

# **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (IUBMB)**

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

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

**This Report summarizes the activities of IUBMB in 2005**

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (MARY OSBORN)**

The financial situation of IUBMB shows considerable improvement over the situation three years ago. The budget for the 2003-2005 triennium shows a net profit of \$440,000 and on 31.12.2005 IUBMB had assets of \$1,724,812. As detailed in the Treasurer's Report this is due to a much higher income than was expected at the beginning of the triennium (\$340,000), \$72,000 less expenditure for activities than expected, \$42,000 less than expected for organizational costs and a \$55,000 profit on the currency exchange rates. Much of the increase in income was due to the increase in publication income (\$674,555 rather than the \$525,000 estimated) that was in part due to payment by Elsevier for on line access to TiBS. In addition the agreement with the Sigma Aldrich Corporation signed in 2004 has already provided an income of \$81,374 in the 2003-2005 triennium.

2005 was the year in which (IUB)MB officially celebrated its 50 year anniversary. The first General Assembly of IUB was held in London in 1955. IUB had 15 countries as members (each represented by an Adhering Body) in 1955, while today, 50 years later, IUBMB has 72 countries as members (each represented by an Adhering Body with voting power or an Associate Adhering Body without a vote). These countries are found on all five continents and include countries in which biochemistry and molecular biology are very well advanced, as well as countries in which biochemistry and molecular biology are in early development.

The 50 year celebrations were held in Budapest at a superb meeting organized by the Hungarian Biochemical Society, together with IUBMB, FEBS and the Eötvös Lorand University and its Faculty of Science (30th FEBS Congress and 9<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference). A special thank you to Peter Friedrich, President, Balazs Sarkadi, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee and Peter Csermely, Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee and everyone who helped with the organization. The conference was called "The Protein World" and was distinguished by excellent science very much appreciated by the large number of scientists (2646) who attended this meeting. Participants came from 89 countries and 39% of these were women. There were 321 speakers from 32 countries and 25% of these were women. One hundred and fifty high school students wearing yellow shirts helped host the conference. Due to a contract negotiated with Sigma-Aldrich Corporation concerning the metabolic charts and animaps produced by Donald Nicholson IUBMB was able to award 15 IUBMB-Sigma Aldrich Corporation travel fellowships to outstanding young scientists from outside Europe to attend both the FEBS young scientist event before the meeting, as well as the main meeting. IUBMB also acknowledges the financial help provided by the NSF Travel grant to support travel of US graduate students and speakers to the meeting, and thanks Laura Sheahan and George Kenyon for applying for this.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in Budapest in several ways: a) by the IUBMB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plenary Lecture given by Christopher Dobson, b) by the special IUBMB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium on Protein Structure and Function (speakers: Adriano Aguzzi

(Switzerland), Laura Machesky (U.K.), Shigeyuki Yokoyama (Japan) and Alfred Wittinghofer (Germany)), c) by the special lecture by William Whelan on the history of IUBMB, d) by the special lunch for individuals connected with IUBMB Life and e) by the evening buffet reception with a view of the Castle in which more than one hundred scientists with connections to IUBMB took part. The events were made even more special by the presence of several individuals who have served IUBMB as President, General Secretary or Treasurer. These included Hans Kornberg, E.C. Slater, Francis Vella and William Whelan and Brian Clark. We thank Elsevier, the Publishers of Trends in Biochemical Sciences (TiBS) and Francis and Taylor (the Publishers of IUBMB-Life) not only for their support of these events, but also for the special issues that were produced to mark the occasion. The TiBS special issue (Celebrating 50 years of the IUBMB), produced by Fiona Hutton, featured contributions from scientists who have changed the course of biochemistry and molecular biology in the last 50 years. The IUBMB Life special issue, produced by Angelo Azzi and William Whelan featured a series of articles on IUBMB and what it has achieved in the last 50 years, and provides a more permanent record of IUBMB's achievements. Free copies of each journal, as well as of BAMBED were distributed to participants at the Budapest meeting.

The Adhering Body for Australia, the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, also celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2005 in Adelaide. I was invited, as President of IUBMB, to open the ComBio2005 Meeting and give the opening lecture. Thanks to John Wallace, Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee and to Phillip Nagley, President ASBMB, for an excellent and very well organized meeting. Others may have a chance to experience Australian hospitality, if the bid by ASBMB to host an IUBMB/ASBMB Conference in Melbourne in 2010 is successful.

IUBMB has a full agenda of upcoming meetings. The 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology/11<sup>th</sup> FAOBMB Congress will be held in Kyoto in Japan in June 2006. It is entitled "Life, Molecular Integration and Biological Diversity", and has an outstanding program. The 10<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference entitled "Infectious Diseases, Biochemistry of Parasites, Vectors and Hosts" will be held together with PABMB and with the Brazilian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBq) in Salvador, Brazil in May 2007. The 11<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference/ 33<sup>rd</sup> FEBS Congress will be held in Athens, Greece, in 2008, while the 21<sup>st</sup> IUBMB International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will be held together with FAOBMB in Shanghai in 2009.

The schedule of meetings in the last triennium as well as the future meetings program show that IUBMB has adopted the idea of joint meetings cosponsored by IUBMB and one of the four Regional Associated Organizations (FEBS, PABMB, FASBMB and FAOBMB) and/or a strong Adhering Body.

A colored brochure describing IUBMB and its activities, including the journals which it publishes and sponsors has been produced and was distributed for the first time in Budapest. A gold and red IUBMB pin has also been produced and distributed in an effort to attain wider publicity for IUBMB and its activities.

Until 2005 IUBMB had no official code of ethics. The idea that such a code could be useful came from a meeting in Geneva in which I participated on behalf of IUBMB. The meeting called by the States Parties to the Convention of the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction was held to consider the "content, promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists". As the Chair of this meeting, John Freeman stated it as important that such

meetings include the voice of scientists themselves. Listening to the meeting convinced me that IUBMB should develop an IUBMB Code of Ethics. A special committee consisting of George Kenyon, Frank Vella and Elizabeth Neufeld undertook this task. The draft code was sent to biochemists and molecular biologists from around the world who were asked to comment. The code, which covers ethical conduct of scientists at different levels is posted on the IUBMB website. Here I would like especially to thank the members of the special committee as well as all the scientists who provided comments.

The Geneva meeting also allowed me to emphasize a further point that I believe to be very important and which is included in the IUBMB Mission Statement. In my contribution I stressed the importance of free and unhampered movement of scientists of all nations both for the advancement of science and for developing a consensus on ethical standards. I think sometimes many of us who do science in a privileged environment, and with substantial financial support from our governments, forget how much harder it is for those who want to do science in less well developed countries. And how helpful a visit to scientists in another country, or to a meeting can be in establishing contacts.

In this respect it is worth emphasizing the success of the IUBMB Wood Whelan Research Fellowship Program. Jacques Weil, ably assisted by Iqbal Parker (South Africa) and Avadesha Surolia (India) have revitalised this program that allows visits by young scientists for research purposes to laboratories in other parts of the world. The fellowship program in the 2003-2005 triennium was supported in part by an anonymous donation of \$14,325 that the EC has decided to dedicate to the Wood Whelan Fund. The current very positive financial situation for IUBMB has allowed money to be transferred at the end of 2005 from the Operating Fund to the Wood Whelan Research Fellowship Fund. This will guarantee continuation of this program until 2012 .

One of the most interesting ideas to emerge from discussions within IUBMB in 2005 is the idea of starting an Advanced School in Africa. The idea – spearheaded by Angelo Azzi – is to sponsor a Spetsai type summer school at a location near Cape Town for students/postdocs/young scientists not only from South Africa, but also from other African countries. If additional sponsorship can be secured IUBMB hopes to hold the first school in 2008. The IUBMB contribution will be financed in part by a special donation of \$25,000 made by Brian Clark to IUBMB.

In this connection a memorandum on cooperation in molecular biology and biochemistry recently signed by IUBMB and the Division of Basic and Engineering Sciences of UNESCO's Sector of Natural Sciences is of particular interest. This memorandum results from a visit Angelo Azzi and I made to talk with Maciej Nalecz, the Director of the Division of Basic and Engineering Sciences at UNESCO in Paris in September 2005. It states that “the partners wish to focus cooperative activities on capacity building and information sharing in Africa as a priority” but the memorandum also covers much wider areas of cooperation between the two organizations.

The Education Committee, chaired by Cecilia Hidalgo, sponsors a wide range of activities around the world. In 2005, it sponsored 8 activities in locations as diverse as Tunisia, Argentina, Chile, Hungary, Greece and Pakistan. Further workshops in the Philippines were originally planned for 2005 but will now take place in 2006. A major emphasis was placed on a practical and theoretical course on Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics, organized by Professor Jorge Allende in Santiago, Chile. It is hoped that this course might act as a prototype for similar courses in other parts of the world. Most of the IUBMB educational

events are cosponsored by other organizations. In 2005, for the first time, IUBMB cosponsored a course run by the European Molecular Biology Organisation (The EMBO Bioinformatics and Analysis of Genome Data held in Sfax, Tunisia).

The Committee on Symposia and Interest Groups is chaired by Vito Turk. It approved 21 events in 2005. They were held in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, France (2), Hungary, India (2), Italy (2), Japan, Pakistan, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, UK (2), Uruguay, and the USA (2). Thus 4 events were held in the FAOBMB Region, 1 event in the FASBMB Region, 5 events in PABMB Region and 11 events in the FEBS region. The events covered all areas of biochemistry and molecular biology and a full listing can be found on the IUBMB website and in Vito Turk's report. Vito Turk has recommended to the Executive Committee that the current distinction between Symposia and Interest Groups should be abolished.

Other members of the Executive Committee have also been very active in 2005 as can be seen from the individual reports. Jacques Henry Weil, the General Secretary, runs his portfolio in a very professional manner. Jan Joep de Pont has used his considerable financial skills to get and keep IUBMB's finances in excellent shape. George Kenyon, President Elect, has been involved in formulating the new IUBMB Code of Ethics, as well as in updating the standards for the PhD degree together with Prof. Dagmar Runge. The revised document is now available on the IUBMB website. Angelo Azzi has continued to develop and improve the different IUBMB publications including TiBS and IUBMB Life. As already mentioned revenue from these journals provides a substantial part of the income of IUBMB. Knut Jan Andersen, Member for Congresses and Conferences, has been involved in the planning of the past and future IUBMB events referred to above. In addition in 2005, he has been involved in the selection of fellows for the YSF Program in Budapest (with Jacques Weil and Jan Joep de Pont) and the YSP program to be held in Kyoto (with Jacques Weil). Ken Ichi Arai has had a double function. He is both the EC Member responsible for Networking, Industrial Relations and Biotechnology and also Treasurer of the Kyoto Congress. IUBMB hopes that his success in raising money for the Kyoto Congress may be extended in the current triennium to fund raising for IUBMB. And a thank you also to Peter Ott, the IUBMB Information Transfer Officer, for the considerable time he has invested to keep the IUBMB website up to date, and for the energy he is investing to redesign and modernize the site. I hope very much that it will be up and running before the Kyoto meeting.

And a final word of thanks to all those in the IUBMB family who have made the task of being IUBMB President such an interesting and enjoyable experience. This includes not only the EC members but in addition representatives of the Associate Organizations, and of the Adhering and Associate Adhering Bodies and all who serve on IUBMB Committees. Also the meeting organizers and all those who have helped them. And last but not least the past officers of IUBMB who have been generous with their advice and encouragement.

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

1. Jubilee Lecturer. Only one application was received recently for a Jubilee Lectureship. Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Aaron Klug, MRC, Cambridge, UK, was appointed as a Jubilee Lecturer for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium in February, 2006. Unfortunately, according to William Whelan, who was his nominator, another pressing engagement has recently led to his bowing out of this honor.
2. Report on Standards for the Ph.D. Degree. President Mary Osborn had asked me to review the IUBMB Report entitled “Standards for the Ph.D. Degree” to ascertain whether or not it is sufficiently up to date to continue to be made available, without substantial revisions, to interested parties around the world. I recruited Professor Dagmar Ringe, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, to review the document independently. Both she and I agreed that the document, extensively re-written by a group of over 100 biochemically oriented educators from around the world in the year 2000, was still a viable and useful document. Professor Ringe made some suggestions for minor revisions which were presented by me to the Executive Committee in Budapest. They were adopted and have been added to the Standards which have been made available by Professor Peter Ott on the IUBMB web-site. It was decided by the EC only to make the revised version of Standards available in this way and not to make a new printed version.
3. Lecture at PABMB Congress December, 2005. At the invitation of Professor Juan Jose Cazzullo, President of PABMB, I presented the PABMB Plenary Lecture at the 10<sup>th</sup> PABMB Congress in Pinamar, Argentina, on December 5, 2005. At that meeting, I met with the incoming President of PABMB, Professor Sergio Ferreira, who also serves as Vice-Chair of the Organizing Committee for the IUBMB Conference to be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, May 20-25, 2007. We discussed early planning and fund-raising possibilities for that Conference.
4. Report on IUBMB Activities to the U.S. National Science Foundation. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) provides funding for the U.S. National Committee for the IUBMB, including money for the annual dues for the U.S. to the IUBMB. The NSF requested a detailed report of the IUBMB’s activities for the past three years, and I was designated as the person on the EC to draft the report. For this task, I was greatly aided by information provided to me by both Treasurer Jan Joep dePont and President Mary Osborn. The report was submitted to Dr. Laura Sheehan, Staff liaison to the U.S. National Committee, in September, 2005. She is using it as part of an effort to justify continuing funding by the NSF to support not only these dues, but also the important activities of the U.S. National Committee, which is operated by the Board of International Scientific Organizations (BISO) of the National Research Council, U.S. National Academics.
5. IUBMB Code of Ethics. Up till now, the IUBMB has not had a written Code of Ethics. President Mary Osborn asked me to draft such a Code, and I subsequently formed a special committee consisting of Dr. Frank Vella (Saskatchewan, Canada), former General Secretary of the IUBMB, and Professor Elizabeth Neufeld (University of California, Los Angeles), former President of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), with me as Chair. Together we created a first draft which was extensively revised with input from many distinguished biochemists and molecular biologists from around the world. The EC members were

also given an opportunity to suggest improvements. In December, 2005, the draft code received final approval from the EC. Professor Peter Ott has recently posted it on the IUBMB web-site, and Professor Angelo Azzi, Chair of the IUBMB Publications Committee, is currently arranging for the Code to be published in various IUBMB-affiliated scientific journals.

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

It is rather difficult to summarize my activities because:

- 1) many of them consist in daily interactions (by e-mail or telephone) with people either within the IUBMB community (EC members, Officers of ABs, AABs, or Associated Regional Organizations), or outside this community
- 2) they often overlap with the activities of other EC members which are described in their reports and/or summarized in the President's report

I will therefore focus on some of my activities which are more specific :

In 2005 I have prepared the EC meeting (and the corresponding Briefing Book) which took place in Budapest, July 1-2, 2005 and I have drafted the minutes of this meeting. The preparation of the General Assembly (in June 2006 in Kyoto) started in 2005, as the Statutes require calls to be made much in advance, for instance for the nomination of Delegates and Associate Delegates, or for the nomination of candidates to fill the positions which will be vacant on the EC.

In Montreal in October 2003, I had been involved, with Mary Osborn, in the preliminary discussions in Montreal with Sigma-Aldrich (later pursued by Angelo Azzi) which eventually led to the signature of an agreement concerning the Metabolic Maps developed by Don Nicholson. Part of the funds made available to IUBMB as a result of this agreement was used to help young scientists (under 35) participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference/30<sup>th</sup> FEBS Congress in Budapest (July 2-7, 2005) and in the Young Scientist Forum (YSF) in Visegrad (June 30-July 2, 2005). A total of 66 applications were received, scored and ranked according to scientific merit by a committee to which Knut-Jan Andersen, Jan Joep de Pont and myself participated. The first 15 young scientists got their registration fees and living expenses paid, and the first 5 of them received in addition a travel grant of up to 1,000 US \$. The names of the awardees can be found on the IUBMB website under « IUBMB-Sigma Travel Scholarships 2005 »

A similar, but larger program, called the Young Scientist Program (YSP), is sponsored by IUBMB before each International Congress every 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It was organized in Birmingham in 2000, in Montreal in 2003, and is scheduled to take place before the Kyoto Congress from June 16-18, 2006. About 100 young scientists have been selected according to a procedure (agreed upon after a discussion involving Mary Osborn, Knut-Jan Andersen and myself for the EC, and Toru Nakano for the Japanese organizers) based on scientific merit, but taking into account the difficulties encountered by young scientists in developing countries. The awardees get their registration fees waived, their living expenses covered during the 3-day YSP and the International Congress, and they also receive a grant towards their travel expenses.

I have participated in the preparation of IUBMB Congresses and Conferences through exchanges of e-mails, or in discussions which we had with the organizers (in April 2005 in Utrecht and in July 2005 in Budapest with Dr Taniguchi about the Kyoto Congress 2006, and in July 2005 in Budapest with Dr Garratt about the Salvador Conference 2007), or on a visit to Shanghai in November 2005 concerning the Shanghai Congress 2009.

This discussion in Shanghai took place while I was in Shanghai/Suzhou to attend the ICSU General Assembly (The Draft Decisions of this 28th General Assembly are available in the Member Zone of the ICSU website). I met there Dr Chaimovich, a Brazilian biochemist who

was elected in Suzhou Vice-President of ICSU for External Affairs, and who has kindly agreed to talk to our EC in Kyoto on June 23 about ICSU and the relations between ICSU and IUBMB (he is the Delegate of Brazil to the IUBMB General Assembly in Kyoto).

As I was participating in the ICSU General Assembly, I also met a scientist from Iran who, upon his return to Tehran, put me in contact with his colleagues in Biochemistry, and the ensuing exchange of e-mails culminated in a joint application submitted by two Iranian Societies (the Iran Society of Biophysical Chemistry and the Iranian Society of Biochemistry) to become an AAB of IUBMB, which is on the agenda of our General Assembly on June 24, 2006.

At the same General Assembly we will also examine:

-2 other applications to become an AAB, namely that submitted by the Moroccan Society of Biochemistry (following discussions I had with the President and the Officers of this Society when I was invited to give a lecture at their national congress in 2004), and that submitted by the Vietnam Clinical Biochemistry Association (following discussions initiated by Ken-ichi Arai).

-the application submitted by the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to become an AB. This Society will host the next FASBMB Congress in Abuja, Nigeria, November 21-24, 2006.

At the request of Angelo Azzi and William Whelan, Editors in Chief of IUBMB Life, I wrote an article entitled « Are genetically modified plants useful and safe? » which was published (vol.57, pp.311-315, 2005) in the special issue of the journal distributed to all participants of the 30<sup>th</sup> FEBS Congress/9<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference in Budapest (July 2-7, 2005).

I have served on the International Advisory Board of the IUBMB/FAOBMB Congress in Kyoto and have been asked to make suggestions for plenary lecturers (one of them has been followed).

My activities as Chairman of the Committee for the Wood-Whelan Research Fellowships are described in a separate report which can be found in another section of this Annual Report.

In closing, I would like to thank very much all EC members for their friendly and fruitful collaboration, and especially Iqbal Parker and Avadhesh Surolia for their very efficient participation in the Wood-Whelan Research Fellowship committee.

## **REPORT ON THE WOOD-WHELAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (JACQUES-HENRY WEIL)**

In 2005, 38 applications were received and 14 fellowships were awarded. A table listing the name and address of the fellow and of the host lab supervisor, the title of the project, the length of the stay, and the amount awarded in US \$ (in parentheses) is available on the IUBMB website.

The following figures can be mentioned :

- The success rate was 36.8 %
- The average age of the awardees was 28
- The average length of the stay in the receiving laboratory was approximately 2 1/2 months
- The average amount awarded was 2100 US \$
- Countries of the sending laboratory : Argentina (3), Cuba (2), USA, Philippines, India, Spain, Greece, Uruguay, Benin, Poland ,Israel
- Countries of the receiving laboratory : USA (6), France (3), Italy, Poland, Brazil, Canada, Germany.

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

1. The revenue account for the year 2005 as well as the balance on 31 December 2005 has been audited by Bailey, Page and Roper from Liverpool, United Kingdom in March 2006. A profit of 46,286 USD was made whereas a deficit of 14 kUSD was foreseen.
2. The budget for the year 2005 was prepared for most budget items from the triennial budget 2003-2005, as presented to the General Assembly in Montreal in 2003, minus the expenses in 2003 and 2004. For some budget items for which zero or only relatively small expenses were expected in 2005 zero or a lower budget was made available.
3. The total income (521 kUSD) was 61 kUSD higher than foreseen. The net income from publications was 21,000 USD higher and the income from interest and investments was 11,000 USD higher than the estimate in the budget. The income from Special Members decreased again in 2005 to only 3,000 USD. Two of the four Special Members that contributed in 2004 ended their Special Membership.
4. The main reason for the extra income was a special donation from Brian Clark of 25,000 USD. The EC decided to use it for endowing lectures at an Advanced School in South Africa to be started in 2008.
5. The expenditures for IUBMB activities (294 kUSD) were only slightly lower than indicated in the budget (302 kUSD). Main expenditures were for Symposia, Education, Wood-Whelan fellowships, the Young Scientists Fellowships in Budapest and the regional organizations.
6. The other IUBMB expenditures (80 kUSD) were much lower than foreseen in the budget (142 kUSD). In particular the costs for the President and the General Secretary were very low. There was no budget planned for the costs of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IUBMB. Due to sponsorship by both Elsevier and Taylor & Francis the costs to IUBMB of the lecture of Chris Dobson, the special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium and both receptions amounted to only 4,863 USD.
7. The IUBMB had on 31 December 2005 a positive balance of 1,724,812 USD. To guarantee the continuation of the successful Wood-Whelan Fund until 2012 90,000 USD was transferred from the operating fund to the Wood-Whelan Fund. The balance of all the endowment funds together was 569,568 USD.
8. In the operating fund 1,155,244 USD was present, in part at the bank and in part in investments. About 50% is invested in USD and 50% in Euro. The bank account at Lloyds TSB was terminated in 2005. One of the problems is the uncertainty of the Euro/USD ratio. In 2005 the ratio decreased, but seems now to have stabilized. Changes in the Euro/USD ratio have no influence on the endowment funds.

## **REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (ANGELO AZZI)**

### **IUBMB Life**

The impact factor of the journal has diminished relative to the previous year (IF 1.774). This may be due to a substantial delay in the publication as a consequence of a restructuring at Taylor and Francis. Non official calculations give however a new substantial increase again for the present year. Alexander Levitzki was added to the editorial board.

A special issue dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> IUBMB anniversary has been published and 2500 copies have been distributed to all participants at the Meeting in Budapest.

A special issue dedicated to Science in Japan and the FAOBMB is in preparation. It will be distributed to all the delegates at the IUBMB Congress in Japan in June 2006. A special issue is also planned for the 10th IUBMB conference in Brazil in 2007.

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

The impact factor has kept constant at around one in the last years and is presently at 0.942.

The present editorial board is the following: Editor-in-Chief P. A. Shamlou (Indianapolis, USA); Associate Editors: L. M. Babé (Palo Alto, USA), J. M. Cabral (Lisbon, Portugal) , T. Keshavarz (London, UK) , H. S. Kingdon (Drummond, USA) , A. L. Lee (West Point, USA) , C. V. Sapan (Boca Raton, FL) , , Editors: R. A. Bradshaw (Irvine, USA) , F. J. Castellino (Notre Dame, USA) , T. G. Flynn (Kingston, Canada) , P. Gemeiner (Bratislava, Slovakia) , W.J. Kelly (Villanova, USA) , M.-R. Kula (Munich, Germany) , H. Kumagai (Tokyo, Japan) , H. Kumar (Fullerton, USA) , R. L. Lundblad (Chapel Hill, USA) , I. S. Maddox (Auckland, New Zealand) , M. Mahmoudian (Stevenage, UK) , R. Moore (Geelong, Australia) , N. A. Morjana (Newark, USA) , D. Schaffer (Berkeley, USA) , A. Seifalian (London, UK) , B. Svensson (Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark) , K. Wells (Mansfield, MA, USA) , R. Willson (Houston, USA) , P. Zandstra (Toronto, Canada).

Rhonda Oliver, publication director of Portland Press, has made a proposal on 16/06/2005 to increase frequency of the journal (9 issues in 2006 and 12 issues in 2008) and to restrict access of the back archive to subscribers only.

### **Trends in Biochemical Sciences (TiBS)**

The impact factor of this journal has remained constant in the last few years around the value of 14. Presently it is 14.112.

Optimal relations have been established with Fiona Dutton, the editor-in-chief. However, she has recently re-signed for the position of Executive Editor for the Molecular Life Sciences at John Wiley. She will be leaving TiBS on March 17th.

After a restructuring with Elsevier, the Trends group has remained part of the dedicated Reviews publishing group, based in London UK. Also part of this group are the Current Opinion and Drug Discovery Today titles.

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

The impact factor of this journal has remained constant at around 0.5 in the last few years. Presently it is 0.513.

The financial problems of the journal have been discussed at the Budapest EC meeting. In this occasion the chair of the publications committee has discussed with Judith Bond (President of the ASBMB) in Budapest. A task force was established (Chair Peter A. Rubenstein, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Iowa City) with a scope of clarifying financial and structural issues related to the journal. As suggested by the task force the ASBMB Council has decided to discontinue the collaboration with the IUBMB.

Negotiations for publishing the journal with another publisher have initiated.

**BioFactors**

From the previously impact factor around 1.8 the journal declined to the present value of 1.273.

**Molecular Aspects of Medicine (MAM)**

Despite the regularity of the publication and the value of its content, ISI did not quote it yet for an impact factor. Paolo Ascenzi was added as an editor. The following issues of volume 26 were published according to schedule:

1-2, Pages 1-139 (February-April 2005), Nitric Oxide in Physiology and Pathology Edited by R. Bruckdorfer

3, Pages 141-231 (June 2005) Musculoskeletal system: Molecular changes associated with aging Edited by Gustavo Duque

4-5, Pages 233-420 (August-October 2005) Trace Elements and Human Health Edited by Cesar G. Fraga, Patricia I. Oteiza and Carl L. Keen

Issue 6, Pages 421-516 (December 2005) The pathogenesis of coeliac disease, by Paul J. Ciclitira, Mathew W. Johnson, David H. Dewar and H. Julia Ellis *and* Carotenoid actions and their relation to health and disease by Norman I. Krinsky and Elizabeth J. Johnson.

**The IUBMB, Donald Nicholson, Sigma maps.**

Donald Nicholson has celebrated on January 9, 2006 his 90th birthday. His work with the Animaps is proceeding regularly.

**Nomenclature sub-committee**

Richard Cammack has terminated his office as president of the committee and Dietmar Schomburg has become the new precedent with the beginning of 2006.

The publication of a new version of the "Enzyme Nomenclature" has been agreed upon. Tari Paschal Broderick (Elsevier) will be responsible as the publisher for the book.

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

**In the year 2005, IUBMB sponsored the organisation of 21 events. These were held in Argentina (1), Belgium (1), Chile (1), Denmark (1), France (2), Hungary (1), India (2), Italy (2), Japan (1), Pakistan (1), Poland (1), Slovenia (1), South Africa (1), UK (2), Uruguay (1), USA (2).**

### **I. The composition of the IUBMB Committee on Symposia during 2005 was:**

(term maximum 6 years, except the Chairman 9 years)

#### **Chairman: Vito Turk, Ljubljana, Slovenia (1998 - )**

1. Guy Dirheimer, Strasbourg, France (2003 - )
2. Knut-Jan Andersen, Bergen, Norway (2000 - )
3. Judith Bond, Hershey, PA, USA (1999 - )
4. Tony Burgess, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (2000 - )
5. Juan Jose Cazzulo, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1999 - )
6. Alessandro Finazzi-Agro, Rome, Italy (1999 - )
7. Carlos Gancedo, Madrid, Spain (1999 - )
8. Vaclav Pačes, Prague, Czech Rep. (2003-)
9. Maciej Nalecz, Warsaw, Poland (1999 - )
10. M. Iqbal Parker, Cape Town, South Africa (2000 - )
11. Avadhesh Surolia, Bangalore, India (2003 - )
12. Jun-Mei Zhao, Beijing, China (2000 - )

### **II. The composition of the Interest Groups during 2005:**

(term maximum 6 years; all Chairmen from 1-10 started in year 2000, except W. J. Lennarz who started in year 2005)

1. Functional Genomics - Robert D. Wells, Houston, Texas, USA
2. Cellular and Developmental Biochemistry - Julio E. Celis, Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Biotechnology - Brian F. C. Clark, Aarhus, Denmark
4. Catalytic Mechanisms - Richard Perham, Cambridge, UK
5. Metabolic Regulation - Walter Neupert, Munich, Germany
6. Bioenergetics – Robert B. Gennis, Urbana IL, USA
7. Bioorganic Chemistry - Klaus Bock, Valby, Denmark
8. Structural Biology and Bioinformatics -Robert Huber, Munich, Germany
9. Molecular Medicine - Angelo Azzi, Bern, Switzerland (now also in USA)
10. Plant Molecular Biology - Luis Herrera-Estrella, Irapuato, Mexico
11. Glycobiology – William J. Lennarz, Stony Brook, NY, USA

### **III. The activities supported by the Committee on Symposia and Interest Groups in the year 2005 were as follows:**

1. Int. Conference on Functional Genomics for Novel Vaccine and Drug Design against Mycobacterial Infection (VDMI); held in Kharagpur, West Bengal, India, from February 10 – 11, 2005; (IG-235) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Amit Kumar Das, [amitk@hijli.iitkgp.ernet.in](mailto:amitk@hijli.iitkgp.ernet.in)

2. Cellular and Molecular Biology of Membranes; held in Cargese, Corsica, France, on March 15, 2005; (S-340) Amount allocated US\$ 5000; Contact person: Prof. J. A. F. Op den Kamp, [j.a.f.opdenkamp@chem.uu.nl](mailto:j.a.f.opdenkamp@chem.uu.nl)
3. Molecular mechanisms of exocytosis and endocytosis; held in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, from April 3 – 4, 2005; (IG-236) Amount allocated US\$ 4000; Contact person: Dr. Michael A. Cousin, [M.Cousin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:M.Cousin@ed.ac.uk)
4. Mechanisms of Cell Death: Molecular Insights and Therapeutic Perspectives; held in Reñaca, Chile, from April 13 – 16, 2005; (S-346) Amount allocated US\$ 9000; Contact person: Dr. Andrés Stutzin, [astutzin@bitmed.med.uchile.cl](mailto:astutzin@bitmed.med.uchile.cl)
5. Evolving Methods for Macromolecular Crystallography; held in Erice, Sicily, Italy, from May 12 – 22, 2005; (IG-231) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Lodovico Riva di Sanseverino, [riva@geomunibo.it](mailto:riva@geomunibo.it)
6. International Conference in Plant Mitochondrial Biology; held in Obernai, France, from May 28 – June 2, 2005; (IG-239) Amount allocated US\$ 7000; Contact person: Dr. Jean-Michel Grienenberger, [Jean-Michel.Grienenberger@IBMP-ULP.U-STRASBG.FR](mailto:Jean-Michel.Grienenberger@IBMP-ULP.U-STRASBG.FR)
7. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference: Inhibitors of Protein Kinases and Workshop on Modelling of Specific Molecular Recognition Processes; held in Warsaw, Poland, from June 25 – 29, 2005; (IG-234) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Bogdan Lesyng, [B.Lesyng@icm.edu.pl](mailto:B.Lesyng@icm.edu.pl)
8. IX<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Proteinase Inhibitors and Biological Control: Recent Trends; held in Brdo near Kranj, Slovenia, from June 25 – 29, 2005; (S-345) Amount allocated US\$ 8000; Contact person: Prof. Vito Turk, [vito.turk@ijs.si](mailto:vito.turk@ijs.si)
9. 30<sup>th</sup> FEBS Congress – 9<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference The Protein World, Proteins and Peptides: Structure, Function and Organization; held in Budapest, Hungary, from July 4 – 7, 2005; (S-339) Amount allocated US\$ 5000; Contact person: Prof. Peter Csermely, [csermely@puskin.sote.hu](mailto:csermely@puskin.sote.hu)
10. Annual Meeting: Society For Free Radical Research – Europe 2005 “Reactive Oxygen Species And Disease Mechanisms”; held in West Midlands, England, UK, from July 8 – 11, 2005; (S-341) Amount allocated US\$ 4000; Contact person: Prof. Joseph Lunec, [jl20@le.ac.uk](mailto:jl20@le.ac.uk)
11. 2005 FASEB Summer Research Conference on “Transport ATPases: Genomics, Mechanisms, and Relevance to Diseases”; held in Vermont, Saxtons River, VT, USA, from July 16 – 21, 2005; (IG-241) Amount allocated US\$ 7000; Contact person: Dr. Alan E. Senior, [alan\\_senior@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:alan_senior@urmc.rochester.edu)
12. Understanding and Modulating Human Ageing – 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Biomedical Gerontology (IABG); held in Aarhus, Denmark, from August 13 – 16, 2005; (S-342) Amount allocated US\$ 8000; Contact person: Prof. Brian F. C. Clark, [bfcc@mb.au.dk](mailto:bfcc@mb.au.dk)

13. Mitochondrial Dynamics in Cell Life and Death; held in Padova, Italy, from August 27 – 30, 2005; (IG-226) Amount allocated US\$ 4000; Contact person: Dr. Luca Scorrano, [luca.scorrano@unipd.it](mailto:luca.scorrano@unipd.it)
14. Na, K-ATPase and Related Cation Pumps: Structures, Mechanisms, and Diseases (11<sup>th</sup> Int. conference); held in Woods Hole, Mass., USA, from September 7 – 10, 2005; (IG-238) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Dr. David C. Gadsby, [gadsby@rockefeller.edu](mailto:gadsby@rockefeller.edu)
15. 2005 International Conference on Aquaporins; held in Spa, Belgium, from September 10 - 13, 2005; (S-343) Amount allocated US\$ 4500; Contact person: Dr. Peter MT Deen, [p.deen@NCMLS.KUN.nl](mailto:p.deen@NCMLS.KUN.nl)
16. Calcium Signalling, with special attention to cell motility and the cytoskeleton; held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October 2005; (IG-237) Amount allocated US\$ 7000; Contact person: Dr. J. R. Sotelo, [sotelo@iibce.edu.uy](mailto:sotelo@iibce.edu.uy)
17. International Interdisciplinary Conference on Vitamins, Coenzymes, and Biofactors Comprising 4<sup>th</sup> Int. Symposium on Vitamin B6, PQQ, Carbonyl ...; held in Awaji, Hyogo, Japan, from November 6 – 11, 2005; (S-344) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. Hideyuki Hayashi, [vitamins@art.osaka-med.ac.jp](mailto:vitamins@art.osaka-med.ac.jp)
18. Functional Microscopy of Host-Pathogen Interactions; held in Cape Town, South Africa, from November 19 – 30, 2005; (IG-242) Amount allocated US\$ 5500; Contact person: Prof. M. Iqbal Parker, [mparker@curie.uct.ac.za](mailto:mparker@curie.uct.ac.za)
19. 18<sup>th</sup> FAOBMB Symposium: Genomics and Proteomics in Health and Agriculture; held in Lahore, Pakistan, from November 20 – 23, 2005; (S-347) Amount allocated US\$ 6000; Contact person: Prof. M. Waheed Akhtar, [mwapu@brain.net.pk](mailto:mwapu@brain.net.pk)
20. The 21<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on tRNA research; held in Bangalore, India, from December 2 – 7, 2005; (IG-232) Amount allocated US\$ 8000; Contact person: Prof. Umesh Varshney, [varshney@mcbl.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:varshney@mcbl.iisc.ernet.in)
21. Pathways for Protein Degradation, within the framework of the X Panamerican Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; held in Pinamar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from December 5 – 9, 2005; (IG-240) Amount allocated US\$ 9000; Contact person: Prof. Ernesto Podestá, [ernestopodesta@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:ernestopodesta@yahoo.com.ar)

## **REPORT OF THE MEMBER FOR NETWORKING, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (KEN-ICHI ARAI)**

The missions of Member for Networking, Industrial Relations and Biotechnology are: 1. Be involved in networking on behalf of the Union and to employ the Union's data banks to pursue the most efficient use of the Union's resources in cooperative ventures., 2. Be responsible for establishing, fostering and developing relations of the Union with commercial enterprises concerned with research, development and investment in biotechnology., 3. Represent the Executive Committee in the Interest Group Committee on Biotechnology., 4. Chair the Special Membership Committee and maintain all records that relate to its activities., 5. Foster and develop close relations with the Special Members by seeking their active involvement and participation in the scientific and educational activities of the Union., 6. Advise the Executive Committee on matters that relate to biotechnology., 7. Represent the union in related organizations and committees., 8. Present to the Union the interests of the Special Members so as to better serve their needs. 9. Meet with representatives of Special members on occasions such as scientific meetings.

### **I. Activities related to Special Members and Biotechnology**

As I reported in Bangkok (November 2004), the urgent issue had been to come up with the ideas and proposals how to increase the number of Special Members, develop closer relations and to retain them. Steve Dahms and I recommended to include Biotechnology arena in IUBMB which will enable the Union to effectively collaborate with biotechnology industry and other regional and/or global international organizations. He recommends, to expand the numbers and import of the IUBMB Special Members, it is important to create an opportunity for involvement of companies and company senior R&D managers in the future positioning of the IUBMB vis-à-vis the bioscience industry. I proposed to organizing Committee of IUBM Kyoto Congress 2006 to include corporate sponsorship such as Diamond, Gold, Platinum etc, and this approach contributed to a great deal to the overall fundraising to support the Congress.

### **II. Activities of related to Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry**

1. 5 items are mostly concerned with the issue how to develop activities of the Union related to Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry. At Bangkok, we agreed to invite additional members to strengthen the ability of the Committee for Networking, Industrial Relations and Biotechnology. I invited Osamu Nagayama, President of Chugai Pharmaceutical Company to become the member. In Bangkok, we agreed that IUBMB Congress Kyoto 2006 should provide a platform for valuable and attractive activities and this proposal was supported by Tasuku Honjo, the President of 2006 Kyoto IUBMB Congress creating three additional biotechnology sessions in the program. Steve Dahms, Brian Clark, and Osamu Nagayama agreed to serve as international coordinators and Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA), Japan Pharmaceutical Association and Chugai pharmaceutical company agreed to organize three biotechnology sessions.

2. Since January 2005, I attended the meetings and made trips associated with my other activities as below which may help to fulfill my role in as a Chair of The Member for Networking, Industrial Relations and Biotechnology.

January 31-February 6, 2005

I organized with Kanagawa Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) the site visit (about 20 participants, mostly from Japanese industry and public sectors) of research centers of Singapore and Malaysia. In Singapore, Philip Yeo (A\*STAR), Boon Swan Foo (Exploit), David Lane (IMCB), Axel Ullrich (OncoGenome) and Edison Liu (GIS) gave lectures at

BioPolis, and we visited Yoshiaki Ito's lab and Waseda University-Olympus lab (BioPolis), National University of Singapore, Agenica. In Malaysia, we visited Agro Biotechnology Park of Johor, had the lecture of Life Science Policy of the government at Putrajaya, and visited University of Science Malaysia at Penang.

February 28, 2005 I attended opening symposium and ceremony of Korea Bio-Hub (BioMax) in Seoul National University and gave a talk about networking research centers of life science in Asia.

March 1-2, 2005 I attended National Research Project for Genomic Medicine in Taipei as a member of the International Advisory Board. Before the meeting, I met the President and the members of National Science Council (NSC) of Taiwan, Michael Lai, Vice President of Academia Sinica and talked about the possible collaboration with international organization including IUBMB, A-IMBN etc. After the meeting, I met several leaders of bioindustry in Taiwan.

March 23-24, 2005 The delegation of the Biotechnology Center (BTC) (Duong Hoa Xo, Director, Nguyen Quoc Binh, Executive Vice-Director) visited me at Tokyo and discussed how to develop life science and biotechnology in Vietnam, in particular, HCM city.

April 11-12, 2005 I visited University of Queensland and attended the International Advisory Board Meeting of Institute for Molecular Biology, Brisbane. I discussed with John Mattick how Australian scientists work with Asian countries as well as with international organization such as IUBMB, EMBO, A-IMBN etc.

April 28-29, 2005 I attended BioMalaysia 2005 at Putrajaya where announcement was made to develop BioNexus as national agenda. In the session of Biotechnology in Asia Pacific – Growth and Prospect, I gave a talk “Building a Platform of Genomic Medicine and Biotechnology”.

May 10-13, 2005 I attended A-IMBN/Science Council of Asia (SCA) Joint symposium in Hanoi, Vietnam. I gave a lecture “Regulation of immune response by dendritic cells and T cells”. I discussed with Vietnamese scientists how to promote life science and biotechnology in Vietnam collaborating with US, Europe and Asia.

May 18-20, 2005 I organized Plenary and Scientific Sessions of BioExpo 2005 having over participation of research institutions and industry of Asia, Europe and North America. David Lane and Yoshiaki Ito (IMCB) talk about the experience in Singapore.

September 5, 2005 I organized with Australian scientists the lecture and discussion on Life Science Collaboration between Australia, Japan and Asia at Australian Pavillion, World Expo, Aichi, Japan. I gave a talk “Molecular Basis of Disease; Building a Platform of Personalized Medicine”.

September 6, 2005 I attended JETRO BioLink Forum: Connecting the Biotech World at Yokohama and gave a talk “Genome Bay Tokyo: Super-institutional complex and inter-cluster network.

September 7, 2005 I attended Bio Japan 2005, Yokohama and gave a talk on Building a Platform of Personalized Medicine at the symposium, with the theme New Era of Health Care Industry lead by Genomic Medicine-Order made Preventive Medicine by Genome Science.

September 24, 2005 I attended Scientific Advisory Board meeting, National Center for Drug Screening (Director, Ming-Wei Wang), SIBS, Shanghai along with advisors from North America and Asia.

September 25 - 27, 2005 I attended The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference & Exposition on the Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chengdu, Sichuan, China. China is making significant progress in many areas of life science and biotechnology including genomics, proteomics and biomedicine. China also intends to modernize TCM and the theme of the conference is “TCM Development and Modern Science and Technologies”. The conference is very big with ~3000 participants and delegates from 42 countries (USA, UK, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Canada etc), EU and WHO. The conference was sponsored by Ministries of S&T, Agriculture, Health, State FDA, State Administration of TCM, CAS, CA of Engineering, Sichuan Provincial People’s government etc. Opening ceremony was impressive showing the commitment of China to modernize TCM combining Western and Eastern Medicines. It is clear that the impact of TCM modernization will reach far beyond biomedical research and pharmaceutical industry. By modernizing TCM to develop herbal drugs, the government intends to develop industries in the areas of agriculture and environmental preservation. Compared to large number of participants and delegates from USA and EU countries, the participants from Japan and Korea were not many.

October 27 - 29, 2005 I attended 8<sup>th</sup> A-IMBN Conference and Bio Product Exhibition, the first international symposium supported by HCM city as a Founding President of A-IMBN and as a member of IUBMB EC. Scientists from other organizations such as EMBO, EMBO World Program, ICGEB, Pasteur Institute, and QB3 of UCSF also attended. During and after the meeting, we discussed with the scientists of Vietnam how to develop BTC, the city is planning and how Vietnam could affiliate with IUBMB.

November 17, 2005 I attended eIMBL Opening Lecture and Ceremony in Seoul. The lectures were given not only at Seoul but also simultaneously at Tokyo, Brisbane, and other parts of Korea as well and were accessible from various locations.

November 21 - 22, 2005 I attended 12<sup>th</sup> East Asia Symposium of Life Science and Biomedical Research in Shaoshing, China. The symposium has been organized by 6 research institutions of Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan with faculties and graduate students.

March 20, 2006 I organized with the member of University of Tokyo, the International Conference on Strategic Alliances for Life Science in Asia-Pacific Rim. In addition to university researchers of Asia and USA (Regis Kelly, UCSF), scientists representing A-IMBN, ICGEB, United Nation University (UNU)-Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), and representatives of bioindustry and venture capitals were attending. I gave a talk “Connecting Biotechnology Clusters in Asia-Pacific: Building Platform of Genomic Medicine and Life Science”. We recommended that universities in Asia to become the hub of the Asia Pacific Life Science Network and to establish partnership with international organizations, to contribute for human resource training and to provide translational platform for industry. We also recommended, to facilitate these activities, university has to: 1. build international offices and overseas, 2. establish infrastructure (open laboratories, lodging, conference room) to support international collaboration, 3. organize international training courses, workshops, conferences jointly with international organizations, 4. create the mechanism to finance these activities

## **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:

- **The 30<sup>th</sup> FEBS Congress – 9<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference:** “Protein and Peptides: Structure, Function and Organization”, July 2-7, 2005 in Budapest, Hungary. I had the pleasure attending a meeting with the organizing committee in Budapest in February, and worked closely with Peter Csermely and his collaborators through numerous e-mails answering numerous questions including preparations for the IUBMB 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception.
- A joint **IUBMB and SIGMA ALDRICH Corporation Travel Scholarships** was been established providing 15 travel scholarships to allow 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.
- **20th IUBMB Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and 11<sup>th</sup> FAOBMB Congress**, June 18-23, 2006 – Kyoto, Japan. Most of the planning and communication has been made through numerous e-mails with several members of the planning committees. Together with the treasurer and the general secretary I met with Dr. Naoyuki Taniguchi in Utrecht in April for lengthy discussion of all aspects related to the Kyoto Congress.
- **Young Scientists’ Program.** The symposium will be held at CO-OP Inn Kyoto on the 3 days (June 16-18, 2006) preceding the 20th IUBMB International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and 11th FAOBMB Congress. Planning has been performed in close collaboration with the general secretary and Dr. Turu Nakano, Japan. The Program will offer extensive opportunities for young scientists from all over the world to share and exchange scientific and professional experience. The program will consist of poster presentations by all participants and keynote lectures by senior scientists. The selection of about 100 young scientists, based on their scientific merits, will be performed in collaboration with the Japanese organizers.
- **The 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Salvador, Brazil, May 2007. I had the pleasure attending a meeting with the organizing committee and also visiting the Brazilian Society head quarter in Sao Paulo in October. During this meeting we discussed in detail every step needed to plan and prepare for an international conference at a high level, including international funding, importance of excellent international speakers, information through a good web-site, as well as local organization at all levels. I also had the pleasure visiting Salvador for an inspection of the congress centre as well as hotel facilities. Further communication with the organizers has been by e-mail.

- **The 11<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference will be organized as a joint conference with the 33<sup>rd</sup> FEBS Congress**, June 28 – July 3, 2008, at Stadium for Peace and Friendship in Athens, Greece.

I had the pleasure of visiting Athens for a site inspection as well as attending meetings with the organizing as well as local scientific committees together with Joan Guinovart and Adam Szewczyk from FEBS. Although at an early stage, the planning is well on its way. Also, a consensus was agreed with respect to close collaboration between FEBS and IUBMB with respect to all details for this conference.

- **The 21<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** will be in Shanghai, China, in 2009. Planning is well on its way. Communication has so far been through numerous e-mails.
- Following an invitation from the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau I visited Melbourne in February for a site inspection and also met with Professor Phillip Nagley from the Monash University in Melbourne, as well as other ASBMB-related personnel to discuss a possible application for the IUBMB Conference in 2010.
- Similarly, I was invited by Viajes El Corte Inglés, Seville Spain and visited Seville in December for a site inspection and met with Professor Miguel A. De la Rosa and his collaborators to discuss a possible application for the IUBMB Congress in 2012.

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CECILIA HIDALGO)

### 1. Educational activities supported in this period

During this period eight activities were supported, with a total amount of USD\$34,750.-

- 1) **Bioinformatics and Analysis of Genomics Data, EMBO course**, held in Sfax, Tunisia, March 24th - April 2nd, 2005. This course was organized by Dr. Fredj Tekaia, Institut Pasteur, France. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$5,000.-
- 2) **Biochemistry Workshop**, developed during the 2nd Clinical Laboratory Congress, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, May 5-7, 2005. This workshop was organized by Drs. Gilberto Luis Landi and Dante Valentín, Argentina. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$750.-
- 3) **Education Workshops**, held in various cities in The Philippines, during the first and second semester, 2005. These workshops were organized by Dr. Gloria de Castro-Bernas, President, Philippine Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$3,000.-
- 4) **IUBMB Science Education Symposium**, to be held during the 30th FEBS Congress – 9th IUBMB Conference in Budapest, Hungary, July 2-7, 2005. This education Symposium was organized by Dr. Laszlo Nyitray, Dept. Biochemistry, Eotvos University, Budapest, Hungary. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$4,000.-
- 5) **FEBS Summer School: Chemistry meets Biology**. Science at the interface of Chemistry, Biology and Medicine, held in the Island of Spetses, Greece, July 17 – 29, 2005. This activity was organized by Prof. Dr. Manfred Schneider, B C - Bergische Universität, Wuppertal, Germany. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$2,000.-
- 6) **A Practical and Theoretical Course on Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics**. Held in Santiago, Chile, October 11 - 23. This course was organized by Prof. Jorge Allende, Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas, facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Chile. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$15,000.-
- 7) **Education Symposium** to be held during the 18th FAOBMB Symposium “Genomics and Proteomics in Health and Agriculture” at Lahore, Pakistan, November 20 – 23, 2005. This symposium was organized by Prof. Susan Hamilton, The University of Queensland, Australia. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$3,000.-
- 8) **Education Symposium” Biochemical Education in the Americas”** to be held within the framework of the X Pan American Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, at Pinamar, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 3rd – 6th, 2005. This Symposium was organized by Prof. Juan Jose Cazzulo, Chairman, PABMB, IIB-INTECH. The amount granted by IUBMB was USD\$2,000.-

## **2. Other Education Committee Activities**

The composition of the Education Committee was modified after the 2005 EC meeting. All members, who can belong to the Committee for a six-year period, renewable for 3 additional years, are expected to end their terms at the date of the EC meeting of the end year.

The new Committee has the following composition:

Chair: Cecilia Hidalgo, Chile (2000 - 2006)

Trevor Anderson, South Africa (1998 2004; 2005-2008)

Ellis Bell, USA (2005-2011)

Julio Celis, Denmark (2000 - 2006)

Steve Dahms, USA (2005-2011)

Masamitsu Futai, Japan (1998 2004; 2005-2008)

Joan Guinovart, Spain (2000 - 2006)

Susan Hamilton, Australia (2005-2011)

Sumiko Watanabe, Japan (2005-2011)

Leopoldo de Meis, Brasil (ex officio)

Donald Voet, USA (ex officio)

Judith Voet, USA (ex officio)

## REPORT ON THE IUBMB WEBSITE (PETER OTT)

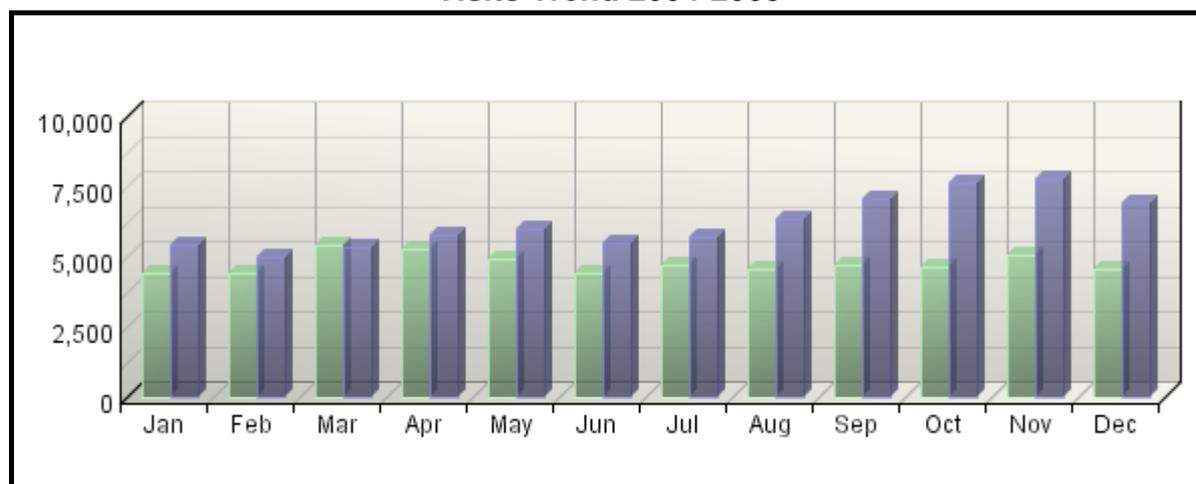
The website of IUBMB is used to spread continuously updated information on all the aspects of IUBMB and its activities. The site has an increasing popularity as can be seen from the summary overview of the access statistics for the years 1999 – 2005 shown in the table below.

Year	Page Views			Visits		Visitors				
	Total	Average per day	Average per visit	Total	Average per day	Total	One-time	Multiple	Average Visits per Visitor	Ratio One-time/Multiple
<b>1999</b>	37795	103	2.66	14183	38	9653	7996	1657	1.47	4.82
<b>2000</b>	89559	244	2.67	33546	91	22654	18968	3686	1.48	5.14
<b>2001</b>	89014	243	2.34	38065	104	27365	23656	3709	1.39	3.38
<b>2002</b>	102237	280	2.16	47396	129	34668	30094	4574	1.37	6.58
<b>2003</b>	108642	297	2.09	51954	142	36645	31184	5461	1.42	5.71
<b>2004</b>	126504	345	2.21	57246	156	38035	32593	5442	1.51	5.99
<b>2005</b>	185852	509	2.49	74567	204	45844	38782	7062	1.63	5.49
<b>2006*</b>	52379	575	2.16	24233	266	16708	14291	2417	1.45	5.91

\*Data for the period from January through 31 March 2006

A more detailed view of the access statistics for the past two years (see Figure and Table below) shows a clear increase of the visits to the IUBMB website and the preliminary data for the year 2006 confirm this positive trend

**Visits Trend 2004-2005**



■ (left column) 2004    ■ (right column) 2005

<b>Visits Trend 2004 - 2005</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Yearly Report 2004 Visits</b>	<b>Yearly Report 2005 Visits</b>	<b>% Change Visits</b>
Jan	4,424	5,418	22.47%
Feb	4,457	5,014	12.50%
Mar	5,424	5,379	-0.83%
Apr	5,292	5,801	9.62%
May	4,904	5,997	22.29%
Jun	4,453	5,470	22.84%
Jul	4,740	5,704	20.34%
Aug	4,595	6,363	38.48%
Sep	4,717	7,083	50.16%
Oct	4,645	7,627	64.20%
Nov	5,050	7,810	54.65%
Dec	4,547	6,901	51.77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,248</b>	<b>74,567</b>	<b>30.25%</b>

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 of all the (Associate) Adhering Bodies with contact addresses including e-mail contacts.

Currently, work is in progress to modernize and restructure the IUBMB website. This will make it possible to present more information on the activities of IUBMB in a better structured way. Furthermore, new communication tools will help to stimulate contact among the members of the IUBMB community.