

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

(IUBMB)

Activities' Report - Year 2019

Francesco Bonomi, UNIMI

1. Introduction

Since 1955 IUBMB has been promoting biochemical research worldwide, either through its own Journals and events or by supporting initiatives from its regional bodies (in Europe, Latin America, Far East and Oceania, Africa). In addition to its own triennial Congress, IUBMB each year supports several Focused Meetings and Advanced Schools, and offers more than 40 fellowships to scientists willing to carry out research in qualified labs abroad.

2. Main activities carried on by IUBMB during 2019 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2019, IUBMB activities most relevant for the Italian Biochemical community have included:

- The Young Scientists' Forum (FEBS, Krakow, July 4-6, 2019) (10 Italian participants out of 109 total)
- The ENABLE Conference, November 13-15, 2019, Nijmegen, the Netherlands (3 Italian speakers and 26 posters with Italian presenters out of 115 total participants)
- support to visiting scientists in Italian labs: Moyano Sofia, fom Argentina, hosted by Dr Lalle, ISS, Rome; Adriano Combindo Botto, from Argentina, hosted by Dr Foiani, IEO, Milan;
- Support to the Advanced School on "Protein Structure Solution, Prediction and Validation", organized by Prof. Ivano Eberini (Milan) in Spetses (Greece, May 13-17, 2019)
- Support to IUBMB Jubilee lecturers at the following scientific events: 25^o International Symposium on Glycoconjugates, Milan, August 25-31; Advanced School on "Precision Nanomedicine", Erice, July 2-8

3. Activities carried on by Francesco Bonomi within the Union during 2019 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Francesco Bonomi is a member of the IUBMB Executive Council, and will serve as the Union's Treasurer until July 2021. He has been proactive in ensuring that Italian scientists – also as SIB representatives - will continue to be present within the IUBMB EC at the end of his mandate.

Francesco Bonomi has taken part to all the scientific events supported by IUBMB in 2019 and listed above – if not for the FEBS YSF in Krakow - presenting the relevance of IUBMB activities to the national and international scientific communities. His participation to these events as an IUBMB observer/delegate was supported by a dedicated IUBMB budget, and is not accounted in the financial data reported in what follows.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

CNR is supporting IUBMB as the official Adhering Body, with annual dues at **USD 6,000.00**. In 2019, Italy-related support from IUBMB has exceeded by far this figure, as made evident by the following itemized list:

- The Young Scientists' Forum (FEBS, Krakow, July 4-6, 2019) (10 Italian participants out of 109 total)
IUBMB support to Italian young participants USD 1,376.00

- The ENABLE Conference, November 13-15, 2019, Nijmegen, the Netherlands (3 Italian speakers and 26 posters with Italian presenters out of 115 total participants)
IUBMB support to Italian participants USD 3,545.00
- Wood-Whelan fellowships support to visiting scientists in Italian labs: Sofia Moyano, from Argentina, hosted by Dr Lalle, ISS, Rome; Adriano Combino Botto, from Argentina, hosted by Dr Foiani, IEO, Milan
Total IUBMB support: USD 7,300.00
- Support to the Advanced School on “Protein Structure Solution, Prediction and Validation”, organized by Prof. Ivano Eberini (Milan) in Spetses (Greece) May 13-17, 2019)
IUBMB support to speakers & participants USD 20,559.00
- Support to IUBMB Jubilee lecturers at the following scientific events in Italy: 25° International Symposium on Glycoconjugates, Milan, August 25-31; Advanced School on “Precision Nanomedicine”, Erice, July 2-8
Total IUBMB support: USD 4,000.00

Thus, the year 2019 closed with a grand total of IUBMB support to Italian scientists amounting to USD **36,780.00** in return for dues at USD **6,000.00**, bringing a net **positive balance at USD 30,780.00.**

5. Evaluation of Italians’ attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italian attendance to IUBMB-related meetings and congresses is below what expected from the overall size of the Italian Scientific community in this area, and from the SIB membership figures. However, decreasing attendance is a general trend for large non-specialized meetings. IUBMB has changed his meeting policy, supporting Focused Meetings, likely more attractive in times of budget constraints, instead of large non-specialized events.

Attendance figures to IUBMB-related activities improve when considering events targeted to young scientists, such as Advanced Schools or the yearly Young Scientists’ Programs or Young Scientist Forums. Some is true for even less formal events aimed at junior researchers, that include also some career-related aspects, as is the case of the ENABLE event.

Francesco Bonomi is collaborating very actively with SIB in presenting opportunities offered by IUBMB to the Italian scientific community. This is carried out through contacts with the SIB Council and the SIB Officers, and by presenting IUBMB related activities at SIB-related events.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs

As mentioned above, **Francesco Bonomi** is a member of the IUBMB Executive Council, and the Union’s Treasurer. He successfully applied for re-election to a final term as Treasurer, and is proactive in ensuring that Italian scientists – also as SIB representative - will continue to be present within the IUBMB EC at the end of his mandate in 2021.

Two formal EC meetings were held in 2019, in Miami (January) and in Kuala Lumpur (August). Aside from the two EC meetings, Francesco Bonomi has also represented IUBMB at other events (in addition to those involving the Italian scientific community, listed above under #3). In view of his expertise with organizing large-scale international events, he has been involved in the preparation of an Italian bid - through the Società Italiana di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare - to host the 2023 FEBS Meeting in Italy.

In addition to having been elected by the 2018 GA to the IUBMB Nominating Committee for the next triennium, prof. **Stefania Iametti** (the CNR-appointed Italian representative at the IUBMB General Assembly in 2015 and

2018) has been appointed by the EC responsible officer (prof. Janet Macaulay) as a member of the IUBMB Fellowship Committee. Hopefully, her appointment – that increases the small number of Italian colleagues involved in these activities - should facilitate further successful application by Italian scientists to these highly competitive endeavors.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2019 CNR Commission activities

Not applicable

8. Notes (if any)

None

9. Conclusions

Expansion of the Italian presence within the IUBMB governing and counseling bodies is expected to have a positive impact on Italian participation in IUBMB activities. The perspective budget for the 2019-2021 triennium should allow significant contributions to new and more flexible initiatives. As of this writing, there are already various events for which IUBMB support has been already committed in 2020, although the impact of the COVID-19 pandemics will likely bring some changes to the current plans. Rather remarkably, the events to be supported in the immediate future cover the whole range (Meetings, Schools, and fellowships) of IUBMB-supported activities, as well as the final edition of the ENABLE event, currently scheduled for November 2020 in Milan.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Macaulay', written in a cursive style.

Milan, April 17, 2020