

PRESS RELEASE

# Scientists in Hungary and Portugal get research boost

*EMBO Installation Grants help establish labs for two scientists*

## **Heidelberg, 29 July 2008 –**

Two talented life scientists will receive EMBO Installation Grants, assisting them to establish their research groups in Hungary and Portugal. These two scientists will receive funding in 2008 similar to the previous nine awardees announced in November 2007. The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) introduced the scheme in 2006.

EMBO Installation Grants are awarded annually and aim to strengthen science in selected member states of the EMBC, the EMBO intergovernmental funding body. The EMBC Member States hosting the grantees generally finance the grants entirely. EMBC Member States participating in the scheme include Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Turkey.

Each scientist receives 50,000 euro annually for three to five years to help them establish their groups and themselves in the European

scientific community. Grantees are integrated into the prestigious EMBO Young Investigator network, providing networking opportunities with some of Europe's best young group leaders and a range of career development programmes.

"EMBO congratulates these two scientists as recipients of the 2007 EMBO Installation Grants and welcomes them to the EMBO community," said Hermann Bujard, EMBO Executive Director. "These talented scientists will benefit from the secure financial backing of their host countries plus the active interest and support of EMBO in their scientific and professional development. They represent a promising scientific future for the countries receiving them and for Europe as a whole."

A committee of EMBO Members selected the successful candidates for the high standard of their research. By bringing this level of scientific talent into the participating countries, EMBO hopes to improve

the competitiveness of these countries in European science.

Gergely Szakács is moving from the USA to set up his laboratory at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary to research multidrug resistance in cancer. Szakács is the third awardee to establish a lab in Hungary of the total 11 scientists receiving the 2007 EMBO Installation Grants.

In Portugal, Monica Bettencourt-Dias's group is researching cell cycle links to cancer at the Gulbenkian Institute in Oeiras. Bettencourt-Dias moves from the UK and is the second awardee to set up in Portugal of the 11 grantees for 2007. Portugal's Foundation for Science & Technology (FCT) and the Gulbenkian Institute will share payment of the Dias grant.

Recipients of the 2008 EMBO Installation Grants will be announced in November 2008.

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## 2007 EMBO Installation Grantees

Two of the nine grantees will establish groups in the Czech Republic, three in Hungary, two in Turkey, one in Croatia, one in Poland and two in Portugal. Five scientists will move from positions in the USA, three will move from the UK, two from Switzerland and one will move from Sweden.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Moving to</b>	<b>Moving from</b>
<b>VitzĚslav Bryja</b> Research area: Wnt pathway activation	Masaryk University, Brno, <b>CZ</b>	Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, <b>SE</b>
<b>Arzu Ćelik</b> Research area: Photoreceptor differentiation	Boĝazići University, Istanbul, <b>TR</b>	New York University, <b>US</b>
<b>Monica Bettencourt-Dias</b> Research area: Cell cycle links to cancer	Gulbenkian Institute, Oeiras, <b>PT</b>	University of Cambridge, <b>UK</b>
<b>Agnieszka Dobrzyć</b> Research area: Lipid-induced insulin resistance	Nencki Institute (of Experimental Biology), Warsaw, <b>PL</b>	University of Wisconsin-Madison, <b>US</b>
<b>Csaba Pal</b> Research area: Evolutionary systems biology	Biological Research Center, Szeged, <b>HU</b>	University of Oxford, <b>UK</b>
<b>Attila Remenyi</b> Research area: Protein-protein interactions	Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, <b>HU</b>	University of California San Francisco (UCSF), <b>US</b>
<b>Gergely Szakacs</b> Research area: Multidrug resistance in cancer	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, <b>HU</b>	Center for Cancer Research, Bethesda, <b>US</b>
<b>ŠtĚpanka Vanaćova</b> Research area: Nuclear RNA quality control	Masaryk University, Brno, <b>CZ</b>	Biozentrum Basel, <b>CH</b>
<b>Henrique Veiga-Fernandes</b> Research area: Lymphocyte development	Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM), Lisbon, <b>PT</b>	National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), London, <b>UK</b>
<b>Ibrahim Yaman</b> Research area: Ochratoxin A carcinogenicity	Marmara Research Center, Gebze, <b>TR</b>	Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, <b>US</b>
<b>Bojan Źagrović</b> Research area: Molecular structure and dynamics	Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences (MILS), Split, <b>HR</b>	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, <b>CH</b>

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**About EMBO**

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) promotes excellence in molecular life sciences in Europe by recognising and fostering talented scientists. Since 1964, leading scientists are elected annually to become EMBO Members based on proven excellence in research. Members number more than 1300 today with a further 80 associate members worldwide. Forty-five scientists from the EMBO membership have received the Nobel Prize. More than half of the EMBO Members are involved in guiding the execution of the many EMBO initiatives offered to life scientists and have a significant impact on the direction of European life sciences.

Leading peer-reviewed journals – *The EMBO Journal*, *EMBO reports* and *Molecular Systems Biology* – span a broad spectrum of topics of molecular biology and reflect how science is shaping the world. A new journal from early 2009, *EMBO Molecular Medicine*, will publish original research offering molecular insight into the cellular and systemic processes underlying human disease.

EMBO-sponsored training and networking activities impact thousands of scientists every year, promoting collaboration in all areas of molecular biology – within Europe and worldwide.

EMBO is renowned for the quality and funding of these programmes and activities that include *EMBO Courses and Workshops*, *EMBO Long-and Short-term Fellowships*, *EMBO Young Investigator Programme*, *EMBO Science & Society Programme*, *EMBO Installation Grants* and *EMBO Women in Science*.

Annual awards, such as the *EMBO Gold Medal* and the *EMBO Award for Communication in the Life Sciences*, recognise significant contributions of European researchers to the advancement of science.

*The EMBO Meeting* advances the life sciences, attracting around 2000 life scientists to an annual scientific programme full of the latest research across a number of related fields.

For more information: [www.embo.org](http://www.embo.org)