



IUBMB NEWS

Issue 3

May 2017



President's Message

Prior to this year, IUBMB supported a Conference in the intervening years between triennial Congresses. This worked well for many years, but the trend for most scientists attending conferences in recent times has been towards smaller, more focused meetings. It was decided, therefore, that it would be more important for IUBMB to support such meetings and 2017 marks the first year in which Conferences and Symposia are replaced by Focused Meetings. IUBMB will support up to three Focused Meetings every year. Application details can be found at: <http://iubmb.org/guidelines-statutes/guidelines/iubmb-focused-meetings/>. The first IUBMB Focused Meeting was held in Puerto Varas, Chile, April 2-6, on "Emerging Concepts of the Neuronal Cytoskeleton" and was a great success by all accounts – please see the report later in this Newsletter. The two remaining Focused Meetings of 2017 will be held in Athens, Greece and Clearwater, Florida – please refer to the advertisements in this Newsletter and on the IUBMB website (www.iubmb.org).

I am also happy to report that the new IUBMB website was launched on April 11, 2017. We hope you will find it attractive, informative and easy to maneuver. Please be patient while we complete and update some of the pages.

It is also a great pleasure to announce that the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (MSBMB) has received the approval of the Executive Committee and all Adhering Bodies of the Union to transition from Associate Adhering Body to Adhering Body. This will be proposed for ratification at the next General Assembly to be held on June 6, 2018 in Seoul, Korea. Please check out the piece on the history of the MSBMB in this Newsletter.

Four Regional Organizations are affiliated with IUBMB and represent the major regions of the world: Europe (FEBS), Asia/Oceania (FAOBMB), Africa (FASBMB) and The Americas (PABMB). FAOBMB is featured in this issue of IUBMB News in an article by Secretary General Phillip Nagley. We plan to feature the other Regional Organizations in future issues.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the IUBMB/FEBS ***New Horizons in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Education Conference*** taking place at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel from 6-8 September, 2017 (<http://www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017/>) and look forward to meeting many of you there.

Joan J. Guinovart, PhD
President, IUBMB

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First IUBMB Focused Meeting held in Chile

The IUBMB Executive Committee decided recently to replace IUBMB Conferences and Symposia with Focused Meetings, beginning in 2017, and that up to three Focused Meetings will be supported every year. The inaugural IUBMB Focused Meeting on “**Emerging Concepts of the Neuronal Cytoskeleton**” took place in Chile in the beautiful town of Puerto Varas on the banks of Lake Llanquihue with a spectacular view of the volcano Volcán Osorno across the lake. The meeting ran from April 2-6 and was organized by Christian González-Billault (University of Chile, Santiago) with the able support of Carsten Janke (Institut Curie, Orsay, France) and Don Arnold (University of Southern California, USA).

The formal components of the meeting included a good balance of lectures, including a Keynote Lecture delivered by Jim Bamberg (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, USA) on **Understanding actin dynamics in health and disease**, a technical presentation by Daniel Koch (Zeiss) on super-resolution microscopy, and 4.5 hours devoted exclusively to poster sessions. There was also adequate free time for lively discussions around the posters, at coffee breaks and during meals, as well as recreational activities to relax and enjoy the wonderful environment.

The program included eight lecture-based sessions on the following topics: **Microtubule/actin regulation in neurons, Neuronal polarity and differentiation, Cytoskeleton and neuronal trafficking, Cytoskeleton in disease and injury, Cytoskeleton in growth cone navigation and neural network formation, Cytoskeleton in**

neurotransmission, Neuronal cytoskeleton and Neuronal transport – physiological and pathological aspects. These sessions covered all major aspects of cytoskeletal structure, function and regulation, with attention to physiological significance and pathological considerations. The excellent quality of high-resolution imaging studies, presented by many of the speakers, deserves special mention. Also the **Neuronal cytoskeleton** session was devoted to the next generation of leaders in the field, featuring six young scientists who have recently set up their own research programs: Patricia Garces (University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Aurnab Ghose (IISER, Pune, India), Fernanda Ledda (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), Nicolas Unsain (Instituto Mercedes y Martin Ferreyra, Córdoba, Argentina), Karen Litwa (East Carolina University, Greenville, USA) and Jill Wildonger (University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA).

It was gratifying to see a good geographical and gender balance among both invited speakers and other participants in the meeting. Total attendance was 87 (50 male and 37 female; 48% from South America, 30% from North America, 20% from Europe and 2% from Asia). The program included a total of 30 talks by invited speakers and 39 posters.

Finally, the excitement and enthusiastic participation of the graduate students, postdocs and even a couple of undergraduate students who attended the Focused Meeting was a highlight. Congratulations to Christian, Carsten and Don, and the many students, fellows and staff who worked tirelessly to make all participants welcome, and for setting the bar high with the first IUBMB Focused Meeting!

Michael P. Walsh, PhD, FRSC
IUBMB General Secretary



Participants at the Focused Meeting

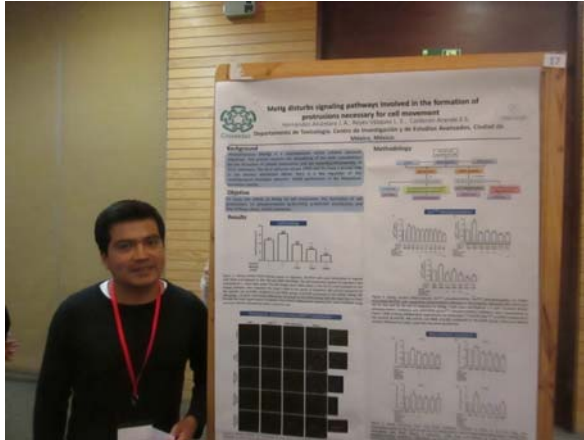


Carsten Janke (left), Christian González-Billault (center) and Don Arnold (right), organizers of the Focused Meeting

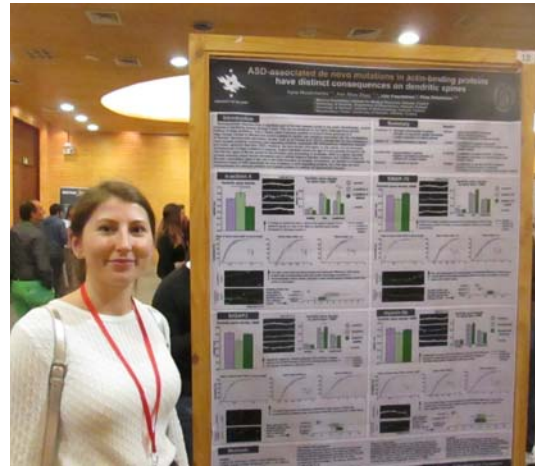


Christian González-Billault welcomes participants to the IUBMB Focused Meeting in Chile

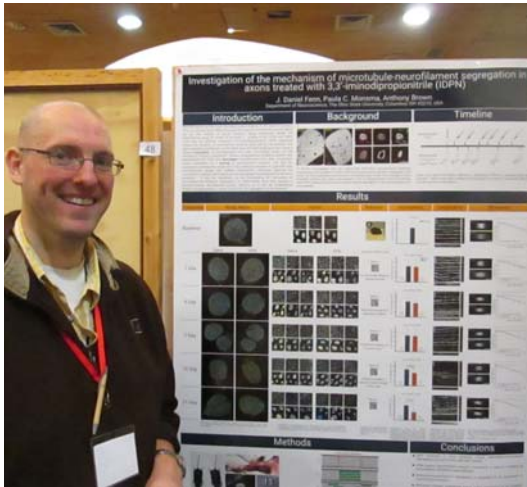
Some of the poster presenters in Puerto Varas



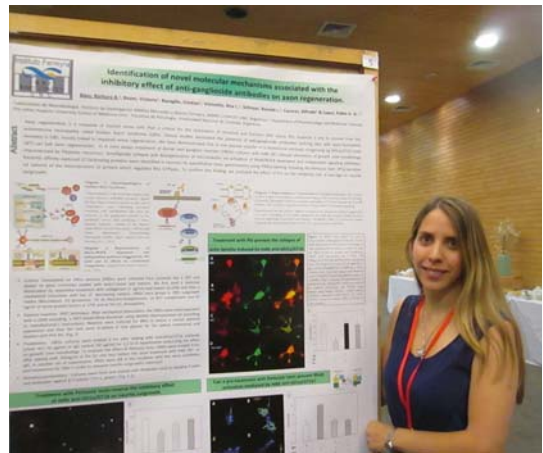
José Hernández, Mexico



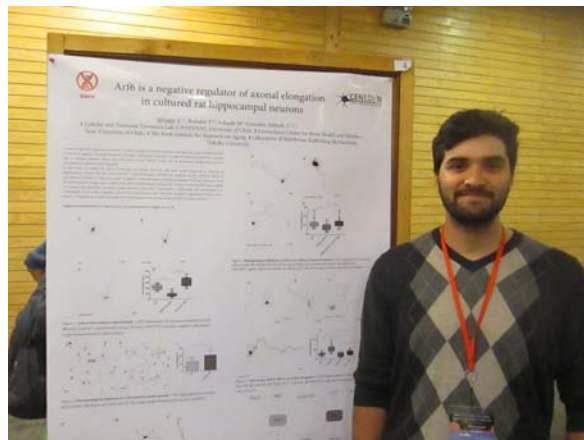
Iryna Hlushchenko, Finland



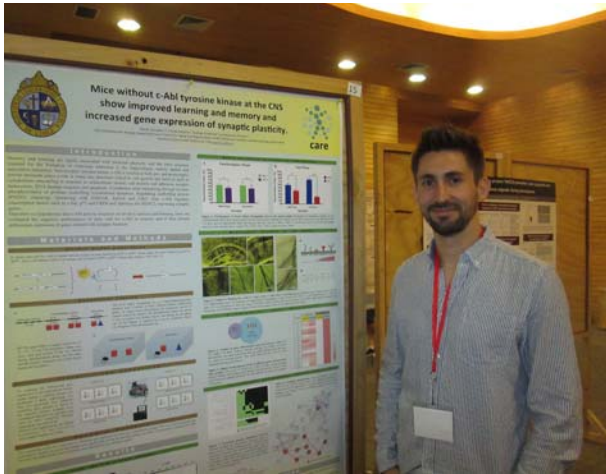
Dan Fenn, USA



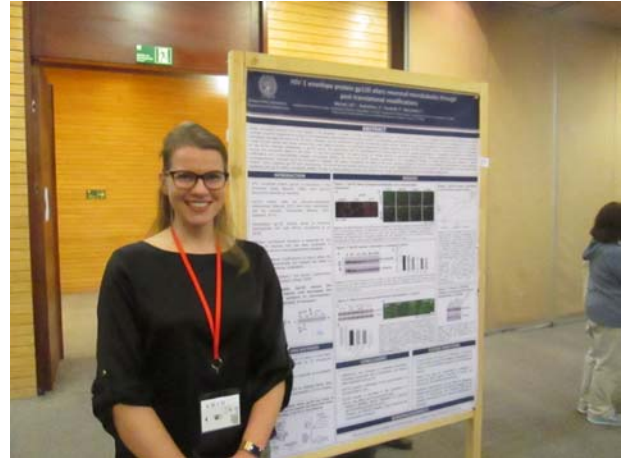
Bárbara Báez, Argentina



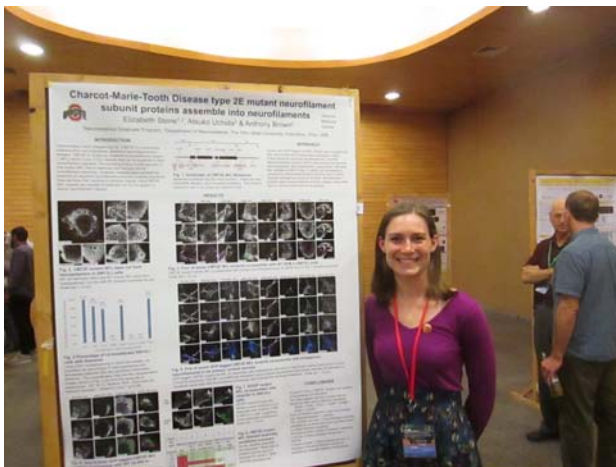
Sebastian Alvarez, Chile



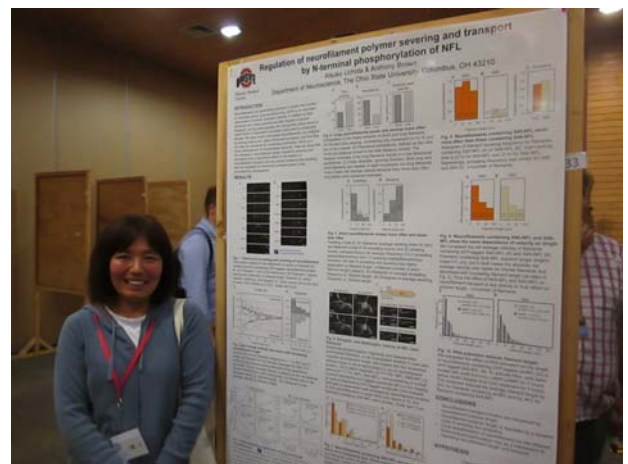
Adrián González, Chile



Erin Wenzel, USA



Liz Stone, USA



Atsuko Uchida, USA

Miami Winter Symposium 2017 – the 50th Anniversary



Bill Whelan arriving at the MWS 2017 venue and being greeted by IUBMB President Joan Guinovart.

The Miami Winter Symposium was established in 1968 by William J. (Bill) Whelan, DSc, FRS, Professor & Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the University of Miami, and has been an annual event ever since. The 50th Miami Winter Symposium was held in Miami, Florida, January 22-25, 2017, and Bill is the only person to have attended all 50 symposia. The theme of MWS 2017 was ***Diabetes: Today's Research, Tomorrow's Therapies*** and the symposium attracted 270 participants, half from Miami and the rest from 28 countries around the world. Diabetes is recognized as one of the most important challenges to world health, being a major cause of cardiovascular disease and the leading cause of adult blindness, non-traumatic amputation and end-stage kidney failure. Diabetes is also believed to increase the risk of neurocognitive loss, physical deconditioning and

frailty, and is associated with an increased prevalence of most forms of cancer. The global prevalence of diabetes was recently estimated at 9% in adults over 18 years of age. The World Health Organization has predicted that diabetes will be the seventh largest cause of death by 2030.

IUBMB has been a proud sponsor of this annual symposium for several years. MWS 2017 included the IUBMB Lecture delivered by Bruce Spiegelman from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School entitled "Brown and beige fat: Basic biology and new pathways toward therapeutics", and two Feodor Lynen Lectures: "Immunoregulation in type 1 diabetes" by Christophe Benoist of Harvard Medical School and "Modulation by type 1 diabetes by the intestinal microbiota" by Diane Mathis also from Harvard Medical School. In addition, IUBMB President, Joan Guinovart from the Institute of Research in Biomedicine, Barcelona, Spain, delivered a lecture entitled "Liver glycogen, a novel target to treat diabetes and obesity".

The theme of MWS 2018 will be ***Stem Cells***.



Bruce Spiegelman (left) receives the IUBMB Medal and Certificate from IUBMB President Joan Guinovart (center) and Treasurer Franco Bonomi (right).

Member's Discount on Wiley Books

As a Friend of the IUBMB, you get 35% off Wiley Books!
Go to Wiley.com, and enter this code at checkout: SD264

OBITUARY

Jacques Henry Weil 1934-2016



Jacques Henry Weil, who died on October 6, 2016 in Strasbourg, served as General Secretary of the IUBMB from 2001-2009. He committed fully to this demanding role and achieved a great deal of success.

Jacques Henry Weil was born in Strasbourg (France) in 1934. Like many people of his generation it was the Second World War that most marked his youth. The whole population of Strasbourg was evacuated in July 1939, due to its proximity to the German border. His family took refuge in Bergerac (south-western France) where his father was employed as Director of an orphanage because, as a Jew, he was not allowed to continue to act as a lawyer. In 1943 his parents managed to send him illegally to his uncle in Switzerland where he lived until the liberation of southern France. At the end of the war in 1945 Jacques returned to Strasbourg where he attended the high school *Lycée Kléber*. After having obtained the *baccalauréat* when he was only 16 years old (normally this graduation of high school is obtained at 18), he began to study pharmacy in 1950. As I also started my pharmaceutical studies in that year we became colleagues and friends for 65 years! Having graduated as a Pharmacist in 1955, Jacques spent 2 years as an *interne* (resident) in the Strasbourg University Hospital, and then was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for his first stay in the United States (1956-57) as a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. It was from this time that Jacques spoke and wrote English fluently.

Upon his return to Strasbourg he received an offer from Professor Jean-Pierre Ebel to join his laboratory of biochemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy. There we met again as I had been preparing my thesis in the same laboratory for 2 years. I remember well having, as a "senior", put up a poster in the lab saying in English "better ask twice than do wrong once"! Jacques started to study the inorganic polyphosphates of yeast in relation to RNAs and secured a researcher position from the CNRS (French *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*), moving successively from *Stagiaire*, to *Attaché*, then, when he was

awarded his PhD in 1964, *Chargé de Recherches*. Later that year he became Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Faculty of Science of Strasbourg and started to work on tRNAs. In 1965 he moved with J.P. Ebel to the newly built *Institut de Physiologie et de Chimie biologique*, as was also my case. There we shared the same office and developed our research groups. In 1966 he again went to the USA for a year, to work with Professor Garen, in the Department of Molecular Biophysics of Yale University, on the involvement of a tRNA in the suppression of nonsense mutations in *E. coli*. Upon his return he initiated studies of chloroplast tRNAs and demonstrated that fmet-tRNA is involved in the initiation of protein synthesis, as had been shown to be the case in *E. coli*. Jacques was appointed Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Strasbourg in 1970, and between 1977 and 1981 served as Vice-President for Research of the University.

In the meantime, the CNRS built an *Institut de Biologie moléculaire et cellulaire* (IBMC) in Strasbourg which opened in 1973 with three laboratories of biochemistry - those of Jean-Pierre Ebel, Guy Dirheimer and Jacques Henry Weil. At that time Jacques' group comprised 11 researchers, university assistants and PhD students, focusing on comparative studies on plant mitochondria and chloroplast tRNAs and aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Jacques stayed 14 years at IBMC, until the building in 1987 by the CNRS of the nearby *Institut de Biologie moléculaire des Plantes* (IBMP), where his laboratory took the name of *Département des génomes de plantes*, and expanded to 35 CNRS researchers, assistants and students. Jacques became the first Director of IBMP, which comprised up to 200 people, and remained in this post for 12 years. Jacques was a great traveller and his numerous international contacts led to many PhD students and postdocs from diverse countries including Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Iran, India, Japan and Madagascar coming to study and work at IBMP.

Beyond his role at IBMP, Jacques' other contributions included President of the EMBL Council 1985-1987, President of the EMBO Conference (EMBC) 1988-1994, and Scientific Adviser of the Human Frontier Science Programme 1989-1999. He was also involved in journal editorial activities, including as Editor-in-Chief of *Plant Science* and as an Editor of *Plant Molecular Biology*, *FEBS Letters* and *IUBMB Life*. He edited a very popular book of biochemistry (*Biochimie générale*), the 11th edition of which appeared in 2009. He was also a member of the Scientific Committee of the French-Indian Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research. Finally he developed strong bonds between IBMP and the Department of Plant Genetics of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot (Israel).

Jacques retired in 1999. But a man as dynamic as he was could not have stayed at home doing crosswords or playing patience. Thus he left his office at IBMP for another one at the Botanical Institute and became General Secretary of IUBMB from 2001-2009. During his tenure, he played a key role in the success of three triennial IUBMB Congresses: Montreal (2003), Kyoto (2006) and Shanghai (2009) and

five Conferences: Bergen (2002), Boston (2004), Budapest (2005), Salvador, Brazil (2007) and Athens (2008). Jacques was instrumental in signing an important agreement with Sigma-Aldrich in 2003 on the famous Don Nicholson Metabolic Maps, which are now available to academics for no charge. Jacques also played an essential role in the addition of Iran, Morocco, Nigeria, Ukraine and Vietnam to the IUBMB membership. Probably Jacques' greatest focus while IUBMB General Secretary, and one which he enjoyed immensely, was in supporting young scientists. He chaired the Wood-Whelan Fellowship Committee and participated actively in the organization of several Young Scientist Programs in conjunction with IUBMB Congresses and Conferences. Observing his interactions with these young scientists at poster sessions and around the exhibits demonstrated how much these

opportunities meant to him and how pleased and grateful the trainees were for his advice and attention. Finally, since 2011, Jacques chaired the FEBS Science and Society Committee and served as a member of the FEBS Executive Committee.

We shall always remember Jacques as an open-minded man, working hard in favour of international collaborations, having friends all around the world, helping developing countries to advance biochemistry and never losing his sense of humour.

*Professor Guy Dirheimer
Member of the French National Academy of Medicine
Former Secretary General (1985-1989) and Chair (1999-2002) of FEBS*

Reprinted from "The Journey of MSBMB" by Lim Yang Mooi, Malay. J. Biochem. Mol. Biol. (2016) 19 (1-2) at <http://mjbmb.org>. The online publication of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

The Journey of MSBMB

by Prof. Dr. Lim Yang Mooi, Vice President MSBMB (2015-2017)

Since its establishment in 1973, the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB) has been instrumental in advocating among its members, pursuits of agendas in Science of national interests. MSBMB, originally known as the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry, is reputed to be one of the earliest scientific organizations in the country. The Society was renamed in 1994 to reflect the close association between the two disciplines and in parallel with the global trend recognizing Molecular Biology as a fundamental area of Biochemistry. A principal goal of the Society was, and still is today, the transformation of novel fundamental research outcomes into value-added products to enhance the country's economic growth.

In conjunction with the re-launching of the Malaysian Journal for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MJBMB) this year, the Society wishes to share with its esteemed members, the journey and significant milestones of MSBMB towards achieving its goals. The historic Inaugural Annual Conference of MSBMB was held in 1974, and the Society has subsequently organized this annual meeting without fail for the past 40 years. The yearly scientific event is the most significant activity of the Society each year. Among its greatest success is the establishment of networks and linkages amongst researchers both local and international. Despite its position as a relatively young Society within the scientific auspices of the region, MSBMB joined the ranks of other societies in the Asian and Oceanian region to be a constituent member of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and

Molecular Biologists (then known as FAOB). MSBMB then co-hosted in 1979, the 2nd FAOB Symposium held in Kuala Lumpur together with the Federation. This marked the first success of the Society in active advocacy of research networking at the international arena.

Subsequent to the organization of the symposium, the Society continued to establish further ground with the international scientific community. MSBMB was admitted as an Associate Adhering Body to the International Union of Biochemistry (IUBMB) in 1987. Nearly 30 years later, in 2016 MSBMB became a full-fledged adhering member. At the national level, MSBMB is affiliated with the Confederation of Scientific and Technological Associations in Malaysia (COSTAM). With these national and international networks and collaboration, the Society successfully co-hosted several international scientific meetings, including the 7th FAOB Symposium in 1988, the 8th FAOB Congress in 1998 and the 3rd Asian Biochemistry Conference in conjunction with the 34th Annual Conference of the MSBMB in 2009. The Society has also closely worked together with local associations, such as Cancer Research Malaysia and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) to organize scientific events. In 2013, the Society signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology (KSMCB) with the aim of promoting interactions between members of the two entities for mutual benefit.

The Society recognizes the importance of nurturing young and talented scientists at a very early stage of their careers. Therefore, in 1986, together with the undergraduate students of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, MSBMB co-organized the 1st Intersociety Biochemistry Seminar (IBS) specifically for undergraduate

students majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and related programs. The yearly undergraduate seminar co-organized each year by the Society with a host local university, has since benefited countless undergraduates, many of whom have now become successful researchers and academics. While the focus of IBS remains on deliberations and sharing of science, the seminar also provides for career forums where successful entrepreneurs and notable academics are invited to share with undergraduate participants, their inspirational stories. This initiative creates enhanced awareness in participants of yet another dimension in which biochemistry and molecular biology disciplines play pivotal roles specifically for successful entrepreneurship ventures.

MSBMB also promotes interaction and communication between early career scientists and prominent scientists with the aim of developing mentoring relationships. Hence the Society, in collaboration with the Young Scientist Network-Academy of Science Malaysia (YSN-ASN), has since 2013 included in the scientific program of the MSBMB annual conference, a "Meet-the-Expert" session. In addition, to encourage participation of young

researchers in FAOBMB congresses, the Society has awarded travel fellowships, since 2012, to three well-deserving recipients.

From its humble beginnings in 1973, MSBMB membership has grown to over 300 today. The Society is appreciative to society members for the relentless and continuous support shown throughout the years. In recognition of the outstanding achievements of its members, the Society has established the MSBMB Fellowship Award in 2015 and we look forward to honoring future recipients of this award. Moving forward, the MSBMB will strive to remain relevant in today's fast paced world of science and become an even more useful platform for its members via national and international level meetings and events.

Last but not least, MSBMB is committed to continuously advocate research culture within the community at large, as well as to train more young and talented scientists. The Society will also play its part to actively collaborate with all scientific associations and agencies for the promotion of science and research.

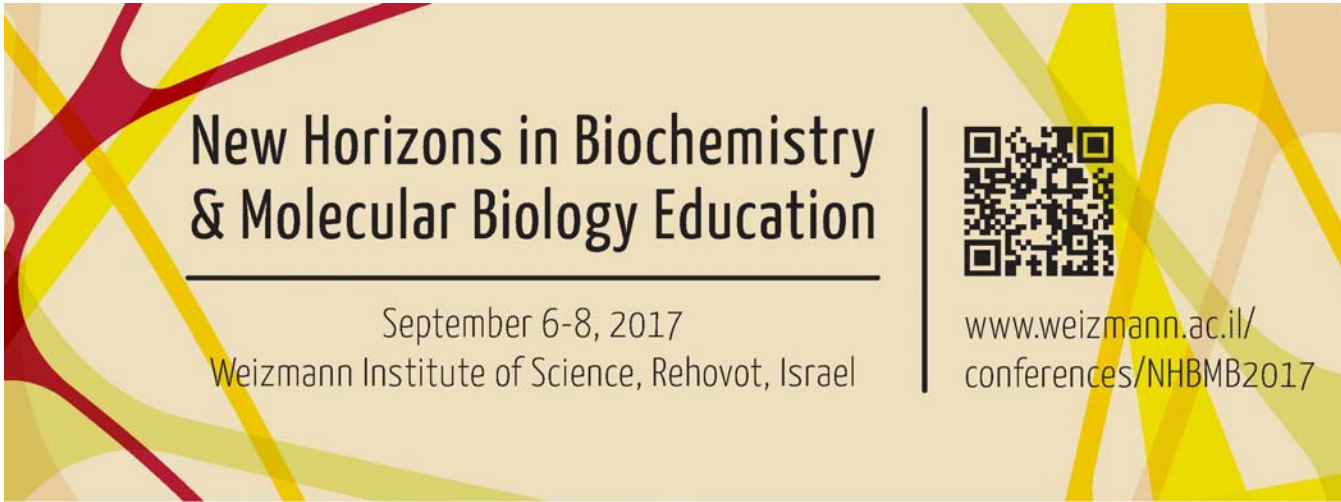


Executive Committee of the MSBMB 2015-2017

Back Row (from left): Izyanti Ibrahim, Renee Lim, Adeline Chia, Noor Azmi Shahrudin, Ng Chyan Leong.


Front Row (from left): Anthony Ho, M.S. Kanthimathi, Hasidah Sidek, Lim Yang Mooi

Exco not in picture: Mohd Firdaus Raih, Azzreena Mohamad Azzeme, Hwang Jung Shan, Muhammad Fazril Razif




New Horizons in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Education


September 6-8, 2017
Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel




www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017



International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



מכון ויצמן למדע
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



Federation of European Biochemical Societies

The International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) and the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) seek to provide a think-tank setting in which to draw up ideas to improve the current approach to teaching these subjects, and to generate a series of recommendations to be shared with the educational community.

The New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education Conference, hosted by the Weizmann Institute of Science, will take place 6-8 September 2017 in Rehovot, before the **FEBS 2017 Congress organized by the Israel Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ISBMB) in Jerusalem, 10-14 September 2017**.

The programme of the IUBMB-FEBS Conference on Education consists of plenary lectures, mini-symposia, workshops, and poster sessions, covering significant topics on biochemistry and molecular biology education, from the level of primary and secondary school, going through BSc, MSc, PhD and post doctoral levels.

The targeted participants of this Education gathering are faculty members, young scientists, researchers, Post-docs, PhD students, high school teachers, and delegates from various academic institutions all over the world, involved

and interested in teaching and learning of biochemistry and molecular biology education.

Poster prizes will be given to the best three posters. Workshop presenters, if accepted, will be partially supported. We also offer bursaries for young scientists and PhD students involved in education and interested in presenting a poster during this conference.

Offering an excellent programme with experts from all over the world, with the support of IUBMB and FEBS leaders and Education Committees, and hosted by the Weizmann Institute of Science, we look forward to the participation of colleagues, and students from all over the world thus having the opportunity of contributing to "the way we teach and what we teach".

Hoping very much to meet you in Rehovot in September 2017,

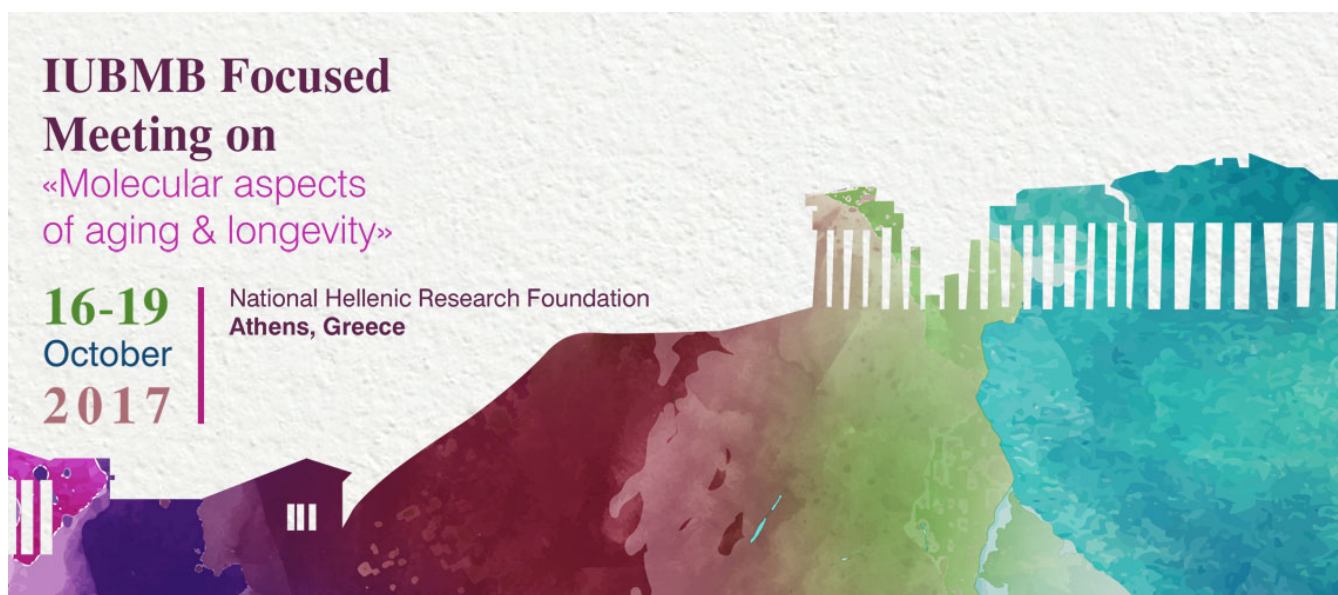
Anat Yarden (Weizmann Institute of Sciences), Janet Macaulay (IUBMB) and Gül Güner Akdoğan (FEBS)

Co-Chairs of the Conference



<https://2017.febscongress.org/>

The Israeli Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is the organizer of the 42nd Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) on September 10-14th, 2017, entitled "From Molecules to Cells and Back". This Congress will be held in the multi-cultural and historical city of Jerusalem at the well-known international convention center "Binyane Hauma". The center is located at the entrance to Jerusalem and is only an hour away in one direction from Tel Aviv, the city that never sleeps. An hour in the other direction brings you to the famous Dead Sea. Leading researchers in life sciences already confirmed their participation. More information can be found at: <https://2017.febscongress.org/>.



<http://www.iubmb2017aging.org>
Stathis Gonos (sgonos@eie.gr)

FAOBMB – A Focus on the Development of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Asian and Oceanian Region

by Phillip Nagley (Secretary General of FAOBMB)

Email: phillip.nagley@monash.edu



Founded in 1972, FAOBMB is a Federation of National Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Asian and Oceanian Region. The primary purpose of FAOBMB is to promote the science of biochemistry and molecular biology, including education, research and technological applications, worldwide and, in particular, in the Asian and Oceanian Region.

The Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists (FAOB) was jointly founded on 1 August 1972 by the Australian Biochemical Society, the Society of Biological Chemists (India) and the Japanese Biochemical Society to promote the development of biochemistry in the Asian and Pacific Region. The Federation changed its name to Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) in 1993. FAOBMB is an Incorporated Association registered in the State of Victoria (Australia) and is an Associate Organization of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), with which it actively collaborates. The Federation's logo, adopted in 1989 and modified in 1993 to include the change in name, reflects the dynamic nature of the FAOBMB and the continual flow of information of biochemistry between members, which consists of countries in both the Asian and Pacific region. FAOBMB is

the primary regional association in biochemistry and molecular biology to focus on the promotion and development of this area of science and technology in the Asian and Oceanian regions. FAOBMB is one of four regional groupings of IUBMB, the other three regional groupings being in Europe (FEBS), Africa (FASBMB) and the Americas (PABMB).

Since its founding in 1972, FAOBMB has developed steadily, playing an important catalytic role in stimulating life sciences, technology transfer and entrepreneurship.

FAOBMB works closely with its constituent members (national societies in the region) and IUBMB to advance research, teaching and applications of biochemistry and molecular biology. There are currently 21 Constituent Members of the Federation, representing more than 20,000 active scientists, from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hawaii, India, Indonesia, Iran, Hong Kong (a special administrative region of China), Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam.

FAOBMB holds a Congress every three years (the most recent held in Hyderabad, India, 2015). When IUBMB holds its triennial Congress in the Asia-Oceania region, a joint IUBMB-FAOBMB Congress takes place. We are fortunate that in recent years this has been the case in Kyoto, Japan (2006) and in Shanghai, China (2009), with the next such Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea (2018). Annual Conferences of FAOBMB take place in each of the intervening years between Congresses (the most recent held in Manila, Philippines, 2016 – see below). A complete list of FAOBMB Congresses and Conferences (including Symposia, the previous term for FAOBMB Conferences), since the inaugural FAOBMB Congress 1977, can be found at: <http://faobmb.com/news-and-events/past-congresses-conferences-and-symposia/>.

FAOBMB activities not only comprise sponsorship of FAOBMB Congresses or Conferences in the region (supported by funds kindly provided by IUBMB), but also include provision of Travel Fellowships and other opportunities for early career researchers (including Young Scientist Program events from time to time), and support for education and training workshops. Generous financial contributions from several former Presidents of FAOBMB have allowed the establishment of the Osamu Hayaishi, Takashi Murachi, Jisnuson Svasti and Kunio Yagi Lectureships, providing funds for plenary lectures delivered at FAOBMB-sponsored Congresses (every 3 years) and the Yasuhiro Anraku Young Scientist Awards for outstanding early career researchers. Anraku had the foresight to provide funds for one male and one female



FAOBMB EC members in Colombo, June 2016. From left: Sheila Nathan (Fellowships Chair; Malaysia), Zengyi Chang (then President-elect; now President; China), Kiyoshi Fukui (then President; now Past-President; Japan), Phillip Nagley (Secretary General; Australia), Piamsook Pongsawasdi (Treasurer; Thailand), Siok Im Koh (Education Chair; Singapore)

FAOBMB Young Scientist Award, each to give a lecture at the triennial FAOBMB Congress.

Under the presidency of Andrew Wang (2011-2013) funding was secured from agencies in Taiwan for the establishment of the FAOBMB Awards, which include the FAOBMB Award for Research Excellence (annual), the FAOBMB Education Award (triennial) and the FAOBMB Entrepreneurship Award (triennial). These awards attract a very high standard of applicants, and there is much competition for these prestigious awards.

The subsequent President, Kiyoshi Fukui (2014-2016) and now the current President, Zengyi Chang (from 2017) have continued to develop the activities of FAOBMB to encourage and support biochemists and molecular biologists. Thus, since 2014, FAOBMB has provided support for the FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship scheme (a regional program, similar to the IUBMB Wood-Whelan Fellowships scheme) and the FAOBMB Visiting Lectureship scheme that supports visits of prominent scientists from one FAOBMB country to another in the region. For many years, the FAOBMB Travel Fellowship scheme has provided support for several early career scientists to participate in the FAOBMB Congress or Conference each year.

The Federation has grown from its initial 3 founding members to the present 21 national societies or groups of biochemistry and molecular biology. Council meets once a year, at the particular location at which the FAOBMB Congress or Conference is held each year. Over the past 10 years it has been customary for a meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to take place once a year at another location from Council. These EC meetings are often associated with a small symposium put on by the national host Society, so that the local Biochemistry and Molecular Biology community gets the benefit of scientific and professional input from the visiting EC members. This has great outcomes for internationalisation and energisation of the local Biochemistry and Molecular Biology community.

Thus, in 2016, the FAOBMB EC meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by the College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka (CBSL), the most recently joining Constituent member of FAOBMB. The associated Scientific Symposium was organised by CBSL with a series of presentations by all EC members, two observers at the EC meeting from Malaysia (attending to help plan the FAOBMB Conference in 2019) and a visiting scientist from Iran who held the inaugural FAOBMB Visiting Lectureship. More than 100 local scientists and students from Colombo and other places in Sri Lanka enjoyed the one-day Symposium.

The most recent FAOBMB Conference took place in Manila, Philippines during December 2016. This was a mid-size Conference with 575 participants, including 60 from overseas (of whom, there were nine plenary speakers). Particularly notable were the vibrant interactions between students and international participants; the organisers under the leadership of Grace Yu did a great job in facilitating sessions to maximise student involvement. As with all FAOBMB Congresses and Conferences over many

years, an IUBMB-supported Education Symposium was an integral part of the Scientific Program, thus emphasizing the integral bond between education, training, research and technology in biochemistry and molecular biology.



Hosts at the Symposium organised by College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka, Colombo, June 2016. In the centre is Rasika Perera (CBSL President) pictured to the left of Phillip Nagley



FAOBMB EC with Delegates of Constituent Members and Observers at the FAOBMB Council meeting held in Manila, December 2016. FAOBMB EC members are in the front row. Andrew Wang (President-elect of IUBMB and a past President of FAOBMB is third from the right in the front row)

The current policies and strategies of FAOBMB strongly support such bonds. For example we have provided support for fellowships for younger scientists to attend special events such as IUBMB Advanced Schools held in our region. Most recently, FAOBMB is providing, in partnership with IUBMB, fellowships for younger scientists/educationists to participate in the New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education Conference to take place in Israel in September 2017. More generally, plans are under way to extend both the FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship scheme and the FAOBMB Visiting Lectureship scheme to embrace educationists and training experts as well as researchers (the present scope of these two schemes is restricted to research and technology).

These varied events that take place under the auspices of FAOBMB not only serve to enhance research, professional and educational links between the participants but there is a large social component that crosses national and cultural boundaries as well as providing much personal interest for the participants. Such “extracurricular” activities may comprise engagement with the local folk-culture (as in the photo taken in the Intramuros district of Manila, Philippines) or history and religion (as in the photo taken in Kandy, Sri Lanka). We are looking forward to our FAOBMB EC meeting in April 2017 in Beijing, China and then, later in the year, to the Council meeting associated with the FAOBMB-ConBio2017 Conference to be held in Kobe, Japan, in December 2017.

An essential component of communication between FAOBMB and interested people, not only in the region but worldwide, is the FAOBMB webpage. Much useful information about FAOBMB can be found at the newly rebuilt webpage (www.faobmb.com). The webpage provides details of the history, governance and activities of FAOBMB. There are both Upcoming Events and Latest News sections, and the various pages of the website include Guidelines and Application forms for the multiplicity of Awards, Fellowships and other schemes that are available from time to time.

Acknowledgements

I thank Zengyi Chang and Sheila Nathan for constructive advice in preparing this article.

General References:

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FAOBMB Travel Fellowship awardees at the Conference in Manila, December 2016. All Travel Fellows are holding their certificates, except for those at second and third left in the photo. Grace Yu is at the extreme left; Sheila Nathan (FAOBMB Fellowships Chair) is at the extreme right, next to whom is Pol Yambot (President of PSBMB)



FAOBMB folks with traditional Filipino performers at the famous Barbara's restaurant in Intramuros (the old Spanish walled city of Manila)



FAOBMB folks with other international colleagues at the opening of the 25th FAOBMB Conference in Manila in December 2016. Grace Yu (Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee), in formal Filipino attire, is fifth from the left



FAOBMB folks with guide (bearded) at the Buddhist Temple of the Sacred Tooth in Kandy, Sri Lanka



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PROLAB Awardees 2017

The long-term objective of this program, Promoting Research Opportunities for Latin American Biochemists (PROLAB), is to foster cooperation between the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PABMB), the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) that would benefit their members, trainees and science. More information about PROLAB can be found at <http://www.asbmb.org/pabmb>.

NAME	HOME COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	HOST LABORATORY
Pablo Galaz Davison	Chile	Centrifuge force microscopy applied to <i>E. coli</i> RfaH transcription elongation	Marcos Sotomayor, Ohio State University, USA
Tiago Figueira	Portugal	Pathogenesis of measles virus and antiviral approaches to treatment	Matteo Porotto, Columbia University, New York, USA
Rafaella Araújo Gonçalves da Silva	Brazil	Hypothalamic dysfunction as a novel shared mechanism between Alzheimer's disease and Type 2 diabetes	Paul Fraser, University of Toronto, Canada
Merixell Jodar	Spain	Sperm circular RNAs: Potential armored vehicles for sperm RNA	Julia Salzman, Stanford University, USA
Martina Lazzaro	Argentina	The Type VI secretion system	Mario Feldman, Washington University, St. Louis, USA
Mauricio Mastrogiovanni	Uruguay	Protein and lipid oxidation and nitration in biomembranes	Francisco Schopfer, University of Pittsburgh, USA
Germán Michelis	Argentina	Effects of pigment epithelium-derived factor on photoreceptor survival and differentiation: A link with docosahexaenoic acid signaling pathways	Patricia Becerra, National Institutes of Health, USA
Gabriel Oka	Brazil	Electron cryotomography analysis of bacterial killing mediated by a Type IV	Grant Jensen, California Institute of Technology, USA
Julia Roulet	Argentina	Engineering cyanobacteria for methylmalonyl-CoA-derived chemicals pro-	Michael Burkart, University of California, San Diego, USA
Matias Vazquez	Argentina	Modulation of scavenger receptor expression by nitro-fatty acids	Bruce Freeman, University of Pittsburgh, USA

The Wiley- BioFactors Prize for 2016 has been awarded to Richa S. Rathod

from the Department of Nutritional Medicine, Interactive Research School for Health Affairs, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune, India for her paper entitled “Beneficial effects of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin B12 supplementation on brain docosahexaenoic acid, brain derived neurotrophic factor, and cognitive performance in the second-generation Wistar rats” (Rathod RS, Khaire AA, Kale AA, Joshi SR (2015) Biofactors 41: 261-272).

The Wiley- IUBMB Life Young Investigator Prize for 2016 has been awarded to Joanna Bober

from the Faculty of Biotechnology, Department of Protein Engineering, University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland for her paper entitled “Identification of new FGF1 binding partners – implications for its intracellular function” (Bober J, Olsnes S, Kostas M, Bogacz M, Zakrzewska M, Otlewski J (2016) IUBMB Life 68: 242-251).

Trans YTF Awardees 2016

NAME	COUNTRY	COURSE TITLE	COURSE LOCATION
Dvir Aran	USA	From host genomes to microbiome: immunity in the genomic era	Rehovot, Israel
Priscila Albuquerque	Brazil	State-of-the-art infection models for human pathogenic fungi	Jena, Germany
Florencia Celeste Mansilla	Argentina	Current advances in pathogen research	Yerevan, Armenia
Richard Isaac	USA	Chromatin and the environment	Spetses Island, Greece
Parijat Sarkar	India	Lipid-protein interactions and organelle function	Spetses Island, Greece
Nicolas Campolo	Uruguay	Redox regulation of metabolic processes	Spetses Island, Greece
Surbi Kohli	India	Chromatin proteomics	Heraklion, Crete, Greece
Yanti Yanti	Indonesia	Imaging the immune system	Rehovot, Israel
Rene Goosen	South Africa	Coenzyme A and its derivatives in health and disease	Marseille, France

Young Scientist Program Travel Fellows – Vancouver Conference 2016

Corrigendum — An incorrect listing was published in the IUBMB Newsletter #2. The following is the complete list of Travel Fellows, of whom 38 were able to participate.

NAME	COUNTRY
Sunny Abarikwu	Nigeria
Ayenachew Bezawork-Geleta	Australia
Anita Capalbo	Italy
Wilhelm Chen	Singapore
Ariunbold Chuluun-Erdene	Mongolia
Hasmik Davtyan	Armenia
Mariia Dekaliuk	Ukraine
Krisztina Dugmonits	Hungary
Nekpen Erhunse	Nigeria
Mário Felício	Portugal
Nareshwaran Gnanasegaran	Malaysia
Amanda Harvey	UK
Simab Kanwal	Thailand
Dean Karaica	Croatia
Ludmila Kasatkina	Ukraine
Khatereh Khorsandi	Iran
Anna Labno	Poland
Wook-bin Lee	South Korea
Eva Lhuissier	France
Olha Lisakovska	Ukraine
Micaela Lopez-Leon	Argentina
Ana Mitrović	Slovenia

NAME	COUNTRY
Ignacio Niechi	Chile
Stella Olubodun	Nigeria
Oleksandra Onopchenko	Ukraine
Babatunji Oyinloye	South Africa
Daniel Plaza	Chile
Iva Potočnjak	Croatia
Prahlad Ranninga	Australia
Christiane Rennert	Germany
Piere Rodriguez	Peru
Felipe Schmitz	Brazil
Lindsay Spielman	Canada
Tamara Stelma	South Africa
Saki Sultana	Canada
Ee Phie Tan	USA
Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govinda Raj	Norway
Meghan Verstraete	Canada
Galina Viryasova	Russia
Ivana Vrhovac Madunić	Croatia
Wahajuddin Wahajuddin	India
Adam Walker	Australia
Yuliana Yosaatmadja	New Zealand

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Volcán Osorno seen from across the lake in Puerto Varas, Chile, location of the first IUBMB Focused Meeting