



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN
BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

2025

FEBS NEWS

Highlights and
Achievements

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01.

**THE MILAN
DECLARATION ON
THE CRUCIAL ROLE
OF SCIENCE IN
MEETING GLOBAL
CHALLENGES**





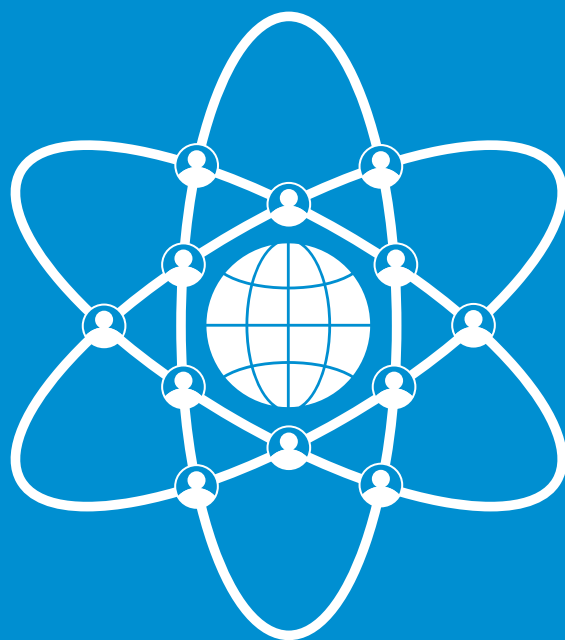
The Milan Declaration on the
Crucial Role of Science in
Meeting Global Challenges



**ACT
NOW**

Leading organizations





The Milan Declaration on the Crucial Role of Science in Meeting Global Challenges



ACT NOW

Leading organizations



THE MILAN DECLARATION ON THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF SCIENCE IN MEETING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

An international call to reaffirm the power of Science as a cornerstone of peace, collaboration, and progress.

Unveiled during the 60th Anniversary celebrations of FEBS in Milan in June 2024 and officially launched in 2025, the Milan Declaration on the Crucial Role of Science in meeting Global Challenges stands as one of the most meaningful milestones in FEBS's recent history.

Developed jointly by the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) together with other organisations — the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB), the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB), and the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PABMB) — the Declaration calls upon scientists, policymakers, and citizens worldwide to recognize Science as a unifying force capable of addressing today's complex global challenges.

Leading organizations



Federation of
European
Biochemical
Societies



International
Union of
Biochemistry
and Molecular
Biology



Pan-American
Association for
Biochemistry
and Molecular
Biology



Federation of
Asian and
Oceanian
Biochemists
and Molecular
Biologists



Federation of
African Societies
of Biochemistry
and Molecular
Biology

Science with Purpose

Rooted in shared values such as **peace, freedom, human dignity, environmental protection, and equality**, the Milan Declaration emphasizes the vital need to strengthen Science ethically and financially. It highlights that scientific collaboration, free of prejudice and bias, is indispensable to achieve sustainable progress and collective well-being.

INITIATORS

5

WORLD
SCIENTIFIC
ORGANIZATIONS

NOBEL LAUREATES

55

HAVE
ALREADY
SIGNEDSCIENTIFIC
ORGANIZATIONS

+100

HAVE
ALREADY
SIGNED

A year of action and engagement

The impact of the Milan Declaration on the Crucial Role of Science in meeting Global Challenges was felt immediately after its release. Within weeks, **55 Nobel Laureates** and over a hundred scientific organizations across the world had endorsed the initiative, recognizing its message as both urgent and unifying. Their support gave the Declaration extraordinary visibility and legitimacy, reinforcing our role as a global voice for scientific collaboration and integrity.

Building on this momentum, FEBS devoted 2025 to **bringing the Declaration to life** through communication, engagement, and outreach activities designed to reach scientists, institutions, and the broader public.



A dedicated campaign — Act Now: Be Part of the Change — was launched to invite individuals and organizations to join the movement. **Flyers, business cards, and digital materials** were designed and distributed to promote the initiative at conferences, meetings, and partner events throughout the year. These tools helped amplify the Declaration's reach, encouraging new signatories and generating dialogue around Science as a shared global responsibility.

By the end of 2025, in addition to the 55 Nobel Laureates and 105 organisations who had already signed, the Declaration had gathered more than 2,500 individual signatures, reflecting growing commitment across borders and disciplines to its vision of ethical, inclusive, and cooperative Science.

VOICES FOR SCIENCE

The Declaration has resonated with scientists, educators, and research leaders who see Science as the foundation of peace and global cooperation



Joachim Frank
Nobel Prize in
Chemistry, 2017

“Humanity faces a daunting crisis of its own making, which threatens its very survival on this planet.” [...] “Scientists should use their influence to advise and inform government, educate the public, especially at a young age, and protect the planet from further man-made damage.”



Sir Richard J. Roberts
Nobel Prize in
Physiology or Medicine,
1993

“...climate change is real and the only way we can slow it down and mitigate its consequences are with the help of fundamental science.”



May-Britt Moser
Nobel Prize in
Physiology or
Medicine, 2014

“I signed because I believe in science. All organisms explore and are curious to increase survival. Science is based on curiosity and therefore science is sustainable and prepares us for the unknown.”



Ferenc Krausz
Nobel Prize in
Physics, 2023

“In a time when research integrity and the sharing of knowledge are more important than ever, it is essential to support such initiatives.”

These voices demonstrate the continuing relevance of FEBS's and its partners' mission to promote excellence in research and education while fostering ethical, inclusive, and international collaboration.

Looking ahead

The Milan Declaration on the Crucial Role of Science in meeting Global Challenges is more than a statement, it is an evolving movement that reinforces our long-standing commitment to scientific collaboration and excellence. As the initiative continues to grow, FEBS and its partner federations will further promote its message through conferences, publications, and public engagement activities, encouraging scientists, institutions, and citizens worldwide to **stand with Science and sign the Milan Declaration.**

By adding your name, you join a global community committed to advancing peace, sustainability, and human progress through Science.

Sign the Milan Declaration today
Scan the QR code or visit the [Milan Declaration website.](#)

02. STRATEGIC GOALS

03. FEBS CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES





STRATEGIC GOALS

FEBS strategic priorities are designed to fulfil FEBS objectives 'to contribute to and promote the advancement of research and education for the public benefit in the sciences of biochemistry and molecular biology and related disciplines and to adapt our approach in view of the current socioeconomic context and the central role of science in development.

FEBS currently has a range of priorities across our activities including:



FEBS events
and
programmes



Collaboration
and
synergy



Marketing
and
promotion



Science
policy

In the context of these priorities, recent updates include:



Enhancing the visibility of FEBS



Strengthening the promotion of FEBS Press journals



Increasing FEBS internal collaborations among
Constituent Societies and external partnerships



Launching the Milan Declaration with IUBMB,
FAOBMB, FASBMB and PABMB

FEBS CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

Strengthening collaboration across FEBS Constituent Societies

In 2025, the FEBS Member Society Representatives (MSRs, one representative of each FEBS member society) continued to play a **key role in maintaining communication and collaboration between FEBS and their Constituent Societies**. Their activities provided an important forum for **exchanging experiences, aligning society priorities, and discussing shared challenges** such as member engagement, education, and outreach.

The FEBS MSRs have held **four meetings in 2025**. The in-person meeting took place during the FEBS Congress in Istanbul. Across several four sessions (Welcome & 'Meet FEBS Press', Society Priorities, Meeting with the Executive Committee members, and Wrap-up Session), MSRs discussed their society priorities, shared ideas on engagement and communication, and strengthened collaboration with FEBS.

The meeting with the FEBS Publications Committee and editors-in-chief of the FEBS journals provided an opportunity to discuss potential collaborations, the promotion of FEBS journals, and the visibility of society research outputs through publishing in these journals. The Society Priorities session focused on national society activities, their current priorities, and potential cooperative initiatives within the FEBS network, as well as exploring how FEBS can assist and promote their society activities.



The session with Executive Committee (EC) Members enabled dialogue with FEBS leadership on ongoing programmes, future strategic directions, and ways to enhance mutual support between FEBS and the societies. The Wrap-up Session summarized the key discussion points, conclusions, and follow-up actions for the coming year. For the fourth time, in 2025, the MSRs also served as members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the 50th FEBS Congress 2026, contributing to the development of the scientific programme. On behalf of their national societies, they nominated potential speakers and helped ensure broad representation across disciplines and regions. Their active input and commitment to the Congress programme have been highly appreciated.

The MSR meetings and contributions continue to be a valuable mechanism for ensuring the active participation of FEBS Constituent Societies in shaping FEBS policies and initiatives, and for promoting collaboration across the European molecular life sciences community.



Jerka Dumić
Chair, Integration and Networking Committee



Tom Kingsnorth
FEBS Chief Administrator

04.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS





STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS FOR A MORE CONNECTED SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

In 2025, FEBS deepened its international partnerships through the signing of two landmark agreements with the **Korean Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (KSBMB)** and the **Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB)**. These collaborations represent an important step in FEBS's ongoing mission to foster global scientific exchange, strengthen ties across continents and create new opportunities for researchers at all career stages.

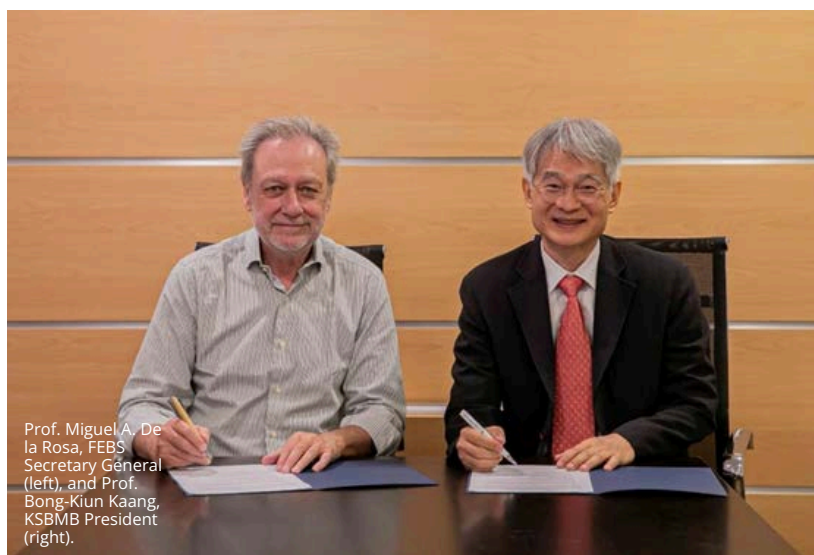
Alongside these institutional partnerships, FEBS has also expanded its commitment to global capacity building through the **PROBio Fellowship Programmes**. Developed with **IUBMB and regional federations**, the PROBio-Africa initiative, launched in 2023, and the newly launched PROBio-LatAm programme connect young scientists from Africa and Latin America with laboratories across FEBS countries, supporting training, mobility and international collaboration in the molecular life sciences.

Together, these efforts advance one of FEBS's strategic goals: to enhance international dialogue and scientific cooperation beyond Europe, ensuring that **research excellence and knowledge sharing continue to drive progress across regions**. They reinforce FEBS's vision of a more interconnected scientific community and its dedication to supporting both institutional and researcher-level collaboration worldwide.

FEBS and KSBMB: Building bridges between Europe and Korea

FEBS and KSBMB signed a strategic partnership agreement to strengthen cooperation between the European and Korean scientific communities in the fields of biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, and molecular biophysics. The agreement was formalized by **Prof. Miguel A. De la Rosa**, FEBS Secretary General, and **Prof. Bong-Kiun Kaang**, KSBMB President.

Under this new collaboration, both organizations will organize joint symposia at their respective annual meetings — starting with the FEBS Congress 2026, followed by the KSBMB International Conference 2027, alternating every year until 2029.

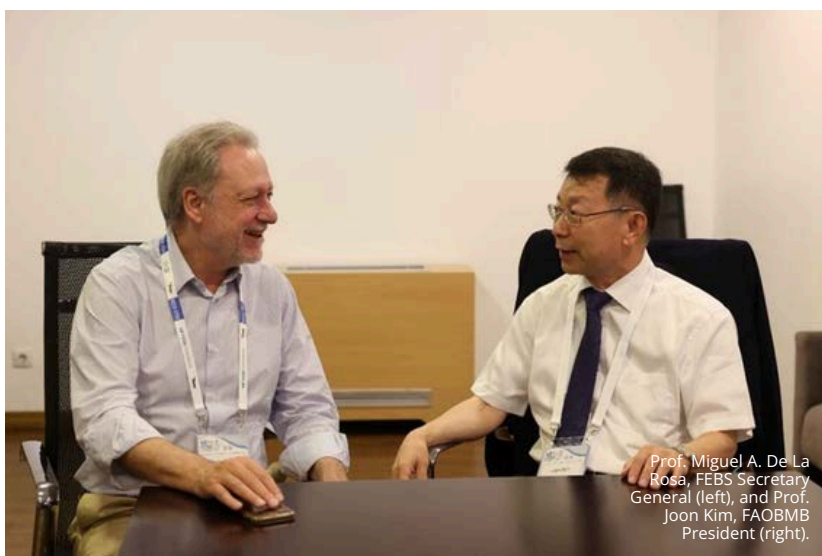


This initiative will provide a platform for knowledge exchange and shared learning between researchers from both regions.

FEBS and FAOBMB: Renewing a longstanding partnership

FEBS also renewed its long-term partnership with **FAOBMB**, reinforcing the collaboration between the European and Asian-Oceanian regions. The renewed agreement, signed by Prof. **Miguel A. De la Rosa** and **Prof. Joon Kim, FAOBMB President**, aims to enhance the mutual exchange of scientific knowledge through shared lectures and events.

Continuing this well-established bond, the **FAOBMB Lecture** at the FEBS Congress will now receive additional support from FEBS, while FAOBMB will host a **FEBS Lecture** at its annual congress. Together, these agreements embody FEBS's vision of an open and interconnected scientific community, one that transcends borders to advance education, innovation, and global scientific progress.



Prof. Miguel A. De La Rosa, FEBS Secretary General (left), and Prof. Joon Kim, FAOBMB President (right).

This reciprocal arrangement reflects our shared commitment to nurturing young scientists and promoting cross-regional collaboration.

About FAOBMB



The Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) is the primary regional association for biochemistry and molecular biology in Asia and Oceania. Founded in 1972, FAOBMB plays a catalytic role in advancing research, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship across the region.

Working closely with its national member societies and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), FAOBMB promotes education, innovation, and collaboration in molecular life sciences.

About KSBMB



The Korean Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (KSBMB) is the oldest academic society in the field of biochemistry in Korea. Dedicated to advancing science and technology and improving human health, KSBMB fosters academic development and promotes the dissemination of knowledge in the life sciences.

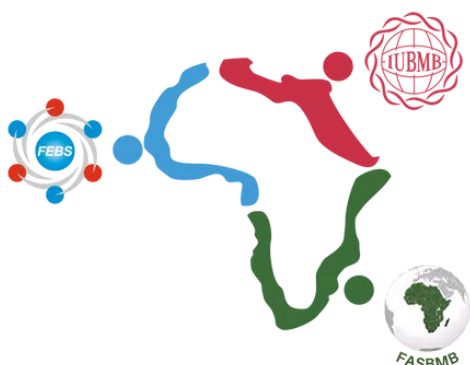
With over 19,000 members, the society hosts more than five conferences annually and publishes two journals and a webzine. Recognized for its leadership in the field, KSBMB received the Minister of Science and ICT Award in 2019.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

The PROBio Fellowship Programmes

FEBS continues to strengthen its commitment to capacity building and global scientific collaboration through the PROBio Fellowship Programmes. Developed in partnership with the **International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) and regional federations**, these initiatives empower young scientists from Africa and Latin America to advance their research careers and foster international connections in the molecular life sciences.

PROBio-Africa



PROBio-Africa: An established collaboration between Africa and Europe

As one of FEBS's ongoing international initiatives, the PROBio-Africa Fellowships Programme is a collaboration between FEBS, IUBMB and the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB). It continues to provide vital opportunities for young African scientists, enabling PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to spend up to six months in the laboratory of a scientist in a FEBS country who belongs to a FEBS Constituent Society.

By gaining access to technologies and expertise that may not be readily available in their home countries, fellows strengthen their know-how and contribute to building scientific capacity across Africa.

In 2025, FEBS and its partners proudly announced the seven PROBio-Africa Fellows:

Congratulations

2025 PROBio-AFRICA FELLOWSHIPS



Christian Chijioke
Amah



Wissal
Chebil



Mary
George



Christelle
Massop Wamba Nde



Fadoua
Mekkaoui



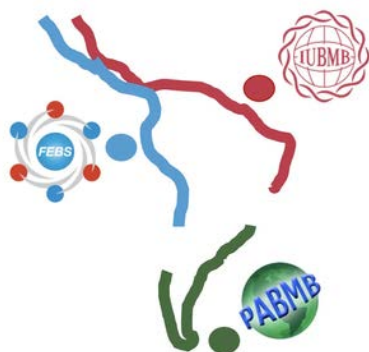
John Onyebuchi
Ogbodo



Ikechukwu Jacob
Okoro



PROBio-LatAm



PROBio-LatAm: A new chapter for Latin American researchers

In 2025, FEBS launched the PROBio-LatAm Fellowships Programme, extending its mission of global collaboration to Latin America. Jointly organised by FEBS, IUBMB and the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PABMB), this new programme enables PhD students and postdoctoral fellows from Latin America to undertake research stays of up to six months in FEBS countries.

The initiative aims to strengthen scientific networks across continents, supporting young researchers in acquiring new skills and experience while promoting sustainable growth in their home institutions.

The first cohort of PROBio-LatAm Fellows (2025) includes:

PROBio-LatAm



Congratulations

2025 PROBio-LatAm FELLOWSHIPS



Héctor Luis
Blanco



Camilla Lucia
Colantuono Seguí



Chiara
Coronel Cappellari



Maria Sofia
Deschutter



Rosa Lillian
Díaz-Chávez



Alexis Fernando
Pecci Genaro



Malena
Tejerina Cibello



Sabrina Aldana
Vallone



FEBS warmly congratulates all awardees and looks forward to the impact of their research and the new collaborations that will emerge from these international exchanges. Through these initiatives and partnerships, FEBS continues to strengthen its global network and build lasting scientific bridges across regions, advancing excellence, supporting young researchers and fostering an open and collaborative international community.

05.

FEBS CONGRESS







49th **ISTANBUL**
5-9 July 2025

FEBS
CONGRESS

Bridging Continents to Advance Life Science



ORGANISING SECRETARIAT



Gayrettepe Mah. Yıldız Posta Cad. Ayyıldız Sitesi A Blok
No:30/12 Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Türkiye
Tel: +90 212 296 0460
febs2025@evronas.com

The 49th FEBS Congress, held in Istanbul, brought together over 2,000 scientists.

The **49th Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS): *Bridging Continents to Advance Life Science***, a collaboration between the **Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)** – a **FEBS** Member Society – and **FEBS**, took place in Istanbul on **5-9 July 2025**, attracting over **2,000** scientists from more than **67** countries.

The **49th FEBS Congress** commenced with a speech by the FEBS Congress Counsellor, Prof. Piotr Laidler, followed by remarks from Prof. Miguel A. De la Rosa, FEBS Secretary General, and Prof. Ferhan G. Sağın, Congress Chair and Co-Chair of the host society, TBS. Prof. Miguel A. De la Rosa highlighted the contributions of FEBS to the scientific community and presented its strategic direction for 2025 and the years to come.



Professor Miguel A. De la Rosa (FEBS Secretary General)



Professor Ferhan Sağın (Congress Chair)

This year's scientific programme included **84 invited speakers** and featured **13 plenary lectures**, **17 research symposia**, and **6 special sessions**. In addition, **32 short talks** and **66 speed talks** were selected from submitted abstracts and presented alongside **over 1,300 posters**.

As in every FEBS Congress, support for early-career researchers was a central focus. FEBS contributed approximately **180 bursaries** and around **100 YSF grants**, while TBS supported **120** additional early-career scientists.



Ferhan G. Sağın
Chair of the FEBS
2025 Congress



The 49th FEBS Congress opening session in Istanbul

Throughout the 49th FEBS Congress, several prestigious FEBS distinctions were awarded, celebrating outstanding scientific contributions across the molecular life sciences. The **FEBS Sir Hans Krebs Medal 2025** was awarded to Annette G. Beck-Sickinger (Germany), the **FEBS Datta Medal 2025** was awarded to Mübeccel Akdis (Switzerland), the **FEBS Theodor Bücher Medal 2025** recognised Andrea Ballabio (Italy), the **FEBS|EMBO Women in Science Award 2025** was presented to Asifa Akhtar (Pakistan) for her achievements in understanding of chromosome-wide gene regulation. All awardees delivered a plenary lecture.



The **FEBS Education Award 2025** was presented to Professor Yoav Arava (Israel) for his contributions to molecular life sciences education. In addition, the **FEBS Anniversary Prize 2025** – jointly awarded by **FEBS** and **GBM** (the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) – was presented to Colinda Scheele (Belgium).

The **Israel Pecht Award 2025** was awarded to Dr. Zrinka Kovarik, nominated by the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for her contribution to the development of the HDBMB's activities and strengthening the collaboration with FEBS.

Four plenary lectures were given by Gökhan S. Hotamışlıgil (USA) for the **Turkish Biochemical Society Lecture**, Anne Bertolotti (UK) for the **IUBMB Jubilee Award Lecture**, Barry Halliwell (Singapore) for the **FAOBMB Lecture**, and Anthony A. Hyman (Germany) for the **EMBO Lecture**. The **Plenary Education Lecture** was given by Robert Harris (Sweden), last year's FEBS Education Awardee.

FEBS Press journals played a prominent role at the Congress, sponsoring plenary lectures by Matteo Brindisi (FEBS Journal Richard Perham Prize Lecture), Arno Alpi (FEBS Letters Award Lecture), René Bernards (Molecular Oncology) and Jan Potempa (FEBS Open Bio).

Throughout the Congress, the FEBS Press Editorial staff engaged closely with meeting attendees, judging poster and speed talk presentations to select prize winners, and holding personal meet-the-editor chats. A dedicated FEBS Press session featured presentations by the Editors in Chief of the four journals owned by FEBS, followed by lively group discussions with early-career researchers on topics such as choosing the right journal for publication and effectively promoting your research after publication. A highlight of the session was a full-house presentation by graphic illustrator Matteo Oliverio, who provided guidance on how to design effective graphical abstracts for scientific articles.

The social programme of the Congress

The social programme of the Congress included a striking performance by the internationally acclaimed **Fire of Anatolia** during the opening ceremony, the Women in Science lunch, two Bosphorus cruises (one of which hosted the official Congress dinner), and a special interdisciplinary event co-organised with the **32nd Istanbul Jazz Festival**, session that brought together scientists and musicians in a live performance that explored the relationship between music and the brain, stood out as one of the creative highlights of the week.

Industry and sponsor engagement played a key role in the success of the Congress: in total, the Congress hosted 25 exhibitor sponsors and an industry session, providing spaces for dialogue between academia and innovation leaders.



The 49th FEBS Congress stood out not only for the quality of its science but for the sense of community and inspiration it fostered throughout.

The Congress wrapped up with the **Congress Dinner**, set on a **Bosphorus cruise** featuring cocktails, live music and dance performances.



The Young Scientists' Forum (YSF) 2025 before the FEBS Congress

YSF 2025 took place at **Sapanca, Sakarya, Türkiye**, on **2-5 July 2025**, preceding the 49th FEBS Congress. This year's motto was **'Inspired by Nature, Driven by Science'**. A selected group of **104 PhD** students and postdocs met with distinguished invited speakers to talk about science and to network, next to the beautiful Lake Sapanca, a scenery to be remembered forever.



YSF 2025 had a multidisciplinary focus, covering various topics including new approaches in life sciences research, environmental biotechnology for sustainability, human disease mechanisms, and novel therapeutics. Experienced mentors and trainee moderators facilitated scientific discussions and offered opportunities for professional development, ensuring active involvement rather than mere observation.



50th

FEBS CONGRESS



Maastricht • The Netherlands

4-8 July 2026

Biochemistry for the
next 50 years



Save the Date

REGISTER NOW

Website: febscongress.org



NVBMB

Netherlands Society for Biochem and Mol Biol

FEBS CONGRESS 2026

Maastricht, The Netherlands
4-8 July 2026

Welcome Message

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the 50th FEBS Congress, which will take place from 4th to 8th July 2026 in Maastricht, the Netherlands. This milestone edition of the FEBS Congress will be hosted by the Netherlands Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NVBMB) and promises to be a celebration of past achievements and future directions in the molecular life sciences.

The slogan for this Congress – “Biochemistry for the next 50 years” – reflects our forward-looking vision. As we honour the legacy of biochemistry and closely related disciplines, we also aim to inspire the next generation of discoveries that will shape our understanding of life and help address global challenges in health, sustainability, and technology.

The scientific programme at the 50th FEBS Congress will span important topics from across the molecular life sciences, and include a balance of lectures from invited experts – in the form of inspiring plenary lectures, and deeper dives into currently important research areas through more-focused symposia – as well as opportunities for delegates to present their work through short oral presentations and posters. Contributions from industry are also invited through an exhibition, and the Congress will be preceded by the FEBS Young Scientists' Forum 2026, taking place in Wageningen as a satellite meeting to the Congress.

We are especially proud to welcome you to Maastricht – a historic city at the heart of Europe, known for its cultural richness, international character, and strong academic tradition. Maastricht provides a perfect backdrop for scientific exchange and collaboration, and the modern MECC conference centre will offer an inspiring and comfortable environment for this special edition of the Congress.

On behalf of FEBS and NVBMB, we warmly invite scientists from all parts of the world and at all career stages to join us at the 50th FEBS Congress, and we look forward to welcoming you in Maastricht in July 2026!

Warm regards,



Janine Post
NVBMB Chair



Piotr Laidler
FEBS Congress Counsellor

FEBS CONGRESS 2026 PLENARY SPEAKERS

FEBS Letters Award Lecture
*Structure and mechanism of
respiratory supercomplexes in
bioenergetic membranes*



Peter Brzezinski
Stockholm University,
Sweden

**FEBS Rita Levi-Montalcini
Lecture**
*Transforming life sciences through
the power of microbiology*



Emmanuelle Charpentier
Max Planck Institute,
Germany

FEBS Theodor Bücher Lecture
*Guardians of cellular homeostasis:
Ubiquitin-autophagy axis*



Ivan Đikić
Goethe University Frankfurt,
Germany

**The FEBS Journal Perham
Prize Lecture**
*The awesome power of fluorine
NMR – from drugs to cells*



Angela Gronenborn
University of Pittsburgh,
USA

**The EMBO
Keynote Lecture**
*Life with two X
chromosomes*



Edith Heard
Francis Crick Institute,
United Kingdom

IUBMB Lecture
*The nuclear envelope – from
genome organisation to nuclear
pore complex biogenesis*



Ulrike Kutay
ETH,
Switzerland

NVBMB Lecture
*Trained immunity: A
memory for innate
host defense*



Mihai Netea
Radboud UMC,
Netherlands

FEBS Sir Hans Krebs Lecture
*Elucidation of oxygen sensing
mechanisms in human and
animal cells*



Peter Ratcliffe
University of Oxford,
United Kingdom

FEBS Datta Lecture
*Autophagic pathways in
ageing and
neurodegeneration*



Nektarios Tavernarakis
Institute of Molecular Biology and
Biotechnology, Greece

PABMB Lecture
*How environment
 constrains metabolism
 in cancer*



Matthew Vander Heiden
 Koch Institute for Integrative
 Cancer Research, USA

**FEBS/EMBO Women in
 Science Award Lecture**
*Genes and cells at the heart of
 medical enigmas*



Carola Vinuesa
 Francis Crick Institute,
 United Kingdom

Molecular Oncology Lecture
*Tumor-immune crosstalk in
 breast cancer progression and
 therapy*



Karin De Visser
 The Netherlands Cancer Institute,
 Netherlands

FEBS Open Bio Lecture
*Half century of structural
 biology through the eyes of
 one practitioner*



Alexander Wlodawer
 NIH, United States of
 America

IMPORTANT DATES

13 February 2026

Main abstract
 submission deadline

13 February 2026

FEBS bursary and FEBS
 Sprinzl scheme
 deadlines

Early April 2026

Outcome notifications
 to abstract submitters

14 April 2026

Early registration fee
 deadline for presenters:

KEY INFORMATION



**Congress
 website**



**Call for
 abstracts**



**Programme
 introduction**



Registration

FEBS SUPPORT SCHEMES



**FEBS YSF
 grants**



**FEBS Congress
 bursaries**



**FEBS Congress
 Mathias Sprinzl
 scheme**

06. FEBS PRESS





glin primes TGF- β signaling in breast cancer myCAFs

WILEY

febsopenbio.org

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December 2025
ISSN 2211-5463

FEBS PRESS
science publishing by scientists

**In the Limelight:
Tumor-Stroma Interactions**

IL-10

TGF- β

WILEY

The FEBS Journal

Volume 392 Number 22 November 2025 | ISSN 1742-464X

Focus issue: Immunity and inflammation

ISSN 1574-7891
Volume 19 Number 11
November 2025

FEBS openbio

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FEBS PRESS
science publishing by scientists

Molecular Oncology

A journal for discovery-driven translational cancer research

Cytomegalovirus infection and antiviral therapies in prostate cancer

www.moloncol.org

WILEY

The FEBS Journal

Volume 392

Focus

ISSN 1574-7891
Volume 19 Number 10
October 2025

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FEBS openbio

Molecular Oncology

A journal for discovery-driven translational cancer research

FEBS openbio

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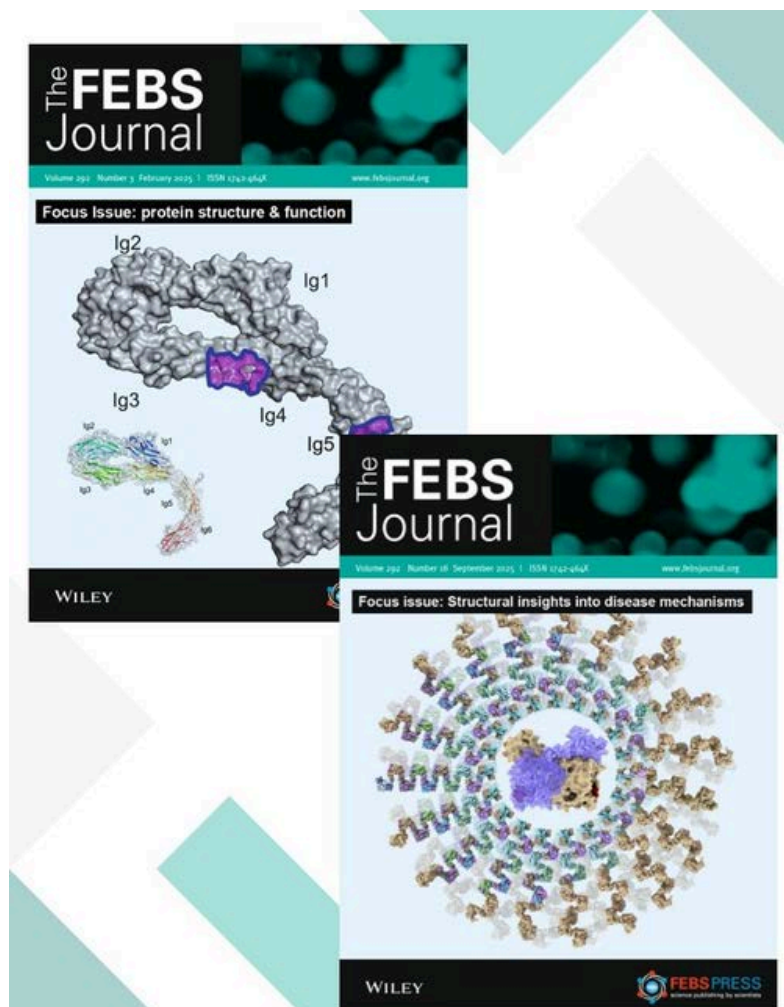
FEBS PRESS

The FEBS Journal

The *FEBS Journal* publishes high-quality original and review-type articles in a broad array of molecular life sciences topics, with particular focus on molecular, structural and cell biology.

We are delighted to highlight two recent Focus issues to showcase how vibrant these fields are. The Protein structure and function focus issue is all about proteins, their structure, function, dynamics and so much more.

It includes a delightful interview with a titan of structural biology, Alex Wlodawer, and a brilliant Editor's Choice article from the Scheller group that provides yet another intriguing example of human cytokine signalling pleiotropy. Our Structural insights into disease mechanisms focus issue showcases work that combines fundamental structural insight with mechanistic implications for disease. As Editor Hajrah Khawaja writes in the accompanying editorial, "...the articles in this Focus Issue provide important insights that lay the foundation for future discoveries and therapeutic advances."



Publish in *The FEBS Journal*

We are your community journal and work hard to make publishing your research as straightforward as possible. So whether your next paper is in structural biology, protein dynamics, cell biology or another discipline within the molecular life sciences, it will be in great hands at The FEBS Journal!

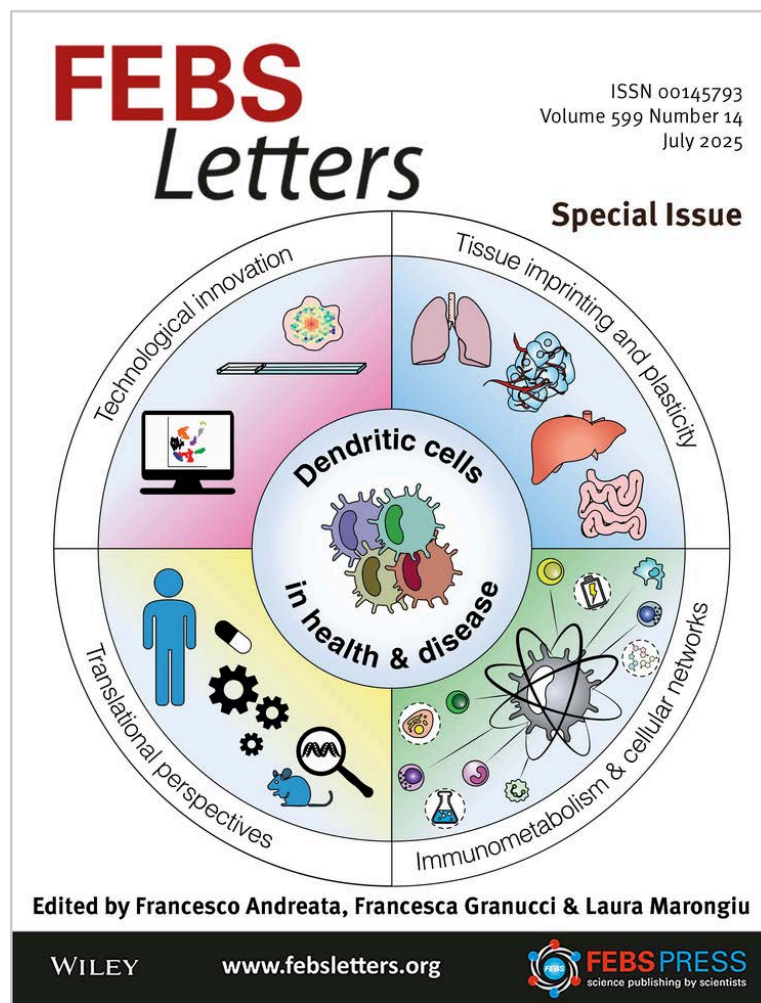
FEBS Letters

A recent special issue of *FEBS Letters*, focused on Dendritic cells in health and disease.

This issue, organised by guest editors Francesco Andreata (IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan), Francesca Granucci (University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan), and Laura Marongiu (University of Milano-Bicocca), includes seven articles focussed on different aspects of dendritic cells, including their role in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and cancers, the use of IL-10-producing dendritic cells in immunotherapy, and the dual nature of T_{DC} cells. The final two articles focus on methodological advice—vital reading for immunologists looking to get to grips with multiplexed imaging or single-cell RNA-seq analysis. We encourage you to read the full issue for free at the above link.

Did you know?

All net journal income is reinvested in bioscience, supporting fellowships, courses, congresses, and other FEBS activities.



Women in Science writing contest

In addition, FEBS Letters is also pleased to announce that Rayane da Cruz Albino, a PhD candidate in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, has won the recent Women in Science writing contest for her winning essay, "Black Pitch Illuminated: The legacy of Professor Jean H. Langenheim". Her article, which celebrates a pioneering scientist whose field research laid the groundwork for the author's own budding career in ethnobotany, was published in the Scientists' Forum of FEBS Letters; read the article at [this link here](#).

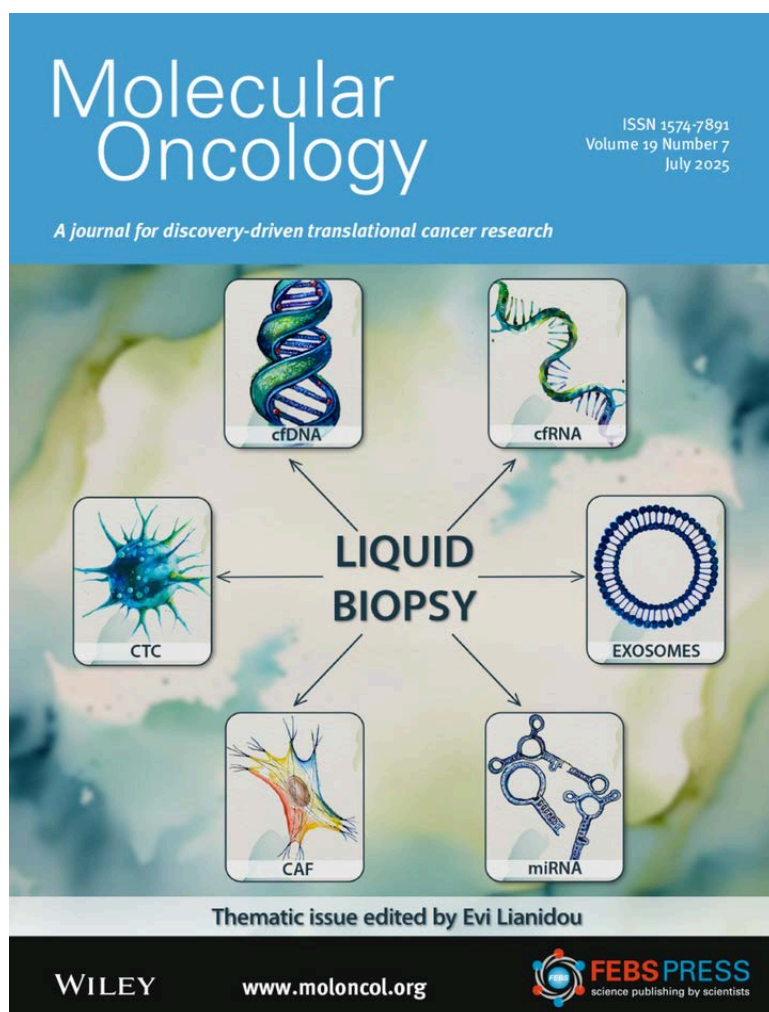
Molecular Oncology

Our latest thematic issue in **Molecular Oncology** features a curated selection of articles that highlight diverse approaches utilized in liquid biopsy research and clinical applications pertinent to cancer.

Circulating cell-free nucleic acids (cfDNA, cfRNA, miRNAs), along with components in extracellular vesicles (EVs) and cellular entities like circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs), are becoming an invaluable source for liquid biopsy applications.

If you are interested in publishing your liquid biopsy research, check the open call for content [here](#). The call is related to the 7th ACTC "Liquid Biopsy: from Bench to Bedside" conference, where the journal held a booth and a presentation slot as part of the scientific program.

Molecular Oncology is currently running two additional active calls for content in collaboration with the EACR on Cancer Neuroscience and Immuno-Oncology.



The journal is currently in the process of assembling a thematic issue related to the 5th edition of the European Code against Cancer that integrates emerging scientific evidence of the past decade and puts forward a set of policy recommendations on how to reduce cancer risk.

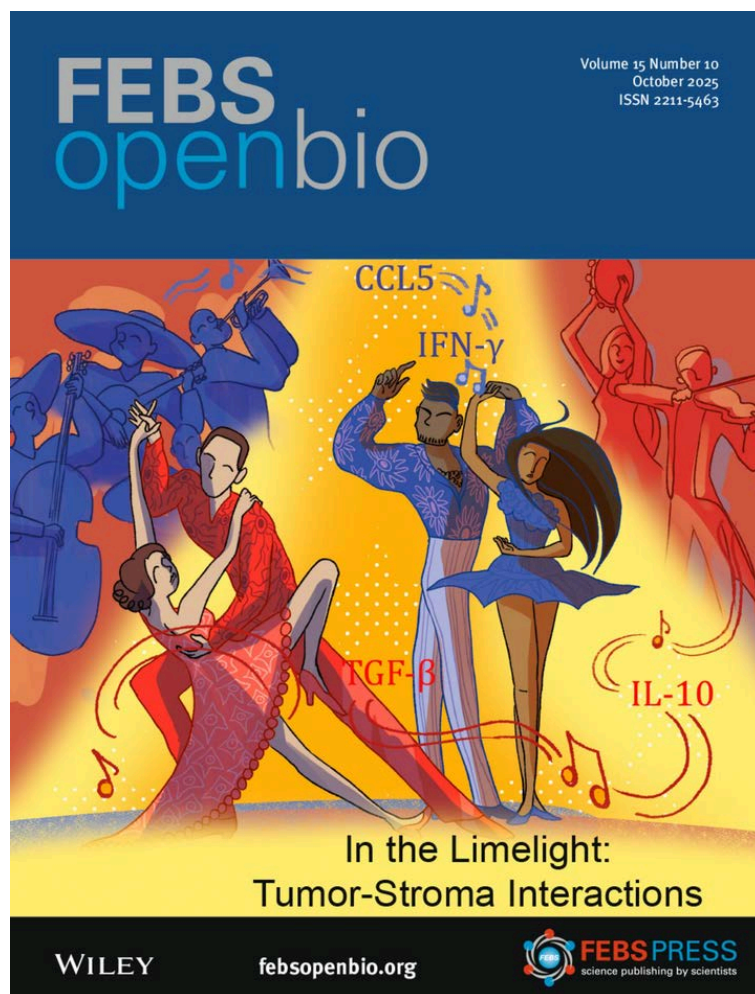
European Code Against Cancer 5th edition

The Policy and Research Articles of the issue will be published on 12th of January 2026, stay tuned!

We are pleased to announce our latest special issue on *Tumor-Stroma Interactions*, guest edited by Prof Isabel Fabregat (TGF- β and Cancer Group, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL) and CIBEREHD, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona).

This exciting special issue includes four review articles on different aspects of tumour stroma cells, including their role in tumor progression and maintenance, the recent advances in 3D in vitro models for their study, and the heterogeneity of cancer-associated fibroblasts in primary and metastatic tumors. The full issue is available for free at the above link.

Did you know that FEBS Open Bio has a dedicated cancer research section? We invite you to check this section highlighting original research on cancer biology.



Open call for content on host-pathogen interaction

We also invite you to check our open call for content on host-pathogen interactions here. We welcome submissions on the fields of host-pathogen communication/interaction, pathogen tolerance and resistance mechanisms.

Submission deadline:

February 11, 2026.

Please feel free to contact us at openbio@febs.org for any submission queries.



07. ADVANCED COURSES



FEBS ADVANCED COURSES PROGRAMME

The FEBS Advanced Courses in 2025 and looking ahead

In 2025 the FEBS Advanced Courses programme awarded over 500,000 euros to fund 20 courses. FEBS and EMBO co-funded six of those courses (see below for more details on this collaboration).

The courses were held in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, and Sweden. The main organisers of the courses came from Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and UK.

FEBS also awarded a total of 84,000 euros in FEBS Youth Travel Fund (YTF) grants, to support the course attendance of 122 PhD students and early-career researchers from across 25 countries of the FEBS area (most of the countries already listed above, as well as Armenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tunisia, and Türkiye). IUBMB (International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) in turn supported eight young scientists from outside the FEBS area with Transcontinental YTF grants.

Useful to both junior and senior researchers

The FEBS Advanced Courses programme supports lecture courses, workshops, practical and mixed courses, and special meetings, on a range of molecular life sciences topics. Senior scientists can apply for FEBS funding to organise a course in any country of the FEBS area.

€500,000+

awarded to support FEBS Advanced Courses in 2025

20 FEBS Advanced Courses funded

6 Joint FEBS | EMBO Courses co funded

€84,000

awarded in FEBS Youth Travel Fund grants

122

PhD students and early career researchers supported with YTF grants

In addition to the educational, training, and networking components benefiting PhD students and early-career researchers, the courses can also support the development of research communities by bringing together scientists working in a similar area to exchange research updates and explore collaborations.

A wide scientific spread

The 20 courses funded in 2025 covered a wide range of scientific areas. Some went deep into the topic while others had a broader, even interdisciplinary, scope. There were courses on these topics:



Co-funding collaborations

We are also pleased to announce that in the next call for applications IUBMB will co-fund with FEBS one Joint FEBS/IUBMB Advanced Course a year, open to organisers worldwide to reflect IUBMB's wider geographic scope.

Adding to the ongoing relationship with EMBO, this new collaboration helps the FEBS Advanced Courses program gain visibility, support a wider community of researchers, and strengthen links with key partners.

More details on this new co-funding collaboration will be added to the FEBS Advanced Courses guidelines for next year (see more details below).





Celebrating old collaborations

In 2025 FEBS co-funded six joint courses with EMBO. This year we were delighted to celebrate 20 years of this collaboration with over 50 joint courses supported together so far. To mark the occasion, we created the 'Joint FEBS | EMBO Lecture Courses Special 2005–2025 Award', for organisers of joint courses in 2025 to award to a young scientist at their event.



Insa Klemt (left photograph) from ETH Zurich and Rawad Hanna, from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology (right photograph), attended the Joint FEBS | EMBO Lecture Course 'Susan Lindquist School on Proteostasis' (Finland | 16–19 September 2025). Read [Insa and Rawad's post on the FEBS Network](#) about their experiences at the course.

Indra Bekere (left photograph, between course co-organizers), from the Technical University of Munich, attended the Joint FEBS | EMBO Lecture Course 'Cell biology of host–pathogen interactions' (France | 26–30 May 2025). Darya Chernikova (right photograph) from the Institute of Science and Technology Austria, attended the Joint FEBS | EMBO Lecture Course 'Physical Virology: across length scales' (Spain | 1–6 June 2025). Read [Darya's post on the FEBS Network](#) about her experiences at the course.



Looking forward to 2026

As 2025 courses unfolded, we were also getting ready for next year with two rounds of applications for courses to be held in 2026. The AC Committee approved five courses in Round 1, on generative AI for protein engineering (in Belgium), human fungal pathogens (in France), the retina as an ex vivo model system (in Finland), novel model systems for MASLD (in Greece), and epigenetics (in Hungary).

Round 2 applications have recently been approved, and we will announce them soon.

The deadline for the next round of applications to organize a course will be 1 March 2026, for events to be held in 2027. We are updating the guidelines for the FEBS Advanced Courses programme 2027 call, which will be added to the FEBS website before the end of the year.

FEBS Advanced Courses on the FEBS Network

Below are quotes from FEBS Network posts written by participants of FEBS Advanced Courses in 2025. We invite you to read their full posts and browse all FEBS Advanced Courses posts on the FEBS Network.

“
Without exaggeration, this was one of the most vibrant and engaging meetings I've ever attended.
”

[Erdinc Sezgin](#)



“
One of the highlights for me was how easy it felt to talk to everyone, from eminent professors to fellow PhD students
”

[Joydeep Baral](#)



“
...this week really reminded me that science thrives not just on results, but on curiosity, conversation, and the willingness to share ideas.
”

[Demi Blüm](#)



“
The feedback I received helped me see my work through new eyes and strengthened my confidence as I prepare to complete my PhD.
”

[Zinaida Shakel](#)



“
One discussion even led to the prospect of an exciting future collaboration with one of the lecturers.
”

[Megan Lee](#)



08.

FEBS3+ MEETINGS & NATIONAL LECTURES



**FEBS3+ Conference of Estonian
Latvian and Lithuanian
Biochemical Societies**

Tallinn, Estonia
15–17 June 2022



FEBS3+ BALTICS: BIOCHEMISTRY AT THE FORE LINE

When, where

The meeting was held **23–25 April 2025 in Vilnius, Lithuania**, where the vibrant Sunrise campus of Vilnius University welcomed meeting participants at its Life Sciences Center.

Why FEBS3+?

The Biochemical Societies of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia established collaboration in 2018, during the XV conference of the Lithuanian Biochemical Society. In 2019, the first joint conference under the umbrella of FEBS3+ Meeting program took place in Riga, Latvia, followed by a joint meeting in Tallinn, Estonia in 2022. This year, **the Finnish Biobio Society** joined this fruitful collaboration.

The meeting in numbers

Three keynote lectures, **55 invited speakers**, **13 selected oral presentations**, **106 poster presentations**, best poster awards from *FEBS Open Bio* and Future Biomedicine Foundation, and over **200 participants**. Some **700 meals** and **1500 cups of coffee**, not mentioning relevant refreshments at the poster sessions, were consumed!

Hot topics

Two key sections of modern biochemistry – **Fundamental and applied biochemistry**, and **Drug discovery and therapy approaches** – were found to be the most popular in terms of speakers and attendance. Other latest trends in biochemistry were reflected in sections focusing on **Gene editing**, **Environmental and plant biochemistry**, **Biochemistry of infectious disease**, **Omics** and **systems biology**, and **3D cellular models**. The Fore Line was held on both geographic and scientific grounds!

Lithuanian-Latvian- Estonian-Finnish FEBS3+ Meeting



Especially for the next generation

Reduced fees were offered for all levels of students to support participation. The travel grants from FEBS3+ funding raised the **interest of young researchers in the Baltics** and contributed to **increased numbers of PhD student participants**. The Lithuanian Biochemical Society additionally funded ten PhD students. Among the program items, a special Education and Science Policy section with a panel discussion provided additional interest for young researchers.

Off-piste activities

A tour of the Life Sciences Center, a dedicated Partners' session, and a Gala Dinner in the historic complex of Vilnius University, dating back to the 16th century – we had it all.

Favourite meeting moment

We got blessed with the weather, too. The outdoor poster session was a success!



What I learned as an event organiser

Whatever efforts are put into organizing such an event, they pay off many times. It was a real delight to meet, to facilitate, and to serve a community. The only challenge here is to survive till the Meeting starts.



Thanks

To FEBS, Vilnius University's Life Sciences Center, ThermoFisher Scientific, Future Biomedicine Foundation, Biomatter, Atrandis Biosciences, Inospectra, Grida, Biotecha, Caszyme, Nanodiagnostika, Seqvision, Bioanalizės sistemos Sensolife, Go Vilnius, and Lithuanian Research Council.



Saulius Serva
President, Lithuanian
Biochemical Society



FEBS3+ BELGRADE: 'ADVANCES IN MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES: FROM GENES TO PERSONALIZED THERAPIES'

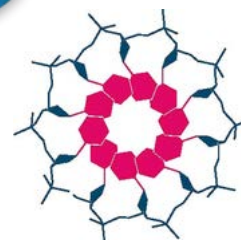
What, when, where

The meeting was held **24–26 September 2025 in Belgrade**, the capital of Serbia, a lively city at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. The Hotel M venue provided excellent facilities and a welcoming atmosphere for scientific exchange, networking and collaboration.

Why FEBS3+?

The conference was jointly organized by the **Serbian Biochemical Society (SBS)** together with the **Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HDBMB)**, the **Hungarian Biochemical Society (HBS)**, the **Slovenian Biochemical Society (SBD)**, and the **Association of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ABMBBIH)**. This regional format provided an excellent opportunity to bring together molecular life scientists from neighboring countries to present their latest findings, establish collaborations, and **strengthen the scientific community in South-Eastern Europe**. The travel grants provided through FEBS3+ funding strongly encouraged the participation of young researchers from the collaborating countries, leading to a remarkable increase in the number of PhD students and early-career scientists at the meeting. Their active contributions, both in oral and poster sessions, fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and built new bridges for future collaborations.

Serbia - Croatia - Hungary -
Slovenia - Bosnia and
Herzegovina FEBS3+ Meeting



The meeting in numbers

Around **150 participants** from **11 countries**, **1 FEBS education lecture**, **5 plenary lectures**, **23 invited lectures**, **2 industry lectures**, **31 short talk presentations**, **53 posters**, **3 exhibitors**, and **4 awards** for the best posters. And to keep everyone energized – about 600 meals and 2000 cups of coffee and soft drinks!



Speaker programme highlights

Ferhan Sağın (Türkiye) opened the meeting with a FEBS education lecture on the role of educators in a world of high publishing standards, emphasizing the need to rethink the future of research and education. Highlights of the scientific programme also included plenary lectures by **Balázs Papp** (Hungary), **Jernej Ule** (Slovenia), **Ana Cvejić** (Denmark), **Ivan Mijaković** (Sweden), and **Lada Lukić Bilela** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), covering topics such as antibiotic resistance, single-cell multi-omics analysis, and the interplay between molecular biology and nanotechnology.

Hot topics

The conference program highlighted the latest trends across diverse fields of biochemistry and molecular biology. The sessions on **Design and structure of proteins** and **Molecular basis of disease attracted particular attention**, with presentations linking fundamental structural insights to translational research. Strong interest was also observed in **Bioactive compounds and metabolism** and **Biomarkers and therapeutics development**, reflecting the growing importance of biomedical applications. Emerging approaches in **Systems biology and bioinformatics** showcased integrative analyses of complex datasets, while Molecular evolution and Regulation of gene expression remained central themes, bridging molecular mechanisms with broader biological processes.

Beyond the science

In addition to the scientific programme, participants enjoyed the **cultural and social aspects of Belgrade**. A welcome cocktail was held on the hotel's terrace, with music occasionally interrupted by the sounds of crickets from the nearby Banjica Forest. The gala dinner, another highlight of the social programme, offered an opportunity for relaxed networking. To the surprise of many, daily encounters with members of the Serbian national volleyball team, who were staying at the hotel during the meeting, added a special flavour to the event.

What I learned as an event organiser

It was a great pleasure to be part of the organizing team of this event. The **experience showed how dynamic conference organization can be**, with **unexpected challenges** always around the corner. However, building strong friendships and truly getting to know the participants made overcoming those challenges much easier. Although the main focus was on scientific research, we were reminded that behind every presentation stand people with whom we can deepen communication and collaboration, and together achieve even more in the future.

Thanks

Our gratitude goes to FEBS, the biochemical and molecular biology societies of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to the event sponsors: LKB (Vienna, Austria), Analysis (Belgrade, Serbia), and Mikro+Polo (Maribor, Slovenia).

Special thanks to *FEBS Open Bio* for donating the monetary prize for the best poster of the conference. We also warmly thank all our colleagues from the region for sharing their important research and for the wonderful fellowship during the three inspiring days of the event.



Natalija Polović
President of the Organizing
Committee, FEBS3+ Meeting
Belgrade 2025

FEBS3+ PRAGUE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF LIFE

When, where

XXVIIIth Biochemistry Congress of the Czech and Slovak Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and with participation of **Polish and German Biochemical Societies**, 7–10 September 2025, National Library of Technology, **Prague, Czech Republic**. The event coincided with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the original **Czechoslovak Biochemical Society**, marking a historic occasion for the regional scientific community.

Why FEBS3+?

The FEBS3+ format **strengthens cross-border collaborations among neighbouring societies**. Building on the tradition of joint Czech–Slovak congresses, this broader partnership with Polish and German Biochemical Societies created **an ideal setting for scientific exchange across Central Europe**, while celebrating shared history and fostering new ties.

The meeting in numbers

6 plenary lectures, 63 talks in 15 parallel scientific sessions, 5 talks in an education & career in life science session, **3 talks** in a career skills session, **107 posters, 17 posters** presented by high-school students, **233 participants + 43 company delegates**, and **3 awards** (J.V. Košťiř award 2025, Congress best poster prize, FEBS Open Bio poster prize).

Speaker program highlights

Here we highlight the talks by the plenary lecturers, who are pictured in the top row of the image above in order of mention. The opening plenary lecture by **Hana Cahová** (Czech Republic) introduced the role of dinucleoside polyphosphates as novel RNA caps. **Sir Paul Nurse** (United Kingdom) delivered a talk on cyclin-dependent kinases and cell cycle control. **Katarína Mikušová** (Slovakia) presented her long-standing research on mycobacterial cell wall assembly. **Erling Norrby** (Sweden) offered a historical perspective on Nobel Prizes and the protein folding problem. **Christina E. Weinberg** (Germany) discussed how ribozymes and riboswitches unravel new aspects of RNA biology. **Artur Osyczka** (Poland) highlighted the molecular operation of cytochromes bc in electron transport chain.



Hot topics

The program also featured sessions under the **ELIXIR CZ track**, highlighting bioinformatics and the rapidly growing role of artificial intelligence in life sciences. In addition, the **Multimomics Symposium** attracted significant attention, reflecting the central role of integrative approaches in current biochemical and biomedical research.

Especially for the next generation

A special pre-meeting – ‘Youth in Life Science’ – gathered **17 selected high-school students**, who presented their projects. In addition, thanks to the FEBS3+ meeting scheme, **20 travel grants** were awarded to young researchers, enabling PhD students and postdocs from partner societies to participate in the Congress.

Beyond the science

The event included a welcome reception and an anniversary tribute evening with **Daniel Stach** (a science communicator on television), celebrating milestones in Czech and Slovak biochemistry. There was also an organ concert at the historic **Church of Our Lady of the Snows**, where participants enjoyed the majestic acoustics of organ and trumpet in a Gothic-Baroque setting.

Favourite meeting moment

A memorable highlight was **Nobel Laureate Sir Paul Nurse's recollection of his first visit to then-Czechoslovakia in the 1980s**, sharing personal stories that connected the history of science with the present meeting. His reflections underscored the resilience of international collaboration despite political boundaries of the past.

What I learned as an event organiser

The enthusiastic participation of young scientists – from high-school students to early-stage researchers – highlighted the vitality of the field and ensured that the ‘secrets of life’ will continue to be explored by future generations.

Thanks

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of FEBS, ELIXIR CZ, BIOCEV, IOCB Prague, IOCB Tech, and all the sponsors.



Libor Grubhoffer
Chairman, Czech Society for
Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology



Vlastimil Kulda
For Organizing
Committee



FEBS NATIONAL LECTURES 2025

FEBS National Lectures are FEBS-supported plenary lectures from distinguished scientists from outside the event-hosting country at scientific meetings of FEBS Constituent Societies. An engraved glass award is presented to the lecturer as a memento of the speaker's selection and significant contribution to the meeting. Applications are invited from FEBS Societies for FEBS National Lectures at 2026 events; more details are in the FEBS website's [Societies section](#).

This year's FEBS National Lecturers spoke at national meetings of FEBS Societies in Norway, Hungary, Spain and Poland, as recounted here.

Norwegian Bioscience Society (NBS) Contact Meeting 2025

The **Norwegian Bioscience Society (NBS) Contact Meeting 2025** (23–25 January 2025) took place in a UNESCO heritage site, Røros, located about 150 km from the university city of Trondheim in Norway.

The meeting brought together around 170 participants, ranging from Master students to highly recognized leaders in their fields, and sales representatives from various companies. The invited speakers covered a wide range of disciplines including material science and nanotechnology, plant biology, neuroscience, immunology, developmental biology, cell signaling and innovation to represent the Norwegian bioscience community. The FEBS National Lecture by Prof. **Dagmar Wachten** from the Institute of Innate Immunity at the University of Bonn, Germany, on 'Shedding light on ciliary signaling and function' was very well received by the attendees. Besides invited speakers, the participants could also present their work at two poster sessions and six minisymposia.

The accommodation was organized on the meeting site, and the conference included all meals, allowing trainees to interact with experienced scientists and people from various fields throughout the meeting. We also organized dedicated power breakfast sessions where it was possible for trainees to meet scientists with diverse backgrounds, including Dagmar Wachten, to talk about careers, networking, resilience in science, and life outside academia, among other topics.



Overall, the meeting was very successful and fostered many new interactions among scientists within Norway and from abroad.



Nathalie Jurisch-Yaksi
Organizing
Committee

7th annual Molecular Life Sciences Conference of the Hungarian Biochemical Society (MBKE) and the Hungarian Society of Geneticists (MAGE)

The 7th annual Molecular Life Sciences Conference of the **Hungarian Biochemical Society (MBKE)** and the Hungarian Society of Geneticists (MAGE) took place in Eger, Hungary, 28–30 March 2025. The event brought together nearly 300 researchers, from students to professors. The goal of the conference was to establish a common forum for colleagues working in biochemistry, cell and structural biology, developmental biology, classical and molecular genetics, molecular biology of human diseases, systems biology, proteomics, genomics, epigenetics and bioinformatics, to discuss advancements across a wide range of fields.

Organized by a team of internationally recognized researchers, including László Buday and József Mihály, the conference featured a rich and varied program including five plenaries, 62 shorter presentations, and a corporate presentation. A dedicated committee also evaluated 132 posters, awarding the top five for their contributions. The conference also included participation from 17 companies specializing in molecular biology and diagnostic products, which showcased their products and services and sponsored the event. The official language of the conference was English.

The highlight of the conference was the FEBS National Lecture given by Prof. **Bernard Perbal** [President of the International Cellular Communication Network Society (ICCN)]. He gave an overview of the CCN protein family consisting of six regulatory proteins that play a vital role in cellular signaling and communication, affecting various processes like cell growth, proliferation, and tissue repair.



Bernard Perbal with his FEBS National Lecture Award.

The presentation explored the structural features and evolutionary conservation of CCN proteins to understand their diverse biological functions and their involvement in diseases like cancer and fibrosis.



Beáta Lontay
MBKE Secretary
General

FEBS NATIONAL LECTURES 2025

47th Congress of the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM)

The **47th Congress of the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM)**, held in Cáceres, Spain, 2–5 September 2025, featured a FEBS National Lecture from Dr **Paola Pizzo** (University of Padova, Italy).

In her lecture 'Organelle contact sites as dynamic cell signalling hubs', Paola Pizzo presented groundbreaking work on the dynamics of calcium microdomains at endoplasmic reticulum (ER)–mitochondria contact sites, highlighting the development of new imaging tools and the discovery of regulatory roles played by STIM1, a key calcium-sensing protein. Her group combined cutting-edge biosensor technology with genetic screening approaches to illuminate fundamental mechanisms of organelle communication. This presentation integrated previously published work with new findings from the genetic screen and functional analyses of STIM1. The results opened new perspectives on how calcium signaling microdomains and structural contact sites jointly regulate key physiological and pathological processes – from metabolism to neurodegeneration. Her work offered a compelling view of the intricate crosstalk between the ER and mitochondria, combining molecular precision with broader implications for cell biology and disease mechanisms.

The 47th SEBBM Congress brought together over 500 researchers in biochemistry, molecular biology, and biomedicine, combining scientific excellence with public outreach. The opening ceremony, held at the San Francisco Cultural Complex, featured a performance by soprano Auxiliadora Toledano and tributes to Joan Guinovart and Federico Mayor Zaragoza.



Guadalupe Sabio
President of the
Congress



Paola Pizzo
delivering the FEBS
National Lecture.

The scientific program included seven plenary lectures by leading international scientists, ten thematic symposia on frontier topics – from cancer and metabolism to proteomics and nutrient signaling – and meetings of SEBBM's 16 thematic groups, along with sessions for students, industry and sponsors.

Outreach activities open to the public complemented the event, including a round table on Margarita Salas and Eladio Viñuela, discussions on ethics in science, art-science collaborations, and a traditional Extremaduran folklore performance during the inauguration.

BIO2025

BIO2025 took place in Poznań, Poland, 17– 20 September 2025. It was organized by the **Polish Biochemical Society (PTBioch)** and the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and held at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism and the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University. The Congress attracted over 600 participants from seven countries, confirming its position as the largest national forum of life sciences.

BIO2025 included five plenary lectures, 22 scientific sessions divided into three main thematic blocks – ‘Nucleic Acids’, ‘Proteins and Metabolites’, and ‘Cells and Organisms’ – and additional sessions on career development and from sponsors and partners. Ninety-two oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts and 340 posters were presented. Ten best presenters were awarded prizes, including two sponsored by *The FEBS Journal*.

The plenary lectures delivered by top-class scientists were particularly popular, including the one by Prof. **Nikolaus Rajewsky** (MDC Berlin, Germany), held as the FEBS National Lecture. The lecture, entitled ‘Predicting disease trajectories’, attracted a full audience, and was followed by a stimulating, vivid discussion. Other plenary keynote lectures were given by: Harold Varmus (Weill Cornell Medicine) – Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine (1989) for the discovery of the cellular origin of retroviral oncogenes, creator of PubMed Central, and current chairman of the WHO scientific council; Magdalena Żernicka-Goetz (Caltech, and Cambridge, UK) – a pioneer in the field of mouse and human embryology; Virginijus Šikšnys (Vilnius) – a pioneer of CRISPR-Cas genome editing technology, and winner of the Kavli Prize; and Adrian Krainer (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory) – co-creator of the first registered drug based on therapeutic nucleic acids (nusinersen – SMA treatment).

Nikolaus Rajewsky receiving the FEBS National Lecture Award from Luiza Handschuh (Director of IBCH PAS) and Marek Figlerowicz (BIO2025 Chairman).



Over 600 scientists came together in Poznań for BIO2025, featuring top plenary lectures and 90+ selected talks.



Zbigniew Warkocki
Organizing Committee
Chairman

09.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS





FEBS EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Excellence Awards

The prestigious FEBS Excellence Awards scheme supports early-career group leaders in the FEBS area who have a scientific research track record of proven excellence. FEBS Excellence Awards provide funding of **€100,000 for research equipment and consumables over a 3-year period**. During 2025, **10 awardees** were selected by the Committee among **42 applicants**. The number of candidates has now reached a steady-state level since inception in 2021. We congratulate the awardees and wish them success in their next research steps.



Alena Khmelinskaia
LMU, Munich, Germany



Alexander Belyy
University of Groningen,
the Netherlands



Jorine Eeftens
Radboud University,
Nijmegen, the Netherlands



Jack Bravo
IST, Austria



Noellia Ferruz
CRG, Barcelona, Spain



Rafael Galupa
CBI-Toulouse, France



Patricia Altea-Manzano
CARBIMER-CSIC, Seville,
Spain



Andrea Fossati
Karolinska Institute,
Solna, Sweden



Ana Victoria Lechuga-Vieco
IRB Barcelona, Spain



Guido van Mierlo
Radboud UMC-Dept of
Medical Biosciences,
Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Booster Fund

The 2025 call of the FEBS Booster Fund received **37 applications**, consistent with the previous year. The programme supported early career researchers with a one year grant of €25,000 to help them develop an independent research project through small equipment, consumables and research related travel. We warmly congratulate the **7 awardees**:



Eloïse Bertiaux
CNRS and University
of Bordeaux, France



Zeshi Li
Pharmaceutical
Sciences, Utrecht, the
Netherlands



Iris Chiara Salaroglio
University of Turin,
Italy



Gábor Dániel Erdős
Dept of Biochemistry, Eötvös
Lorand University, Budapest,
Hungary



Inês Vieira da Silva
Faculty of Pharmacy, Lisbon,
Portugal



Michel Alexander Struwe
Center for Molecular Biosciences,
Kiel, Germany



Wen Wu
Groningen Research Institute
of Pharmacy, the Netherlands

Fellowships

Full details of the different Fellowship schemes can be found in the [Fellowships section](#) of the FEBS website.

Two schemes are open for applications throughout the year: **Short Term Fellowships** and **Ukrainian Fellowships**.

PROBio Africa and **PROBio LatAm Fellowships** are joint programmes between FEBS, IUBMB and FASBMB, and FEBS, IUBMB and PABMB, respectively. These programmes have one annual application round, with deadlines to be announced early next year.

In 2025, FEBS awarded:

- 25** Short Term Fellowships
- 10** Summer* Fellowships
- 6** Ukrainian Fellowships
- 7** PROBio Africa Fellowships
- 8** PROBio LatAm Fellowships

*This programme has now been discontinued.

The FEBS Excellence Awards Meeting

Sapanca, Türkiye 2-4 July 2025

The FEBS Excellence Awards Meeting (FEAM) gathered **11 awardees** who had received their distinctions in **2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024**. The meeting was held in parallel with, and with the invaluable support of, the **Young Scientists' Forum (YSF)** organizers in the beautiful location of **Sapanca**, in the Asian part of Türkiye. The programme was developed in close collaboration with the YSF team. Keynote lectures, meals and breaks were shared, creating opportunities for the **younger and more senior generations** to exchange ideas and experiences. For the second consecutive year, mentoring activities also took place, with FE Awardees enthusiastically volunteering as tutors. This was once again a **great success**.

Prepared with the support of **Aristidis Moustakas**, member of the FEBS Excellence Awards and Fellowships Committee and vice chair of FEAM, the scientific programme comprised five sessions featuring twelve 25 minute talks, under the umbrella theme *From embryos to diseases*.



The meeting was a remarkable scientific success, not only for the high quality of the presentations and the breadth of knowledge shared, but also for the excellent networking environment it offered. An exceptionally positive atmosphere prevailed, and many FE Awardees who had not met before quickly became, and remain, close colleagues and friends.



Alain Krol
Chair of the FEBS Excellence
Awards and Fellowships Committee

10. CAREER OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS





THE 24TH FEBS YOUNG SCIENTISTS' FORUM (YSF 2025)

Inspired by Nature, Driven by Science

Sapanca, Türkiye
2-4 July 2025

The 24th FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF 2025) took place on 2–5 July 2025 at a picturesque venue by Lake Sapanca, Türkiye, serving as the prelude to the 49th FEBS Congress in Istanbul. The event brought together **101 outstanding early-stage researchers**, carefully selected from **361 applications representing 37 countries**, offering them an inspiring environment to present their work, build collaborations, and develop their careers. Of these participants, **97 were supported by FEBS YSF grants**, two were sponsored by the UK Biochemical Society, and two others, from South Africa and China, were supported by the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB).



Organising team and scientific vision

The **organizing committee** was co-chaired by Atakan Ekiz and Duygu Harmanci Karagülle and included Burak Barut, Öykü Gönül Geyik, and Erhan Canbay. They worked closely with an advisory team composed by Irene Díaz-Moreno, Vlastimil Kulda, and Anna Jagusiak (chair and members, respectively) of the FEBS Careers of Young Scientists Committee, to create a dynamic and engaging program. The local organizers were further supported by the advice of Ferhan Sağın, Chair of the 49th FEBS Congress.

Scientific programme: breadth, depth and inspiration

The YSF aimed to bridge disciplines and foster cross-border collaboration, reflecting the theme of the subsequent FEBS Congress, and the scientific program spanned a wide range of topics.

The opening lecture was delivered by Isabel Fabregat (Spain) who talked about **"TGF- β and NADPH oxidases: a perverse association in liver cancer"**, setting the stage for three days of high-level talks and discussions.

Keynotes were followed by two sessions of selected oral presentations and two poster sessions, showcasing the high caliber of research conducted by the participants.

Keynote lectures included

- **Seamus Martin (Ireland)** – "DNA damage-induced cell death versus cell senescence: what doesn't kill you, makes you stranger"
- **Colinda Scheele (Belgium)** – "How breast tissue defends itself: insights into cancer protection mechanisms"
- **Uğur Sezerman (Türkiye)** – "Personalized medicine in the era of omics data"

The YSF 2025 demonstrated once again the power of bringing together promising young scientists in a supportive, interdisciplinary setting. By connecting early-career researchers across nations and specialties, the forum continues to nurture the next generation of leaders in the molecular life sciences.

Career development and training

Career development remained a cornerstone of the YSF, with targeted sessions on laboratory practice, science diplomacy, scientific publishing, CV preparation, and the personal attributes that support a successful PhD journey. These sessions featured **Jason Perret** (Belgium) on “Lab books: the underrated skill”; **Keith Elliott** (United Kingdom) on “Preparing your CV: how to make the most of yourself”; **Jerka Dumić** (Croatia) on “Awareness and attitude as the cornerstones of a successful and joyful PhD journey”; **Yusuf Baran** (Türkiye) on “Science diplomacy: bridging nations through the enlightening power of science”; and **Hajrah Khawaja** (United Kingdom), from FEBS Press, on “A career in scientific publishing”. The program also included a session on fellowship opportunities for young scientists with **Alain Krol** (France), Chair of the FEBS Excellence Awards and Fellowships Committee, and **Daniele Viarisio** (Germany), Senior Programme Officer in the EMBO Fellowship Programme. Together, these talks offered participants practical insights to support success in both academic and non-academic career paths.

APPLY NOW FOR THE FEBS
YOUNG SCIENTISTS' FORUM 2026



YSF
applications
deadline:
**10 December
2025**

The FEBS YSF 2026 will take place from 2nd to 4th July 2026 in Wageningen, the Netherlands, just before and in conjunction with the 50th FEBS Congress in Maastricht. Would you like to be one of the approximately 100 PhD students and postdocs selected for this unique event, with registration, accommodation for both the YSF and FEBS Congress and most travel expenses covered?

[Find out more on the 50th FEBS Congress website](#)

[YSF applications page](#)

A vibrant environment for networking and mentoring

The atmosphere of the forum was vibrant yet relaxed, allowing young scientists to engage in meaningful conversations with peers as well as with early-career group leaders, through dedicated mentoring activities with FEBS Excellence Awardees who were attending a parallel meeting in Sapanca. Social activities began with a lakeside welcome reception, where the “Inspired by Nature, Driven by Science” theme of the YSF was reflected in relaxed scientific conversations and the first steps of networking. The social program included a morning walk by the lake and a science-themed quiz night, which further strengthened social interaction in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Before the main congress, a walking tour around Istanbul was also organised with the participation of the YSF 2025 Organizing Committee.

Recognizing excellence among participants, and thanks to the sponsorship of FEBS and IUBMB journals, the following awards were presented: FEBS Open Bio oral communication prize to Martin Toul (Belgium), FEBS Open Bio poster prize to Gülin Baran (Türkiye), and IUBMB BioFactors poster prize to Giulia Rizzi (Italy). The event concluded with the introduction of the organizers for the YSF 2026, as participants departed for Istanbul to join the FEBS Congress with strengthened networks and fresh inspiration.



H. Atakan Ekiz
Co-chair YSF 2025
Organizing Committee



Duygu Harmanci Karagülle
Co-chair YSF 2025 Organizing
Committee



Irene Díaz-Moreno
Chair, FEBS Careers of Young
Scientists Committee

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE



Four years of empowering young scientists

In **2021**, FEBS and IUBMB joined forces to continue the legacy of the ENABLE symposium, an international initiative that originated from the PhD Symposium at IRB Barcelona, **under the vision and leadership of Prof. Joan Guinovart**, former IRB Director. The ENABLE series, initially supported by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, brought together four European partner institutions to create a dynamic platform for early-career researchers in the biomedical sciences.

Four successful editions across continents

The 2025 edition marks the fourth FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference. Over these four years, the event has been hosted by four academic institutions selected through open calls, three in Europe and one overseas. The hosts were the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville (Seville, Spain) in 2022, the University of Cologne (Cologne, Germany) in 2023, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) in 2024, and the Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute (Glasgow, UK) in 2025.

Together, the conferences have attracted over 680 attendees from 51 countries, adding up to more than 940 participants when including organisers, speakers, and sponsors. A key feature of the series is its strong commitment to accessibility for young scientists worldwide: with 215 travel grants awarded and affordable registration fees (on average €150), FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE has enabled many PhD students and postdocs to attend their first international meeting, broadening their horizons and scientific networks.



Ensuring ENABLE's Continuity

When EU funding came to an end, the FEBS Careers of Young Scientists Committee took the initiative to foster **a co-funding agreement between FEBS and IUBMB**, leading to the launch of a new four-year cycle (2022–2025), rebranded as the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE International Molecular Biosciences PhD and Postdoc Conference. This ensured the **continuation of a unique event organised by and for young scientists**, maintaining its original spirit of inclusion, scientific excellence, and career development.



Seville 2022



Cologne 2023



Singapore 2024



Glasgow 2025

+680
attendees

+260
orgs, speakers & sponsors

215
travel grants

51
countries

58
career dev. workshops

136
short & flash talks

34
keynote lectures

+460
posters

Three pillars: science, careers, and outreach

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE is built on three interconnected pillars that respond to the professional and personal development needs of early-career researchers:

- **Scientific symposium:** The central part of each conference, where PhD students and postdocs present their work alongside leading keynote speakers who share not only their science but also their career journeys, offering inspiration and advice to younger scientists.
- **Career day:** One of the most appreciated elements of the conference, featuring interactive workshops on skills and professional development, as well as career chats with PhD holders who have followed alternative career paths beyond academia, providing valuable perspectives on the diverse opportunities for life scientists.
- **Outreach activities:** Designed to connect science with society through activities that engage the public and highlight the importance of scientific research.

Organised by and for young scientists

A defining feature of FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE is that it is entirely organised by young researchers. Each edition brings together an international Scientific Organising Committee with members from several European institutions, including the ENABLE partners IRB Barcelona and SEMM in Milan, and a Local Organising Committee of 15–25 PhD students and postdocs from the host institution. The conferences have also benefitted from collaboration with FEBS Press: the Conference Report and Abstract Supplement are published annually as a supplement in FEBS Open Bio, giving organisers first-hand experience with scientific publishing and sharing the spirit of the event with the wider scientific community. Click here to read the conference reports from the [2022](#), [2023](#) and [2024](#) conferences.

Looking ahead and new opportunities

Encouraged by the success of the first four editions, FEBS and IUBMB have renewed their partnership for another four-year period (2026–2029). The new agreement strengthens the role of FEBS Constituent Societies, whose involvement will be central in selecting hosts, organisers, and participants. The four conferences in 2026–2029 will take place at European universities or research centres chosen through open calls. The 2026 host will be the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology at Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland). The event will take place on 14–16 October 2026 under the theme “The code of life: Beyond the genome to multilayer biology”, which marks 25 years since the sequencing of the human genome. The call for the 2027 host has now closed, and information about the selected institution and the upcoming event will be available soon on the [website](#).

In addition, each edition will include two young members from FEBS Societies, selected via an open call, on the Scientific Organising Committee. For 2026, the selected PhD students are Stefan Marković Hadžić (SBS, Serbia) and Johanna Helenius (BioBio, Finland). Besides, young members from FEBS Societies are eligible for the multiple travel grants available to attend the conferences. The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series has proven to be more than an annual scientific meeting: it is a platform for growth, networking, and empowerment for the next generation of molecular life scientists. With the renewal of the FEBS-IUBMB partnership, this vibrant initiative will continue to evolve — serving and inspiring early-career researchers across Europe and beyond.



Irene Díaz-Moreno
Chair, FEBS Careers of Young
Scientists Committee

FEBS JUNIOR SECTION



A growing, connected community of young scientists

Since its launch as an initiative of the FEBS Careers of Young Scientists Committee (CYSC), the FEBS Junior Section has grown into an active and expanding community of young researchers from **18 FEBS Constituent Societies**. Guided by the motto “*From young life scientists, for young life scientists*”, the Junior Section fosters connections, showcases opportunities and promotes mobility across Europe.

In 2025, the CYSC strengthened the initiative by appointing a new elected committee member, **Alexander Röntgen**, dedicated solely to coordinating Junior Section activities.

Expanding activities and monthly talk series

The Junior Section continues to broaden its network and participate actively in FEBS events. Its longest running initiative, the **monthly talk series**, remains highly popular. Talks rotate among Junior Sections and cover **research, career development and community contributions**, with speakers linked to the organising country.

In 2025, the Junior Section organised **11 talks**, reaching the milestone of **50 online events**. In 2024 alone, the series attracted over **1,000 registrants**, with the interdisciplinary talk organised by Junior SIB Italy reaching **320 registrations**.

As part of FEBS’s 60th anniversary celebrations in late 2024, the Junior Section also contributed to two major events:

- *Equality and Beyond* (webinar with CYSC and FEBS Women in Science)
- *Career Heterogeneity in Life Sciences* (hybrid event by BioBio Junior Section, Finland)

Together, these attracted **around 400 registrations**.

Growing engagement on the FEBS Network

Recordings of the monthly talks remain accessible on the [FEBS Network](#), a feature valued by the community. In 2025, talk recordings received **over 4,600 views**, contributing to a total of **~13,500 views** for all Junior Section content in the past years. The Junior Section Room continues to be an important space for connection and information sharing.

2025 at a glance:

18 Members from Constituent Societies

11 talks organised and milestone of **50** online events

+4,600 views of talk recordings

3 FEBS3+ Meetings and national congresses presence

8 members at FEBS Congress

3 members at FEBS Young Scientists’ Forum

+270 participants in T-shirt raffles

400 registrations across FEBS 60th anniversary events

Follow FEBS Junior Section



[FEBS Junior section](#)



[FEBS Junior section](#)



[Room in FEBS Network](#)

Active participation at FEBS Congress and YSF

In 2025, **eight Junior Section members** attended the FEBS Congress in Istanbul, with **three** also participating in the Young Scientists' Forum (YSF) in Sapanca. They introduced the initiative during YSF closing remarks and supported CYSC activities at the FEBS booth. A dedicated in-person meeting with **Prof. Irene Díaz-Moreno**, CYSC Chair, during the main Congress allowed discussion of current and future plans.



The popular T-shirt raffles attracted over 270 participants and created a vibrant space for conversations, helping raise awareness of Junior Section activities and strengthening engagement with young scientists across FEBS.

Collaborations with FEBS Committees and journals

The Junior Section continues to deepen collaborations across FEBS, particularly with the **FEBS Publications Committee**. For the third year, FEBS Press editors contributed valuable insights through the talk series. Junior Section members have also begun roles as **Junior Journal Ambassadors** for FEBS journals, helping promote journal content and organise discussions around selected papers. They also continued their interview series with winners of poster prizes at FEBS Advanced Courses, published on the FEBS Network.

Presence at FEBS3+ and National Society Meetings

Junior Section representatives participated in all **three FEBS3+ Meetings** and several National Society Congresses. Highlights included:

- A social event organised by MBKE Junior Section (Hungary) at their Congress in Eger
- A presentation by Anja Hartewig at the Baltics FEBS3+ Meeting on founding national Junior Sections
- The first in-person meeting of the SFBBM Junior Section before their annual congress in Paris
- A joint CYSC and Polish Junior Section session at the PTBioch Congress in Poznań

Looking Ahead

The Junior Section looks forward to continuing its impact with the support of the CYSC and the broader FEBS community. All FEBS members involved in these activities are warmly thanked for their ongoing collaboration.



Alexander Röntgen
Coordinator of FEBS Junior Section



Anja Hartewig
Vice-Coordinator, FEBS Junior Section



Irene Díaz-Moreno
Chair, FEBS Careers of Young Scientists Committee

11. EDUCATION AND TRAINING





FEBS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2025 Achievements: a year of concrete advances, visible outcomes

The year 2025 marked another extraordinary chapter in FEBS' commitment to advancing molecular life sciences education and training. Through innovative workshops, groundbreaking publications, and strategic international partnerships, the Education and Training Committee empowered educators across continents and continued to shape the future of biochemistry education and training.

White Paper: a vision for educational transformation

January 2025 witnessed the publication of a landmark white paper in FEBS Open Bio that addresses the urgent need for educational reform in molecular life sciences.

Villo, L., Sincic, N., Mello, L. V., Costa, M. J., Picard, D., Malatesta, F., Dumic, J., & Sagin, F. G. (2024). A white paper from the FEBS Education and Training Conference: Challenges, opportunities, and action plans for transforming molecular life sciences education. FEBS Open Bio, 15(1), 11–20.

This document maps specific challenges and actions for modernizing molecular life-sciences education—calling for evidence-based, student-centred, inclusive teaching and urgent reform across higher education. The comprehensive white paper presents a roadmap for institutions, educators, and policymakers to modernize molecular life sciences education, calling for urgent and impactful reforms in higher education. Published as open access, it ensures global reach and accessibility. This document is a remarkable representation of years of collaborative expertise and establishes FEBS as a thought leader in educational innovation for molecular life sciences.

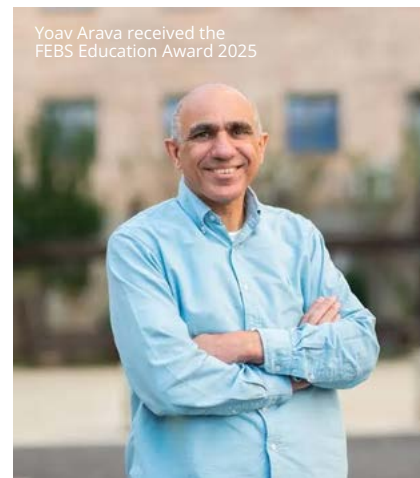
FEBS Education Award: celebrating excellence

The prestigious FEBS Education Award was launched in 2024, to commemorate FEBS' 60th anniversary. The aim was to honor distinguished educators who have made exceptional contributions to molecular life sciences teaching and training. In 2025, the award was presented to Professor Yoav Arava, recognizing his transformative impact on biochemistry education and his innovative approaches to student engagement.

Building Community: virtual ambassador meeting

On April 28, 2025, Didier Picard (member) and Ferhan Sağın (chair) convened 27 FEBS Education Ambassadors for a collaborative Zoom meeting. The session explicitly improved cohesion and practical take-aways, setting a rhythm for peer-to-peer learning among national leads. Participants reported stronger community connections and actionable insights, reinforcing the vital network that drives educational innovation across FEBS constituent societies.

Yoav Arava received the FEBS Education Award 2025



Empowering local innovation through funds for education activities

In 2025, the committee supported transformative society-led education events that brought cutting-edge teaching methodologies directly to educators.

Tunisia started a bright year in education and training with a remarkable event

Tunisian Association of Biosciences (ATSB), led by the FEBS Education Ambassador Hatem Fakhfakh, organized “Innovative Tools in Modern Science Education” symposium on Feb. 1, 2025 at INSAT. The event was attended by an active group of educators and young researchers and 3 trainer representatives from FEBS (Xavier Coumoul, Jerka Dumić and Ferhan Sağın).



Bosnia and Herzegovina ran a flagship youth pipeline event.

The Association of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ABMBBH), led by Education Ambassador Lejla Pojskić, delivered “The NEXT Generation Biotechnologists” symposium on 22–23 May 2025. This event exemplified the power of grassroots educational leadership in advancing biotechnology education for emerging scientists.

Morocco hosted an impactful educational event

Under the theme “From threats to opportunities: Rethinking education in the age of emerging technologies,” Education Ambassador Prof. Abdelaziz Hmyene from the École Normale Supérieure, Hassan II University of Casablanca, led a two-day symposium in Casablanca. The event fostered dialogue on how emerging technologies can be integrated into education to strengthen scientific training and innovation.

Expanding Impact: Four New Society Events Approved

The second call for supporting society-led education events are closed now. Following a competitive second-round review, four societies were approved with explicit modalities and amounts : Cyprus, Croatia and Morocco (face-to-face workshops with €2,000 grants each), and Portugal (€750, virtual). This precision in support demonstrates FEBS' commitment to both traditional and digital educational formats.

Empowering local innovation through funds for education activities

FAOBMB Conference Collaboration

Committee Chair Ferhan Sağın represented FEBS at the FAOBMB Conference in Busan, South Korea, co-chairing the Education Plenary (Speaker: FAOBMB Education Awardee Tracey Kuit) with FAOBMB Education Chair Nirma Samarawickrema. Ferhan Sağın and Nirma Samarawickrema also co-led a workshop— strengthening ties between Asian and European biochemistry education communities.

FEBS-IUBMB Strategic Partnership

The Memorandum of Understanding between FEBS and IUBMB continues to foster joint educational initiatives. In August 2025, Ali Burak Özkaya delivered a FEBS Education Talk at the IUBMB Education Symposium during ICBMBLM 2025 (Kuala Lumpur, 25–26 Aug 2025), extending FEBS' educational impact to Southeast Asia.

FEBS Congress 2025: Innovative education programming

The committee designed comprehensive educational activities for FEBS Congress 2025:

Education at the FEBS Congress—visible centre-stage

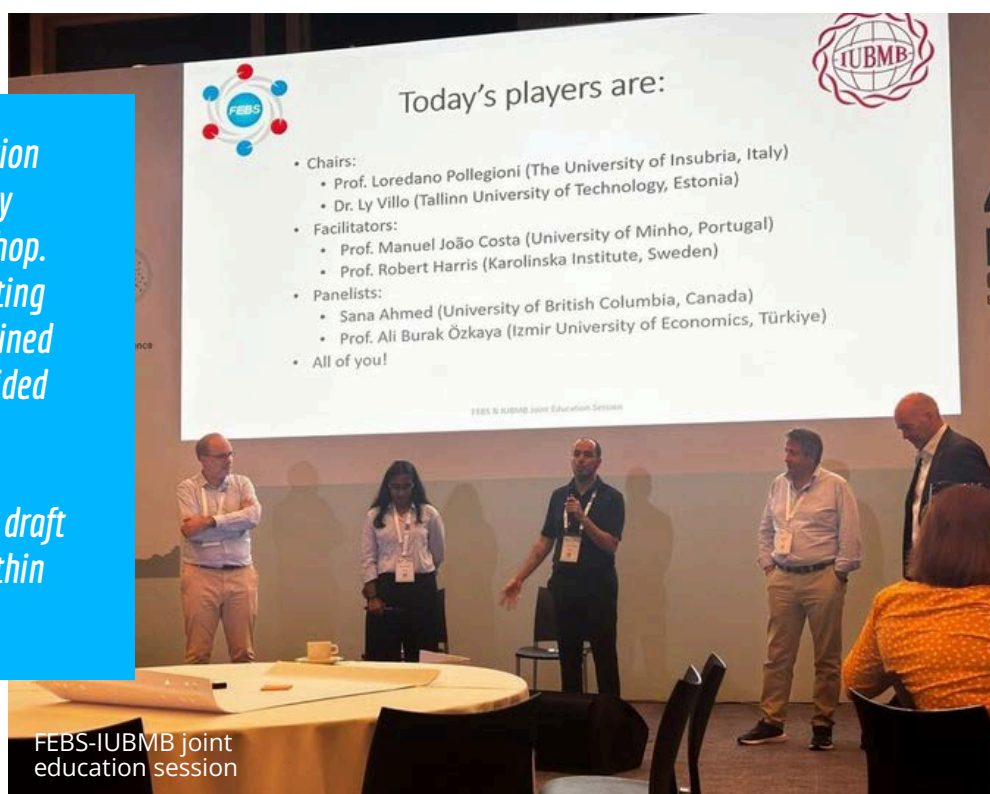
2024 FEBS Education Awardee and current committee member, Prof. Robert Harris, delivered the 2025 Education Plenary, bringing mentor-development and institutional responsibility into the core Congress narrative.



The FEBS-ORPHEUS joint session on PhD education featured speakers including John Creemers (ORPHEUS President), Gül Güner Akdoğan (ORPHEUS Labelling Committee and FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur), Hakan Orer (ORPHEUS EC) and Cecilia Arraiano (FEBS Diplôme d'Honneur) and addressed critical challenges facing doctoral researchers in today's changing world, including standards, ethics, and career growth beyond academia.



FEBS-IUBMB joint education session was held as a fully interactive 2-hour workshop. The event was on integrating AI in education and combined best-practice sharing, guided discussion, and an expert panel—designed to move attendees from debate to draft implementation plans within the session.



Transformative Joint Workshops: events that changed practice—hands-on, specific, replicable

Safe Learning Environment Workshop – Türkiye

The Committee co-ran a joint workshop (İzmir, 28 Feb–2 March 2025) with the Turkish Biochemical Society and İzmir University of Economics on “Safe Learning Environment: Bridging the gap between learning partners.” This program tackled classroom norms, psychological safety, and facilitation moves that immediately translate to course delivery.



Norwegian Collaboration: Teaching large, thinking deep

With the Norwegian Biochemical Society and University of Bergen, FEBS delivered a two-day (September 18-20, 2025) comprehensive program with

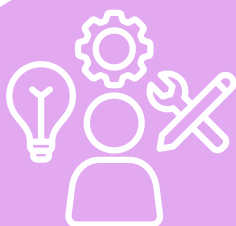
- Expert-led sessions on active learning strategies and evidence-based assessment
- Three parallel hands-on tracks including the FEBS Education and Training Academy Workshop
- Transferable skills development for young researchers (networking, presentation skills, scientific writing, PhD wellness)
- Sustainability in laboratory education with practical implementation strategies



Why this mattered in 2025 - measurable signals of impact

Policy & practice alignment

The white paper gives departments a cited roadmap to justify syllabus redesigns, assessment change, and inclusive teaching updates—bridging scholarly consensus and daily teaching decisions.



Capacity building

Targeted micro-grants (Cyprus, Croatia, Morocco, Portugal) support on-site delivery or virtual scale-out, putting small budgets to work for concrete workshops rather than generic training statements.

Regional equity

ABMBBH's two-track symposium built opportunities for early-career scientists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, demonstrating how the Ambassador model seeds sustainable local ecosystems.



Network effects

The 27-person Ambassador meeting created a sharable bank of formats and materials, accelerating replication across societies in 2026 grant rounds.

Classroom-level change

Bergen's mix of active Learning, assessment, feedback literacy, sustainable labs, scientific writing, and presentation skills gave attendees immediately deployable activities and rubrics for large cohorts—precisely the pain point reported across European faculties.



Global reach

The Kuala Lumpur FEBS Education Talk and FAOBMB's Busan programming extend FEBS classroom know-how across regions, strengthening two-way exchange with Asia-Pacific partners.

What's next - momentum into 2026



This landmark event will bring together educators, researchers, and policymakers to shape the next decade of molecular life sciences education and training.

The committee is preparing for the flagship FEBS Education and Training Conference in Kuşadası, Türkiye (March 25-29, 2026) – the first-ever dedicated biochemistry and molecular life sciences education conference of this scale in Europe.

The event integrates the key learnings from 2025 into an expanded programme featuring wellbeing, innovative teaching practices such as AI tutors and escape-room pedagogy, FEBS Academy workshops on AI integration and assessment, practical sessions on play in teaching and co-teaching, a full day dedicated to AI, and a career track on mentoring, industry transitions, team-based learning, and online presence. Daily debates will help turn insights into action, and an embedded Ambassador Board meeting will support rapid adoption across societies.

The impact: building a brighter future

By investing in educators and creating spaces for pedagogical innovation, FEBS ensures that the next generation of molecular life scientists will be equipped with cutting-edge knowledge, critical thinking skills, and ethical values necessary to tackle complex global challenges. The FEBS Education and Training Committee's 2025 achievements reflect a profound commitment to educational excellence. Through strategic publications, prestigious awards, international collaborations, and innovative workshops, the committee is not merely responding to change – it is driving the transformation of molecular life sciences education and training.

In one sentence...

2025 moved FEBS Education from statements to systems - publishing a usable roadmap, funding named workshops, running hands-on programs with concrete outputs, honouring excellence, and aligning global partners - so that, in 2026, our community arrives in Kuşadası with sleeves already rolled up and evidence in hand.



Ferhan G. Sağın
Chair of the FEBS Education and Training Committee

12.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE





WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Inspiring paths and progress in equality

Empowering women in science remains one of FEBS's core values and a defining element of its vision for a fair, inclusive, and forward-looking scientific community. Through stories, dialogue, and recognition, FEBS continues to celebrate women's contributions and to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Women's Careers in Science eBook

As part of the FEBS 60th anniversary activities, FEBS Constituent Societies were invited to highlight outstanding women belonging to their Society for an eBook illustrating the diverse ways in which women navigate their careers in science alongside personal and family commitments.

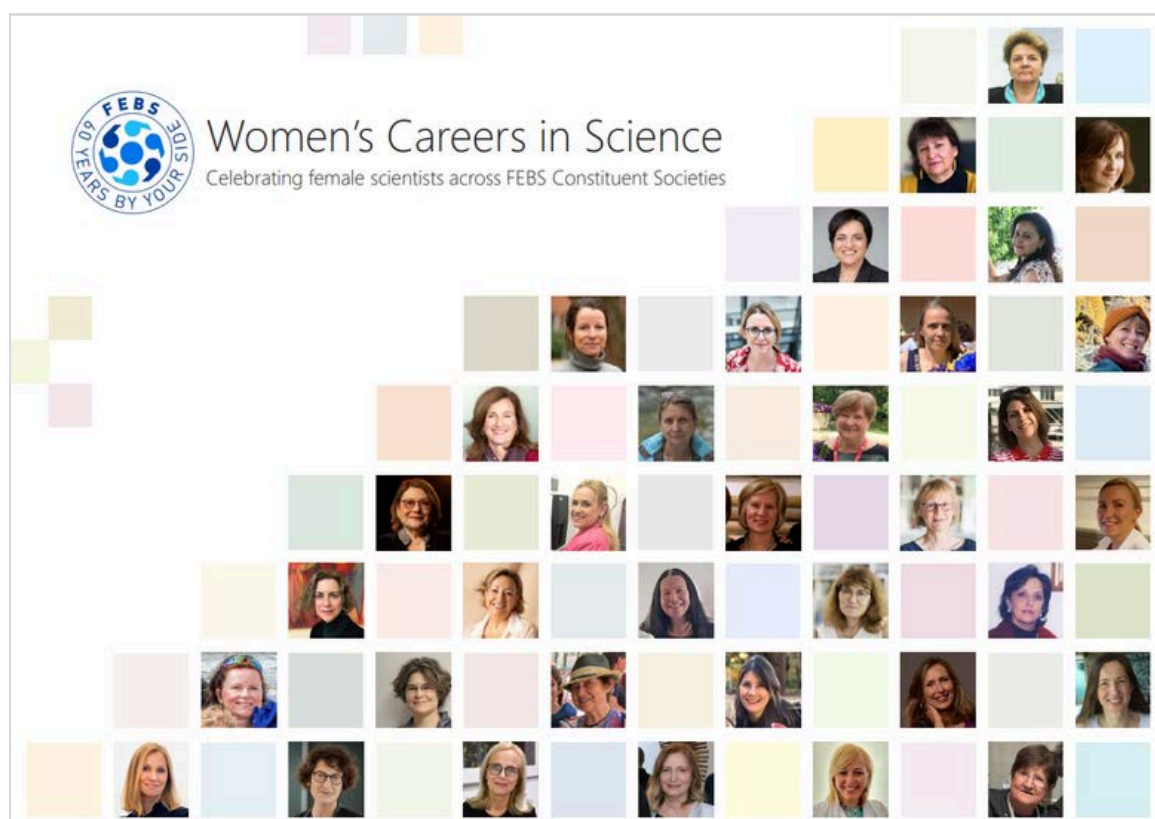
The resulting Women's Careers in Science eBook presents 35 inspiring accounts of professional journeys across different countries and disciplines, aiming to inspire the next generation of female scientists. Each story offers a unique perspective on perseverance, mentorship, and dedication within the scientific world.



WiS activities in this issue

Be aware that some of the initiatives highlighted here took place at the end of 2024 as part of the FEBS 60th anniversary celebrations, and are featured in this 2025 issue to ensure their achievements are properly shared and acknowledged. Together, they reflect FEBS's ongoing commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in science.

The Women's Careers in Science eBook was developed jointly by the FEBS Careers of Young Scientists Committee and the FEBS Working Group on Women in Science and is available on the FEBS website.



*35 stories.
1 shared
mission:
**empowering
women in
science***

Women in Science webinars: equality and beyond

Building on the success of the eBook, two online **Women in Science webinars** were held on **18 and 19 December 2024**, offering participants the opportunity to hear first-hand experiences from women scientists nominated by their national societies.

Each session featured speakers discussing their scientific journeys, inspirations, and challenges, from building self-confidence to navigating leadership, mentorship, and inclusivity. The events were chaired by **Profs. Caroline Dean, Irene Díaz-Moreno, and Jerka Dumić**, and supported by the **FEBS Junior Section**.

Through these conversations, participants explored how fostering inclusion and equal opportunities benefits not only individual careers but also strengthens the entire scientific ecosystem.



FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award 2025



The **FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award 2025** was presented to **Asifa Akhtar** for her groundbreaking research on chromosome-wide gene regulation and her strong advocacy for gender equality in science. Dr. Akhtar is **Vice President of the Max Planck Society's Biology and Medicine Section** and **Director at the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics** in Freiburg, Germany. Her work has revealed fundamental principles of epigenetic regulation and contributed to a deeper understanding of transcriptional control in cells.

The award was formally presented at the **49th FEBS Congress in Istanbul, Türkiye (5–9 July 2025)**, where she delivered the Women in Science Award Lecture.

In 2025, FEBS and EMBO also announced the **2026 Women in Science Awardee, Carola García de Vinuesa** (Francis Crick Institute, UK), who will receive the award at the **50th FEBS Congress in Maastricht in July 2026**.

Looking ahead

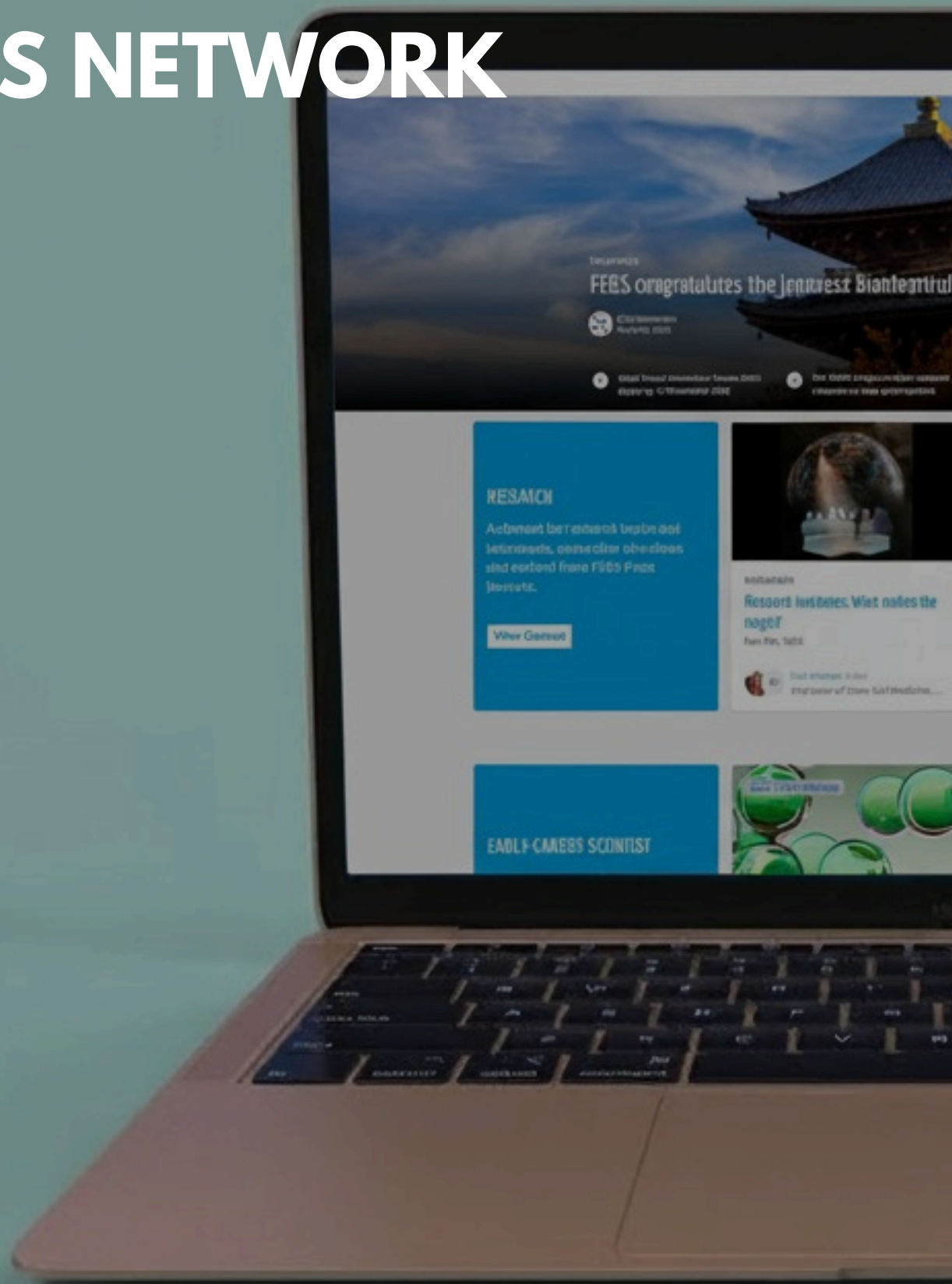
By amplifying the voices of women scientists and celebrating their achievements, FEBS continues to help shape a more diverse and inspiring scientific community for the generations to come.

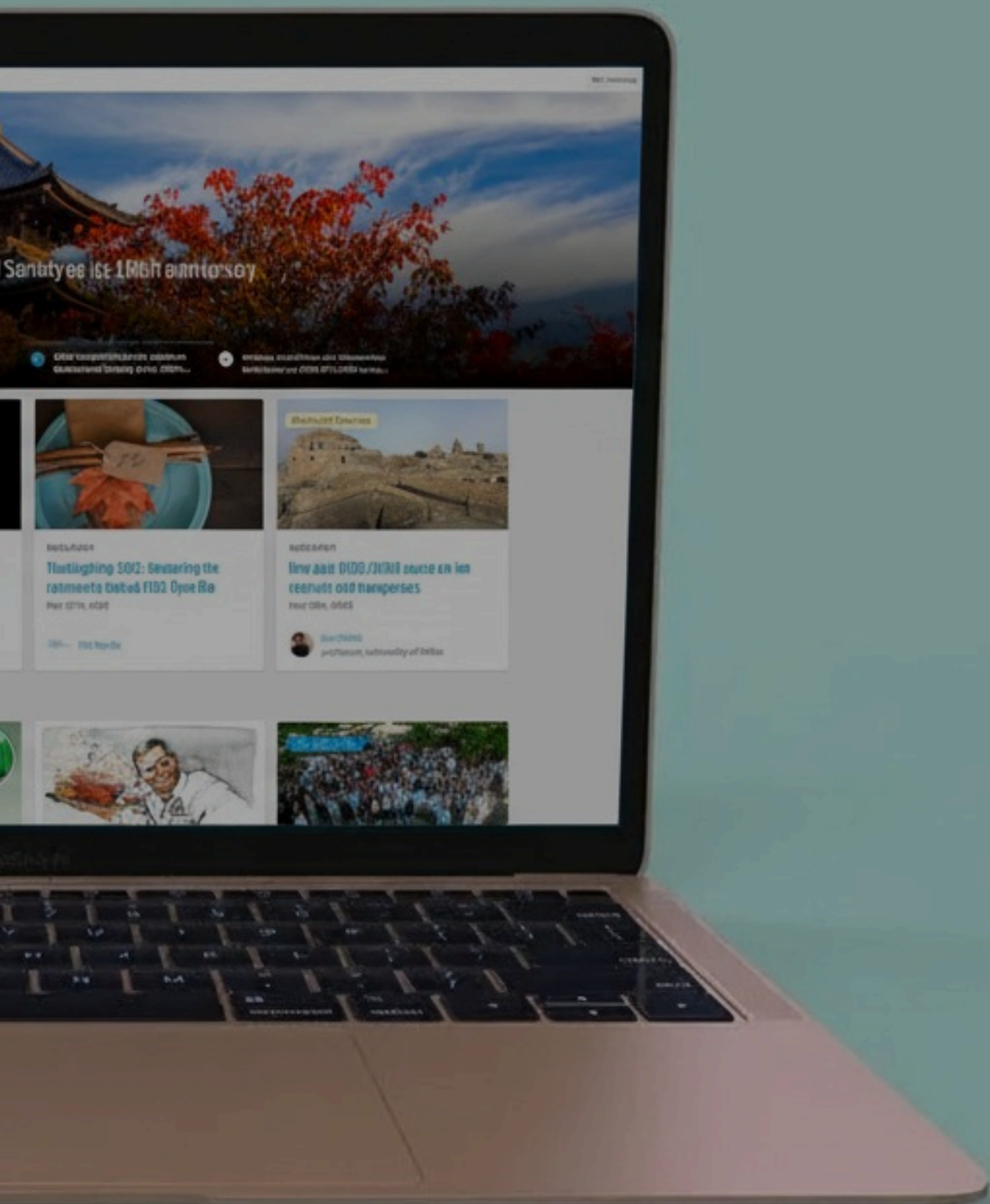


Dame Caroline Dean
Chair of the Working Group
on Women in Science

13.

FEBS NETWORK





Net: News

Santayee is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary
Sanctuary is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary
Sanctuary is 100th anniversary



Sanctuary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary
Sanctuary is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary



Sanctuary is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary
Sanctuary is 100th anniversary

Sanctuary is 100th anniversary



Sanctuary is 100th anniversary
Sanctuary is 100th anniversary



Sanctuary

FEBS NETWORK

Connecting scientists and sharing knowledge

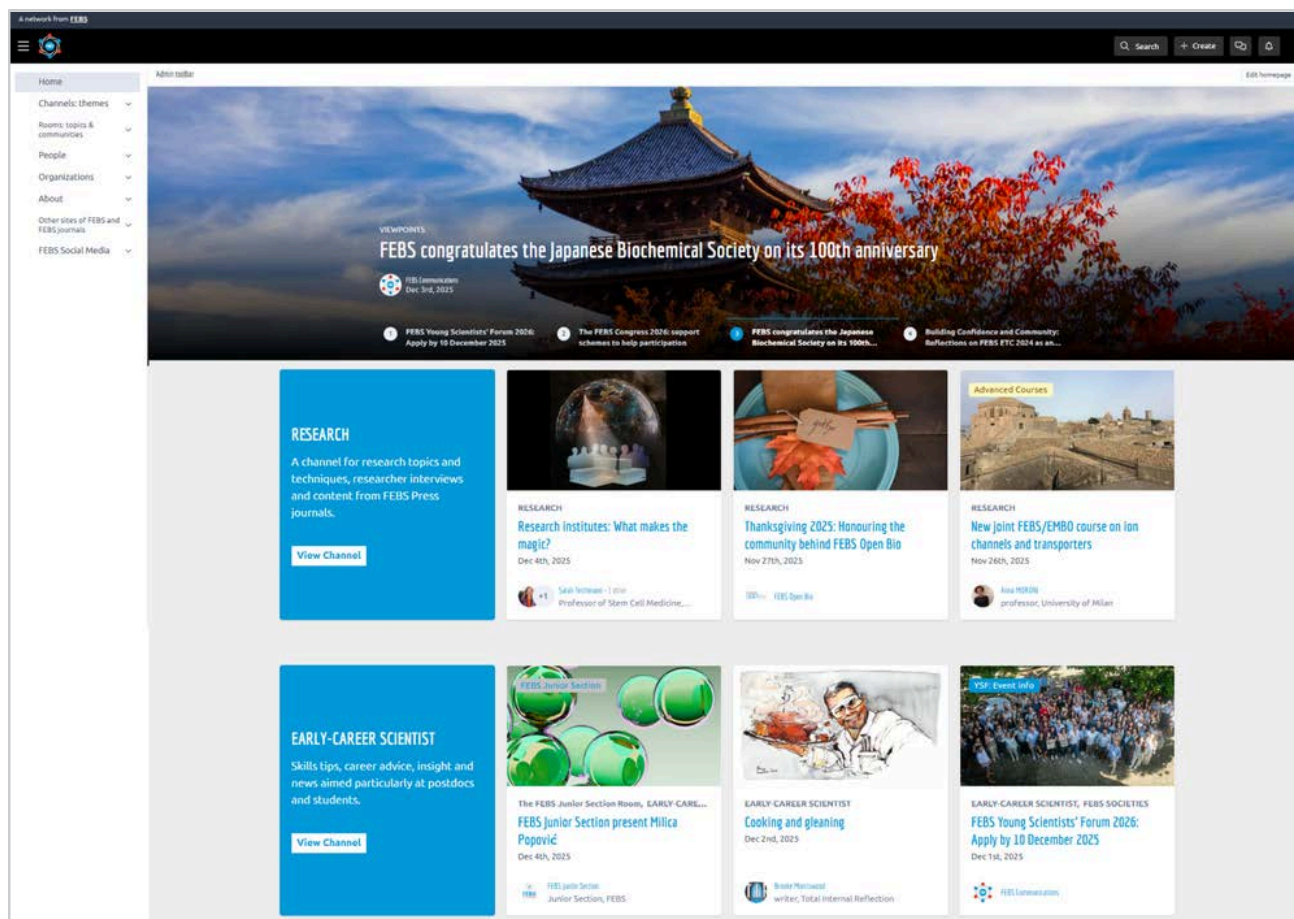
The **FEBS Network** is FEBS's online community platform, a space designed to connect scientists in the molecular life sciences, foster collaboration, and promote knowledge exchange across borders and career stages.

Through its curated channels (Research, Early-Career Scientist, Viewpoints and Educator) and a range of dedicated community rooms, the Network provides scientists with the opportunity to share advice, insights and experiences in an accessible and interactive way. Members can create their own profiles, join discussions, post content and connect directly with peers and mentors across Europe and beyond.

In addition to serving as a platform for community engagement, the FEBS Network offers registered users' free access to **The FEBS Journal** and **FEBS Letters**, making it a valuable resource for learning and scientific exchange.

Originally developed in collaboration with **Wiley** and hosted by **Zapnito**, the platform continues to grow as part of FEBS's efforts to enhance communication, knowledge sharing and collaboration among scientists in the molecular life sciences.

You can explore the platform and join the community at <https://network.febs.org/>



KEY FIGURES IN 2025

9,618

Total views

4,807

Total members

1,558

New members
this year

290

Posts
published

38

Contributors

369

Likes

38

Comments

98

Shares

Join the FEBS Network community

Register for free to join discussions, connect with peers, share your work and discover insights from researchers across Europe and beyond.

Create your profile today on FEBS Network

14.

COUNCIL MEETING ELECTIONS





FEBS COUNCIL MEETING ELECTIONS

Istanbul, Türkiye
10 July 2025

FEBS Executive Committee elections



Xavier Coumoul
Chair, Integration and
Networking Committee
(nominated by SFBBM, France)



Irene Diaz Moreno
Chair, Excellence Awards
and Fellowships Committee
(nominated by SEBBM, Spain)



Anne Ephrussi
Chair, Women in Science
Working Group
(nominated by SFBBM, France)



Graça Soveral
Congress Counsellor
(nominated by SPB, Portugal)



Rasa Žūkienė
Chair, Science and Society
Committee
(nominated by LBD,
Lithuania)



Jerka Dumić
Treasurer
(nominated by
HDBMB, Croatia)

TO START 2027

Co-opted for 2026: Riccardo Miggiano, Acting Chair, Careers of Young Scientists Committee (election to be held 2026)

New member of other FEBS committees



Annette Beck-Sickinger
Excellence Awards and Fellowships
Committee
(nominated by GBM, Germany)



Peppi Karppinen
Publications Committee
(nominated by BioBio,
Finland)



Sophie Rahuel-Clermont
Integration and
Networking Committee
(nominated by SFBBM,
France)



Mark Roberts
Science and Society
Committee
(nominated by Biochemical
Society, UK)



Pierre Santucci
Publications Committee
(nominated by SFBBM,
France)

Countries in the list of this page indicate the nominating country and FEBS Constituent Society. Unless otherwise indicated, posts start on 1st January 2026. Elected terms for Executive Committee members are for three years and for other committee members are for four years. Full current FEBS committee lists are available in the FEBS website's [About section](#).

Congress bid to host the 2028 FEBS Congress and Young Scientists Forum: UK (Biochemical Society)

We offer our sincere thanks to the committee members with terms ending 31 December 2025:

Executive Committee



Caroline Dean

Women in Science Working Group
(Biochemical Society, UK)



Irene Diaz Moreno

Chair, Careers of Young Scientists Committee
(SEBBM, Spain)



Jerka Dumić

Chair, Integration and Networking Committee
(HDBMB, Croatia)



Manolis Fragkoulis

Chair, Science and Society Committee
(HSBMB, Greece)



Alain Krol

EC Chair and Chair, Excellence Awards and Fellowships Committee
(SFBBM, France)



Piotr Laidler

Congress Counsellor
(PTBioch, Poland)

Committees



Ali Burak Özkaya

Integration and Networking Committee
(member TBS, Türkiye)



Jussi Hepojoki

Excellence Awards and Fellowships Committee
(member Biobio, Finland)



Johannes Herrmann

Publications Committee
(member GBM, Germany)



Marcin Majka

Publications Committee
(member PT Bioch, Poland)



Melita Vidaković

Science and Society Committee
(member SBS, Serbia)

Next FEBS Council meeting: the next FEBS Council meeting will take place 8-9 July 2026 in Maastricht, The Netherlands, following the 50th FEBS Congress. Further details will be sent to FEBS Constituent Societies in early 2026.

15.

UPCOMING DEADLINES



UPCOMING DEADLINES

December 2025

- FEBS Young Scientists
10 December 2025
- Supported Society
15 December 2025
- Education National
15 December 2025

January 2026

- FEBS Education Award
15 January 2026
- ETC Conference 2026
15 January 2026
- EMABE 2027 - SO
Mid-January - Late
- ProBio Africa Fellows
Mid-January - Late

February 2026

- FEBS Open Bio call
11 February 2026
- FEBS Congress 2026
13 February 2026
- FEBS Congress 2026
13 February 2026
- Israel Pecht Award
15 February 2026

March 2026

- Advanced Courses
1 March 2026
- ProBio Latin America Fellows
1 March 2026
- Education National
15 March 2026
- Supported Society
15 March 2026
- Education Training
25-29 March 2026

June 2025

 Supported Society Education Events (Jan-Jun 2026) | Application deadline 15 June 2025

 EMARLE 2026 | Early bird & travel grant period
Early-June - Early-August 2026 (expected)

 Excellence Awards | Deadline period
End of first semester (expected)

July 2025

 FEBS Young Scientists' Forum (YSF) 2026
2-4 July 2026

 FEBS Congress 2026
4-8 July 2026

September 2025

 Advanced Courses 2027 | Round 2 deadline
1 September 2026

 FEBS3+ Meetings 2027 | Application deadline
30 September 2026

October 2025

 EMARLE 2026
14-16 October 2026

 FEBS3+ Meetings 2027 | Application deadline
30 September 2026

November 2025

 YSF 2027 | Registration period
Early-November - Mid-December 2026 (expected)

 FEBS Education Award | Opening call
15 November 2026

All year

 FEBS National Lecture support
Throughout the year

-  FEBS Congress
-  Advanced Courses
-  FEBS3+ & National Meetings
-  Fellowships
-  Education and Training
-  FEBS President's Award
-  Career of Young Scientists
-  Integration and Networking

UPCOMING DEADLINES

December 2025



FEBS Young Scientists' Forum deadline

10 December 2025



Supported Society Education Events (Jan-Jun 2026) | Application deadline

15 December 2025



Education National Lectures 2026 | Call opening

15 December 2025

January 2026



FEBS Education Award | Application deadline

15 January 2026



ETC Conference 2026 | Early bird, abstracts & grant deadline

15 January 2026



ENABLE 2027 - SOC nominations

Mid-January – Late-February 2026 (expected)



ProBio Africa Fellowships | Application period start

Mid-January – Late-February 2026 (expected)

February 2026



FEBS Open Bio call for papers for Host-Pathogen interaction

11 February 2026



FEBS Congress 2026 | Main abstract submission deadline

13 February 2026



FEBS Congress 2026 | FEBS bursary & FEBS Sprinzl scheme deadlines

13 February 2026



Israel Pecht Award

15 February 2026

March 2026



Advanced Courses 2027 | Round 1 application deadline

1 March 2026



ProBio LatAm Fellowships | Application period start

1 March 2026



Education National Lectures 2026 | Application deadline

15 March 2026



Supported Society Education Events (Jun-Dec 2026) | Call opening

15 March 2026



Education Training Conference 2026

25–29 March 2026

June 2025

**Supported Society Education Events (Jan-Jun 2026) | Application deadline**

15 June 2025

**ENABLE 2026 | Early bird & travel grant period**

Early-June – Early-August 2026 (expected)

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End of first semester (expected)

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All year

**FEBS National Lecture support**

Throughout the year

**FEBS Congress****Advanced Courses****FEBS3+ & National Lectures****Fellowships****Education and Training****FEBS Press****Career of Young Scientists'****Integration and Networking**

