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FEBS Advanced Course „Advanced methods in macromolecular crystallization“

October 2-9, 2004,
Institute of Physical Biology University of South Bohemia
České Budejovice, Czech Republic

We are glad to inform you about the FEBS Advanced Course „Advanced methods in macromolecular crystallization“ held in the Academic and University Center (AUC) at Nove Hradý during the first week of October (2 - 9. 10. 2004).

In order to achieve its high level, qualified crystallographers such as Prof. Jan Drenth from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (The Netherlands), Prof. Richard Giegé from Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire du CNRS-Lab. de Bioch., Strasbourg (France), Prof. Rolf Hilgenfeld and Dr. Jeroen Mesters from University of Luebeck (Germany), Dr. Terese Berfors from Upsalla University (Sweden), Prof. Juan Manuel Garcia-Ruiz from Laboratorio de Estudios Cristalografico (LEC) Edificio BIC-Granada (Spain), and others, were invited to give the lectures as well as organize practical exercises for seven Czech and twelve foreign undergraduate and postgraduate students. The FEBS AC was sponsored by the Federation of European Biochemical Societies first of all; companies

as Jena Bioscience GmbH, Jena, Germany, Olympus C&S spol. s r.o., MERCK spol. s r.o. and Pradolab s.r.o., all from Prague, Czech Republic, have given crystallization kits and items for practical exercises.

During morning lectures students were acquainted with standard as well as advanced methods of protein isolation, purification and crystallization. Freshly obtained knowledge was trained during afternoon practical exercises, which took place in the Laboratory of Crystallogenesis. Using different crystallization methods such as hanging drop and sitting drop vapor diffusion methods, crystallization in a gel, etc., students grew their own crystals of the own or/and model protein lysozyme. They also learnt the ways of crystal seeding and freezing as well as how to work with commercially available solution sets and how and why to use dynamic light scattering.

We are glad to state that the organization committee also managed to secure a quality program for free time of all participants (organ concert in Monastery of saint Peter and Pavel of Nove Hradý, visit of Cesky Krumlov called also “small” Prague and old castle at Nove Hradý).

Considering the answers participants gave away in questionnaire before leaving, we are delighted to call the FEBS Advanced Course „Advanced Methods in Macromolecular Crystallization“ successful and very fruitful. We are looking forward to similar activities scheduled for year 2006.

For more information see <http://www.img.cas.cz/igm/cc>.

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FEBS AC organization committee.

