

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
(IUBMB)

Activities' Report - Year 2018

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 2018 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2018, IUBMB activities most relevant for the Italian Biochemical community have included:

- The Young Scientists' Forum (FEBS, Prague, July 4-7, 2018) (8 Italian participants out of 110 total)
- The ENABLE Conference, November 7-9, 2018, Copenhagen (4 Italian speakers and 28 posters with Italian presenters out of 108 total participants)
- Conference "Membrane trafficking in cell organization and homeostasis" (Daniela Corda, IBP-CNR, organizer) Sorrento, 15-19 October 2018.
- support to visiting scientists in Italian labs (Dr Milika Malesevic (from Serbia), for a stage in the laboratory of prof. Molinaro, University of Naples in September-December 2018)
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3. Activities carried on by Francesco Bonomi within the Union during 2018 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Francesco Bonomi is a member of the IUBMB Executive Council, and is the Union's Treasurer. He successfully applied for a to a final term as Treasurer, ending in 2021, and has been very 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. As a consequence of these efforts, with support from both CNR and SIB, Prof. Stefania Iametti (the CNR representative at the IUBMB general assembly in Seoul, South Korea, at no charges for either CNR or SIB) has been elected as a member of the Nominating Committee of IUBMB.

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**.

Italy-related support from IUBMB exceeds by far this figure, as made evident by the following itemized list:

- Conference "Membrane trafficking in cell organization and homeostasis" (**Daniela Corda, IBP-CNR, organizer**) Sorrento, 15-19 October 2018.
IUBMB support to speakers & participants USD 3,458.00
- The Young Scientists' Forum, (in association with FEBS) Prague, July 4-7, 2018, (8 Italian participants out of 110 total)
IUBMB support to Italian young participants USD 1,090.00

- The ENABLE Conference, November 7-9, 2018, Copenhagen (4 Italian speakers and 28 posters with Italian presenters out of 108 total participants)
IUBMB support to Italian young participants USD 2518.52
- Wood-Whelan fellowship to Dr Milika Malesevic (from Serbia), for a stage in the laboratory of prof. Molinaro, University of Naples in September-December 2018
IUBMB support USD 4,000.00

Thus, the year 2018 closed with a grand total of IUBMB support to Italian scientists amounting to USD **11,156.52** in return for dues at **USD 6,000.00**, bringing a net **positive balance at USD 5,156.52.**

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. However, decreasing attendance is a general trend for large and non-specialized meetings. This is why 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 reserachers, 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 succesfully applied for re-election to a final term as Treasurer, and has been very 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 2018, before and after the General Assembly held during the IUBMB Congress in Seoul, where new members of the EC have been elected. Prof. Bonomi has also represented IUBMB at other events, by presenting lecturers appointed with a "IUBMB Jubilee Lecture" at the 27th tRNA Conference (Strasbourg, France, September 23-27, 2018).

In addition to being elected to the IUBMB Nominating Committee for the next triennium, prof. **Stefania Iametti** (the CNR representative at the IUBMB General Assembly) has been appointed by the EC responsible (prof. Janet Mcaulay) as an evaluator for Wood-Whelan and Mid-Career fellowships, that represent IUBMB's most popular form of support for young scientists. Hopefully, her appointment should facilitate successful applications by Italian scientists to these highly competitive endeavors.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2018 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 2019. Noteworthy, the events to be supported cover the whole range (Meetings, Schools, and fellowships) of the IUBMB activities.

Signature

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

Milan, May 27, 2019