



## Editorial

## Welcome to EBEC 2014



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are most pleased to welcome you in Lisbon, for the 18th European Bioenergetics Conference – *EBEC 2014*. It is the first time that EBEC takes place in Portugal and we hope to keep the conferences' landmark on fostering intense discussion and interaction among bioenergeticists.

The European Bioenergetics Conferences are paramount discussion forums on molecular and cellular bioenergetics. *EBEC 2014* brings to the discussion a broad palette of topics addressed by multiple, different and complementary perspectives using several methodologies and different systems. EBEC 2014 topics include the Evolution and Biogenesis of Bioenergetic Systems, Prokaryotic and Plants Bioenergetics; ATP synthases, Respiratory Complexes and Photosystems; Electron Transfer and Proton Translocation Coupling; Membrane Transporters, Ion Pumps and Channels, Mitochondrial Structure and Dynamics, Mitochondria and Signaling, Uncoupling Proteins, ROS and Aging.

It is our pleasure to announce that *Robert B. Gennis*, from the University of Illinois will be awarded with the *Peter Mitchell Medal* at EBEC 2014. Congratulations, Bob!

The Peter Mitchell Medal is attributed at each EBEC to a scientist in recognition of his/her contribution to the area of Bioenergetics. The awardee was elected by the members of the EBEC 2014 Peter Mitchell Medal and Lecture Committee among eleven outstanding nominations. We would like to thank all of those who contributed to the high quality of this award by sending their nominations. We also would like to acknowledge the work of the Committee, chaired by Märten Wikström.

We wish to thank the members of the Organizing Committee and of the International Advisory Committee for their help in the preparation of EBEC 2014. A special thank to Paolo Bernardi for his permanent help along the congress preparation. We also wish to thank all the speakers and chairs for their acceptance to participate at the meeting. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Federation of European Microbiology Societies, FEMS, and the European Biophysics Societies' Associations, EBSA, for their support, especially for the availability of the bursaries. We would like to thank all our sponsors and other supporting entities, especially *BBA-bioenergetics* for the Special Issue, Abstract Book and Young Researcher Poster Awards.

EBEC 2014 would not be possible without your participation. Thank you for coming and welcome to Lisbon!



**Manuela M. Pereira** graduated in Biochemistry from Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa (UL) and was an Erasmus student at the University of Newcastle, UK. She took her PhD in Biochemistry at Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL) under the supervision of Miguel Teixeira and in close collaboration with Matti Saraste at EMBL, Heidelberg. Her studies showed for the first time that high-potential iron–sulfur proteins (HiPIP) could be a part of a respiratory chain, the existence of a new complex III, now named alternative complex III, and the presence of a new motif in the D-channel of heme-copper oxidases. Her post-doc work was dedicated to the study of these enzymes, putting forward the classification of heme-copper oxidases and discussing scenarios for their evolution. Since 2005, Manuela is head of the laboratory at Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica – António Xavier, ITQB-UNL. The group investigates energy transduction by respiratory systems, including complex I. The group has shown that some prokaryotic complexes I translocate sodium ions in addition to protons but in opposite directions.

**Miguel Teixeira** was born in Lisbon, in 1957. He graduated in Chemistry from the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, 1981. Still as an undergraduate student, he joined António V. Xavier's Molecular Biophysics Group, where he performed his PhD work on bacterial hydrogenases under the supervision of J.J.G. Moura. After being awarded his PhD in Chemistry by the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL), in 1986, he spent one and a half years as a research associate and Fulbright Fellow at the Physics Department, Emory University, Atlanta, with B.H. Huynh. After returning to Portugal, and until 1997 he was Assistant Professor at Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, UNL, and started his own group at the new Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica – António Xavier (ITQB-UNL); in 1997 he moved definitively to ITQB as Associate Professor and finally as Full Professor of Biological Chemistry. Since 1990 he is the head of the ITQB MetalloEnzymes and Molecular Bioenergetics Laboratory, devoted to the understanding of molecular mechanisms of microbial redox enzymes, mainly catalyzing the reduction of small molecules, such as  $O_2$ , NO,  $H_2O_2$  or  $O_2^-$ .

Dr. Manuela Pereira

Dr. Miguel Teixeira

*Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica, Universidade Nova de Lisboa  
(Lisbon), Av da Republica (EAN), Portugal*