

FEBS Education

FEBS Riga Workshop on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education

Hosted by the Latvian Society of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology
24–25 November 2016
Academic Center of Natural Sciences,
University of Latvia



This workshop, coordinated by Kaspars Tars, President of the Latvian Society, arose from the FEBS Working Group on Integration visit to Riga in 2014. A FEBS Education Committee team of Frank Michelangeli, Ferhan Sagin, Keith Elliott and Gül Güner Akdoğan ran sessions on teaching practice and on skills for early-career scientists, according to topics selected by the Latvian Society. The around 45 participants included faculty members and young scientists from Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Turkey.

On the first day, following introductions from K. Tars and G. Güner, sessions covered ‘Key Knowledge and Skills for Molecular Life Scientists’ (F. Michelangeli), ‘Active Learning Methods’ (with examples of problem-based learning presented by K. Elliott and by G. Güner, and a vivid demonstration of team-based learning by F. Sagin), ‘Assessment and Feedback’ (F. Sagin) and ‘Criterion-vs Norm-Referenced Assessment’ (K. Elliott). Small-group discussions on each of the topics ensued. A session on ‘The Use of Educational Technologies’ (F. Michelangeli) enthused the participants.

The second day began with a session on ‘Research

in Undergraduate Education’, where F. Michelangeli shared his experience in engaging students in research in a bachelor’s degree programme, and G. Güner presented a medical curriculum with an emphasis on research. The afternoon session turned to focus on developing the skills of young scientists, with talks on ‘How to Write a Manuscript’ (F. Michelangeli), ‘How to Write a CV’ (K. Elliott), ‘Funds and Programmes’ (K. Elliott), and ‘How to Make the Best of your PhD’ (F. Sagin).

The participants ranked the Workshop as excellent and remarks included: “Brilliant! Got useful ideas at both study programmes and course level” and “Valuable and inspiring information”.

Our thanks go to the Latvian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for their warm hospitality and interest in biochemistry and molecular biology education.

Gül Güner Akdoğan
Chair, FEBS Education Committee

Upcoming FEBS Education Events 2017

2nd FEBS ‘Ambassadors on Education’ Meeting; Paris, France; April 7–8, 2017

An ‘Education Ambassador’ from each FEBS Constituent Society is warmly invited to share progress and ideas on molecular life sciences educational issues across Europe. Societies who have not already done so, should contact gul.guner@deu.edu.tr to designate their Ambassador.

FEBS Education Workshop; Kaunas, Lithuania; June 26–27, 2017

The workshop will take place at Vytautas Magnus University, hosted by the Lithuanian Biochemical Society. For more details, please contact the coordinator, Prof. Vida Mildaziene: v.mildaziene@bs.vdu.lt

IUBMB–FEBS conference: New Horizons in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education Rehovot, Israel; September 5–8, 2017; www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/NHBMB2017/

This conference is devoted to advancing biochemistry and molecular biology education at all grade levels, and takes place just before the 42nd FEBS Congress in Jerusalem. The event is also featured on page 9 of this issue of *FEBS News*.

Education sessions at the 42nd FEBS Congress; Jerusalem, Israel; September 10–14, 2017

FEBS Special Session on Education – Practicals in Molecular Life Sciences Education

FEBS Special Session on Research and Career Skills – How to Write and Publish a Scientific Article

For more details, click [here](#). Posters on ‘education’ are also welcome at the FEBS Congress: see the Abstract Topics page.