Building on the tradition of the established IUBMB Young Scientists Program (YSP) and FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum (YSF) events, the aims of the 2022 IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Young Scientists’ Forum (YSF2022) were to give the opportunity to young scientists to present their research, contribute to the development of their scientific knowledge and skills, and broaden their professional network.

The YSF2022 took place from 6 to 9 of July at Hotel Golf Mar, in Vimeiro, Portugal, and it was held just ahead of and in conjunction with the joint 25th IUBMB, 46th FEBS and 15th PABMB Congress. The event gathered together ca. 110 pre- and post-doctoral young scientists, representing 33 countries from all over the world, and supported to attend by grants from FEBS, IUBMB and PABMB.

The scientific programme of the meeting started with a Keynote lecture by Professor Bruno Correia (Switzerland) that showed how to engineer proteins to build better vaccines. The participants also had the opportunity to learn from other keynote lectures in different scientific fields: Professor Frack Martin (France) talked about cellular translation during SARS-Cov-2 infection; Dr. Élyse Fischer (United Kingdom), winner of the IUBMB Whelan Young Investigator Award, presented her inspiring work on novel mechanisms of mitotic checkpoint complex assembly at kinetochores; and Rohit Pappu (USA), explained to us some novel biophysical principles of biomolecular condensates.

The participants had the opportunity to join different practical exercises in key aspects to the development of their careers: Keith Elliott (United Kingdom) exposed the fundamentals for preparing a catchy CV, while Juanita Perera (Germany) gave some tips and hints on how to write a successful abstract. Mark Roberts (United Kingdom) helped the participants to understand how to engage the public with science and, Élyse Fischer gave a workshop on a very important, but sometimes neglected, topic: The importance of self-confidence for researchers.

Another important aspect of the scientific career is to obtain funding. To prepare them for this endeavor, the participants received valuable insights from FEBS (Alain Krol, France) and IUBMB (Ilona Grabinger, Chile) on funding opportunities available for young researchers, as well as on how to prepare a proposal (Irene Diaz-Moreno, Spain). They also learned about ethics in science (László Fésus, Hungary) and how to push their career forward out of academia (Marta Ribeiro, Portugal and Ana Patrícia Silva, Switzerland).
The young scientists had the opportunity to present their research over 3 Sessions of Selected Oral Communications, 2 Sessions of 1-minute Poster Presentations, and 2 Sessions of Poster Presentations. The presentations covered a variety of scientific fields and demonstrated the high quality of work presented by each of the participants. However, we had to choose 3 winners in each category, and after voting we congratulated João Victor Cabral-Costa (Brazil), Katja Fritschle (Germany), Nonkululeko Mkwanazi (South Africa), Gonçalo Garcia (Portugal), Maria Bzówka (Poland), Mustafa Karabiçici (Turkey), Cagla Kayabasi (Turkey), Evelyn Templeton (New Zealand), and Hudson Coates (Australia)!!!
The 25th Congress of International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) was held from 9th to 14th July 2022 in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal, organized by the Portuguese Biochemical Society in collaboration with IUBMB, FEBS and PABMB.

For the first time in history, IUBMB, FEBS and PABMB teamed up in a single global event - 25th IUBMB, 46th FEBS, 15th PABMB Congress, that was named “The Biochemistry Global Summit”.

The Congress was planned originally for July 2021. Only an Iberian country could host a meeting like this and Lisbon was the perfect fit because its culture inspires discoveries, innovation, and audacity. During the event Lisbon was turned into the world capital of Biochemistry.

As if the challenges of organizing a tripartite meeting were not enough, the COVID-19 pandemic brought additional hurdles and the congress was postponed to July 2022. Notably, all those involved decided to have the Biochemistry Global Summit as a strictly in-presence meeting. After the severe limitations to scientific meetings imposed by the pandemic during 2020 and 2021, it was time to recover the joy of discussing biochemistry face-to-face. The economic impact, present all along the way in the travelling and event organization sector, and the sudden political instability in Eastern Europe were a heavy burden but we succeeded. The event attracted over 1350 delegates from 62 countries, with most coming from Poland, Italy, Check Republic, Spain, Romania, Turkey, UK, Brazil, Hungary, Croatia, Germany, USA, Chile, Israel and Australia. It is worth mentioning that young scientists made up more than 70% of all participants.

The program covered a broad spectrum of timely topics in the fields of molecular life sciences, ranging from fundamental subjects and approaches to applied research with impact on human well-being and technological development. Top scientists from all over the world were gathered in a true “global summit” to present and discuss their last scientific achievements. A range of science-related educational and social topics as well as an exhibition from commerce and industry were also included.

IUBMB-FEBS-PABMB Lisbon2022 Biochemistry Global Summit: The grand come-back of the in-presence meetings

Report by Graça Soveral, Congress Co-Chair

Co-Chairs: Dr, Graça Soveral (Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, Portugal) and Dr Miguel Castanho (Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Portugal)
Following the opening ceremony which included an address from the Rector of the University of Lisbon, the Opening Plenary Lecture was dedicated to Claudina Rodrigues-Pousada (Portuguese researcher that was deeply involved in FEBS activities and was past FEBS president). Sarah Teichmann (United Kingdom) gave the lecture “Mapping the Human Body One Cell at a Time”.

The Closing Plenary Lecture was given by Stefan W. Hell, Nobel Prize in Chemistry and director at both the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany and the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen. The lecture “MINFLUX and MINSTED provide molecule-scale resolution in fluorescence microscopy” was the FEBS Theodor Bücher Lecture.

Other plenary lectures were given by leading experts in fields of topnotch research: John F. Cryan (University College Cork, Ireland) – FEBS Datta Lecture; Cecilia Rodrigues (University of Lisbon, Portugal) – FEBS Sir Hans Krebs Lecture; Pura Muñoz-Cánoves (ICREA, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona and CNIC, Madrid, Spain) – EMBO Lecture; Erin Schuman (Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt, Germany) – FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award Lecture; Costantino Iadecola (Cornell University, NY, USA) – IUBMB E.C. Slater Lecture; Masayuki Yamamoto (Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan) – IUBMB Kunio Yagi Lecture; Jerson L. Silva (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) – PABMB Lecture; Antonio Barbáchano (Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid, Spain) – he FEBS Journal Richard Perham Prize Lecture; Ian Chambers (University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK) - FEBS Letters Award Lecture; and Boris Jokić (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Croatia) – FEBS Education Plenary Lecture.

In addition to the unique plenary lectures, The Biochemistry Global Summit offered participants a rich scientific programme covered by 28 symposia topics and including 56 symposia lectures delivered by the invited speakers, and 109 short talks chosen by the session Chairs from among the submitted abstracts. Moreover, the Congress programme offered a variety of Special Sessions, including those from FEBS on Gender Issues in Science, Science and Society, Research and Career Skills, and Education, and from the European Research Council on their initiatives and funding opportunities. This year FEBS/IUBMB co-organized two Special Sessions, one dedicated to new advances of the structure and dynamics of SARS-CoV-2, and a second session to share FEBS & IUBMB Fellowships and funding. A satellite conference - RiboMed Satellite Conference on RNA in Disease (organized independently by the session chairs in the context of the EU-funded project RiboMed) was made open to all the Congress participants.
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Molecular-level knowledge to Public Health impacts of biochemistry were presented and passionately discussed by the audience. There were prizes, awards, and other forms of recognition for selected presentations. Moreover, exhibition and updates from non-academic partners and industry were part of the Congress, presenting detailed information on their products and facilities in exhibition booths and in commercial sessions. Importantly, we thank the commercial sponsors for their support, and the PCO, Alive travel for their resilience during such troubled times for companies in the travelling and event organization sector.
Over 900 posters, including those submitted as late-breaking, were presented during the afternoon poster sessions from Sunday through Wednesday. The poster sessions were an excellent opportunity to meet peers and have face-to-face discussions, motivating young researchers and students to present their work in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere setting, with a cup of coffee and drinks.

The Congress was preceded by the IUBMB–FEBS–PABMB Young Scientists’ Forum (YSF 2022) that took place at Vimeiro, located on the Portuguese coast alongside a peaceful beach with a fantastic view of the endless Atlantic Ocean.

At the end of the closing ceremony, IUBMB announced the 26th Congress of International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) to be held in Melbourne from 22-26 September 2024.

We wish them good luck in the preparation of the event, and hope to meet everyone again in Melbourne in 2024.