

First steps to EMBO research awards agreed by the EMBC

At the summer meeting of the European Molecular Biology Conference (the EMBC), it was decided to initiate the process of launching an EMBO Research Award Programme. This would be a major expansion of the EMBO activities that are predominantly funded by the EMBC. As such, it requires the establishment of a special project, a process that was used with success when the EMBC established the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). Frank Gannon, Executive Director of EMBO and Secretary General of the EMBC said; "This is an historic first step to a very useful addition to Europeanwide funding for research. This funding will be investigator initiated and selected, like all EMBO activities, solely on the basis of quality".

Having opened the Special Project process, interested EMBC member states will work to refine their plans for cooperation, leading to a formal agreement perhaps in 2004. Julio E. Celis, President of the EMBC said; "This development makes EMBC/EMBO even more central to the promotion of biosciences in Europe and acts as a prototype to other more ambitious programmes, such as the European Research Council, that are currently being actively discussed in Europe".

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