

# International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

(IUBMB)

## Activities' Report - Year 2017

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 addition to its own triennial Congress, IUBMB supports Focused Meetings and Advanced Schools, and offers fellowships to scientists willing to carry out research in qualified labs abroad.

### 2. Main activities carried on by IUBMB during 2017 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2017, IUBMB activities most relevant for the Italian Biochemical community – excluding those supported by IUBMB but open to a general audience without specific support to Italians - have included:

- The International Conference on D-amino acids IDAR2017, July 10th-13th 2017, Varese, Italy
- The Advanced School on “A molecular view of the food-health relationship”, Spetes, Greece, May 15-19, 2017 (5 relatori italiani e 7 studenti italiani)
- The “New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education” Conference, September 5-8, 2017, Rehovot, IL (2 relatori italiani)
- The Young Scientists' Forum, Jerusalem, September 10-14, 2017, (6 partecipanti italiani su 110 totali)
- The ENABLE event, November 15-17, IRB, Barcelona, Spain (6 relatori italiani, 18 poster di autori italiani su 100 totali)

### 3. Activities carried on by Francesco Bonomi within the Union during 2017 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Francesco Bonomi is a member of the IUBMB Executive Council, and the Union's Treasurer. He and Prof. Stefania Iametti (UNIMI) have been the co-organizers of the 2017 Advanced School mentioned above. Both had presentations at the Rehovot Conference on Education, illustrating the peculiar situation of undergraduate and graduate programs in Italy. Francesco Bonomi gave a presentation of IUBMB activities and of the opportunities offered to the Italian scientific community at the Varese Conference (see above) and several SIB (Società Italiana di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare) events in 2017.

### 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:

- The International Conference on D-amino acids IDAR2017, July 10th-13th 2017, Varese, Italy  
*IUBMB support USD 2,147.00 (paid in 2016). On this occasion, a IUBMB prize was delivered to the supported speaker*
- The Advanced School on “A molecular view of the food-health relationship”, Spetes, Greece, May 15-19, 2017 (5 relatori italiani e 7 studenti italiani)  
**Total IUBMB support USD 17,118.00**  
*(of which USD 5,080.14 directly spent on supporting travel from Italian participants)*
- The “New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education” Conference, September 5-8, 2017, Rehovot, IL (2 relatori italiani)  
**IUBMB support to Italian participants USD 2,297.00**
- The Young Scientists' Forum, Jerusalem, September 10-14, 2017, (6 partecipanti italiani su 110 totali)  
**IUBMB support to Italian young participants USD 1,597.16**
- The ENABLE event, November 15-17, IRB, Barcelona, Spain (6 relatori italiani su 31, 18 poster di autori italiani su 100 totali)  
**IUBMB support to Italian young participants USD 630.00**

Thus, the year 2017 closed with a grand total of IUBMB support amounting to USD **21,642.16** in return for dues at **USD 6,000.00**, bringing the outstanding **positive balance at USD 15,642.16.**

## **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 general area, and from the SIB membership. However, this 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.

Attendance figures improve when considering events targeted to young scientists, such as Advanced Schools or the yearly Young Scientists' Programs, as well as less formal events, 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 Officers, through a personal network developed during his long collaboration with SIB at various levels, 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. A formal EC meeting in 2017 was concurrent with the conference at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel (Sept. 2012). As the IUBMB Treasurer, Francesco Bonomi also participated to an additional EC meeting in Miami (Florida) concerning the organization of the Miami Winter Symposium, jointly organized by IUBMB, Elsevier, and the University of Miami, that represents a flagship event for IUBMB.

Francesco Bonomi has applied for re-election to a final term as Treasurer, ending in 2021, and has been very proactive in ensuring that Italian scientists – also a SIB representative - will continue to be present within the IUBMB EC at the end of his mandate.

## **7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2017 CNR Commission activities**

Not applicable

## **8. Notes (if any)**

None

## **9. Conclusions**

A detailed report of decisions taken at the IUBMB General Assembly (Seoul, June 6, 2018) will be provided, along with any decision from the GA or the renovated EC that may impact on Italian participation in IUBMB activities. The report will include an analysis of the perspective budget for the 2019-2021 triennium

Signature



Milan, April 5, 2018