

message from EMBO Executive Director

The evolution of EMBO

Evolution is a slow and often imperceptible process. New traits that are beneficial in a changing environment survive and with glacier-like subtlety, renewed entities replace the old. This also applies to EMBO. When the organisation was founded over 40 years ago, a core motivation was to promote the new concepts of molecular biology. This was achieved through fellowships and training and by championing the creation of a top-class laboratory.

Once these projects had gained support, EMBO entered the difficult phase of proving that the trust invested in the organisation had been justified. In particular, EMBO had to demonstrate the value of its strict adherence to scientific excellence. The existence of a scientific organisation run by scientists was also a novel concept and EMBO had to show that this was not a self-indulgent idea but one that ensured efficiency and value for money.

With time the scientific environment changed and with it a need for reflection on EMBO's role. The European Union framework programmes promoted mobility, Marie Curie fellowships mirrored the EMBO long-term fellowships and the Human Frontiers Science Program echoed EMBO's message of excellence and internationalism. Funding from char-

ities such as the Wellcome Trust provided alternative sources of support and gradually molecular biology graduated from its fledgling revolutionary status to a 'mainstream' component of all biosciences.

A response was needed to capitalise on the outstanding work of those engaged in the first two phases of EMBO's history. This evolution is most visible in the EMBO timeline (see p.12 of the new annual report). The more recent expansion of EMBO's activities is clearly plotted with initiatives supporting early-stage group leaders, electronic communication and dialogue between scientists and non-scientists. EMBO also heightened its efforts to promote Europe as an attractive partner for scientists worldwide and expanded its range of journals.

Future actions will build on these developments but, in closing, I would like to highlight the growing role of EMBO as an advisor on science policy. The lead we have taken in promoting and defining the ERC is one example. There are also the recent debates and publications on the life scientist career structure, women in the life sciences and the use of animals in research (see p.3).

Another dimension to EMBO's advisory role can be seen in a series of reviews of national and institutional research programmes. To date Austria, Hungary, Finland, France, Portugal and Spain (see p.2) have benefited from this valuable resource. Review panels are made up of EMBO members, who contribute their time and skills to ensuring these reviews carry the EMBO mark of quality. The impact of the reviews on the scientific cultures of each country is almost certainly as large as many of our well-established programmes.

This represents a new phase in EMBO's evolution – as both an efficient provider of fellowships and training and an expert source of advice. This broadening of EMBO's role makes us better placed to have a continued impact on European science. I believe that EMBO's founders would have wanted this and that it reflects the will of the EMBO membership today. EMBO members will have a chance to comment on this in an online survey to be carried out in the coming months.



Frank Gannon



**The art of leadership:
Fewer conflicts, more results** [p. 7]

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A closer look at Spanish science

EMBO quality review of CNB and CSIC

Since 1994, EMBO has offered its services as an advisory and review body to the EMBC member states, carrying out critical reviews of national research programmes. Most recently, EMBO assessed the Spanish National Biotechnology Centre (CNB) in Madrid, one of the largest units in the programmes of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The final report was issued in May 2005.

EMBO appointed an expert panel of ten EMBO members to carry out the CNB review, headed up by *Moshe Yaniv* of the Institut Pasteur. The conclusions of the reviewers were extremely positive placing CNB research at the "forefront of European and world science". The final report also noted the need for increased funding to "bring the CNB to even higher summits" and provided recommendations for possible actions to optimise the centre's research programmes.

Following the success of the CNB review, the CSIC asked EMBO to organise a strategic assessment of 19 of its 116 institutes. The new

review, which is already underway, will have a broader focus – examining the mission, research scope and overall strategy of each institute. A panel of 18 EMBO members will carry out the review, led by *Walter Neupert*, Director of the Adolf Butenandt Institute in Munich.

PANEL MEMBERS

CNB review

- **Moshe Yaniv (Chair)**
- **Paolo Costantino**
- **Stephen Cusack**
- **Gert Groot**
- **Jörg Hacker**
- **Carl-Henrik Heldin**
- **Francesco Sinigaglia**
- **Anna Tramontano**
- **Detlef Weigel**
- **Robin Weiss**

www.embo.org/about_embo/cnb.html

PANEL MEMBERS

Review of CSIC institutes

- **Walter Neupert (Chair)**
- **Adriano Aguzzi**
- **Andrea Ballabio**
- **August Boeck**
- **Riccardo Cortese**
- **Barbara Ensoli**
- **Frank Gannon**
- **Nicholas Hastie**
- **Dirk Inzé**
- **Elisabeth Knust**
- **Werner Kuehlbrandt**
- **Christopher Leaver**
- **Alexander Levitzki**
- **Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli**
- **Martin Schwab**
- **Bertrand Seraphin**
- **Kenneth Timmis**
- **Joel Vandekerckhove**

Scientists respond to proposed EU budget cuts

EMBO/ELSF petition sees wide support

The June proposal of the Luxembourg presidency to cut the FP7 research budget by approximately 40% came as a blow to the European research community. EMBO and the European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF) responded by launching an online petition, giving scientists an opportunity to express their support for increased funding.

The petition met with a rapid and decisive response. At the time of going to press, over 18,000 scientists have endorsed the call to

provide the resources urgently needed to achieve the objectives of the Lisbon agenda. This number is still growing and is symbolic of the strength of opinion in the scientific community.

The results of the petition have been sent to the EU heads of state and government, and the EU ministers for finance and research.

www.embo.org/about_embo/press/funding.html

»This response sends a clear message to political leaders in Europe. Science is not a luxury item in modern society. It is the basis of our well-being. The proposal to cut the research budget suggests that this message needs to be reaffirmed at a political level.«

EMBO Executive Director, Frank Gannon

THE PETITION READS:

As a reaction to the recent breakdown of discussions on the future budget of the EC, we, the undersigned scientists, call on the political leaders in Europe to match their words on research, the knowledge-based economy and the Lisbon Agreement by ensuring a very significant increase in the budget for the Seventh Framework Programme.

For the economic future of European citizens, investment in research cannot be relegated to an option that can be discarded. Now is the time to ensure that the Europe of the future will be strong by providing the resources that are essential for a knowledge-based economy.

To sign, go to www.embo.org/petition/petition.php

Science run by scientists

EMBO scientists selected for ERC Scientific Council

Five EMBO members and one EMBO young investigator have been appointed to the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC). The European Commission announced a total of 22 leading scientists as the Council's founding members on July 19, 2005. The EMBO scientists make up six of the seven life scientists to serve on the Council.

EMBO members, *Carl-Henrik Heldin*, *Fotis Kafatos*, *Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard*, *Leena Peltonen-Palotie*, *Rolf Zinkernagel* and EMBO young investigator, *Oskar Marin Parra* join the Council's eminent line-up. Their role, alongside their fellow members from a range of other scientific and technological fields, will be to oversee the ERC's scientific strategy and ensure that operations are run with strict adherence to scientific excellence. In practice, this means that the Council will be responsible for determining the scientific policies of the ERC and ensuring that the selection of research projects for funding is carried out via competitive peer review.

The 22 founding members of the Scientific Council were selected independently of the Commission by a panel of high-level scientists chaired by *Chris Patten*, current Chancellor of Oxford and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Universities in the UK. The aim was to establish an autonomous body that can operate independently of political or other external influences. This will be integral to the success of the ERC and to its acceptance amongst the scientific community.

The announcement of the Scientific Council was welcomed by EMBO, which has maintained a strong input into the ERC process since the early days of the debate. Most recently, in May 2005, EMBO submitted a list of 47 of its members to the panel selecting the Scientific Council. These names were put forward after initial consultation with the EMBO Council and further nominations by the EMBO membership. Three of the five EMBO members appointed to the Scientific Council appeared on this list.

EMBO Executive Director, *Frank Gannon*, commented, "The selection of the Scientific Council sends a very important message. The chosen scientists are of the calibre that we hoped for and will ensure that the ERC will make decisions based only on the quality of scientific proposals. The commission and the Patten group have done science in Europe a good service. Now we hope that the level of funding will match the needs of frontier research."

www.embo.org/about_embo/ERC_selection.htm



Carl-Henrik Heldin

Fotis C. Kafatos

Oskar Marin Parra

Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard

Leena Peltonen-Palotie

Rolf M. Zinkernagel

photos: Maj Britt Hansen & Marietta Schupp (EMBL-Photolab) and private

MEMBERS

ERC Scientific Council

- **Claudio Bordignon (IT)**
- **Manuel Castells (ES)**
- **Paul J. Crutzen (NL)**
- **Mathias Dewatripont (BE)**
- **Daniel Esteve (FR)**
- **Pavel Exner (CZ)**
- **Hans-Joachim Freund (DE)**
- **Wendy Hall (UK)**
- **Carl-Henrik Heldin* (SE)**
- **Fotis C. Kafatos * (GR)**
- **Michal Kleiber (PL)**
- **Norbert Kroo (HU)**
- **Maria Teresa V.T. Lago (PT)**
- **Oskar Marin Parra** (ES)**
- **Robert May (UK)**
- **Helga Nowotny (AT)**
- **Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard* (DE)**
- **Leena Peltonen-Palotie* (FI)**
- **Alain Peyraube (FR)**
- **Jens R. Rostrup-Nielsen (DK)**
- **Salvatore Settis (IT)**
- **Rolf M. Zinkernagel* (CH)**

*EMBO member **EMBO young investigator

What's in store for animal research in the EU?

EMBO focus meeting and follow-up actions

Changes are afoot in the European Directive on Animal Welfare that could have significant consequences for biomedical research in Europe. Revision of the European Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes is already underway and for the most part taking place without the knowledge and engagement of the research community.

Constructive scientific input to this process is essential and EMBO made a start recently at a focus meeting held in Madrid on March 18–19. Organised by the EMBO Science & Society Programme, the meeting brought together key

stakeholders to discuss the issues surrounding the revision.

One outcome of the meeting was the production of a briefing paper summarising the planned revision of the directive and the likely consequences of changes. The briefing paper also provides concrete information for researchers on how to get involved in the revision process.

The briefing paper will be available soon on the EMBO Science & Society web pages:

www.embo.org/scisoc



photo by Maj Britt Hansen, EMBL

Read a related article in *EMBO reports*:
EMBO reports 6, 7, 606–609 (2005)

www.nature.com/embojournal/v6/n7/full/7400475.html

Is it me... or my genes?

Edwin Rydberg wins the EMBO Science Writing Prize

Information is a valuable commodity for patients and their families. Understanding the science behind an illness often helps to explain common symptoms and avoid undue distress. The winning entry in this year's Science Writing Prize illustrates this perfectly.



Through the Illusions, by **Edwin Rydberg** of the IRBM P. Angeletti in Rome, deals with the commonly misunderstood condition of schizophrenia and shows the difference understanding the biology behind the symptoms can make to patients and their families.

The EMBO Science Writing Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding piece of science

writing that communicates a topical issue to a non-scientific audience. This year's theme was 'genes and behaviour' and the winning essay centres on the behavioural genetics of schizophrenia. The elegant narrative communicates some of the subtleties and complexities of the condition with clarity and sensitivity. The essay also presents the fascinating connection between mutation in a single gene, the neurological effects of this mutation and the resulting biochemical basis for chain-smoking in schizophrenics.

Asked to elaborate on the inspiration for his entry, Edwin explained that the idea came from a project carried out during a postdoctoral fellowship at the Weizmann Institute in

Israel: "During a study of the human alpha7 acetylcholine receptor, I learned of the interesting connection between smoking, the alpha7 receptor and schizophrenia. This seemed such an unusual and unexpected combination of factors that it has remained with me ever since."

The EMBO Science Writing Prize and an award of 1,500 Euro were presented to the winner at the EMBO Media Workshop on June 18, 2005 in Heidelberg, Germany.

www.embo.org/about_embo/press/writing05.html

Opening doors to new insights

ESF-EMBO Symposia

The importance of interdisciplinary research is clear. When it comes to solving a scientific problem, it is the goal not the means that defines the road taken. This kind of co-operative interaction is the focus of the new ESF-EMBO Symposia – a series of cutting-edge meetings co-sponsored by EMBO and the European Science Foundation (ESF).

ESF-EMBO Symposia will get to grips with topics at the forefront of European research,

exploring the interface between biology and other related life sciences disciplines. The meetings will observe the highest scientific standards of selection in terms of topics, speakers and participants and bring together experts from multiple fields to tackle topics of major importance to the European scientific community.

The symposia will take place annually from 2005 to 2007. A series of three meetings are

already planned for autumn 2005 (see the event listings on p. 6). The 2006 meetings will be announced in September 2005. A call for proposals for up to five symposia to take place in Europe in 2007 is now also open.

Deadline for proposals: October 1, 2005

www.embo.org/courses_workshops

BioT-Ethics passes the torch to new bioethics education initiative

EMBO joins European bioethics education project

A new education initiative will soon pick up where the biotechnology ethics project, BioT-Ethics, left off. Also funded by the EC, the new project will build on the education component of BioT-Ethics – addressing the need for more teaching of biotechnology ethics and extending the network to Central and Eastern Europe. The EMBO Science & Society Programme, which hosted a session at the BioT-Ethics conference on April 21–23 in Maastricht, will be part of the new project.

The Maastricht conference showcased the groundwork laid by the BioT-Ethics project for the new initiative and future bioethics education. Ethics experts and young scientists got to

grips with ethics research, decision-making and teaching. Sessions were typically interactive and hands-on workshops, such as the EMBO session, showed the benefit of real-life scenarios in teaching – preparing scientists for the challenge of communicating on bioethical issues with the media and the public.

Future challenges were also a discussion point. *Josef Kure*, bioethicist from the University of Brno, described a typical problem in the new EU member states, where the tendency is to adopt the bioethical values of other "western" members without proper debate. The legislation process exacerbates this problem. In contrast to the standard paradigm

where ethical debate precedes legislation, Kure described the reverse scenario in the Czech Republic, where laws are implemented before political or ethical questions have been considered.

BioT-Ethics and the new project aim to tackle these types of issues by furthering bioethics education and promoting best practices in national and European decision-making. EMBO's role in the new initiative will centre around the organisation of multidisciplinary encounters between scientists and ethics experts.

www.biotethics.org
www.embo.org/scisoc

Meet your fellow “fellows”

2005 EMBO fellows meeting



Photo by Marietta Schupp, EMBL-PhotoLab

The 2005 EMBO Fellows Meeting on June 17–21 continued a tradition that goes back to 1997, when the first meeting of this kind was organised. Designed to bring this geographically disparate group together after completing their fellowships, the meeting provides an opportunity for the young scientists to share research results and prepare for their next career steps.

Over 70 EMBO fellows attended this year's meeting in Heidelberg. The mood was upbeat as participants talked about their work, discussed possible collaborations or simply forged new friendships. Each fellow gave a

brief talk on their posters explaining the background to their research. These sessions were chaired by EMBO members, *Christine Clayton*, *Francesco Antequera*, *Ivan Dikic* and *Bill Rutherford*, who also offered insights into their own career paths. Later in the meeting, Bill Rutherford demonstrated the breadth of his talents as he and fellow members of the Paris-based *Baskervilles Blues Band* played for the assembled participants at an evening reception.

In addition to the scientific sessions, fellows were treated to a series of special

careers talks. *Valerie Ferrier*, editor at *The EMBO Journal*, gave a behind-the-scenes look at the journal's editorial process. *Marie Aronson*, a former EMBO fellow now working for the French Embassy in Finland, talked about her route from biomedicine to diplomatic relations. Fellows were also able to brush up on their communication skills at the EMBO Media Workshop. Participants heard directly from leading journalists about today's science reporting and had the chance to take part in live interviews with the visiting journalists.

Greek fellow, *Kyriakos Kypreos* of the Boston University School of Medicine summed up the overall mood of the participants, "This trip to EMBO has been a memorable experience and from now on the annual fellows meeting will be at the top of my summer agenda. I enjoyed the lectures and interaction with the other fellows immensely and have enriched both my scientific and social horizons."

www.embo.org/communities/fellowsnet

EMBO young investigator week

Annual meeting and symposium

June 22–26 was young investigator week at EMBO. Current members of the programme gathered for their annual meeting and the third EMBO Young Investigator Symposium at the EMBL in Heidelberg.

Two things characterise all Young Investigator Meetings – the intensity of the scientific exchange and the enthusiasm of the participants. The atmosphere at the 2005 meeting was no different. Young investigators took the chance to network on an informal level and strengthen scientific ties made at past meetings. The meeting also introduced the newest members of the programme into the fold and all participants had the opportunity to mingle with group leaders from EMBL.

The research being carried out in the labs of the young investigators is diverse. This came across in the presentations of the young group leaders. Animated discussion on interdisciplinary topics and burgeoning collaborations also showed that this is so much more than a 'meet and greet' event. New young investigator, *Simon Geir Møller*, is testament to this, "The overwhelming positive energy of this meeting

combined with the number of contacts and collaborations formed over the last two days really underpins the overall objective of the programme and has sparked numerous new ideas."

Ideas continued to flow at the EMBO Young Investigator Symposium, which followed on directly from the young investigators' annual meeting. Every year the symposium deals with a topic of general interest chosen by the young investigators. This year's meeting covered the timely topic of quantitative biology, drawing

over 100 participants from Europe and North America. Organised by EMBO young investigator, *Blanche Schwappach* and EMBL group leader, *Philippe Bastiaens*, the symposium explored recent approaches towards quantification of biology. The meeting also had an interactive element with "meet the speakers" discussion groups giving participants the opportunity to delve more deeply into the topic and learn more about the biological data presented.

www.embo.org/yip



Photo by Maj Britt Hansen, EMBL-PhotoLab

EMBO events

Practical course
Enhancer detection, gene trapping and tilling in zebrafish
August 1–11, Bergen, N

Conference
Ciliate molecular biology
August 3–8, Lucca, I

Lecture course
Molecular mechanisms in signal transduction and cancer
August 15–26, Spetses, GR

Conference
SNP genotyping and Haploblock analysis
August 21–27, Helsinki, FI

Practical course
Methods in cell biology: from single molecule to complex systems analysis
August 22–September 2, Heidelberg, D

Conference
Pseudomonas 2005: a multidisciplinary exploration of current Pseudomonas research
August 27–31, Marseille, F

Workshop
Regulation of mRNA turnover
August 28–September 1, Arolla, CH

PhD course
EMBO Young Investigators
September 4–11, Heidelberg, D

Practical course
Image processing for cryo-electron microscopy
September 4–14, London, UK

Practical course
Endoectyosis and signalling during development
September 4–17, Dresden, D

Lecture course
Protein misfolding, protein modification and age-related diseases
September 5–15, Spetses, GR

Practical course
Structure determination of biological macromolecules by solution NMR
September 7–14, Basel, CH

Workshop
Chromosome dynamics and recombination in meiosis
September 13–18, Madrid, E

Conference
Protein synthesis and translational control
September 13–18, Heidelberg, D

Workshop
Membrane dynamics in endocytosis
September 17–22, San Feliu de Guixols, E

Lecture course
The mouse as a model of human disease
September 17–23, Bischoffsheim, F

Workshop
Cytoskeletal molecular motors
September 18–22, Cambridge, UK

Workshop
Centrosomes and spindle pole bodies
September 23–27, Heidelberg, D

Conference
Nuclear structure and dynamics
September 24–28, La Grande Motte, F

Workshop
The molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying skeletal muscle formation and repair
September 24–29, Fontevraud, F

Workshop
The assembly and function of neuronal circuits
September 25–30, Ascona, CH

Conference
Nuclear receptors: from chromatin to disease
September 29–October 1, Lake Garda, I

Workshop
Chromosome structural elements: from DNA sequence to function
September 29–October 3, Rome, I

Practical course
Endoectyosis and signalling during development
October 4–15, Dresden, D

EMBC Special Workshop
Improving Life Sciences Research in Europe
October 6, London, UK

Symposium
Three-dimensional sensory and motor space
October 8–13, San Feliu de Guixols, E

Practical Course
Malaria functional genomics
October 9–22, New Delhi, India

Practical Course
Genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics
October 11–23, Santiago, Chile

EMBO members workshop
Frontiers of molecular biology
October 14–18, Warsaw, PL

Practical course
Calcium signalling, with special attention to cell motility and the cytoskeleton
October 16–29, Montevideo, Uruguay

Practical course
Combination of electron microscopy and x-ray crystallography in structure determination
October 23–28, Gif-sur-Yvette, F

EMBO/EMBL
Science & Society Conference
Science and security
October 28–29, Heidelberg, D

ESF-EMBO Symposia
Three-dimensional sensory and motor space
October 8–13, San Feliu de Guixols, E

ESF-EMBO Symposia
Probing the molecular basis of protein function
October 29–November 3, San Feliu de Guixols, E

ESF-EMBO Symposia
Comparative genomics of eukaryotic microorganisms
November 12–17, San Feliu de Guixols, E

Practical Course
Functional microscopy of host pathogen interactions
November 19–30, Cape Town, South Africa

Practical course
Microarray technology: production and applications
Nov 27–Dec 3, Mexico DF, Mexico

Workshop
Innate immunity in the lung
Nov 30 – Dec 2, Cape Town, South Africa

Workshop
Molecular physiology of intracellular calcium signal
November 30 – December 4, Coorg, India

www.embo.org/about_embo/calendar.html



The art of leadership: Fewer conflicts, more results

EMBO YIP Lab Management Course

Leading a research group requires more than scientific talent. In addition to the day-to-day running of the laboratory, group leaders have to hire, manage and teach their staff. These skills are rarely taught during postdoctoral training and young group leaders are often unprepared for the challenges of management. This can be a serious skills gap, as managerial competence can be just as crucial to career progression as scientific flair.

The EMBO Young Investigator Programme has taken the first steps to address these issues by offering lab management courses to its young investigators. Launched in 2004, the courses address basic issues in the areas of staff selection, leadership, problem-solving and communication. In order to meet the specific needs of participants, the courses are continually assessed and developed in co-operation with a management consultant team.

In April 2005, 30 EMBO young investigators and young EMBL group leaders participated in a five-day course focusing on leadership and conflict resolution. The courses were staged in two groups of 15 participants to allow for intensive training, effective role-play exercises and group discussion of individual cases.

Course participants also benefited from the wisdom of some more senior scientists, who shared their own experiences of management. EMBO members, *Denis Duboule*, *Anne Ephrussi*, *Frank Gannon*, *Les Grivell*, *Rudi Grosschedl*, *Matthias Hentze* and *Regine Kahmann* offered the young scientists some useful strategies for effective leadership and conflict management.

Feedback from participants was extremely positive and the EMBO Young Investigator Programme will continue to organise similar courses in future years. The next courses will take place in autumn 2005. For the first time, these courses will be open to young independent scientists outside the programme.

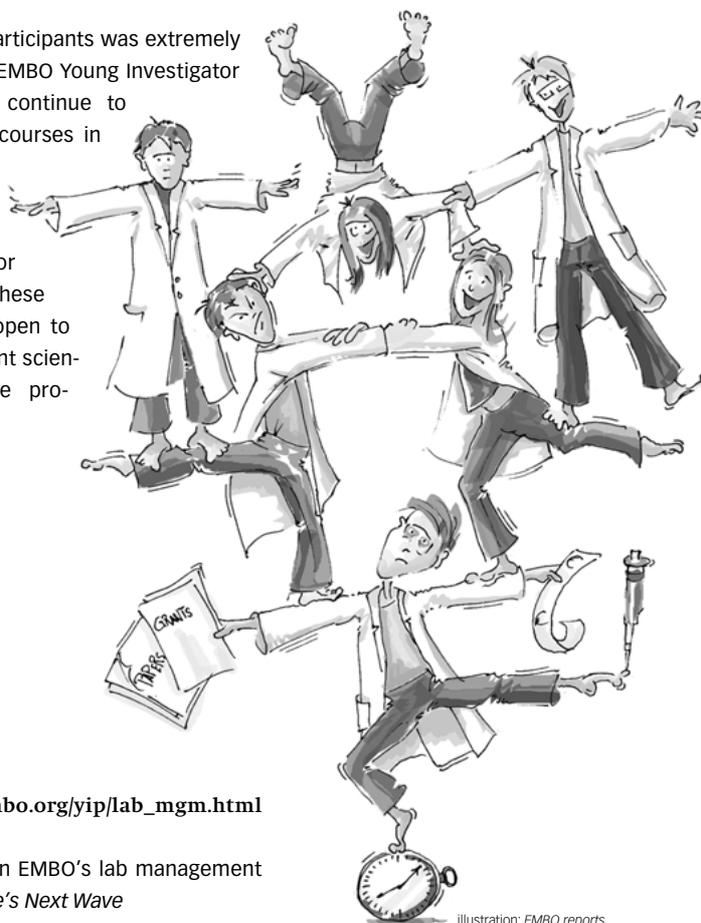


illustration: EMBO reports

www.embo.org/yip/lab_mgm.html

Read an article on EMBO's lab management courses in *Science's Next Wave*

<http://nextwave.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2005/07/14/4>

Read a recent article on lab management in *EMBO reports*: *EMBO reports* 6, 4, 301-303 (2005)

www.nature.com/embor/journal/v6/n4/full/7400387.html

...managerial competence can be just as crucial to career progression as scientific flair

EMBO deadlines 2005

15
August

EMBO
Long-Term
Fellowships

1
October

ESF-EMBO
Symposia,
2007 call for
proposals

International fellow makes the "write move"

Winner of the EMBO mobility portal's writing competition

Tariq Muhammad's account of his "giant leap" from Pakistan to Switzerland in the spring of 1999 has won him the EMBO Life Science Mobility Portal's writing competition.

Tariq made the move from Lahore, Pakistan to take up a research post at the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel. His tale of the challenges encountered during his stay reflects the day-to-day cultural and scientific differences between his home country and his new environment in Switzerland. Clearly the help, encouragement and friendship he received from lab colleagues during this time was

instrumental to his smooth adjustment to the new lifestyle.

Tariq has gone from strength to strength since his position at the Friedrich Miescher Institute and is now an EMBO fellow at the University of Heidelberg's Centre for Molecular Biology (ZMBH) in Germany. His winning entry, *Spring in the fall of 1999*, has been published on EMBO's Life Sciences Mobility Portal. Other competition entries are also available on the site.

www.mobility.embo.org

Editor picks – EMBO publications

In each issue of *EMBOencounters*, the editors of *The EMBO Journal*, *EMBO reports* and *Molecular Systems Biology* will highlight particularly interesting papers from the journals.

THE EMBO JOURNAL

Interplay between the retinoblastoma protein and LEK1 specifies stem cells toward the cardiac lineage

Evangelia Papadimou, Claudine Ménard, Corinne Grey, Michel Pucéat
The EMBO Journal **24**, 1750–1761
(04 May 2005)

Sensing wetness: a new role for the bacterial flagellum

Qingfeng Wang, Asaka Suzuki, Susana Mariconda, Steffen Porwollik, Rasika M Harshey
The EMBO Journal **24**, 2034–2042
(01 Jun 2005)

ArfGAP1 responds to membrane curvature through the folding of a lipid packing sensor motif

Joëlle Bigay, Jean-François Casella, Guillaume Drin, Bruno Mesmin, Bruno Antony
The EMBO Journal **24**, 2244–2253
(06 Jul 2005)

The protein translocation channel binds proteasomes to the endoplasmic reticulum membrane

Kai-Uwe Kalies, Susanne Allan, Tatiana Sergeenko, Heike Kröger, Karin Römisch
The EMBO Journal **24**, 2284–2293
(06 Jul 2005)

Stress response gene ATF3 is a target of c-myc in serum-induced cell proliferation

Kiyoshi Tamura, Bayin Hua, Susumu Adachi, Isil Guney, Junya Kawauchi, Masaki Morioka, Mimi Tamamori-Adachi, Yujiro Tanaka, Yusaku Nakabeppu, Makoto Sunamori, John M Sedivy, Shigetaka Kitajima
The EMBO Journal **24**, 2590–2601
(20 Jul 2005)

www.embojournal.org

EMBO reports

science & society special issue Time & Ageing: mechanisms and meanings

EMBO reports **6**, S1
(July 2005)



review

The effects of histone deacetylase inhibitors on heterochromatin: implications for anticancer therapy?

Angela Taddei, Danièle Roche, Wendy A. Bickmore & Geneviève Almouzni
EMBO reports **6**, 6, 520–524
(01 Jun 2005)

scientific report

A SNF2-like protein facilitates dynamic control of DNA methylation

Tatsuo Kanno, Werner Aufsatz, Estelle Jaligot, Michael Florian Mette, Marjori Matzke, Antonius J M Matzke
EMBO reports **6**, 7, 649–655
(01 Jul 2005)

www.emboreports.org

molecular systems biology

A global view of pleiotropy and phenotypically derived gene function in yeast

Aimée Marie Dudley, Daniel Maarten Janse, Amos Tanay, Ron Shamir, George McDonald Church
Molecular Systems Biology,
doi:10.1038/msb4100004
(29 Mar 2005)

A comprehensive pathway map of epidermal growth factor receptor signalling

Kanae Oda, Yukiko Matsuoka, Akira Funahashi, Hiroaki Kitano
Molecular Systems Biology,
doi:10.1038/msb4100014
(25 May 2005)

Extension of a genetic network model by iterative experimentation and mathematical analysis

James C W Locke, Megan M Southern, László Kozma-Bognár, Victoria Hibberd, Paul E Brown, Matthew S Turner, Andrew J Millar
Molecular Systems Biology,
doi:10.1038/msb4100018
(28 June 2005)

www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

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N.B.

EMBO members have free online access to *The EMBO Journal* and *EMBO reports*. **EMBO young investigators** are also entitled to free access in the first year of their membership of the Young Investigator Programme.

To read the journals online, members and young investigators should use the following password-protected links:

www.embo.org/publications/journal.html

www.embo.org/publications/reports.html

As an open-access publication, *Molecular Systems Biology* is accessible to all.

News from the EMBO community

Combating disease

EMBO scientists receive prestigious HHMI grants

Three EMBO members and four EMBO young investigators have been awarded *Infectious Diseases & Parasitology Grants* from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). The EMBO scientists are part of an award roll of 42 outstanding researchers, who will receive \$17.5 million to tackle the mysteries of the molecular and genetic mechanisms underlying infectious and parasitic disease.

Nearly 500 scientists from 62 countries applied for the five-year awards. HHMI selected researchers from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Mali, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland,

Thailand and Uruguay. Each will receive \$350,000 to \$500,000 U.S. dollars over five years.

The EMBO awardees are EMBO members, *Jean-Laurent Casanova*, *Pascale Françoise Cossart* and *Philippe J. Sansonetti*; EMBO young investigators, *Elena A. Levashina* and *Maria Manuel Mota*; and former members of the EMBO Young Investigator Programme, *Gisou F. van der Goot* and *László Nagy*.

www.embo.org/about_embo/HHMI_awardees.html

www.hhmi.org/news/070705.html

AWARDEES

EMBO members

- Jean-Laurent Casanova
- Pascale Françoise Cossart
- Philippe J. Sansonetti

EMBO young investigators

(past and present)

- Elena A. Levashina
- Maria Manuel Mota
- Gisou F. van der Goot
- László Nagy

Awards of excellence

EMBO members

Avanti Award in Lipids 2005, USA

Joachim Seelig for his outstanding contribution to the understanding of lipid biophysics

Biotechnology Heritage Award 2005, USA

Paul Berg for his pioneering work in molecular biology, instrumental to today's and tomorrow's advances in biotechnology

15th Bristol-Myers Squibb

»Freedom to Discover« Award for Distinguished Achievement in Infectious Disease Research, USA

Stephen C. Harrison for his groundbreaking and pioneering x-ray crystallography work

18th Annual Bristol-Myers Squibb

»Freedom to Discover« Award for Distinguished Achievement in Neuroscience Research, USA

Christine Petit for her discovery of the molecular basis of hearing and the genetic causes of deafness

Engelhardt Gold Medal 2005, RU

Lev L. Kisselev for his outstanding contribution to molecular biology

FEBS Datta Plenary Lectureship Award, DK

Ada E. Yonath for exceptional achievements in the field of biochemistry, molecular biology or related sciences

Louis D. Prize 2005, FR

Ronald Plasterk for his work on the new world of small, non-coding RNAs and their role in the control of cellular functions

NWO/Spinoza prize 2005, NL

René Bernards for his groundbreaking work in molecular biology and diagnostics of cancer

Wolf Prize in Medicine 2005, IL

Alexander Levitzki for his pioneering signal transduction therapy and development of tyrosine kinase inhibitors as effective agents against cancer and other diseases

EMBO young investigators

Colworth Medal 2005, UK

Ian Collinson in recognition of his landmark contribution to membrane protein research

Heinz Maier Leibnitz Prize 2005, D

Jiri Friml for exceptional achievements in science

Meyenburg Prize 2005, D

Thomas Tuschl for his landmark discoveries in genetics research

Appointments

EMBO members

Barry Dickson

Director of the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), Vienna
(effective as of 2006)

Václav Pačes

Chairman of Czech Academy of Sciences

Maciej Żylicz

President of the Foundation for Polish Science
(effective as of September 1, 2005)

Event updates from the EMBO community

■ conferences : congresses : meetings

ELSO 2005 – Frontiers of Cell, Developmental and Molecular Biology

September 3–6, Dresden, D

Kai Simons

www.else.org

1st World Conference on the Future of Science

September 21–23, Venice, I

Chiara Tonelli

www.veniceconference2005.org/intro.htm

2nd International Congress on Stress Responses in Biology & Medicine

September 24–28, Tomar, PT

Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada

www.itqb.unl.pt/cssi

6th EMBL Mouse Molecular Genetics Meeting

September 28 – October 2, Heidelberg, D

François Guillemot

www-db.embl.de/jss/EmblGroupsHD/conf_11

CNIO Cancer Conference: Cancer and Aging

November 7–9, Madrid, ES

María Blasco, Jan Hoeijmakers,

Manuel Serrano

www.cnio.es/ccc

A good read – publications from the EMBO community

■ books

Centrosomes in Development and Disease

(Wiley-VCH 2004)

Edited by *Erich Nigg*

Nature Cell Biology said: “Centrosomes in Development and Disease thoroughly covers a rapidly expanding field... the book is well written and provides clear, concise and informative reviews of key topics. Both experts and novices alike will find this book

to be an indispensable source of information on an organelle that is becoming less mysterious but more fascinating.”

Nature Cell Biology **7**, 223–223

(01 Mar 2005)

www.nature.com/ncb

Next EMBO_{encounters} issue

■ issue 4

The next EMBO_{encounters} issue — autumn 2005 — will be dispatched early in December 2005. You can send your contributions/news to: communications@embo.org at any time. The deadline for the autumn issue is October 30th, 2005.