

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)

Activities' Report - Year 2022

Loredano Pollegioni/Francesco Bonomi

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 a large number and variety of fellowships to young scientists willing to carry out research activities in qualified labs abroad, as well as to attend meetings or to practice novel teaching approaches. Notably, in 2021 IUBMB has rejoined the International Scientific Council (previously known as ICSU: International Council of Scientific Unions).

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2022 relevant for Italy and for CNR

IUBMB activities in 2022 have been significantly improved following the lag observed during the COVID pandemic. Among the supported activities is ENABLE Meeting (an UE-cosponsored event targeted to young researchers, also involved in its organization) organized in November 2022 in Seville, attended in person, along with a relevant number of young Italian researchers and the support from IUBMB and FEBS.

3. Activities carried on by Loredano Pollegioni within the Union during 2022 and impact on the Italian scientific community

As anticipated in previous reports, professor Loredano Pollegioni has been elected as IUBMB Treasurer at the IUBMB General Assembly in June 2021. Professor Stefania Iametti served as the Italian representative at the General Assembly.

Therefore, prof. Pollegioni has replaced prof. Bonomi as the IUBMB Treasurer, taking office on January 1, 2022. In addition to his duties as the IUBMB Treasurer and IUBMB representative to various events, the activity of prof. Pollegioni has been focused on the participation to the Executive Committee meetings (mostly online), characterized by a re-organization of IUBMB activities following the pandemic period.

Prof. Pollegioni has been in close contact with the Società Italiana di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare (SIB) and with FEBS (the Federation of European Biochemical Societies, both associated to IUBMB). In this regard, prof. Pollegioni has been appointed as IUBMB ambassador in the FEBS board, and Francesco Bonomi has been appointed to the FEBS Financial Committee.

Proff. Pollegioni, Bonomi and Iametti are also involved in organizing the 48th FEBS Congress, to be held in Milan in June/July 2024. We expect this event to represent a “turning point” for the Italian biochemical community, while bringing international visibility to the Italian scientific community as a whole.

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**. The financial support provided by IUBMB to the Italian scientific community is detailed in what follows:

- IUBMB support to Advanced School on “COFACTOR ASSEMBLY, TRANSPORT AND INSERTION” 16-20 May 2022, Spetses Island, Greece, organized by Franco Bonomi and Stefania Iametti (UniMilano). The following participated as teachers: Silvia Sacchi (Uninsubria), Salvatore Adinolfi (UniTorino), Maria Barile, Luigi Palmieri and Roberto Barbaro (UniBari), Cesare Indiveri (UniCalabria); the following participated as students: Sara Borgonovi and Mattia Dinunzio (UniMI); Elena Zerbini (Uninsubria), Lara Console and Deborah Giudice (UniCalabria), Alex Fissore (UniTorino), Carlo Fortunato (UniMarche), Giovanna Incampo, Maria Tolomeo and Alessia Nisco (UniBari), Marco Pedretti (UniVerona)

IUBMB support

USD 20000,00 (16506.00 USD erogated in 2022)

- IUBMB support to Focused Meeting on Hemoglobin Switching (22nd Hemoglobin Switching Conference) at Kalimera Kriti Conference centre in Crete, Greece (5th-9th May 2022) for the participation of Aprile Annamaria, Giulia Chianella, Giuliana Ferrari, MariaRosa Lidonnici, Annarita Miccio, Stefano Rivella, Antonella Ronchi, Davide Seruggia, and Silvia Sighinolfi,

IUBMB (approx. 200 USD each)

USD 1800.00

- IUBMB support for the relocation of Tetiana Tykhonenko from Ukraine to the Biomedical Sciences Department, Prof. Marco Sandri, Università of Padova
IUBMB support up to USD 2000.00
- IUBMB support at the Focused Meeting “Redox Alterations and Cellular Responses: From Signalling to Interventions”, 19-25 Settembre 2022, Spetses Island, Greece. The following participated as teachers: Daniela Caporossi (UniRoma4) and Giuseppe Valacchi (UniFerrara); the following participated as students: Vanesa Cepas-López (IRCC), Chantalle Moulton, Benedusi Mascia, Ferrara Francesca and Anna Guiotto (UniFerrara), Sara Pagnotta and Simona Lanzillotta (UniRoma1)
IUBMB support (total) € 8104.00
- Economic support for the participation to the “Advanced School and Workshop: Proteins in Nanobiology and Nanobiotechnology”, Cuba, July 11-15, 2022, of Marianna Rossetti and Alessandro Porchetta (UniTorVergata)
IUBMB support (approx. 200 USD each) USD 400.00

Therefore, the 2022 fiscal year has seen direct support to Italian scientists from IUBMB for a grand total of more than USD **28,800**, in return of dues remaining at USD **6,000**, bringing up a **positive balance in excess of 22,000 USD.**

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

The Italian attendance to IUBMB-related meetings and congresses has remained below what expected from the overall size of the Italian Scientific community in this area, and from the SIB membership. However, decreasing attendance is a general trend for large and non-specialized meetings. This is why IUBMB has changed his meeting policy, supporting small and high-quality events - likely more attractive in times of budget constraints - instead of massive and broadly focused 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. The same is true for even less formal events specifically aimed at junior researchers that include also some career-related aspects, as is the case – among others - of the ENABLE events.

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

The 2021 General Assembly has elected prof. **Loredano Pollegioni** as the new IUBMB Treasurer. In this function, prof. Pollegioni is also a member of the IUBMB EC and - *ex-officio* – of the IUBMB Publication Committee. The latter role is of relevance both in terms of scientific policy and because of its financial relevance, given that roughly 80% of the IUBMB income comes from editorial activities. Prof. Pollegioni has started his apprenticeship in late Summer 2021, in close collaboration with prof. Bonomi, and is expected to be fully autonomous in early Summer 2022, after the External Auditors will complete their review for the fiscal year 2021 and the resulting figures will be approved by the appropriate Authorities in the Netherlands, where IUBMB is formally registered as a not-for-profit organization. Prof. Pollegioni has been appointed as IUBMB ambassador in the FEBS board.

The professors Graziano Pesole (University of Bari) and Marco Muzi Falcone (University of Milan State) have been indicated as delegates of the CNR for the scientific activities of the IUBMB (respectively holder and substitute) for the period 14.02.2023 – 31.12.2026.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2022 CNR Commission activities

Not applicable

8. Notes (if any)

None

9. Conclusions

Maintaining and expanding 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

2021-2023 triennium makes ample space for providing significant contributions to novel and less stereotypical initiatives, that will have to take in due consideration at least some of the new or emerging trends in the post-COVID worldwide scenario of scientific communication and in the ways of exchanging people and ideas. At the moment, the prospects for 2023 and 2024 appear interesting, with the confirmation of IUBMB support for the numerous initiatives proposed by Italian colleagues.

Signature

Milan, April 26, 2023

Francesco Bonomi