons to be part of it

The Biochemistry Global Summit – the joint 25th IUBMB, 46th FEBS and 15th PABMB Congresses, hosted by the Portuguese Biochemical Society in Lisbon in 2022 – is now open for registration and abstract submission.

Save the dates and spread the word!

### 1 A modern programme for all sectors: great science for excellent R&D

The Congress Program Board and the International Scientific Committee for the event have built an outstanding scientific programme covering a broad spectrum of timely topics in the fields of molecular life sciences, ranging from fundamental subjects and approaches to applied research with impact on human well-being and technological development. The 12 plenary lectures and 36 symposia and special sessions will bring together top invited speakers from all over the world in a true ‘global summit’, a label for the event reflecting its diversity, quality and modernity. To learn more on the scope of topics and lectures, visit the [Congress website](#).

### 2 Showcase of world biochemistry: IUBMB, FEBS and PABMB come together

The global aim results from joint support of the event by three federations of biochemistry and molecular biology. For the first time, the IUBMB, FEBS and PABMB Congresses are merged into a single event, hosted by the Portuguese Biochemical Society (SPB), where you will have the opportunity to interact with a wide research community across borders and continents. Lisbon, a cosmopolitan city with an impressive multi-cultural history, is a perfect stage for this truly universal event focused on the most recent advances in biomolecular sciences.

### 3 Meet your peers: back to face-to-face meetings

Despite understandable advantages of remote forms of meeting colleagues, undoubtedly nothing compares to the efficacy and joy of face-to-face communication and networking. After a period of struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic it is possible to return safely to physical meetings, and be together for debating with peers, presenting our work, conversation and human bonding. Portugal is proud of being one of the nations that more rapidly completed its vaccination plan and one of the global leaders for the coverage of vaccination. With over 90% of the population vaccinated, and with a dry summer not prone to the spreading of respiratory viruses, Portugal is one of the safest territories regarding COVID-19. Adding to this naturally safe environment, we will take all necessary precautions to maximize safety for all participants.

### 4 Networking: exchange ideas with experts and peers

‘The Biochemistry Global Summit’ will bring together distinguished researchers and young scientists from academic institutions and industry across the fields of biomolecular sciences, providing an excellent forum for international scientific exchange. Grab the opportunity to discuss your ideas with your peers and meet top scientists during the breaks and poster sessions, which will take place

## Plenary lectures



Human Cell Atlas: Mapping the human body one cell at a time, **Sarah Teichmann**, UK  
IUBMB Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada Lecture – Opening Plenary Lecture



MINFLUX nanoscopy and its applications in biology, **Stefan W. Hell**, Germany  
FEBS Theodor Bücher Lecture – Closing Plenary Lecture



Gut microbiota: fellow travellers that regulate brain and behaviour across the lifespan, **John F. Cryan**, Ireland  
FEBS Datta Lecture



Muscle stem cell aging and rejuvenating strategies, **Pura Muñoz-Cánoves**, Spain  
EMBO Lecture



E-cadherin: Me and others in the process of cell invasion, **Raquel Seruca**, Portugal  
FEBS Sir Hans Krebs Lecture



Neurovascular pathobiology of vascular cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease, **Costantino Iadecola**, USA  
IUBMB E.C. Slater Lecture



Molecular basis of the KEAP1-NRF2 system function, **Masayuki Yamamoto**, Japan  
IUBMB Kunio Yagi Lecture



Phase separation, phase transition and aggregation of mutant p53 as an emerging target in cancer, **Jerson L. Silva**, Brazil  
PABMB Lecture

Three more plenary lectures, linked to awards, will be added as the prizewinners are announced. A FEBS Education plenary lecture is also planned.

## Call for abstracts

### Main abstract deadline: March 10, 2022\*

for consideration for oral presentations, FEBS and IUBMB bursaries, and inclusion in the *FEBS Open Bio* Congress supplement

[Call for abstracts webpage](#)

[Abstract topics list](#)

\*See the website for earlier deadlines for the YSF and for SPB bursaries

at the exhibition hall where equipment, products and services of exhibitors and sponsors are displayed. Coffee and beverages served in the same area will help provide a casual and relaxing atmosphere for continued informal discussions.

## 5 Opportunities to present your work: short talks and posters

Take the chance this event offers to present your research findings on a large international stage. There are many slots for short talks reserved in the symposia for work selected from abstracts submitted by 10th March 2022. Posters will also be a valued part of the meeting, for bringing latest findings to the event and as an aid to networking. There will be designated sessions for poster presentations and outstanding posters will be selected for poster prizes.

## 6 Professional worldwide dissemination of your work: FEBS and IUBMB journals

FEBS and IUBMB each run publishing activities, being responsible for prestige journals including *The FEBS Journal* and *IUBMB Life*. At the meeting, both FEBS and IUBMB will showcase their opportunities to authors. Editors and editorial staff will attend; grab the chance to meet them. Importantly, the abstracts of the communications presented at the Congress will be published in an online supplement of *FEBS Open Bio*, an open access journal able to disseminate your work worldwide, assuring high impact to your work, in and outside the meeting.

## 7 More than just a research meeting: addressing education, science careers and societal issues

Science needs scientists and there is more to discuss than just molecules. How to train the next generation of biochemists, how to make the most of careers in science for the benefit of young generations and society at large...? Look out for the special sessions on topics such as Education, and Science and Society. Join our efforts to advance training and career impact of young students and professionals in molecular biosciences. Whether you are a starter or group leader, or simply moved by curiosity, meet those who share your interests and concerns in Lisbon.

## 8 Financial help to promising young researchers: bursaries and the YSF

Scientists under the age of 35 can benefit from a low registration fee for the event. In addition, researchers submitting an abstract to the Congress



may be eligible to apply to one of the event's support schemes, such as FEBS bursaries, which contribute to travel and accommodation costs as well as the registration fee. An additional opportunity for young researchers is the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Young Scientists' Forum (YSF 2022) (page 32), which will take place at Vimeiro, on the Portuguese coast, as a special satellite event just before the Congress. Those selected to take part in the YSF will receive financial support for participation in the YSF and the ensuing Congress. We look forward to both the YSF and Congress potentiating enduring future collaborations amongst future young group leaders.

## 9 A plethora of options in accommodation and travel: one surely fits you

Lisbon is the most western European capital, which makes it the perfect spot to gather participants from all continents in a truly global event. Easily accessible with direct flights to North America, South America, Africa and most European capitals, and great connecting flights to Asia, it will be very comfortable for you to reach us. Although an 800-year-old city with the marks of history, Lisbon is also a modern and cosmopolitan place where you will find a wide range of hotels to suit every budget and requirement.

## 10 Lisbon: the perfect venue

The Biochemistry Global Summit will take place at Lisboa Congress Centre, located in the historical area of Belém, by the Tagus River. This is the largest conference centre in Lisbon, including

several auditoria, pavilions and meeting rooms and offering flexibility, security, comfort and efficiency as well as the most up-to-date technology. Centrally located, it assures accessibility to the city. Discovering more of Lisbon will for sure complement your science program. You will be visiting a city rich in heritage and cultural sites where the sun shines 290 days a year. In Lisbon you will feel safe walking around day or night, with a good network of public transport. In Portuguese cuisine, besides the many ways of cooking the beloved 'bacalhau' (salted cod), you will also find many restaurant options with not only local but also international cuisine.

If your closest ones are lucky enough to join you in Portugal, while you are experiencing a great scientific event they can have a fantastic time in a city described as the '2020 World's Leading City Break Destination' (by World Travel Awards) and as one of the 'coolest' cities in Europe (by CNN, 2017) considering the nightlife, the fascinating streets in the historical districts as well as the proximity to fantastic beaches and the gastronomy.

*Graça Soveral (Co-Chair), School of Pharmacy and Research Institute for Medicines, University of Lisbon*

*Miguel Castanbo (Co-Chair), School of Medicine and Instituto de Medicina Molecular, University of Lisbon*

*Helena Mendes, Alive Travel (Congress Secretariat)*

**Congress website:**

<https://2022congress.febs-iubmb-pabmb.org>

## The IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Young Scientists' Forum

The IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Young Scientists' Forum (YSF 2022) will be held just ahead of and in conjunction with the joint IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress ('The Biochemistry Global Summit'). The YSF 2022 location is Vimeiro, located on the Portuguese coast north of Lisbon.

The YSF 2022 will bring together around 120 selected PhD students and postdoc researchers in biochemistry and molecular biology, who will be supported to attend by grants from FEBS, IUBMB and PABMB. The participants will be able to meet up in a friendly international atmosphere for inspiring lectures from keynote speakers, short talks and posters from YSF attendees, presentations and practical exercises supporting scientific career development, and a social programme. YSF participants then move on to also experience the larger IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress in Lisbon.

More information, including how to apply, can be found in the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Congress website's [YSF section](#). Note the deadline for applications is 15th December 2021.



We hope you will join us and enjoy the experience in Vimeiro. We are looking forward to sharing our warm weather with you!

*Ana Salomé Veiga (Co-Chair) and  
Marco Domingues (Co-Chair)  
YSF 2022 Organizing Committee*

## FEBS Advanced Courses 2022

The FEBS Advanced Courses programme funds a range of events across Europe on focused research fields in biochemistry, molecular biology and related disciplines, providing opportunities for learning and training, updates on recent progress, and networking and discussion with peers and experts in the same research area. Below is a preliminary list of courses and workshops to be supported in 2022; a full list including additional events from the most recent funding calls will be available in the [Advanced Courses section](#) of the FEBS website before the end of 2021.

### FEBS ADVANCED LECTURE COURSES

**Protein folding, aggregation and compartmentalization**  
Spetses Island, Greece; May 2–10, 2022  
Organizers: Bernd Helms, Sheena Radford, Stefan Rüdiger  
[proteinfolding2022.febsevents.org](http://proteinfolding2022.febsevents.org)

**Matrix pathobiology, signaling and molecular targets**  
Limenas Hersonissou, Crete, Greece; May 5–10, 2022  
Organizer: Nikos Karamanos  
[mpst2022.febsevents.org](http://mpst2022.febsevents.org)

**Molecular mechanisms of host–pathogen interactions and virulence in human fungal pathogens**  
La Colle sur Loup, France; May 14–20, 2022  
Organizers: Guilhem Janbon, Oliver Kurzai, Ana Travençolo  
[hfp2022.febsevents.org](http://hfp2022.febsevents.org)

**Molecular targets for anti-aging interventions**  
Spetses Island, Greece; May 23–28, 2022  
Organizer: Aleksandra Mladenovic Djordjevic  
[antiaging2022.febsevents.org](http://antiaging2022.febsevents.org)

*Continued on next page*



## FEBS ADVANCED LECTURE COURSES

(continued)

### Redox alterations and cellular responses: from signalling to interventions

Spetses Island, Greece; September 19–25, 2022  
Organizers: Aphrodite Vasilaki, Niki Chondrogianni  
[redoxalterations2022.febsevents.org](http://redoxalterations2022.febsevents.org)

### 360° Lysosome; from structure to genomics, from function to disease: update

Kusadasi, Izmir, Turkey; October 4–9, 2022  
Organizers: Eser Y. Sozmen, Konrad Sandhoff, Ebru D. Sezer  
[lysosome2022.febsevents.org](http://lysosome2022.febsevents.org)

## FEBS WORKSHOPS

### IUBMB Focused Meeting / FEBS Workshop on Crosstalk between nucleus and mitochondria in human disease

Seville, Spain; March 22–25, 2022  
Organizer: Irene Díaz-Moreno  
[crossmitonus2022.iubmb-febs.org](http://crossmitonus2022.iubmb-febs.org)

### Ageing and Regeneration 2022

Obergurgl, Austria; April 11–14, 2022  
Organizer: Pidder Jansen-Dürr  
*Website in preparation*

### Lost in integration – probing biomolecules with electrons, photons, neutrons and magnetic spins

Spetses Island, Greece; May 9–15, 2022  
Organizer: Poul Nissen  
[probingbiomolecules2022.febsevents.org](http://probingbiomolecules2022.febsevents.org)

### The long and the short of non-coding RNAs

Rhodes, Greece; June 11–6, 2022  
Organizer: Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko  
[www.aegeanconferences.org/src/App/conferences/view/151](http://www.aegeanconferences.org/src/App/conferences/view/151)

### Nucleotide excision repair and crosslink repair – molecules to mankind

Smolenice, Slovak Republic; July 3–7, 2022  
Organizers: Peter McHugh, Miroslav Chovanec, Caroline Kisker, Bennett Van Houten  
[nerandcrosslinkrepair2022.febsevents.org](http://nerandcrosslinkrepair2022.febsevents.org)

## FEBS PRACTICAL AND LECTURE COURSES

### Exploring the human proteome with antibodies, transcriptomics and mass spectrometry

Stockholm, Sweden; June 12–17, 2022  
Organizers: Cecilia Lindskog, Kalle von Feilitzen, Mathias Uhlen  
[humanproteome2022.febsevents.org](http://humanproteome2022.febsevents.org)

### Biomolecules in action III

Hamburg, Germany; June 19–24, 2022  
Organizers: Jeroen Mesters, Christian Betzel  
[biomolaction2022.febsevents.org](http://biomolaction2022.febsevents.org)

## FEBS PRACTICAL COURSES

### Macromolecule MD simulations for interdisciplinary beginners

Nove Hradý, Czech Republic; September 5–11, 2022  
Organizers: Babak Minofar, David van der Spoel, Victor Guallar, Sarah Harris  
[macromoleculemdsimulations2022.febsevents.org](http://macromoleculemdsimulations2022.febsevents.org)

### Microspectroscopy: functional imaging of biological systems

Wageningen, Netherlands; September 6–15, 2022  
Organizer: Jan Willem Borst  
[microspectroscopy2022.febsevents.org](http://microspectroscopy2022.febsevents.org)

## JOINT FEBS/EMBO LECTURE COURSES

### Ion channels and transporters: from molecule to man

Erice, Italy; May 5–11, 2022  
Organizers: Stephan Pless, Alessio Accardi, Paolo Tammaro  
[meetings.embo.org/event/20-ion-channels](http://meetings.embo.org/event/20-ion-channels)

### Molecular mechanisms of interorgan crosstalk in health and disease

Spetses Island, Greece; May 19–27, 2022  
Organizers: Andreas Herrlich, Eirini Kefalogianni, Stefan Rose-John  
[meetings.embo.org/event/21-molecular-mechanisms](http://meetings.embo.org/event/21-molecular-mechanisms)

### Lipids, proteins and their interactions in organelle biology

Spetses Island, Greece; May 29–June 4, 2022  
Organizers: Eefjan Breukink, Maya Schuldiner, Ulrich Hartl  
<https://spetses2022.sites.uu.nl/>

### Venice summer school 2022: The character concept in metabolic, physiological, and developmental evolution

Venice, Italy; August 15–19, 2022  
Organizer: Johannes Jaegar  
*Website in preparation*

### Molecular mechanisms in signal transduction and cancer

Spetses Island, Greece; August 16–24, 2022  
Organizers: Boudewijn Burgering, René Medema  
[meetings.embo.org/event/21-signal-transduction](http://meetings.embo.org/event/21-signal-transduction)

### The new microbiology

Spetses Island, Greece; August 31 – September 8, 2022  
Organizer: Pascale Cossart  
*Website in preparation*

### Mitochondria in life, death and disease

Budva, Montenegro; September 27 – October 1, 2022  
Organizer: Aleksandra Trifunovic  
*Website in preparation*

[FEBS Youth Travel Fund \(YTF\) grants](#) are available to assist participation of early-career researchers in FEBS Advanced Courses; see the course websites for details for each event.

