

REPORT

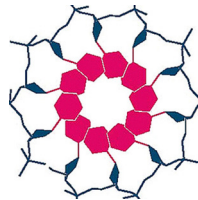
XXVIITH BIOCHEMISTRY CONGRESS

FEBS3+ MEETING

Slovak – Czech – Ukrainian – Hungarian FEBS3+ Meeting
‘50 years of recombinant DNA - Past, Present, Future’

10–13 September 2023
High Tatras, Slovakia

ORGANIZERS



SPONSORS



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REPORT FROM CONGRESS: XXVIITH BIOCHEMISTRY CONGRESS – FEBS3+ MEETING 2023 SLOVAKIA

**Slovak – Czech – Ukrainian – Hungarian FEBS3+ Meeting
'50 years of recombinant DNA - Past, Present, Future'
10–13 September 2023
High Tatras, Slovakia**

XXVIIth Biochemistry Congress as a FEBS3+ meeting was organized by the Slovak Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB) in close cooperation with the Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ČSBMB) and with the organizational participation of the Ukrainian Biochemical Society (UBS) and the Hungarian Biochemical Society (HBS). Excellent scientists from Europe were invited. The scientific sections of the congress were held in English and their thematic structure reflected the latest trends in biochemistry and molecular biology research. Website is here : <https://ssbmb2023.sk>

The programme of the meeting was intended to provide an opportunity for both junior and senior scientists to stimulate discussions in a broad spectrum of topics including molecular basis of disease and therapy, biochemistry and molecular biology of viruses, bacteria and protozoa, recombinant protein production, and regulation of gene expression. Attention was also paid to the recent status, development, and future research trends in bio- and nanotechnologies. A reduced fee was offered for Ph.D. students to support the participation of young scientists. The young scientists were also invited to participate in „The Young Scientist Award“ competition for the best oral and poster presentation.

The FEBS3+ programme aims to increase international collaboration between molecular life scientists in a subset of countries within the FEBS area, such as those in a particular region or linked in other ways, while also encouraging sharing of Society expertise and efforts. FEBS provides a grant of €10,000 towards event organization and a further €10,000 for travel awards for early-career scientists from the collaborating Societies travelling from outside the host country.

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

FEBS3+ conference of Slovak, Czech, Ukrainian and Hungarian Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology was held on **September 10th-13th, 2023** in the amazing environment of the **High Tatras in Slovakia**. The congress bears the motto: „**50 years of recombinant DNA - Past, Present, Future**“ to commemorate the anniversary of the creation of the **First Recombinant DNA**. This newly born technology has become one the basic approach in various research areas such as healthcare, agriculture, industry, energy. The advent of recombinant DNA technology revolutionized the development and research of life sciences and led to a series of dramatic changes. A lot has happened since its discovery, and it offered us new opportunities for innovation and was able to prepare many new molecules with the therapeutic effect of DNA.

The participants of the congress were welcomed at the Grand Hotel Bellevue in the heart of the High Tatras in Horný Smokovec. Nature of High Tatras offers unusually clean air, mountain climate, wonderful fauna and flora. You will find glacial ponds, many beautiful hiking trails, many beautiful waterfalls, or the Belianska cave, the only accessible cave in the High Tatras. Thanks to this, the High Tatras received the prestigious award as the most important European destination of 2019, which they received from Lonely Planet.

THE MEETING IN NUMBERS

Three plenary lectures, 66 regular session lectures, 93 posters, 227 participants including 51 PhD students, 15 exhibitors, 3 awards for the best poster, 4 awards from Elsevier, and 4 awards from exhibitors (Sipoch, Biotech, Genetica, IAB). The congress participants were from the following countries: Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Denmark, United States of America, Romania, United Kingdom. And about 800 meals and 2000 cups of coffee consumed!



INVITED SPEAKERS

Andrea Fleig Associate Director of Biomedical Research at The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu County, Hawaii, United States of America

Jorg R. Aschenbach Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Ralph Einspanier Institut für Veterinär-Biochemie des Fachbereiches Veterinärmedizin der Freien Universität Berlin, Germany

Ulrike Stein Experimental and Clinical Research Center, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin and. Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Germany

Marshall E. Bloom Associate Director for Science Management, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, and the Chief of the Biology of Vector-Borne Viruses Section, United States of America

Vladimír Beneš Head of Genomics Core Facility, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Heidelberg, Germany

Václav Pačes Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Laboratory of Genomics and Bioinformatics, Praha, Czech Republic

Christos Chinopoulos Associate Professor, Department of Medical Biochemistry Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest, Hungary

Bálint Nagy University of Debrecen, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Human Genetics, Debrecen, Hungary



WHY FEBS3+?

The meetings of biochemists and molecular biologists from Slovakia and Czechia have been regularly held biannually (with the exception of recent pandemic years). The idea to organize the last meeting in FEBS3+ format arose from the idea of broadening the scope of the conference to neighbouring countries (Hungary and Ukraine) and allow even wider presentation, networking and collaboration opportunities for the attendees. The awarded travel grants increased interest of young researchers from these countries and contributed to increase in numbers of PhD student participation.

EXAMPLES OF HOW TO COLLABORATE FOR SYNERGY

The idea of organizing a FEBS3+ event was a long time coming and discussed for several years prior to event itself. The experience in collaboration between Slovak and Czech biochemical societies allowed smooth inclusion of other regional biochemical societies and allowed a successful event to be organized in relatively short time frame.

SPEAKER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS?

The highlights of the programme were surely plenary lectures by **Andrea Fleig** (Biomedical Research at The Queen's Medical Center Honolulu County, Hawaii, USA) on Cannabinoid research and **Marshall Bloom** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA) on tick born diseases and **Ulrike Stein** (Experimental and Clinical Research Center, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Germany) on oncology research along with young scientists **Martin Toul** (Loschmidt Laboratories, Dept. of Exp. Biology, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno) on rational design of enzymes and **Ľubica Kormanová** (Dept. of Molecular biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava) on novel recombinant protein production host.





HOT TOPICS?

The advances in Next-generation sequencing technologies were one of the hottest topics of the event and were one of the most crowded section in terms of both – speakers and attendance. Recombinant protein production raised a similar interest along with traditional subjects of cancer research.

ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Young researchers had very strong representation throughout topics and sections and presented their research alongside to experienced scientists from all participating countries.

BEYOND THE SCIENCE?

The event was rich in non-formal activities – a welcome drink was organized along with gala dinner and a wine tasting event. The location of the conference in High Tatras along with great weather offered exceptional possibilities for hiking or other activities in this beautiful mountain area. The venue itself offered great wellness and relaxation options.

OFF PISTE ACTIVITIES?

A traditional lunch for selected members and leaderships of involved biochemical societies was organized on the penultimate day of the conference which offered the space for discussion of future event organization, collaboration proposals and even stronger involvement of young researchers in the agenda of their respective society.

FAVOURITE MEETING MOMENT

Although not related to science, everyone's favourite moment was the time attendees wanted to use one of many wellness options of the venue and had to pass registration desk and the main conference lobby in nothing but their bathrobe and a blushed face.

WHAT I LEARNED AS AN EVENT ORGANIZER

One of the most important lessons in organizing an event like this was the one on trying to accommodate everyone's wishes which simply is not possible but we tried our best and hopefully the smiles on the faces of attendees mean the effort was not in vain.

THANKS

To **FEBS**, to **CVTI SR**, **Biochemical societies of Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary and Ukraine** and all of lovely **sponsors** of the event, without whom it would not be possible: **ABL&E-JASCO Hungary**, **Beckman Coulter Česká republika**, **BIOTECH**, **DYNEX Servis**, **Elsevier**, **Generi Biotech**, **GeneTiCA**, **Lambda Life**, **Merck Life Science**, **MGP**, **Eppendorf**, **ProScience Tech**, **Sipoch**, **Specion**, **TRIGON PLUS**.

Ján Turňa

President, Slovak Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Gabriela Gavurníková & Zdenko Levarski

Organizing Committee









**XXVIIth Biochemistry Congress Slovak and Czech
Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
with cooperation of Hungarian and Ukrainian
biochemical Societies**



SSBMB-FEBS 3+ Grants

Awardees

Adam Paulin Urminsky (CZ)

Alice Šárková (CZ)

Eszter Holub (HU)

Filip Melicher (CZ)

Hailemariam Amsalu Demlew (HU)

Ivana Kaňovská (CZ)

Karolína Černovská (CZ)

Kristýna Závacká (CZ)

Ľubomíra Chmelová (CZ)

Marek Korsák (CZ)

Martin Toul (CZ)

Michaela Mikysková (CZ)

Paweł Mijewski (PL)

Sabina Adamová (CZ)

Tereza Buráňová (CZ)

Tereza Turnovská (CZ)

Zuzana Kalaninova (CZ)

Yevheniy Yuliy Peresh (UA)

Daria Kornieieva (UA)

2023
SEP.10.-13.

Have been collectively awarded 10 000 EUR in the form of travel grants
sponsored by FEBS

at the XXVIIth Biochemistry Congress of Slovak and Czech Societies for
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with cooperation of Hungarian and
Ukrainian biochemical Societies.

High Tatras, Hotel Grand Bellevue, Slovakia

September 10th – 13th 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Turňa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. RNDr. Jan Turňa, CsC

Congress chair and President of SSBMB

In High Tatras, Horný Smokovec, Grand Hotel Bellevue



