IUBMB Programs and Benefits of Membership

Vision. Enhancing pedagogy and discipline-based knowledge in biochemistry and molecular biology through international collaboration.

The IUBMB is committed to improving education in biochemistry and molecular biology at all levels. The IUBMB Committee on Education and Training provides sponsorship for a range of activities which contribute to this goal. The Committee considers applications from all IUBMB Adhering Bodies and Associated Adhering Bodies. When an activity is to take place at a meeting of one of the Regional Organizations (FAOBMB, FASBMB, FEBS and PABMB), it is often appropriate for the application to be made through that organization.

In addition to funding activities which are organized through these organizations, the Committee on Education and Training takes a lead in organizing specific IUBMB Education Workshops around themes which are seen to be of strategic importance for BMB education. Prior advice about these initiatives and their outcomes will be widely disseminated through this website and through IUBMB social media channels.

Providing opportunities for the next generation of biochemists and molecular biologists is a primary mission of the IUBMB. In addition to specific Education initiatives described below, the IUBMB supports trainees through Research Fellowships such as the Wood-Whelan and Mid-Career Fellowships, and by providing funds to Focused Meetings to be used for travel awards to trainees.

IUBMB Programs. The wide range of programs available to scientists resident in IUBMB member countries, include:

Congresses. are held triennially in countries that are members of the Union and have a record of being outstanding and memorable scientific events for the world community of biochemists and molecular biologists.

Focused Meetings. replaced Conferences and Symposia in 2017. One per year will be sponsored to a maximum of US $60,000.

Young Scientists' Programs. are competitive awards covering travel, accommodation and meals for participation in the YSP held in conjunction with Congresses and Focused Meetings.

Educational Activities. The IUBMB is involved in a broad range of educational programs. The Union holds or sponsors symposia on education at regional biochemical meetings around the world.

Novonesis Graduate Trainee Program MEIA. The Novonesis–IUBMB partnership offers year-long research and training opportunities at regional Novonesis labs for recent graduates from African universities.

Education Fellowships. The IUBMB Education Fellowships provide opportunities for the development of both biochemistry and molecular biology educational programs and educators with the specific aims of: increasing expertise and capability in biochemistry and molecular biology education, supporting engaged educators, promoting change/innovation in approaches to education, improving student learning experiences, outcomes, and engagement with biochemistry and molecular biology, building an evidence base on which to make future recommendations on biochemistry and molecular biology education and supporting biochemistry and molecular biology education in developing countries.

Wood-Whelan Research Fellowships. are competitive awards covering travel, incidental costs and living expenses for visits of 1-4 months to other laboratories in the IUBMB region for the purpose of carrying out experiments that require special techniques or for other forms of scientific collaboration or advanced training.

Early-Career Research Fellowships. were established in response to an increased demand for further training of mid-career biochemists in the Developing World. These are short-term Fellowships (1-2 months), covering travel and incidental costs to a maximum of US$6,000, to enable researchers to work in an established laboratory to learn state-of-the-art techniques that are not readily available in their own countries.

PROLAB Fellowships. This collaboration between the IUBMB, PABMB, and ASBMB allows Latin American graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to spend short stays (1-6 months) in the laboratory of a scientist affiliated with ASBMB, in order to develop part of his/her thesis research work.

Travel Fellowships. are available for young scientists in or from developing countries who wish to attend international meetings in the IUBMB region.

MilliporeSigma ENABLE-Africa Fellowships. This collaboration between IUBMB and MilliporeSigma provides support to African trainees to attend the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Conference.

Relocation Support for Displaced Trainees. This programme was established to allow IUBMB to respond rapidly to any natural disasters and acts of war that results in loss of infrastructure and resources at universities and research institutions. This program provides financial support of up to three months for trainees to relocate to a new host lab to continue their research.

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PROBio-Africa Fellowships. This collaboration between the FASBMB, IUBMB, and FEBS allows African postdoctoral fellows and new researchers to spend short stays (1-6 months) in the laboratory of a scientist affiliated with FEBS to carry out experiments that require special techniques and expertise or to facilitate other forms of scientific collaboration or advanced training.

PROBio-LatAm Fellowships. This collaboration between the PABMB, IUBMB, and FEBS allows Latin American postdoctoral fellows and new researchers to spend short stays (1-6 months) in the laboratory of a scientist affiliated with FEBS to carry out experiments that require special techniques and expertise or to facilitate other forms of scientific collaboration or advanced training.

Trans-Continental Youth Travel Fellowships. This collaborative activity between the IUBMB and the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) provides trans-continental Youth Travel Fellowships to FEBS Advanced Courses and is financed by IUBMB.

Plenary and Jubilee Award Lectures. IUBMB Jubilee Award and Plenary Lectures are intended as important lectures at scientific meetings, in particular of the smaller Adhering Bodies or Associate Adhering Bodies for which the budget would normally allow only for local speakers.

Emerging Leader Award. was established to recognize exceptional and talented early career investigators in biochemistry and molecular biology from underdeveloped countries.

Whelan Young Investigator Award. was established in honor of William "Bill" J. Whelan to recognize his lifelong commitment to training the future of biochemistry. The awardee will deliver a lecture at the Young Scientists Program held in conjunction with the Triennial Congress of the IUBMB.

FEBS-IUBMB Events. This collaboration between IUBMB and FEBS provides financial support for invited speakers at FEBS Advanced Lecture Courses, FEBS Workshops and FEBS Special Meetings. Up to 10 invited speakers are supported per annum (up to US $2,000 each) from outside Europe.

IUBMB Publications. Trends in Biochemical Sciences (TIBS), IUBMB Life, BioFactors, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education (BAMBEd), Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry, Molecular Aspects of Medicine, Aspects of Medicine. In addition, the following books/pamphlets are produced by IUBMB: Wiley-IUBMB Book Series, Standards for Doctoral Degrees in the Molecular Biosciences, and Metabolic Pathways Maps and Animated Maps (Animaps) prepared by the late Don Nicholson, University of Leeds.

Biochemical Nomenclature. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the IUBMB have established the IUPAC-IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (JCBN) and the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NC-IUBMB).

In order to maintain and enhance these programs, IUBMB depends on the financial support of its Adhering Bodies. It is important to note that the annual dues have not been increased for many years. Rather, the Executive Committee has preferred to pursue additional sources of income. Publications represent the major source of income for IUBMB but, with the rapid changes occurring in the publication business, particularly with the advent of open access publishing, maintenance of this income at current levels is challenging. The Executive Committee is continuously working hard to develop alternative funding sources, but the Union is still very dependent on the support of its Adhering Bodies.

Adhering Body status in the IUBMB is an investment rather than an expense. The direct financial benefits from membership in the IUBMB surpass the actual cost, and there are many other associated non-monetary benefits. Finally, it is also important to note that IUBMB is an international organization that, in addition to providing opportunities to all member countries, emphasizes programs that support young scientists, particularly from developing countries. The Union's philosophy has always been that rich countries can afford to contribute more than poorer countries to this end. Of course, situations change over time and one of the roles of the Executive Committee is to keep track of such changes and, for example, encourage emerging economies to contribute in proportion to their capacity, and to recruit new members to the Union. The IUBMB is strongly committed to diversity and opposes any type of discrimination.

More details about the extensive list of IUBMB programs can be found on the Union's website: www.iubmb.org.

Social Media Links

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