

Happy Birthday FEBS

Helen Davies (Head of Membership and Awards) and **Nicola Gray** (Honorary Membership Secretary, Biochemical Society)

The Biochemical Society was one of the founding members of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS). Being a member of the Biochemical Society automatically makes you an individual member of FEBS which brings with it additional valuable benefits, some of which are outlined below.

This year we are proud, as one of the founding members, to be celebrating 50 years since the formation of FEBS in 1964. The molecular life science landscape has changed dramatically over the last 50 years, and some of the highlights are discussed in the special feature from members of our Executive Committee on the following pages.

In celebration of this milestone anniversary, the Biochemical Society has organized a programme of activities throughout 2014. Together with FEBS, we are organizing the Presidential Address for the Biology Section at the British Science Festival in September 2014. The topic will be epigenetics and the session will be given by author Nessa Carey and Bryan Turner (University of Birmingham, UK). Two joint meetings have also been organized. The first was a successful joint Focused Meeting in May entitled 'Membrane Morphology and Function', held in Italy, and in September, a second joint meeting, 'Single Biomolecules: *in silico*, *in vitro* and *in vivo*', will be held at the University of Hertfordshire.

In addition, we have set aside a generous portion of our Travel Fund to fully support the attendance of five postgraduate members at the FEBS Congress and preceding Young Scientists' Forum in Paris in September. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for these young members to network among the emerging next generation of top European scientists. You will be able to read about their experiences of the meetings in a future issue of *The Biochemist*. Finally, we have compiled a Themed Collection of the 50

top papers in our own journals from scientists in FEBS member countries. Take a look at www.portlandpress.com/pp/collections/FEBS_collection.htm.

Since its formation, FEBS, like the Biochemical Society, has had a strong emphasis on promoting the training of young postgraduate and postdoctoral scientists. Therefore scientists at an early career stage who are members of the Constituent Societies of FEBS are eligible to apply for both Short-Term Fellowships and Long-Term Fellowships (up to 3 years) to allow early career members (up to 6 years postdoc) to work in a laboratory in another FEBS country.

Furthermore, early career stage scientists of the Constituent Societies can also apply for Youth Travel Fund grants, to support registration, accommodation and travel costs for attendance at most FEBS Advanced Courses, and awards to support attendance at the Young Scientists' Forum and annual FEBS Congress.

Further detailed information about FEBS Fellowships and all of the other FEBS activities and benefits can be found on the FEBS website (www.febs.org), and Biochemical Society members wishing to apply for a FEBS Fellowship should email membership@biochemistry.org to request a letter of proof of their membership.

Fifty years of FEBS is a milestone worth celebrating, and we look forward to another 50 years of effective collaboration. ■

The FEBS-EMBO 2014 Conference, hosted by the French Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, will be held in Paris from 30 August to 4 September 2014. Full details of the programme can be viewed at www.febs-embo2014.org. If you are attending, please come and see Helen and Rowena at stand #1 in the exhibition hall.

