Biological crystallization: from the classroom to the bench

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Growing crystals is a fascinating and visual process. It is also an excellent way to discover the scientific process and to grasp the challenges of modern biology. In 2014 in the frame of the international year of crystallography, we used simple crystallization experiments to raise interest in major advances in crystallography and structural biology among members of the general public and particularly secondary school students. Activities were undertaken in a variety of contexts: through participation in the national science festival, crystallization contests, exhibitions, talks at schools, interactive webcasts and participation in our university's science outreach program.

This enriching experience could be easily implemented by any laboratory or university. This presentation will illustrate our approach and the educational materials we have developed.