

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)

Activities' Report - Year 2024

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.

2. Main activities carried on by IUBMB during 2024 relevant for Italy and for CNR

IUBMB activities in 2024 have been significantly improved following the lag observed during the COVID pandemic. Among the supported activities is the ENABLE Meeting (a UE-cosponsored event targeted to young researchers, also involved in its organization) organized in December 2024 in Singapore, attended in person, and with the support from IUBMB and FEBS.

3. Activities carried on by Delegates within the Union during 2024 and impact on the Italian scientific community

CNR Delegates followed the activities of IUBMB in close connection with Prof. Loredano Pollegioni, current elected Treasurer of IUBMB. The Italian participation was mainly focused on the participation in the meetings of the Executive Committee, held "remotely" and characterized by a significant reorganization of the activities of IUBMB after 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, also associated with IUBMB). In this regard, Prof. Pollegioni has been appointed as IUBMB ambassador on the FEBS board, and Francesco Bonomi has been appointed to the FEBS Financial Committee. Profs. Pollegioni, Bonomi, and Iametti were involved in organizing the 48th FEBS Congress, held in Milan from 29 June – 3 July 2024. This event represented a “turning point” for the Italian biochemical community with more than 800 Italian participants while bringing international visibility to the Italian scientific community as a whole (2100 total participants). The meeting also hosted the scientific one-day meeting of Consorzio Interuniversitario per le Biotecnologie (CIB), joining 20 Italian Universities.

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 FEBS Meeting in Milano - Euro 4898

- IUBMB participated at the meeting with a booth, that allowed young participants to be informed about IUBMB initiatives (1230 €)
- IUBMB supported the participation of IUBMB Lecturer, Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Ashburn, VA, USA, and Prof. Fung (3668 €) – this cost has been paid in 2025.

IUBMB support to YSF meeting in Pavia - Euro 3491

- IUBMB supported “The 23rd FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum (YSF 2024)” 26-29 June 2024, also supporting the participation of Ajeigbe Olufunke Florence from Nigeria and Alessandro Bevilacqua from Japan.

IUBMB Trainee initiative in Milano - Euro 2205

- IUBMB supported the Trainee Initiative at the FEBS Meeting in Milan by covering the costs of the Trainee Representatives Mihaela Jovanovic and Patrick Penndorf

Awarded in 2024 – 9065 \$

- IUBMB Tang Education Fellowship - Germán Rosano from Argentina to Prof. Emidio Capriotti institution at the School of Agricultural Sciences, School of Biochemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences - National University of Rosario, Italy - US \$4995
- IUBMB Wood-Whelan Research Fellowship - Beatriz Fernandez Millares, Cuba, to Dr. Prof. Francesco Vinale's lab at the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal, University of Naples Federico II, Italy - US \$4070

Therefore, the 2024 fiscal year –as indicated by the Treasurer prof. Pollegioni- has seen direct support to Italian scientists from IUBMB for a grand total of more than **Euro 19000**, in return for dues remaining at **USD 6,000.00**, bringing up a **positive balance higher than 13,000 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 is 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 its 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 the late summer of 2021. Prof. Pollegioni has been appointed as IUBMB ambassador on the FEBS board. Prof. Pollegioni has been renewed in the Office of Treasurer in September 2024, for additional three years.

Prof. Stefania Iametti (University of Milan) has been appointed as Associate Editor for the BioFactor journal. Prof. Loredano Pollegioni is a Review Editor of the Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry journal.

Professor Graziano Pesole (University of Bari) and Prof. Marco Muzi Falconi (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 2024 CNR Commission activities

Not applicable

8. 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 prospective budget for the 2023-2026 triennium makes ample space for providing significant contributions to novel and less stereotypical initiatives, that will have to take into 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

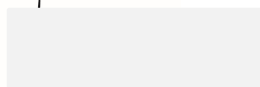
people and ideas. At the moment, the prospects for 2025 appear interesting, with the confirmation of IUBMB support for the numerous initiatives proposed by Italian colleagues.

Prof. Graziano Pesole
CNR representative

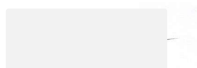


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Prof. Marco Muzi Falconi
Deputy CNR representative



Prof. Loredano Pollegioni
IUBMB Treasurer



Bari, 15 April 2025