

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (IUBMB)

Website <http://www.iubmb.org>

## ANNUAL REPORT 2004

This Report summarizes the activities of IUBMB in 2004

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (MARY OSBORN)

The function of IUBMB is to promote research and education in biochemistry and molecular biology throughout the world giving particular attention to areas where the subject is in its early development.

IUBMB does this through a variety of instruments. First through the IUBMB Congress held every three years and through the IUBMB Conferences or Special Meetings held in non Congress years. The 2003 Congress was originally scheduled for Toronto in July 2003, but was moved to Montreal because of the SARS epidemic. It was held in Montreal from 8-11 October 2003. A full report on this Congress is available on the website, but since I became President after the General Assembly held at the end of the 2003 Congress, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the organizers of the IUBMB XIXth Congress, and in particular Joel Weiner, President of the Organizing Committee, Michael Walsh, Chair of the Program Committee, and Fred Palmer, the Organizer of the Young Scientist Program for organizing what was in effect not one congress but two! The Montreal Congress was held together with HUPO, the Human Proteome Organization and was notable for its display of cutting edge biochemistry, molecular biology and proteomics. I would also like to thank John Bergeron and his colleagues in HUPO for making the move from Toronto to Montreal possible.

November 2003 also saw IUBMB sponsoring a Meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon together with FASBMB. The meeting was entitled Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for the development of Africa and was attended by more than 200 participants. IUBMB was given a major role in the official ceremonies and contact was established with the Minister for Higher Education in the Cameroon. A full scientific program included talks by Bradshaw and by Liljas as well as a program on Biochemical Education. Thanks are due in particular to Angelo Azzi for his role in the organization of this meeting.

In 2004 IUBMB held a joint Conference together with the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, our Adhering Body in the U.S. The meeting, held from 12-16 June in Boston, was organized by Alexander Newton, John Scott and Julio Celis. It was organized according to a "thread concept". Thus certain themes were not limited to a single session but were carried through the meeting. For instance judging from the session I went to on Biochemical Education, 5-10% of the participants were interested in this topic and had the opportunity to attend special sessions on each day of the meeting. Notable also was the supporting careers program offering individual consultations as well as talks given by professionals on topics such as how to apply for a job in the biotech industry.

I spoke about IUBMB at the Opening Ceremony at which a large proportion of the 1600 participants were present. Attending the meeting also gave me the chance to interact with the U.S. Committee for IUBMB that was chaired by Jack Kirsch, and of which George Kenyon is a member. Here it was possible to describe in depth what IUBMB does and its plans for the

future. I also had the opportunity to talk about IUBMB with the ASBMB Council and with the then President, Betty Sue Masters. Further in depth interactions were possible on Biochemical Education with Ellis Bell and with Donald and July Voet.

A second highlight of 2004 was the IUBMB Special Meeting held in Bangkok in November. This meeting was held jointly with FAOBMB and with A-IMBN. Its title was "Genomics and Health in the 21st Century". This was a very interesting meeting ably organized by Tipaporn Limpaseni (Chair of the Organizing Committee) and by Worachart Sirawaraporn (Chair of the Scientific Program Committee) and their colleagues. The meeting was distinguished by a number of excellent plenary lectures and symposia talks, many on problems related to disease. It offered many possibilities for in depth contacts with our Thai colleagues, and we were all impressed by the enthusiasm of the young Thai students. It was with great sadness that four weeks later we all saw the pictures of the Tsunami that struck Thailand and other areas of the world on 26 December.

Turning to future meetings we look forward to the IUBMB/FEBS Conference on the Protein World to be held in Budapest in 2005. Also to the 20th International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to be held together with FAOBMB in Kyoto in 2006. It is entitled "Life: Molecular Integration and Biological Diversity". In 2007 a Conference has been arranged together with the Brazilian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBq) and with PABMB. The topic is "Infectious Diseases: Biochemistry of parasites, vectors and hosts". In 2008 we hope again to have a joint Conference with FEBS at a venue that will be decided this spring. And in 2009 the triennial Congress will be held in Shanghai.

IUBMB will celebrate the 50th anniversary of IUB/IUBMB in 2005 in Budapest at the IUBMB/FEBS meeting. IUBMB will celebrate this special event in several ways. First in addition to the usual support afforded a Conference there will be a 50th anniversary lecture at the opening ceremony that will be given by Chris Dobson. Second there will be a special IUBMB 50th Anniversary Symposium at which Adriano Aguzzi, Laura Machesky, Alfred Wittinghofer and Shigeyuki Yokoyama will speak. IUBMB will also host a reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary. TIBS/Elsevier have very generously agreed to sponsor both the lecture by Chris Dobson and the special reception, while Taylor and Francis, the publisher of IUBMB Life, will sponsor the 50th Anniversary Symposium. Special issues of both TIBS and IUBMB Life will be produced to commemorate the 50th anniversary. And last but not least Bill Whelan, a former president of IUBMB, has agreed to give a talk on the history of IUB/IUBMB to take place at the end of the IUBMB 50th Anniversary Symposium.

I welcome very much initiatives started by individual EC Members. Jacques Weil as General Secretary not only deals with the day to day problems affecting IUBMB in a most efficient manner, but has also revamped the Wood Whelan fellowship program. Jan Joep de Pont, the new Treasurer, has updated the accounting system used by IUBMB, so he knows precisely how much money we have in IUBMB accounts on a daily basis. Money not spent in one year can be carried over to the next year in the same triennium. Reminders are now sent out to Adhering Bodies and to Special Members on a regular basis. George Kenyon, the President Elect has been of help in several instances when a scientific problem has been raised. Angelo Azzi, in addition to his duties as Member for Publications, has concluded negotiations with Sigma-Aldrich over the rights to the maps produced by Donald Nicholson and this will, in addition to supporting production of the maps allow IUBMB to support young scientists wanting to attend IUBMB Conferences. Knut-Jan Andersen, the Member for Congresses and Conferences chaired the IUBMB Committee that selected the 15 applicants of these fellowships in Budapest and has revised the rules for IUBMB meetings. Vito Turk, the

Member for Symposia and Interest Groups and Cecilia Hidalgo, the Member for Education, ensure that our resources in these areas are used to the best possible advantage, while Peter Ott ensures that the information on the IUBMB website is up to date and accurate. One current concern is to review and extend our current activities in the Education area and in this connection I have had contact with Mary Gannon who runs the EMBO World Program. As a result EMBO and IUBMB will jointly sponsor a course in 2005 for the first time. A second is to see how IUBMB can become more active in Biotechnology and in recruiting and retaining Special Members, and on this point we look forward to further initiatives by Ken-ichi Arai, the EC member responsible for Networking, Industrial Relations and Biotechnology.

I also want to mention three additional points. First my attendance at the ICSU meeting in Paris in February 2004. This was a useful meeting from the point of view of making contact with officers of other unions that belong to ICSU and led for instance to contacts to Brazil and the decision to hold a Conference there in 2007. Opportunities however for obtaining direct funding from ICSU for IUBMB initiatives are very limited. Second publicity for IUBMB activities. An initiative has been developed with Angelo Azzi's help to use the free pages in TIBS and IUBMB Life. The first advertisements for IUBMB and for the Budapest meeting have already appeared. Third we will be suggesting some changes in the Statutes to the General Assembly in 2006.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation that the activities described above involve all four regional Associated Organizations (FEBS, PABMB, FAOBMB and FASBMB) as well as many Adhering Bodies and Associate Adhering Bodies. IUBMB has shown that in the last few years it can, together with the Regional Organizations, sponsor events in many parts of the world. If we can continue to work with the Regional Associated Organizations and with the Adhering Bodies and Associate Adhering Bodies we can indeed strengthen Biochemistry and Molecular Biology both in the developed and in the developing world.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, (GEORGE L. KENYON)**

1. Jubilee Lecturers. As President-Elect, it is my duty to deal with applications for IUBMB Jubilee Lecturers. This past year, we had three applications, and all were deemed worthy of support. The first was awarded to Dame Louise Johnson, University of Oxford, who received \$1,000.00 (U.S.) to support her travel and other expenses to lecture at the Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium entitled "Signal Transduction in Cancer" to be held in Miami, Florida in February, 2005. The application for support emanated from Professor William J. Whelan, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Miami Medical School, and Editor-in-Chief of IUBMB Life. The second award was made to Professor Ron R. Kopito, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University. He received \$1,500.00 (U.S.) to support his travel and other expenses to speak at the Netherlands Society of Biochemical and Molecular Biology (NVBMB) Fall Symposium on October 28, 2004 at the Netherlands Royal Academy of Sciences. The title of the meeting was "Chaperones, Protein Folding and Disease". The application was made by Prof. Dr. Saskia M. van der Vies, co-organizer of the symposium. The third was a \$1,000.00(U.S.) award to Professor Christopher Mathews, Oregon State University, who was a Jubilee Lecturer at the 19th Conference of the South Africa Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Stellenbosch, South Africa, on January 16, 2005. The application was from Professor Ann Louw, University of Capetown.

2. ASBMB/IUBMB Meeting in Boston. I attended the ASBMB Annual Meeting/8th IUBMB Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts, June 12-16, 2004. Along with Mary Osborn and others, I helped represent the IUBMB at various meetings and receptions. I also helped answer questions at the IUBMB booth at that meeting during the lunch time session on Tuesday, June 15.
3. Liaison with the U.S. National Committee (USNC) for the IUBMB. Both as immediate past-chair of the USNC and as President-Elect of the IUBMB, I have participated in two of these USNC meetings in the past year. The first was via a telephone conference call on November 5, 2003. The second meeting was held in Boston on June 11, 2004, just prior to the ASBMB/IUBMB meeting. Mary Osborn also attended the June meeting and gave a detailed update on recent IUBMB activities. At this meeting, it was decided to have the USNC sponsor a workshop entitled "The Changing Face of Global Biotechnology", probably sometime in 2005. The workshop will focus on scientific research and employment trends within academia and industry and how the two sectors interface in a competitive global market. The workshop will also look at changes in industry that affect the way science is done globally. This workshop should be of interest to biochemists in many nations.
4. 20th IUBMB Congress, Kyoto, Japan, 2006. This will be the Congress at which I will become President of IUBMB. I currently serve on the International Advisory Board for this meeting and have, at the request of the scientific organizers, recently suggested several names for plenary lecturers. On December 3, 2004, I met in Tokyo with Professor Kiyoshi Kita, University of Tokyo, who is Treasurer of FAOBMB, the organizing entity, and we discussed the progress of the planning for the Congress.
5. IUBMB Conference in Brazil in 2007. Along with Knut-Jan Andersen, I have been asked by Mary Osborn to take the lead in organization from the IUBMB side for an IUBMB Conference to be held in 2007, probably in Campos de Jordão, Brazil. It would be held in conjunction with the 36th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBq). On Monday, November 22, 2004, I met with Professor Sergio Ferreira, President-elect of PABMB and Professor Glaucius Oliva, President-Elect of the Brazilian Society of Biochemistry, in Rio de Janeiro to discuss this meeting and to update them about IUBMB activities. The tentative title of the 2007 meeting is "Infectious Diseases: Biochemistry of Parasites, Vectors and Hosts".

#### **REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (JACQUES-HENRY WEIL)**

It is rather difficult to summarize my activities because i) many of them consist in daily interactions by phone or e-mail with either people inside the IUBMB community (EC members, Officers of ABs, AABs, or Associated Organizations) or people outside (for instance asking for information) and ii) they often overlap with the activities of other EC members. To take just two examples in that category, I was involved (with Mary Osborn) in the preliminary discussions in October 2003 in Montreal with Sigma-Aldrich which eventually led to the signature of an Agreement concerning the Metabolic Maps (see the report of the Publications Committee), and I went with Angelo Azzi to London in December 2003 to discuss with Elsevier our Agreement concerning TIBS as there was a discrepancy in the interpretation of this Agreement which was eventually resolved (see the report of the Publications Committee).

### **Wood-Whelan Fellowships**

I therefore want to focus on a new responsibility which I took over in 2004 when I became Chairman of the Committee for the Wood-Whelan Research Fellowships as a successor to Yasuhiro Anraku who left the EC. We considered the possibility of merging this fellowship program with that of MCBN (Molecular and Cellular Biology Network) and UNESCO fellowships, but after consulting a number of individuals decided to keep our program independent, and I therefore asked Iqbal Parker from Cape Town, South Africa, and Avadhesh Surolia from Bangalore, India, to join me in forming a Committee for the Wood-Whelan Fellowships. The guidelines were slightly modified with Mary Osborn's approval (see our website). When an application is received, I forward all documents by e-mail to the other two Committee members who fill out an evaluation form which they send me also by e-mail, so that a decision is usually taken within two weeks and notified to the applicant and, if a fellowship is awarded, to the host lab supervisor and the IUBMB Treasurer.

The Committee has reviewed 30 fellowship applications in 2004 (one was reviewed by the previous Committee, but for a visit which took place in 2004), and out of these 30 applications, 14 were funded for a total amount of approximately 26,000 US \$. This amount is higher than that which was available for these fellowships in 2004, namely 19,000 US \$, but some of the fellowships awarded in 2004 will only be paid in 2005, because these fellows applied in 2004 for a stay abroad which will take place in 2005. As a comparison, 4 fellowships were awarded in 2001, 5 in 2002 and 3 in 2003.

Additional information on the fellowships awarded in 2004 (name of the fellow, home laboratory, host laboratory, title of the project, length of the stay) can be found on the IUBMB website under «Wood-Whelan Awardees ».

### **IUBMB/Sigma-Aldrich Fellowships**

In December 2004, I also participated in a Committee which was set up to evaluate the applications for the IUBMB/Sigma-Aldrich fellowships, together with Knut-Jan Andersen (chairman of this Committee) and Jan Joep de Pont. It had been decided to use some of the funds made available to IUBMB by Sigma-Aldrich as a result of the agreement concerning the Metabolic Maps (see the report of the Publications Committee) to help young scientists (under 35) participate in the 9th IUBMB Conference-30th FEBS Congress in Budapest (July 2-7, 2005) and in the 2005 FEBS Forum for Young Scientists in Visegrad (June 30-July 2, 2005). A total of 66 applications were received and ranked by the Committee in order of merit : The first 15 young scientists will get their accommodation, living expenses and registration fees paid, and the first 5 awardees will in addition receive a travel support of up to 1,000 US \$. The names of the awardees can be found on the website of the meeting (<http://www.febs-iubmb-2005.com/>) and on the IUBMB website.

### **New Member**

The application from the Moroccan Society of Biochemistry to become an Associate Adhering Body was accepted at the EC meeting held in Bangkok on November 27-28, 2004, and will be presented at the next General Assembly in Kyoto in 2006.

### **Future meetings**

- > 30th FEBS Congress / 9th IUBMB Conference. "The Protein World. Proteins and Peptides: Structure, Function and Organization". Budapest, Hungary, July 2-7, 2005
- > 20th IUBMB Congress and 11th FAOBMB Congress. Kyoto, Japan, June 18-23, 2006
- > 21th IUBMB Congress and 12th FAOBMB Congress. Shanghai, China, 2009

## **Future EC meetings and General Assembly**

- Budapest 2005: Friday July 1, the whole day (starting at 8.30 a.m.) and Saturday July 2 (until 3 p.m.)
- Kyoto 2006:
  - > EC meeting before the General Assembly : Friday June 23 (the whole day).
  - > General Assembly: Saturday June 24 (morning) followed by a reception.
  - > EC meeting after the General Assembly: Saturday afternoon June 24 and Sunday morning, June 25.

## **REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (JAN JOEP DE PONT)**

At the General Assembly on 12 October 2003, the triennial report for the period 2000-2002 was approved. During this period the balance of IUBMB increased from 816 kUSD to 1,280 kUSD. This was due to higher income from Adhering Bodies, less administrative costs and an increase in the Euro/Dollar ratio. In this triennium a total of 132 kUSD was obtained from donations. An anonymous donation of 100kUSD in memory of Lars Ernster was the most important and this was used to establish the Lars Ernster Fund to support the travel of Young Scientists to IUBMB Congresses.

At the same time the working budget for the triennium 2003-2005 was approved. In this budget the estimated expenditures (1,194 kUSD) were slightly larger than the estimated income (1,155 kUSD). On 1 January 2004 Jan Joep de Pont (the Netherlands) replaced Brian Beechey (UK) as treasurer.

Mainly due to a further increase in the Euro/Dollar ratio a profit of 39 kUSD was made in 2003 instead of the expected loss. Since the first year of a triennium is in general the one with the highest expenditure, due to the triennial Congress and the General Assembly, more funds were made available for activities in 2004 and 2005. The executive committee decided to make a separate budget for the voluntary contributions to BAMBED so that in 2005 the full 40kUSD will be available for Education activities. In addition, the income from journals, in particular Trends in Biochemical Sciences increased in 2004 due to successful negotiations by Angelo Azzi, the EC member for publications. A long-term contract with Sigma-Aldrich Corporation, giving them the right to commercialize the Nicholson mini-maps, was also signed. Part of this money will be used to give grants to young scientists that attend IUBMB Conferences. For the 9th IUBMB Conference that will take place in July 2005 in Budapest, and at which the 50th anniversary of IUBMB will be celebrated, 15 fellows will be supported. Despite the larger income, the treasurer tried with success to keep administrative expenditures as low as possible.

Moreover, considerable effort was invested in improving the financial administration, in convincing adhering bodies with arrears in payment of their contribution, to at least a reduction of their debts, and in safe investment with a maximal interest. In 2005, the triennial budget for the period 2006-2008 will be prepared with the purpose to use as much money as possible for IUBMB activities.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (ANGELO AZZI)

One of the most important measures of the success of a Journal is its impact factor. Below the 2004 impact factors of the IUBMB Journals (reflecting the years 2002 and 2003) are reported below with, in parenthesis, the values of the previous year and the increment.

|            |        |                  |
|------------|--------|------------------|
| BAB        | 1.034  | [1.000; +0.034]  |
| BAMBED     | 0.637  | [0.479; +0.158]  |
| BioFactors | 1.852  | [1.815; +0.037]  |
| IUBMB Life | 2.348  | [1.792; +0.556]  |
| TiBS       | 14.273 | [14.398; -0.125] |

All IUBMB Journals (except for TiBS) have increased their impact factors. I am particularly happy that IUBMB Life has overcome the barrier of IF=2 that is the limit after which the librarians consider subscribing to a Journal. A special case is Molecular Aspects of Medicine. ISI once again, despite the punctuality in publishing, did not attribute an impact factor to the journal. The reasons were not given. The articles of MAM are cited, as it appears from a non official analysis and moreover there is notable interest as indicated by the more than average hits and downloads from the web site. We calculated the number of citations of MAM in 2002+2003 (using Scopus) that have been 127 for 57 articles. This makes an IF of 2.2. In 2001 we published 13 review articles with 218 citations, an IF of 16!

The second important consideration is the financial aspect. All IUBMB journals are producing income for the IUBMB.

### Trends in Biochemical Sciences (TiBS)

Academic staff: After the former members of the editorial board Sheena Radford and Graham Warren were substituted by David Russel and Shamshad Cockcroft and Fiona Hutton has replaced Emma Wilson as the new editor of TiBS the composition of the board is as follows:

Editor: F. Hutton, London, UK; Assistant Editor: V. Ashton; London, UK

Advisory Editorial Board: M. Bienz, MRC, Cambridge, UK; S. Cockcroft, University College London, UK; J. Dixon, University of Michigan, USA; T. Gibson, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany; C. Heldin, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala, Sweden; M. Hentze, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany; R. Kornberg, Stanford University, USA; A. Lammond, University of Dundee, UK; T. de Lange, Rockefeller University, New York, USA; G. Petsko, Brandeis University, Waltham, USA; T. Pollard, Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA; D. W. Russel, UT Southwestern Medical Center, USA; P. Schimmel, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA; P. Von Hippel, University of Oregon, Eugene, USA; J. Witkowski (Editor in Chief), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, USA; M. Yanagida, Kyoto University, Japan.

Administrative staff: Recently Chris Gibson has become the Publishing Director of the Trends and Current Opinion titles taking over David Bousfield's responsibilities. The latter has become the Director of Business Development for Elsevier Life Sciences. Emma Wilson position is the Deputy Publishing Manager for the Trends and Current Opinion Journals. The Publishing Manager is Claire Moulton and over the next few months Claire will be taking over Emma Wilson's responsibilities for TiBS.

The discrepancy in the interpretation of the Agreement between IUBMB and Elsevier has been resolved. The viewpoint of the Publication Committee that Elsevier should pay royalties for the electronic publication of TiBS via ScienceDirect. has been accepted. BioMedNet has closed at the end of June, and TiBS is now hosted on ScienceDirect only and personal subscribers get their free online access through ScienceDirect. The decision to close BioMedNet supports customers who have told Elsevier that they would prefer a single

platform to access all full-text content from Elsevier. It makes sense that this single platform is ScienceDirect, a platform accessible by a huge number of researchers worldwide.

### **IUBMB Life**

Academic staff: The present editorial board comprises: Editors-in-Chief: Angelo Azzi and William J. Whelan. Editors: Sidney Altman, Ken-ichi Arai, Werner Arber, Pierre Chambon, Alan Roy Fersht, Michael W. Gray, Robert Huber, Louis J. Ignarro, Michael Karin, George L. Kenyon, Daniel E. Koshland, Jr., Margarita Salas, Kai Simons, Frank Vella, Jacques-Henry Weil, and Kurt Wüthrich. Associate Editors: Julie K. Andersen, Paolo Ascenzi, Paolo Bernardi, Steve L. Britton, Enrique Cadenas, Toren Finkel, Thomas K. Harris, Sergey G. Inge-Vechtomy, Alberto R. Kornblihtt, Christina A. Mitchell, M. Iqbal Parker, Israel Pecht, Rafael Radi, Pauline Schaap, Vladimir P. Skulachev, Bruce Stone, Avadhesh Surolia, Warren P. Tate, Paul Van Helden, Jose Viña, Jacques-Henry Weil, Karel Wirtz, Claes B. Wollheim, Junji Yodoi and Macies Zylicz.

Administrative staff: Due to an internal restructuring, a number of changes have occurred. The management of the bioscience journals list within the UK is shared equally between Matthew Pacey and Rachel Sangster. Recent acquisitions and the overall growth and development of the portfolio that have taken place over the last twelve months have necessitated this reorganisation in order to provide each title with due focus and attention. Matthew Pacey has been promoted to Managing Editor and as such he has direct responsibility for IUBMB Life and is the primary point of contact for the Journal. IUBMB Life submission will be electronic before the end of 2004. The provider of the service is ScholarOne.

The production of the January 2003 issue, and all subsequent issues, was moved from Philadelphia to Abingdon, Oxford. We thank our Philadelphia colleagues for their hard work and have met new UK colleagues with whom we are establishing a close, working relationship. The first issue of IUBMB Life to be produced from the UK has been issued, volume 55 (1). It looks very attractive and includes, as an innovation, forthcoming contents on the back outside cover.

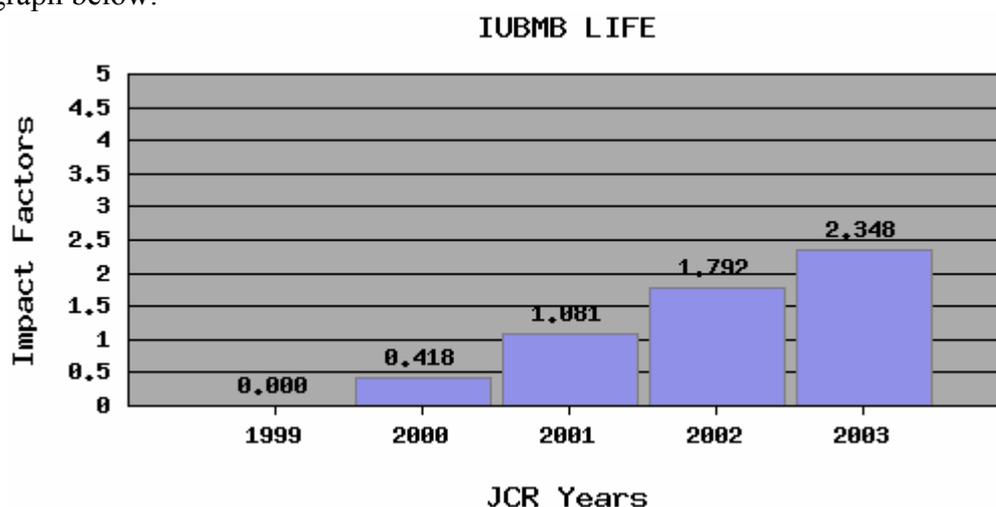
New author instructions have been developed. They make for easier electronic submission. Proofs are now being distributed electronically, which is a great improvement. Corresponding authors can now receive their article by e-mail as a complete PDF which allows them to print up to 50 copies, free of charge. IUBMB Life is maintaining a regular monthly schedule but needs more articles in the pipeline, especially reviews and hypotheses. The number of research communications that are published is relatively low. This is because the acceptance rate is also low. Starting February 15, 2005 submissions to IUBMB Life will be on line only. The provider is ScholarOne.

Two theme issues have been published in 2003-4, one on Neurodegenerative Disease and the other one on "NO" in honour of Salvador Moncada.

Another theme issue corresponding to vol 56(11,12) 2004 is dedicated to "Cytoglobins and Neuroglobins".

The type of published articles has increased and presently IUBMB Life features the following categories: Feature Article, Critical Reviews, Hypothesis, Research Communications, Is There an Answer?, Recollections, and Textbook Horrors

The impact factor of IUBMB Life has increased year by year for the last 4 years as indicated by the graph below.



The journal has a print run of 550 and is also available on line.

Over the 2 year period through December 2004, there were 84,219 online accesses to IUBMB Life including 76 full-text downloads over a 6-month period of a review by the 2004 Nobel Laureate Aaron Ciechanover.

The acceptance rate for research communications is less than 30%. The acceptance rate for critical reviews, almost all of which are invited, is greater than 90%.

A special issue for the 50th IUBMB Anniversary is planned. This issue will be inserted into the bags of the expected delegates. Taylor and Francis will offer a special discount on the personal subscription rate to these delegates.

### **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education (BAMBED)**

Academic staff: Co-Editors are Donald Voet and Judith G Voet; Feature Editors are A Stephen Dahms, Graham Parslow, Harold B White, Editorial Board Members, Carolina Anderson, Trevor Anderson, Paolo Ascenzi, Ellis Bell, Jeremy Berg, Helen Berman, Rodney Boyer, John Boyle, Kathleen Cornele, Leopoldo deMeis, Edward A Dennis, Catherine L Drennan, Perry Frey, Kuri Giles, Richard Gumport, Arnie Hagler, Richard W Hanson, Julia Hasler, Cecilia Hidalgo, Richard O Jenkins, Robert Learmonth, Ponzy Lu, David Marcey, Eric Martz, Christopher Mathews, David Nelson, Marion O Leary, Bhinyo Panijpan, Graham Parslow, Gregory Petsko, Dale Poulter, Carl Rhodes Chase, David C Richardson, Jane S Richardson, Chris Rohlman, Victor Romanowski, Vladimir Skulachev, Christopher A Smith, Donald Smith, Frank Solomon, Joanne Stubbe, Elizabeth C Theil, Akif Uzman, Frank Vella, Jose Vina, Harold B White, Gabriele Wienhausen, Adele Wolfson, Ed Wood, Terry Woodin, Junji Yodoi D

ASBMB as publisher of BAMBED produced its first issue in January 2002. This was approximately 1 year after Don and Judy Voet took over as co-editors of BAMBED. The cover was redesigned. It is over-printed so copies can be given out at meetings. BAMBED is not yet listed on PubMed although it was expected to be done in 2002. BAMBED is searchable via the HighWire Press search engine and Scopus. PubMed considers listing BAMBED. In 2001, the editors tried to increase the quality of journal articles by rejecting more papers. As a consequence, fewer pages were published that year but quality definitely improved. In 2002, 435 pages were published in 6 issues. This was up over page numbers in 1999 through 2001. There are no page charges or charges for colour in BAMBED. BAMBED publishes a variety of kinds of papers including those on teaching techniques, methods of assessment, research in biochemistry education, short reviews, laboratory exercises,

secondary school outreach, problem based learning, biotechnology and multimedia presentations for biochemistry education. There are also meeting reports and book reviews.

### **Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry (BAB)**

Academic Staff: Editor-in-Chief: Parviz Shamlou. Associate Editors L. M. Babé, J. M. Cabral, T. Keshavarz, H. S. Kingdon, A. L. Lee, C. V. Sapan, Editors, R. A. Bradshaw, F. J. Castellino, T. G. Flynn, P. Gemeiner, W.J. Kelly, M.-R. Kula, H. Kumagai, H. Kumar, R. L. Lundblad, I. S. Maddox, M. Mahmoudian, R. Moore, N. A. Morjana, D. Schaffer, A. Seifalian, B. Svensson, K. Wells, R. Willson, P. Zandstra

The journal publishes commentaries from members of the commercial biotechnology community on registration and clinical matters. Mini-reviews provide the reader with timely updates in fast-moving areas.

While it is anticipated that the majority of the articles will focus on human disease, including medicine and dentistry, articles relating to veterinary medicine will also be included. The scope of biological macromolecules includes proteins, polysaccharides and other carbohydrates, lipids and nucleic acids of biological origin, either naturally occurring, such as in blood plasma or other biological fluids, or expressed in eukaryotic or prokaryotic systems. Manuscripts are now published online in pdf format as soon as they are accepted. A new editor in chief has been appointed Prof. Parviz Shamlou.

Parviz A. Shamlou is Senior Engineering Consultant at Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, U.S.A. Until recently he was a full Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Biochemical Engineering at University College London. His research interests have been supported by over 20 separate grants and have resulted in more than 130 publications, including one authored book, one edited book, many refereed journal articles, chapters and other forms of dissemination. Parviz's research is at the interface between new life sciences and bioprocessing, with an emphasis on the creation of new approaches based on miniaturization to aid discovery, and to allow prediction of full-scale bioprocessing of advanced biologics, including therapeutic genes, antibodies and cellular systems. Recently, his research has been concerned with the biophysical characterization of non-viral drug delivery systems, the design of miniaturized techniques for fermentation and cell-culturing operations and the bioprocessing engineering issues related to manufacturing of advanced vaccines and tissue-engineered products.

### **BioFactors**

Academic staff: Editors-in-Chief L. Flohé and E. Niki; editorial board: A. Azzi, R. Brigelius-Flohé, M.-H. Chung, H. Duine, J.L. Emerson, M. Hartmanis, O. Hayaishi, H.P.C. Hogenkamp, O. Igarashi, K. Inoue, N. Katunuma, J.P. Klinman, F.H. Nielsen, S.W. Ragsdale, J. Retéy, C. Rice-Evans, H. Sies, K. Soda, T.C. Stadtman, T. Suda, J. Terao, F. Ursini, W.J. Whelan.

The problem of a renewal of BioFactors seemed to be resolved during 2002, when Prof. Ishwarlal Jialal, at UC Davis Medical Center, accepted the offer of becoming editor-in-chief. However, after almost one year of discussions he decided to resign before his official term as editor-in-chief had begun. The journal is continuing with the same difficulties and the IUBMB Publications Office is considering new possibilities.

### **Molecular Aspects of Medicine**

Academic staff: Editor-in-Chief, A. Azzi; Associate Editor: R. Rizzuto; Editors: A. Aguzzi, W. Awad, B. Clark, C. De Duve, T. Kirchhausen, C. Montecucco, G. Rutter, H. Sies, W. Whelan

ISI once again, despite the punctuality in publishing, did not attribute an impact factor to the journal. The reasons were not given. The articles of MAM are cited, as it appears from a non official analysis and moreover there is notable interest as indicated by the more than average hits and downloads from the web site.

In order to overcome this problem (which has obvious consequences for the authors and prospective authors) Dr. Bernard Westerop (Elsevier) and I have designed a relaunch of the journal that in a new, larger format, with a new color cover and typographical vest will be represented to ISI. We consider as well increasing the number of editors, in order to obtain the maximum visibility and as much help as possible in commissioning and reviewing articles.

In the year 2004 all issues have been timely published. Katarzyna Nalecz has coordinated "Carnitine and carnitine derivatives in the brain"; Dieter Häussinger "From experimental to clinical hepatology"; Cesar Fraga & Alberto Boveris "Physiopathology of oxygen radicals" and Michael Duchen, "Neurodegenerative Disease".

For the year 2005 all issues are already confirmed. K. Richard Bruckdorfer "Physiopathological aspects of NO and its derivatives" (double issue); Paul J. Ciclitira "Celiac Disease"; Gustavo Duque "Bone and Aging" and César Fraga Patricia Oteiza, and Carl Keen "Trace elements, and human health". Finally Ameenah Gurib-Fakim is preparing an issue on "Medicinal Plants".

### **IUBMB/Nicholson Maps**

A new agreement with Sigma-Aldrich has been signed. It provides IUBMB with financial support for the further development of the Maps and for giving fellowships to young scientists for their participation in the IUBMB Meetings.

Don Nicholson has continued the production of the Animaps, animation maps important to show the interaction of enzymes with substrate and the product formation (particularly brilliant the mitochondrial ATPase rotary motor) in a dynamic way.

Minimaps. These have been occupying D. Nicholson for nearly a year and most of them have now been redesigned. During the year they have been appeared one by one in IUBMB,s Journal of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BAMBED) - which is now published by the ASBMB. In recent issues the minimaps have been accompanied by historical and critical reviews by some of the top workers in the relevant field and all have been reassuringly enthusiastic. The minimaps have been on the IUBMB website for a long time now.

### **Nomenclature Subcommittee**

In a series of correspondence with IUPAC it has been stated that IUBMB wishes to maintain NC-IUBMB as an entity separate from any joint body. We also agreed, within the IUBMB EC that a reduction of the number of the Committee members is acceptable or even desirable. IUPAC proposal that, instead of eight Titular Members (four from each Union) and eight Associates, the Commission should consist of four titular Members (two from each Union) and eight Associates has been accepted. One of the Titular Members (appointed by IUBMB) would be the Chairman, and another (appointed by IUPAC) would be the Secretary. The Chairman would be an ex-officio member of the IUPAC Division VIII Committee, with participation funded by IUBMB. There would still be a need for an annual meeting, most conveniently held in conjunction with NC-IUBMB, for which only Titular Members would have guaranteed funding. As now, NC-IUBMB would be responsible for maintaining the Enzyme List, with advice from IUPAC members of JCBN on systematic naming etc. The provisional funding currently assigned by IUPAC to JCBN, can be matched by an equal support from the IUBMB side for joint activities (which may be presented from the side of IUPAC as projects. Funding can be authorised by IUBMB through a decision of the EC and made available by the treasurer.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SYMPOSIA AND INTEREST GROUPS (VITO TURK )**

In the year 2004, IUBMB sponsored the organisation of 8 Symposia and 8 Interest Group Workshops. These were held in Argentina (2), Canada (2), Cuba (1), Germany (1), Greece (2), Finland (2), Italy (1), Russia (1), Slovenia (2), and USA (2). There was 1 event postponed to the year 2005.

### **I. The composition of the IUBMB Committee on Symposia during 2004 was:**

**Chairman: Vito Turk, Slovenia (1998 - )**  
Guy Dirheimer, France (2003 - )  
Knut-Jan Andersen, Norway (2000 - )  
Judith Bond, USA (1999 - )  
Tony Burgess, Australia (2000 - )  
Juan Jose Cazzulo, Argentina (1999 - )  
Alessandro Finazzi-Agro, Italy (1999 - )  
Carlos Gancedo, Spain (1999 - )  
Vaclav Pačes, Czech Republic (2003 - )  
Maciej Nalecz, Poland (1999 - )  
M. Iqbal Parker, South Africa (2000 - )  
Avadhesh Surolia, India (2003 - )  
Jun-Mei Zhao, China (2000 - )  
John N. Abelson, USA ex officio  
Arnost Kotyk, Czech Republic (ex officio)  
Jisnuson Svasti, Thailand (ex officio)

### **II. The activities supported by Committee on Symposia and Interest Groups in the year 2004 were as follows:**

1. Delivery of macromolecules into cells using non-viral vectors; held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, from July 8 – 10, 2004 (the event was held in 2004 instead of 2003!); Amount allocated US \$ 6000; Contact person: Dr. Jean Gariepy, [gariepy@unhres.utoronto.ca](mailto:gariepy@unhres.utoronto.ca)
2. 4th International Conference on Protein Kinase CK2: From Structure to Regulation and Function; held in London, Ontario, Canada, from July 25 – 27, 2004 (the event was held in 2004 instead of 2003!); Amount allocated US \$ 7500; Contact person: Dr. David Litchfield, [litchfi@uwo.ca](mailto:litchfi@uwo.ca)
3. The Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium “The Cell Cycle, Chromosomes and Cancer”; held in Miami Beach, Florida, USA, from January 31 – February 4, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 6000; Contact person: Ms. Sandra Black, [sblack@miami.edu](mailto:sblack@miami.edu)
4. II International Symposium on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (within 5th International Congress on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering); held in Havana, Cuba, from October 18 – 22, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 9000; Contact person: Dr. Maria E. Lanio, [mlanio@fbio.uh.cu](mailto:mlanio@fbio.uh.cu)
5. Biochemistry and molecular biology of free-radical mediated processes; held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from May 5 – 9, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 7000; Contact person: Dr. Cesar G. Fraga, [cfraga@ffyb.uba.ar](mailto:cfraga@ffyb.uba.ar)

6. 8th International Symposium on the Maillard Reaction; held in Charleston, S. Carolina, USA, from August 29 – September 2, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 4000; Contact person: Dr. John W. Baynes, [baynes@mail.chem.sc.edu](mailto:baynes@mail.chem.sc.edu)
7. Protein Phosphorylation and Bio-Regulation; held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from December 5 – 8, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 7000; Contact person: Prof. Ernesto J. Podesta, [biohrdc@fmed.uba.ar](mailto:biohrdc@fmed.uba.ar)
8. Calcium in Health and Disease; held in Rovaniemi, Finland, from July 5 – 7, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Nils-Erik Leo Saris, [nils-erik.saris@helsinki.fi](mailto:nils-erik.saris@helsinki.fi)

### III. The composition of the Interest Groups:

1. Functional Genomics - Chairman Robert D. Wells, USA
2. Cellular and Developmental Biochemistry - Julio E. Celis, Denmark
3. Biotechnology - Brian F. C. Clark, Denmark
4. Catalytic Mechanisms - Richard Perham, UK
5. Metabolic Regulation - Walter Neupert, Germany
6. Bioenergetics – Robert B. Gennis, USA
7. Bioorganic Chemistry - Klaus Bock, Denmark
8. Structural Biology and Bioinformatics -Robert Huber, Germany
9. Molecular Medicine - Angelo Azzi, Switzerland
10. Plant Molecular Biology - Luis Herrera-Estrella, Mexico

### IV. The activities supported by the Committee on Symposia and Interest groups – WORKSHOPS in 2004 were:

1. 45th International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids (45th ICBL); held in Ioannina, Greece, from May 25 – 29, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Alexandros Tselepis, [atselep@cc.uoi.gr](mailto:atselep@cc.uoi.gr)
2. HALOPHILES 2004; held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from September 4 – 8, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Ana Plemenitaš, [ana.plemenitas@mf.uni-lj.si](mailto:ana.plemenitas@mf.uni-lj.si)
3. 13th European Bioenergetics Conference (EBEC 2004); held in Pisa, Italy, from August 21 – 26, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 7000; Contact person: Prof. B. Andrea Melandri, [melandri@alma.unibo.it](mailto:melandri@alma.unibo.it)
4. Protein oxidation and the proteasome; held on Island of Spetses, Greece, on September 20, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 5000; Contact person: Dr. Tilman Grune, [tilman.grune@charite.de](mailto:tilman.grune@charite.de)
5. Cytoskeletal dynamics: from cell biology to development and disease; held in Helsinki, Finland, from June 12 – 16, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 8000; Contact person: Dr. Olli Carpen, [olli.carpen@helsinki.fi](mailto:olli.carpen@helsinki.fi)
6. International conference “Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics for Medicine”; held in Moscow, Russia, from July 14 – 19, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 7000; Contact person: Prof. Alexander I. Archakov, [Inst@ibmh.msk.su](mailto:Inst@ibmh.msk.su)
7. IVth International Conference on Cysteine Proteinases and Their Inhibitors; held in Portorož, Slovenia, from September 18 – 22, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 7000; Contact person: Dr. Marko Dolinar, [Marko.Dolinar@ijs.si](mailto:Marko.Dolinar@ijs.si)

8. 15th International Symposium on Microsomes and Drug Oxidations: Chemical Biology in the Postgenomic Era – New Approaches and Applications; held in Mainz, Germany, from July 4 – 9, 2004; Amount allocated US \$ 4000; Contact person: Prof. Franz Oesch, [Oesch@uni-Mainz.de](mailto:Oesch@uni-Mainz.de)

One event to be held in year 2004 was postponed to the year 2005 (Organizer: Dr. Luca Scorrano from Italy).

## **REPORT OF THE MEMBER FOR IUBMB CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES (KNUT-JAN ANDERSEN)**

Effort has been directed to planning future IUBMB Conferences and Congresses.

These include:

- **Second IUBMB Special Meeting – “Genomics and Health in the 21st Century”.**  
November 23-26, 2004 – Thailand  
I attended a joint Organizing Committee – Scientific Program Committee meeting in Bangkok, and also met with the Management at the Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel in Bangkok in February 2004. Both meetings were productive.
- The planning and preparation for the joint **30th FEBS Congress – 9th IUBMB Conference:** “Protein and Peptides: Structure, Function and Organization” July 2-7, 2005 in Budapest, Hungary, appear to be in good hands. At the present time there are close to 4000 pre-registrations. I will attend a meeting with the organizing committee in February. Joint **IUBMB and Sigma Aldrich Corporation Travel Scholarships** will allow 15 outstanding young scientists (under 35 on 01.01.2005) from non-FEBS countries to attend both the 2005 FEBS Forum for Young Scientists from June 30 to July 2 in Visegrad on the Danube Bend as well as the 30th FEBS Congress -9th IUBMB Conference from July 2-7 in Budapest. Only scientists prepared to attend both meetings should apply for these scholarships.
- The **Guidelines for the Congresses and the Conferences** have been revised (with the help of Mary Osborn, Jacques-Henry Weil, and Jan Joep de Pont), and were adapted at the IUBMB EC Meeting in Bangkok, November 2004.
- **20th IUBMB Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** June 18-23, 2006 – Kyoto, Japan  
The preparations for the Congress are continuing and appear to be in good hands. I have attended several meetings with representatives of the organizing committee during the IUBMB Special Meeting in Bangkok, and plan to meet them again in April 2004.
- **The 10th IUBMB Conference:** “Infectious diseases: Biochemistry of the parasites, vectors and hosts” will be a joint meeting with XXXVI Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The conference will take place in Brazil in 2007.
- **The 11th IUBMB Conference** will be organized in the FEBS region in 2008. IUBMB is working closely with FEBS in to select the location of this conference.
- **The 21th IUBMB Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** will be in Shanghai, China, in 2009.

## **REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CECILIA HIDALGO)**

### **I. Composition of the committee**

During 2004 the IUBMB Education Committee had the following composition:

**Chairman: Cecilia Hidalgo, Chile (2000 - 2006)**

Trevor Anderson, South Africa (1998 -2004)

Paolo Bernardi, Italy (1998 -2004)

Julio Celis, Denmark (2000 -2006)

Paul Cohen, France (1998 -2004)

Masamitsu Futai, Japan (1998 -2004)

Joan Guinovart, Spain (2000 -2004)

Charles A. Pasternak, UK (1995 –2001; 2001-2004)

Leopoldo de Meis, Brasil (ex officio)

Donald Voet, USA (ex officio)

Judith Voet, USA (ex officio)

### **II Educational activities**

The educational activities supported in the year 2004 were:

1. 6th Franco-Maghrebine Workshop on Molecular Biotechnology”, held in in the Laboratories of Biochemistry and Phytopathology of the ESH, Sousse, Chott-Mariem, Tunisia, March 22 - 27, 2004. This workshop was organized by Prof. Hamadi Boussetta, Ecole Supérieure d'Horticulture, Tunisia. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 4,000.-
2. Free Radical School, held at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 5 - 9, 2004. This school was organized by Dr. Cesar G. Fraga, Universidad de Buenos Aires. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 3,000.-
3. Education symposium "Biochemical Education and Professional Perspectives”, held in Caxambu, Brasil, May 15 - 18, 2004 during the Annual meeting of the Brazilian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBq). This symposium was organized by Dr. Martha Sorenson, Vice President of SBBq, UFRJ, Brazil. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 1,965.-
4. Free radical school: “Free radicals and diseases: gene expression, cellular metabolism and pathophysiology”, held in the Island of Spetses, Greece, Sept 20 – 26, 2004. This School was organized by Dr. Tilman Grune, Neuroscience Research Center, Medical Faculty (Charité), Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 3,000.-
5. Education Session “Education in the Molecular Biosciences”. This session was part of the activities of II International Symposium of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, held during the V International Congress of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in La Habana, Cuba, Oct 18 – 22, 2004. This activity was organized by Dr. Maria E. Lanio, Organizing Committee, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de La Habana, Havana, Cuba. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 3,000.-

6. Third International Workshop on Iron and Copper Metabolism, held in Pucón, Chile, November 10-15, 2004. This workshop was organized by Prof. Marco T. Núñez, Head, Chilean Organizing Committee, Departamento de Biología- Millennium Institute CBB, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 3,000.-
7. Symposium “Undergraduate Biochemistry Education: Trends, Techniques and use of Technology”. This session was part of the activities of the 17th FAOBMB Symposium/2nd IUBMB Special Meeting/A-IMBN Meeting, Genomics and Health in the 21st Century, held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 22- 26, 2004. The symposium was organized by Dr. Susan Hamilton, Chair FAOBMB Education Committee, Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia. The amount granted by the IUBMB was US\$ 3,000.-

### **III. Other activities supported in 2004**

Complimentary BAMBED Subscriptions: Following the policy adopted in 2002, the IUBMB Education Committee distributed 80 complimentary BAMBED subscriptions with an even distribution among FASBMB, FAOBMB, FEBS and PABMB, the four regional organizations associated to IUBMB. In addition, 13 subscriptions were sent to the members of the Education Committee plus a few other individuals who are significantly involved in worldwide educational activities in the area of biochemistry/molecular biology. The total cost to the Committee for these 93 subscriptions was US\$ 14,335.-

### **REPORT ON THE IUBMB WEBSITE (PETER OTT)**

The website of IUBMB has been used to spread continuously updated information on all the activities of IUBMB: The most requested pages, besides the “Homepage” have been those with information about meetings and congresses, symposia, interest group and education workshops, the Standard for the PhD Degree, the Journals of IUBMB and last but not least the list with all the (Associate) Adhering Bodies.

Access statistics are now analyzed with new software that permits the elimination of hits from search engines. The site has an increasing popularity with a daily average of visits going from 92 in 2000 to 104 in 2001 to 129 in 2002 and 142 in 2003 and 156 in 2004. The total number of visits per year has increased from 33,546 in 2000 to 38,065 in 2001 to 47,396 in 2002 to 51,954 in 2003 and to 57,246 in 2004.

Of all the pages of the IUBMB website the list of the (Associate) Adhering Bodies (“Members of IUBMB”) was on the fifth rank in 2004 and has been requested 3834 times. By now e-mail addresses for all Adhering Bodies are available via this page.