

Report on the FEBS Education Workshop held in Gdańsk, July 2013

Description

This workshop was agreed between FEBS Education Committee (led by its Chair, **Prof. Gül Güner**) and both **Prof. Jarosław Marszałek** (Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology, a joint centre of University of Gdańsk and Medical University of Gdańsk) and **Prof. Igor Konieczny** (Dean of IFB). These local organisers coordinated the Education Workshop in conjunction with other activities (described below), making an extended event spanning 4 full days.

A) Main activity: FEBS Education Workshop on “Teaching Molecular Evolution”

The workshop was held on 13 July 2013, morning and afternoon (see schedule)

Due to limitations in running the practical session properly, half the attendants followed that session in the afternoon on 14 July.

B) Associate activity: “Molecular Evolution Research”

This was held on 14 July 2013, morning and afternoon sessions.

C) Additional activity: “XIX Biotechnology Summer School”

This covered the following two days (15 and 16 July) and was devoted to “Teaching soft skills – how to write a good grant”

Part A was jointly organized by

- FEBS Education Committee (with kind support of FEBS Science and Society Committee)
- Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology (University of Gdańsk and Medical University of Gdańsk)

Part B was in the hands of the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology (University of Gdańsk and Medical University of Gdańsk) with support from Polish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Foundation for the Development of Gdańsk University

Part C was organized by Foundation for Polish Science.

Venue

All 3 activities over the 4 days were located in a building of the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology (Kladki 24, 80-822 Gdańsk, Poland).

Attendants

Target audience was PhD students, young scientists and academics involved in biochemistry and related biosciences, with an interest in understanding and teaching molecular evolution.

50 people registered for the event. This is the summary of demographics:

Centre of origin:	Gdańsk	rest of Poland	Houston, TX, USA
n	36 (72%)	11 (22%)	3 (6%)

Position:	student	PhD student	PhD
n	26 (52%)	19 (38%)	5 (10%)

Program

The full program is available at <http://www.bss.ug.edu.pl/?tpl=schedule&lang=en>

Abridged program:

FEBS EDUCATION WORKSHOP ON TEACHING MOLECULAR EVOLUTION

1st day (Saturday, 13 July)

Morning sessions:

Introductory lecture **“Evolution: from modern to functional synthesis”** – Jarosław Marszałek (University of Gdansk, Poland)

Lecture **“Laboratory molecular evolution”** – Dan Tawfik (Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel) + brief discussion

Lecture **“Discussing on the origin of life as an educational tool in biochemistry”** – Juli Peretó (Valencia University, Spain) + brief discussion

In silico practical (for group A): **“Molecular evolution illustrated using protein structure”** – Angel Herráez (Alcalá University, Spain)

Afternoon sessions:

Lecture **“Teaching metabolism with an evolutionary flavour”** – Juli Peretó (Valencia University, Spain) + brief discussion

Small group discussion (three small groups facilitated with the three trainers). Attendants could attend more than one group as they wished by rotating around the three rooms in ca. 30 min. time slots.

Report to the whole group, general discussion and closing.

2nd day (Sunday, 14 July)

Afternoon session: (after the “Molecular evolution research” sessions)

In silico practical (for group B): **“Molecular evolution illustrated using protein structure”** – Angel Herráez (Alcalá University, Spain)

Use of FEBS Education Platform (online resources)

As it is usual with FEBS Education Workshops, a section was enabled in the online FEBS Education Platform to offer the attendants and trainers a means for disseminating documents and maintaining discussion, both during and after the event:

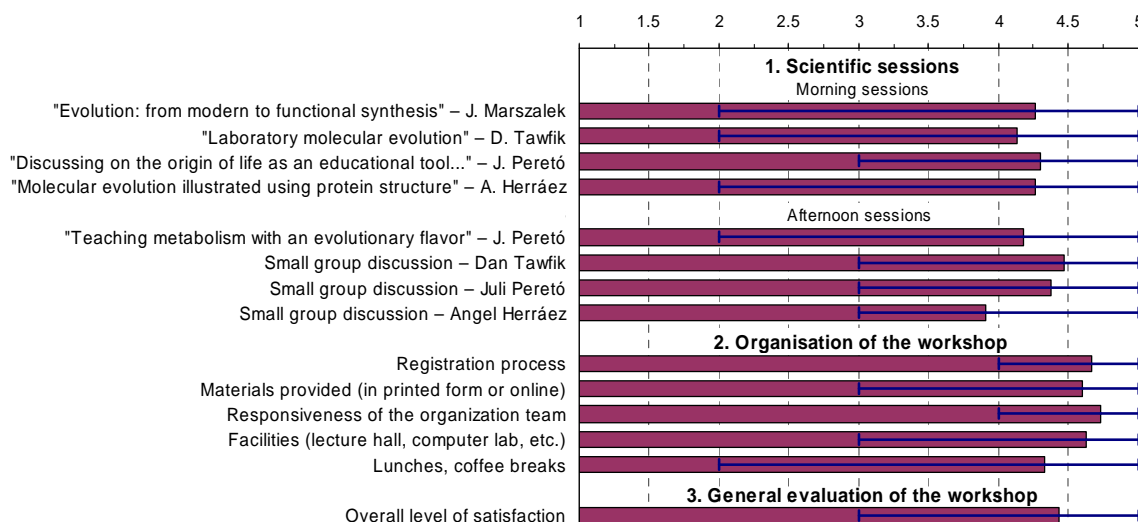
- Slides from the speakers and additional reading material.
- Discussion forums.
- Complimentary book chapters related to education in biochemistry and the topics of the workshop, kindly offered by Wiley in support of FEBS Education Committee activities.

Feedback from attendees

A short feedback form was delivered to the attendants so they could assess their degree of satisfaction with the different lectures and activities, as well as with organisation issues. This is a common practice in all FEBS Education Workshops and helps us improve future activities.

The feedback form is included as Annex I. Following is the summary of results and some of the comments received:

Mean score, on a 1 to 5 scale (error bars span from min to max)



Comments on scientific sessions (1):

- More “in silico” practical needed! Start from easy things to more complex bioinformatics analyses. I think it is very important for students who want to learn how to make their own future [...] show them “how to move” in bioinformatics tools.
- At the discussion, when there is a question to the lecturer, please give a microphone, because it’s hard to hear some questions (asking people usually talk too quiet).
- I really enjoyed funny and cooperating presentation of Marszałek and Tawfik, the best part of a day.
- It was hard to follow the lecture of Dan Tawfik called “Laboratory molecular evolution” due to the lack of Powerpoint presentation.

Comments on organisation (2):

- Registration: There should be a possibility to choose roommates from your University.
- There was no problem that there were no chairs during coffee breaks, but eating dinner [lunch] while standing is not so comfortable.
- The idea of putting materials online on FEBS Educational Platform is a great one!

Reported by:
 Angel Herráez
 Member, FEBS Education Committee

23rd July, 2013

Annex I

Feedback form about FEBS Education Workshop Gdansk, July 2013

FEBS EDUCATION WORKSHOP ON TEACHING MOLECULAR EVOLUTION

Saturday, 13th July – plus *in silico* practical group B (Sunday 14th July)

Please rate each item between "1" (very poor) and "5" (excellent)

1. Scientific sessions

1	2	3	4	5
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Morning sessions

Introduction "Evolution: from modern to functional synthesis" – Jaroslaw Marszalek

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Lecture "Laboratory molecular evolution" – Dan Tawfik

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Lecture "Discussing on the origin of life as an educational tool in biochemistry" – Juli Peretó

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In silico practical: "Molecular evolution illustrated using protein structure" – Angel Herráez

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Afternoon sessions

Lecture "Teaching metabolism with an evolutionary flavor" – Juli Peretó

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Small group discussion – Dan Tawfik

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Small group discussion – Juli Peretó

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Small group discussion – Angel Herráez

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Comments and suggestions:

2. Organization of the workshop

1	2	3	4	5
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Registration process

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Materials provided (in printed form or online)

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Responsiveness of the organization team

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Facilities (lecture hall, computer lab, etc.)

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Lunches, coffee breaks

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General comments or suggestions:

3. General evaluation of the workshop

1	2	3	4	5
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Overall level of satisfaction

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*Thank you for your feedback. Your opinion will help us improve future workshops
You may provide more comments or suggestions at the back if you need.*