

Editorial

New Horizons in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Education

An IUBMB Sponsored Conference,
5–8 September 2017, Weizmann
Institute of Science, Israel

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It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we announce this education-themed conference sponsored by the *Education Committee* of the **International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** (IUBMB). The goals of this conference include providing a setting in which to draw up ideas to improve the current approach to teaching Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and to generate a series of recommendations to be shared with the educational community.

In an exciting collaboration IUBMB, together with the **Federation of European Biochemical Societies** (FEBS) and the **Weizmann Institute of Science** (Israel), is organizing *The New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education* conference.

IUBMB is committed to improving education in biochemistry and molecular biology at all levels including enhancing pedagogy and discipline-based knowledge in biochemistry and molecular biology through international collaboration. Education has gone through a time of vast changes with an emphasis on the development and adoption of evidence-based high-impact learning and teaching approaches with a move to student-centered learning and a focus on students as active rather than passive learners. It is time for our international community to join together to discuss biochemistry and molecular biology education in terms of “the way we teach and what we teach.”

Timed to occur immediately before the FEBS 2017 Congress, organized by the Israel Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ISBMB) in Jerusalem, 10–14 September

2017 *New Horizons* will be held at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

As an IUBMB-sponsored journal, **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education** is committed to publishing the finest ideas and research. Thus, to provide context, seed ideas and questions, and build momentum toward the conference, included over the next several issues of this journal will be submissions from Dr. Joan Guinovart, President of IUBMB, and several of the speakers of the conference. And, following the conference will be invited manuscripts that highlight some of the most innovative and successful techniques for effective teaching and learning. In addition, as one of the expected outcomes of this conference is a set of recommendations, those will also be prominently featured.

The program for this conference includes plenary lectures by noted science educators, mini-symposia, workshops, and poster sessions, covering significant topics in biochemistry and molecular biology education. All levels of education—from the level of primary and secondary school, going through undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral levels—will be included. Confirmed speakers include Bruce Alberts (University of California San Francisco, USA), Gilmor Keshet (Ministry of Education, Israel), Erin Dolan (University of Georgia, USA), and Ada Yonath (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel). Each day there will be mini-symposia on topics such as “Pre-University Biology Education,” “Research in Undergrad Education,” and “Rethinking Postdoctoral Training,” as well as a number of parallel workshops and poster sessions.

The targeted participants of this education gathering are faculty members, young scientists, researchers, Post-docs, PhD students, high school teachers, and delegates from various academic institutions all over the world, involved and interested in teaching and learning of biochemistry and molecular biology education. In order to facilitate the participation of young scientists a number of awards are available to cover costs. These grants cover the

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registration fee, and support travel and accommodation costs up to a maximum of 500 Euros for those involved in education and interested in presenting a poster during this conference.

Registration is now open (early registration deadline is 30 June 2017), and will continue until 15 August 2017. Proposals are being accepted for workshops (deadline 1 April 2017), and for posters and travel awards (deadline 1 May 2017). Prizes will be given to the most outstanding poster presentations. Workshop presenters, if accepted, will be partially supported.

Offering an excellent program with experts from all over the world, with the support of IUBMB and FEBS leaders and Education Committees, and under the hostage of the Weizmann Institute of Science, we look forward to the participation of colleagues and students from all over the world thus having the opportunity of contributing to “the way we teach and what we teach.”

More information, including applications for presentations and travel awards, can be found at the conference [www-site: http://www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017/](http://www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017/)