

## SCIENTIFIC REPORT:

### FEBS-IUBMB WORKSHOP ON BIOINTERACTOMICS: From bimolecular interactions to networks Seville, May 17-20, 2016

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#### Summary

The FEBS-IUBMB Workshop on Biointeractomics (WS16-020) aimed at providing a multidisciplinary overview of molecular interactions in Life Sciences to PhD students and young scientists. This objective was achieved by the participation of nineteen outstanding lecturers from different fields ranging from molecular Biophysics and Spectroscopy to Cell Biology and Genetics, including experts in Omics and Systems Biology.

To foster the dialog between team leaders and attendees, the ratio between duration of speeches and discussions was 2:1. The scientific exchange was further favored by two poster sessions and fifteen oral communications performed by attendees. The meeting ended with a round table that achieved the overall participation of attendees.

Participants came from diverse countries from Europe, Asia and America. **Five of them enjoyed IUPAB grants** to cover their participation.

#### The Venue & Location

The meeting took place at the cicCartuja facilities, excepting Prof. Huber's lecture that took place at the University Assembly Hall at the Tobacco Factory. A bus shuttled the participants from the

Plaza de Armas Hotel, at the rim of the historic Centre, to the venue.

## **The Scientific Programme**

To outline the state-of-the-art within every research field, senior, internationally recognized scientists performed a total of 19 lectures along 7 different sessions on the following topics: Interaction networks in cells, Bioinformatics tools, protein- protein interactions, protein-membrane, protein-nucleic acids interactions and system biology. Every talk lasted around 35 min followed by 10 minutes of debate and scientific discussion. The only exception was Prof. Huber's Viva on Thursday evening, which adapted to the ceremony reported below. The Two poster sessions were organized in the second and third days of the meeting. 15 oral communications were arranged in 3 sessions (one per day), In addition, a tutorial on Surface Plasmon resonance was conducted by Dr. Nathalie Vollmer, from Horiba Scientific. Finally, a round table and concluding remarks session took place on Friday May 20, with an ample participation of attendees.

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remarks session took place on Friday May 20, with an ample participation of attendees.

During the preparation of the meeting, some changes were made. First, we moved the poster sessions to the two first days, following recommendations of the FEBS advanced courses committees and member in charge. Second, we allocated the ceremony for Prof. Robert Huber's induction into the Royal Academy of Sciences of Seville in the Workshop midway – Thursday evening. Prof. Huber, Nobel Prize of Chemistry in 1988 and one of the workshop lecturers, has trained young scientists at the University of Seville for many years. Thus, the opening lecture was performed by Prof. Lucia Banci. The discussion session on Thursday was replaced by a SPRi tutorial by Horiba scientist Nathalie Vollmer (France).

There were several changes in the speakers list, due to the resignations of several who had initially agreed to participate: Profs. E. Klipp and M. Gstaiger declined to participate in January. Additionally, Prof. U. Alon had an unforeseeable family issue just before the meeting and could not join. These absences affected the balance between different disciplines, decreasing the Systems Biology and Proteomics contents.

Thus, the list of invited speakers and lecturers who have attended is:

1. Banci, Lucia
2. Blattner, Christine
3. Conte, Maria R.
4. De la Cruz, Jesús
5. Díaz Moreno, Irene
6. Gabibov, Alexander G.
7. Hildebrandt, Peter
8. Huber, Robert
9. Luchinat, Claudio
10. Martinez Chantar, María Luz
11. Piehler, Jacob
12. Santos, Nuno
13. Sattler, Mickael
14. Schilling, Marcel
15. Ubbink, Marcellus
16. Valencia, Alfonso
17. Valpuesta, José Ma
18. Volkov, Alexander
19. Watts, Tony

CERM (IT) Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (DE) Kings College London (UK) University of Seville (ES) University of Seville – CSIC (ES) Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry (RU) Technical University of Berlin (DE) Max-Planck I of Biochemistry (DE)

CERM (IT) cic Biogune (ES) Osnabrück University (DE) Lisbon University (PT) University of Munich (DE) German Cancer Research Center (DE) Leiden University (NL) CNIO (ES) CNB (CSIC, ES) VIB-VUB (BE) Oxford University (UK)

Among the troubles we found to prepare the meeting, we would highlight that the reservation for the Renacimiento hotel initially proposed was cancelled because the delay in the confirmation. Such a delay came from the need to resubmit the proposal and the absence of a grant confirmation after resubmission.

The delay also affected the set-up of the web-page. As a result, the information about the meeting was available too late and we had to extend the registration deadlines.

As regards participants, we had several cancellations: Two from India, as their visa requests were rejected, and some from France, due to the transport strike. In fact, one of the 15 selected oral communications was not imparted for this reason.

## **Key Figures on Participants**

**Number of Applicants for the Event: 90 Number of Accepted Participants: 80**

The **Total Number** of regular participants, including plenary speakers but excluding accompanying guests and local organizers of the Course/Workshop/Special Meeting was: **73**

Regular Participants Included: 31 graduate students 21 postdoctoral students 4 principal investigators from academia & industry

Number **Invited Plenary Speakers**: 18 paid by FEBS Support 1 paid by other sponsorship support

## **Geographic distribution of participants**

75 participants from Europe & Turkey, 2 participants from USA & Canada & South America, 0 participants from Australia, 3 participants from Asia, 0 participants from Africa

## **The Scientific Presentations Comprised**

19 invited plenary lectures 1 Tutorial 14 student presentations of 15 minutes 25 poster presentations 11 no presentation (visitors & company representative)

## **Feedback & Comments by Participants**

Improvements that were proposed by participants

- I would like to have a little bit more bioinformatics talks - Distribute the focus equally between bimolecular interactions and networks in line with the conference name - Probably the state of the art should have been explained better for those who are not biochemist - Increase the number of posters - Some hand-on training can be introduced - There should be given more space for poster session and oral presentations - Larger variety of research fields (though there was already some) - Shorter Plenary Lectures (30-35 min each) - Better if accommodation and workshop were nearby - Having prizes for talks as well as for posters - Move poster session just before the oral communications and not after lunch - Useful to have the lunch menu printed in English as well - Provide tea and coffee during registration - A map of the campus would have been useful - It would be useful to see the delegate list before the start of the event. It could set up a link for delegates

- I would have liked to see more variety in the posters: different groups of posters per day - I would put oral presentations earlier, not at the end of the day

Positive comments from participants:

- Talks: broad range of views - Despite the diversity, sessions included related talks - Program schedule was balanced as it dedicated time to each event separately - Balance training/lectures: many short presentations of young scientists - Facilities: very good room and audio-visual - Talks: all very high level, some top level, no bad ones - Speakers were encouraged to leave up to 15 min for discussion, it worked very well - Great discussions - There was always time for discussion (also

reinforced by the small number of participants compared to other high-class congresses) - Provoking interactions of people from different fields - The course fulfilled my expectations more than we thought at the first time - All speakers and delegates had a great disposition to talk - I think it was good that the website was always updated - One of the highlights of the workshop besides the lectures was the possibility of very young scientist to have the opportunity to present oral communications in the meeting. I am very satisfied with the workshop and I learned a lot. - I liked that there was a good amount of time dedicated to poster session including coffee breaks - I learned a lot and would like new editions of this workshop - I learned new techniques and took new ideas - I enjoyed and learned a lot - Organization Committee was very cooperative and took care of everything - Speakers are very interactive and answered all the query - My favorite part was attending to Prof. Hubert's lecture. Great event - The bus shuttle was a great idea (and help) - Impressive quality of facilities - Comfortable chairs, good light, perfect microphones and acoustics - The lectures (some) tried to introduce the basis of some techniques to follow the talk - The catering was really good (high-quality Spanish food) - Great hotel and location. Really nice room, always clean and good A/V facilities - Very good organization

Negative comments from participants:

- Location: a bit far from city centre - The participant would have preferred shorter time of poster sessions - Talks: some missed some more introduction. There was a large variety of themes which are not always within our areas of research - Some speakers went over time. - On Thursday we had to wait for a long time for dinner. Having the poster session just before the oral communications we could have some food before dinner - Some speakers assumed a lot of previous knowledge or familiarity with techniques - More variety of techniques, too much NMR-related work - I didn't like the poster session just after lunch - There were less poster for the time reserved for poster session.