

Short Report

FEBS Educational Workshop on Molecular Life Sciences

Conference and Cultural Center, University of Patras, Greece

Oct 3rd, 2018

Organizer

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Co-organizers

Dimitris Kletsas, NCSR Demokritos, Vice-Chair HSBMB

Achilleas D. Theocharis, University of Patras

Zoi Piperigkou, University of Patras

Invited Lecturers/Discussion Group Organizers

Gul Guner-Akdoğan, Chair, FEBS Education Committee

Daniela Ruffell, FEBS Letters Editorial Manager

Eleftheria-Dafni Pefani, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Ieronymos Zoidakis, Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens

Thanasis Karalis, University of Patras

Summary

The "FEBS Educational Workshop on Molecular Life Sciences" has been taken place in the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras, Greece on October 3rd, 2018

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7hqvO-uRpQCsY6LNQgVLSFWZbdTsavQo74b1NcoZyu7LaOQ/viewform>).

The workshop, which was mainly addressed to graduate and PhD students, young scientists and teachers of molecular life sciences, was focused on Cellular Biology, Biological Chemistry and Molecular Biology Education by introducing new trends in education as well as presenting important tips for the future scientists. The experts provided key knowledge to enhance excellence and innovations in Biochemistry and Molecular Biosciences and tips for writing successful manuscripts.

One of the goals of this workshop was to provide a forum for panel discussions and discussions into small groups with the experts for sharing current issues in molecular life sciences and skills necessary for a molecular life scientist. The main objectives of the

workshop were: Key Knowledge and Skills for Molecular Life Sciences, Quality assurance issues in education, PhD training and How to write a scientific paper, which have been delivered through lectures by distinguished members of the FEBS Network, small-group discussions with the speakers and produce-discuss reports of groups, encouraging the interaction of young scientists with the invited experts in discussions about science and career development.

Small group discussions created a very friendly atmosphere for interactions between the participants as well as the young scientists with the outstanding experts. Lunch and Coffee breaks served at the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras.

Key Figures on Participants

The total number of participants was 115. Participants came from 4 countries and 2 continents, 8 Universities from 4 Institutes and 1 Company.

Distribution of the Participants

Greece: National Kapodistrian University of Athens; University of Patras; University of Ioannina, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – *Cyprus*: Frederick University of Cyprus – *Romania*: Ovidius University of Constanta – *Turkey*: Ege University, İzmir; Izmir University of Economics, Izmir – *Institutes*: National Hellenic Research Foundation; Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH/ICE-HT); BSRC Alexander Fleming, Athens; Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens – *Companies*: APIVITA, Greece

Number of Faculty Members: 8

Number of Young Scientists: 107

The Venue & Location

The workshop was held at the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras. The venue offers the appropriate equipment for all the needs of the scientific part of the course (projectors, computers, technical support, etc.). The high standard materials and excellent space design were adopted to achieve maximum comfort, prestige and splendor during the meeting.

The Scientific Program

The FEBS Educational Workshop on Molecular Life Sciences program included General Lectures, Panel Discussions and Small-Groups Discussions with the experts. Each one was introduced and moderated by leading scientists acting as discussion leaders. The chairpersons introduced the topic of each particular symposium.

The program and the list of speakers, is available on the website: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t6CF1p-DBdNKDfxKgp2_DMt053d2Ness/view .

Budget

The Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) was the major sponsor of this event supporting both the organization and the accommodation of one invited lecturer (Prof. Gul Guner Akdogan) by sponsoring 1500euros.

Feedback & Comments by Participants

- The Workshop Feedback form was completed by 115 participants. Several thanks e-mails were received after the meeting stating the workshop was very helpful for fruitful discussions with the experts, who gave very interesting lectures, and the efforts of the organizing committee really paid off. Everything was completely well organized.

○ What was particularly HELPFUL in this workshop?

The small-group discussions
The Essentials of Manuscript Preparation
The information about the skills for PhD students
The organisation

○ Within this workshop, was there something you learned that was particularly SURPRISING or IMPORTANT to you?

The Essentials of Manuscript Preparation
Horizontal Skills of Critical Thinking
Journal article submission procedures
How to prepare a manuscript. Generally the workshop was very inspiring
Everything Prof. Karalis mentioned

○ From some of the knowledge/techniques discussed during the workshop, is there any idea you INTEND TO PUT INTO PRACTICE?

The advice for the manuscript preparation
Faculty for Teaching
The one minute abstract that Prof.Zoidakis mentioned

○ What did you like BEST about this workshop?

The small-group discussions
The Essentials of Manuscript Preparation
The enthusiasm of the speakers and their advice
Everything

○ What did you like LEAST about this workshop?

The talk about critical thinking could contain some examples of how we should practice on this way of thinking.

○ What could be done to make the workshop MORE VALUABLE?

Tips about the curriculum vitae
More Discussions
Nothing, it was very well organized and the speakers were very interactive and accessible
Keep up the good work

Other Comments and Topics for the upcoming workshops

Organise a CV Clinic Workshop

Workshop Certificate given to all Participants

