

## Federation of European Biochemical Societies

### Executive Committee 1972–74

Chairman: Professor L.L.M. van Deenen, Laboratory of Biochemistry, Vondellaan 26, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Immediate Past Chairman: Professor T.K. Nikolov, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Biology, Moskowska Street 49, Sofia, Bulgaria

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Treasurer: Professor S.P. Datta, Department of Biochemistry, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, England

Chairman of Publications Committee: Professor B.G. Malmström, Department of Biochemistry, Chalmers Institute of Technology, Fack, S-402 20 Göteborg 5, Sweden

Chairman of Advanced Courses Committee: Professor M. Gruber, Biochemisch Laboratorium der Rijks-Universiteit, Zernikelaan, Groningen, The Netherlands

### Annual Report for 1972

H.R.V. Arnstein

*FEBS Secretary-General, London*

Although the Federation of European Biochemical Societies has been in existence for only some eight years, the activities sponsored by FEBS are now well established and generally recognized as important and valuable contributions to the development of biochemistry. It is a pleasure, therefore, to place on record the continued progress of the Federation during the past year and to thank all those who have actively contributed to its success by their energy and enthusiasm.

#### 1. *Membership of FEBS*

At the Council meeting held in Amsterdam on 23 August 1972, the Icelandic Biochemical Society was officially admitted as the 25th member of FEBS.

#### 2. *The annual FEBS meetings*

One of the main aims of FEBS is to facilitate the exchange of scientific information between biochemists generally and especially those in the European area by arranging an annual meeting. These meetings are organized for the Federation by one of the constituent societies and continue to attract widespread support and large attendances. Thus, at the 8th FEBS meeting, which was held in Amsterdam on 20–25 August 1972, there were more than 2400 active participants and 400 associate members. In addition to over 1000 free communications the scientific programme included 7 Symposia (1. Analysis and simulation of biochemical systems. 2. Immunoglobulins: Cell bound receptors and humoral antibodies. 3. RNA viruses: Replication and structure. 4. Ribosomes: Structure, function and biogenesis. 5. Mitochondria: Biogenesis and bioenergetics. 6. Biomembranes: Molecular arrangements and transport mechanisms. 7. Enzymes: Structure and function),

a Colloquium on "New techniques in Biochemistry", and a Discussion on "The Social Responsibility of the Biochemist". At the opening session, Professor Ephraim Katchalski gave the Fourth Sir Hans Krebs Lecture entitled "Interaction of Synthetic and Biopolymers with Cell Membranes". Two beautiful short films "Sky over Holland" and "Dynamic Amsterdam" contributed variety and additional interest to the opening and closing sessions.

In 1973, there will be a special meeting in Dublin on "Industrial Aspects of Biochemistry" on 15–19 April and the next regular Annual Meeting will be held at the Technical University, Budapest, in August 1974. Future plans include the Tenth Annual Meeting in France in 1975 and a Symposium on "Membrane Biochemistry" in Zürich in 1976.

#### 3. *Advanced Courses*

Another major activity of FEBS is the organization of courses which are intended to provide specialist instruction at an advanced level. Most courses last about one week and many include some laboratory work as well as lectures and discussions. During the past year, the following courses were held:

No. 20. Modern Aspects of Chemical Carcinogenesis (Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, on 19–21 April 1972)

No. 21. Enzyme Regulation (Universidad Autonoma, Madrid, Spain, on 5–28 June, 1972)

No. 22. Mathematical Models of Metabolic Regulation (Oberhof, Thüringen, DDR, on 8–17 November, 1972)

Plans for advanced courses in 1973 include four courses:

No. 23. Sequencing of RNA (Strasbourg, France, on

27 August–2 September, 1973)

No. 24. Protein–Nucleic Acid Interaction (Hintermoos, Austria, on 8–14 March, 1973)

No. 25. Protein Sequencing (Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 9–13 July, 1973)

No. 26. RNA of Eukaryotic Cells (Sofia, Bulgaria, on 15–30 July, 1973)

The programme of courses is arranged by the FEBS Advanced Courses Committee under the chairmanship of Professor M. Gruber, from whom further information may be obtained.

A FEBS Youth Travel Fund has been established in order to assist young biochemists who have been accepted for FEBS advanced courses. The fund has received special contributions from the Biochemical Societies of the German Democratic Republic, the German Federal Republic, Israel and Switzerland, in addition to the money allocated by Council from the general income of FEBS. A limited number of travel grants is available for each course and applications should be addressed to the Treasurer, Professor S.P. Datta.

#### 4. Publications

Two journals, the *European Journal of Biochemistry* and *FEBS Letters*, are published for the Federation by Springer Verlag and the North-Holland Publishing Co., respectively. The *European Journal of Biochemistry* (Editor-in-Chief: Professor C. L  beq  ), which is now well established as one of the leading international biochemical journals, continues to increase in size whilst maintaining its high standard. *FEBS Letters* (Managing Editor: Professor S.P. Datta), which was established for the rapid publication of short papers, is growing even faster and is now approximately as large as *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*.

Arising from the annual meetings a series of FEBS Symposia has been published. The Symposia given at the Amsterdam meeting have been published by the North-Holland Publishing Company in five volumes, as follows:

Vol. 25. Analysis and Simulation of Biochemical Systems

Vol. 26. Immunoglobulins: Cell Bound Receptors and Humoral Antibodies

Vol. 27. RNA Viruses: Replication and Structure. Ribosomes: Structure, Function and Biogenesis

Vol. 28. Mitochondria: Biogenesis and Bioenergetics. Biomembranes: Molecular Arrangements and Transport Mechanisms

Vol. 29. Enzymes: Structure and Function.

The Symposia of the FEBS meetings held in 1966–1971 may be obtained from Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd., 24–28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DD, England.

The FEBS Information Bulletin, which contains details of meetings, advanced courses, publications, fellowships and other matters of current interest continues to be issued twice yearly. The Bulletin is distributed to members by most of the constituent societies and is produced by Professor S.P. Datta to whom items for inclusion may be sent.

Reciprocal arrangements concerning reduced subscriptions for publications have been agreed between FEBS and PAABS, which will enable members of FEBS to obtain all PAABS publications such as PAABS Revista and Symposia at the same prices as those charged to PAABS members.

Plans for future FEBS publications include an annual Index

of Biochemical Reviews and it is hoped that the first volume of this series will be ready later this year.

#### 5. Other activities

(a) A second programme of *Exchange of Laboratory Protocols* has been organized by Professor R. Crokaert (115 Boulevard de Waterloo, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium). Those taking part in the scheme can obtain from other biochemistry departments details of class experiments suitable for elementary teaching in exchange for making similar information available to other participants on request.

(b) A scheme for the *Exchange of Information on the Teaching of Biochemistry at Graduate Level* is being organized as an experiment with the intention of providing information about curricula of biochemistry courses and facilitating the exchange of specialist lecturers for short periods of time. Further information may be obtained from Professor G. Semenza or Dr. A. Cogoli (Laboratorium f  r Biochemie, Eidgen  ssische Technische Hochschule, Universit  tsstrasse 6, 8006 Z  rich, Switzerland).

(c) The *Hospitality Scheme* continues to be operated by representatives of constituent societies who deal with offers or requests in connection with accommodation and exchange visits of children. Enquiries should be addressed to one of the following organizers, as appropriate:

Austria: Dr. G. Kreil, Institut f  r Molekularbiologie, Wasagasse 9, A-1090 Wien; Belgium: Professor E. Schram, Laboratory of Biochemistry, Faculty of Sciences, Paardenstraat 67, St-Genesius-Rode; Bulgaria: Dr. L. Lilov, Union des Travailleurs Scientifiques de Bulgarie, Bd. Tolbouchine 18, Sofia; Czechoslovakia: Ing. M. C  haf, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Narodni 3, Praha 1; Finland: Dr. V. Kauppinen, State Serum Institute, Mannerheimintie 166, Helsinki 25; France: Mlle. J. Labat, Charg  e des Recherches du CNRS, 4 rue Rollin, 75 Paris V; German Democratic Republic: Professor G. Richter, Institut f  r Mikrobiologie, Abteilung Biochemie, Humboldt-Universit  t Berlin, Clara-Zetkin-Strasse 96, X 108 Berlin; German Federal Republic: Professor Dr. W. Staib, Physiologisch-chemisches Institut der Universit  t, Witzelstrasse 111, 4 D  sseldorf; Great Britain: Professor B.E. Ryman, Department of Biochemistry, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, 62–65 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4HH; Israel: Professor A. Tietz-Devir, Department of Biochemistry, Tel-Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Tel-Aviv; Poland: Professor K. Raczynska-Bojanowska, Polskie Towarzystwo Biochemiczne, ul. Freta 16, Warszawa 40; Spain: Dr. E. de la Morena, Departamento de Bioqu  mica, Instituto de Investigaciones Cl  nicas y M  dicas, Pl. de Cristo Rey, Madrid-3; Switzerland: Mr. V. Colombo, Laboratorium f  r Biochemie der E.T.H., Universit  tsstrasse 6 (CBB), 8006 Z  rich.

(d) Through the generosity of Springer Verlag the Federation has obtained funds to finance an annual lecture to be known as the *FEBS-Ferdinand Springer Lecture*. Each lecturer will visit two different countries, local arrangements and hospitality being the responsibility of the appropriate constituent society. Dr. E.K.F. Bautz (Molekulare Genetik der Universit  t Heidelberg) has accepted an invitation to be the first FEBS-Ferdinand Springer Lecturer and plans are being made for the lecture to be given in Moscow and London in the spring or early summer of 1973.