



ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine

**with support from the
Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca,
Departament d'Innovació, Universitats i Empresa,
Generalitat de Catalunya**

within the framework of the
ESF Research Conferences Scheme

The **ESF Research Conferences Scheme** provides the opportunity for leading scientists and younger researchers to meet for discussions on the most recent developments in their fields of research. It acts as a catalyst for creating new synergistic contacts throughout Europe and the rest of the world. It develops principally through the establishment of long-term partnerships between the ESF and national and international organisations, including universities. **ESF Research Conferences** are open to scientists world-wide, whether from academia or industry. Conferences may be single events, or series, usually with a biennial meeting focusing on specific aspects of the same general topic. They generally last for four or five days and up to 150 participants and invited speakers may attend. Chairs select participants from applications received as a result of publicising the Conferences. A conference fee is charged to participants.

Conference Guidelines

European Science Foundation

<http://www.esf.org>

The **European Science Foundation (ESF)**, with its headquarters located in Strasbourg, France, provides a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to advance European research and to explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

Universitat de Barcelona

<http://www.ub.edu/homeub/en/welcome.html>

The **Universitat de Barcelona (UB)** is the oldest and largest of the six universities in Barcelona, and of the ten in Catalonia. It has 76000 students --more than half of the total student population of Catalonia-- and is the second largest, in terms of numbers of students, in Spain. The university is particularly interested in fostering international relations, and for many years has been the leader among European universities in numbers of student exchanges organised as part of the Erasmus programme. Since 1995, the UB has implemented a quality programme aiming fundamentally to design mid- and long-term strategies in order to evaluate and improve teaching and research in public higher education.

The **Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca, Departament d'Innovació, Universitats i Empresa, Generalitat de Catalunya** is promoting, together with other Government Departments and institutions, the Catalan Bioregion, an initiative that intends to coordinate the activity of scientists in clinical and basic research in the universities, research centres and companies that work in the area of biomedicine and biotechnology. In addition, the Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca wishes to promote international cooperation in these areas of biomedicine and biotechnology as reflected by the fact that it has recently become part of the network "EuroBioCluster", to stimulate competitiveness and European construction.

ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) with support from the Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca have agreed to co-sponsor a series of Scientific Conferences, within the framework of the ESF Research Conferences Scheme. The Series will be known as '**ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine**', and will be at the highest scientific level with respect to topics and choice of participants. The Conferences will bring together participants and experts in the **Biomedical Sciences** to discuss topics that are of major importance to the scientific community in Europe.

Topics

The topics should be at the forefront of scientific research and may be interdisciplinary when appropriate. ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine will concentrate on topics in the **Biomedical Sciences**.

The conferences will be organised as **self-perpetuating series**, with the Chair/Co-Chairs of the next conference in the series being elected during each event. Each conference will include a "**Business Meeting**" in the programme for the election of the next Chair/Co-Chairs. An agenda for this "Business Meeting" will be provided by ESF and a short summary of the conclusions should be included with the post-conference Scientific Report.

The generic titles/topics for each conference series will be selected by mutual agreement between the partner organisations. Each event in the conference series may have a subtitle corresponding to the specific focus of the event in the series.

Venue and Date

A limited number of venues, each linked to a certain scientific disciplinary area, is being established in order to create a clear 'brand-name' for ESF Research Conferences, and a predictable relation for the scientific community. ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine will take place at Hotel Eden Roc, **Sant Feliu de Guixols, Catalonia, Spain**. The maximum capacity at this venue is **160 participants**. The typical duration of a Conference is 5 board and lodging days, however, the minimum duration is 4 days and the maximum 6. Participants will normally arrive on a Saturday afternoon, and depart on Thursday after breakfast. When submitting a Proposal for a Conference, the desired **month** and **the year** should be indicated as a minimum.

Scientific Programme

The Chair (or the Co-chairpersons) will be responsible for developing the **scientific programme** for the Conference, and a small Organising Committee may assist him/her.

Profile and Format of the Conferences

The core activities of the Conferences will be based on **lectures by invited scientists**, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by **extensive discussion periods** e.g. 30-minute lecture followed by an extended discussion period. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room will be encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable will be limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. In addition to the 5-6 hours per day of lecture room activities, poster sessions, round-table discussions or discussion groups will be organised. Either one afternoon or extended lunch periods will be usually kept free of lectures in order to allow time for free time activities.

One evening should be reserved for a '**Forward Look Plenary Discussion**' about future developments in the field. The format of this discussion can be provided by ESF ¹. A '**Business Meeting**' should also be planned during which the Chairs/Co-Chairs of the next event in the series will be elected.

In order to encourage speakers to present their latest results and ideas, which may not yet be fully explored and ripe for publication, no written papers will be requested. The publication, as proceedings, of selected papers prepared after the Conferences may be approved by the Chair, subject to the agreement of the speakers concerned.

Participants will take all their meals together to encourage further contact and networking, which will be particularly beneficial to **younger researchers** who may be less outspoken in the more formal lecture room setting. In order to gain optimum benefit from the Conference, both the speakers and the participants are expected to stay for the whole duration.

Poster Sessions

Poster sessions will be a very important feature of this series of conferences. Ideally, the venue for the poster session will be located close to the main meeting room and will be large and light enough to host such an event. Moreover, a **social event** may be incorporated into the meeting. The following factors should also be considered:

- each participant should give a one-slide presentation about the contents of his/her poster contribution at the beginning of the scheduled poster discussion sessions;
- sufficient time should be allowed for posters to be viewed, ideally throughout the entire meeting.

(2) Organisation

In order to encourage leading scientists within Europe to chair ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine, only the **scientific** aspects of the meeting organisation (including any decisions on financial support for invited speakers and other participants) will be undertaken by the Chair (or Co-chairpersons) and the Organising Committee. However, it is recommended that Chairs seek **additional sponsorship** from other sources, and they should advise ESF which organisation(s) they intend to approach. All other organisational tasks and logistics will be the responsibility of the ESF Conferences Unit, working in close co-operation with the venue, and an ESF Conference Officer will be assigned to each Conference. His/her tasks will include coordinating the administrative arrangements at the venue, publicising the Conference, financial and budgetary matters, the processing of applications, communicating with participants and speakers, making payments and collecting fees. The ESF Conferences Unit is well equipped to manage the organisation of the Conferences in a standardised, streamlined manner, in close co-operation with the Chairs.

Grant

The Grant available for the Conference will normally be used to meet the expenses of the invited speakers and selected young scientists. Travel should be by rail or by economy air. Experience shows that it is often possible for speakers to obtain some of their travel costs from other sources, if the sponsor offers partial support. The co-sponsors will provide a grant of **EUR 40'000** per Conference on an equal-share basis. It is expected that participants (other than the speakers and selected young scientists) will pay their own travel and subsistence costs, and the registration fee. An additional grant will be awarded from the co-sponsorship contributed by the Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca, Departament d'Innovació, Universitats i Empresa, Generalitat de Catalunya.

Management of the Grant

The ESF Research Conferences Unit, in close consultation with UB and the Chair, will manage the Grant. ESF will be responsible for all payments.

Registration Fee

A **registration fee**, in the order of EUR 250-300 will be levied, in order to cover the costs of organising and administering the Conference. This levy will be in addition to the subsistence costs. The Conference fees (subsistence + registration) will be all-inclusive i.e. full board and lodging, meeting facilities for the duration of the

¹ (The ESF Forward Look is a new instrument, which will enable Europe's scientific community to develop medium to long term views and analyses of future research developments in multidisciplinary topics, and interact with the policy makers from ESF Member Organisations. The aim is to bring together scientific foresight and national and European planning for research funding. See <http://www.esf.org/flooks>).

meeting, a social programme, and group bus transfers. All fees will be paid to ESF, and an online fee payment facility will be available.

Additional Sponsorship

The Conference will be advertised as "ESF-UB Conference in Biomedicine on....". Additional sponsorship may be acknowledged in publicity material in terms such as "With major support from..." or "With additional sponsoring from...". If an external sponsor wishes to have its logo included in advertising material, the Chairs should advise ESF accordingly. ESF and UB do not usually favour co-sponsorship that requires proceedings to be published. There should be no confidential information. Eventual IPR or copyrights are the property of all participants contributing financially or intellectually to the Conference.

Publicity

ESF will publicise the Conference through its **web site**. ESF will be responsible for the publicity of each Conference, and for disseminating information to potential applicants.

The identity of a Conference will be promoted through a standardised, graphical presentation of all its documents, which will include the logos of ESF and UB. The Conference will be advertised to **appropriate individuals and laboratories**, to **ESF Member Organisations** and to a **network of scientists**. Whenever possible, individual advertisements and calendar entries will also be placed free-of-charge in the scientific press, and in other appropriate journals and newsletters, according to the associated science disciplines.

In addition, it is very important that Chairs provide a **comprehensive emailing list** for circulation of an advertisement. (Important: this list of email addresses must be in the form of either a Word or an Excel document with all addresses listed in **one** column only and with a single address **per** row).

As soon as it is agreed to go ahead with the Conference, Chairs will be expected to email the ESF Research Conferences Unit with the following documents in order to advertise the event:

- the **preliminary scientific programme**, including a paragraph about the scope of the Conference, the list of topics to be covered, the list of confirmed invited speakers with their affiliations and the titles of their lectures;
- the full address and email list of the **invited speakers**;
- a **comprehensive, geographically-balanced email list** of all potentially interested scientists;
- a **list of scientific journals** or reviews and their websites for publicity and free inserts in calendars of events.

Applications to Attend the Conference and Deadlines for Application

An online **application facility** is available via the ESF Research Conferences website (<http://www.esf.org/conferences>). The deadline for applications is to be no later than 3 months before the event. The ESF Research Conferences Unit will process all applications and email them to the Chair for decision, together with each applicant's one-page abstract and list of publications.

Participation

Chairs will select participants from applications received as a result of ESF publicising the Conferences. The basic criteria for accepting participants will be their scientific merit and their scientific needs. Participants, including speakers, may be accepted from any country, although there should normally be a high proportion of Europeans. Without compromising scientific standards, organisers should aim for a wide geographical representation of scientists, with a recommended ratio of **about two-thirds European participation to one-third non-European**. Special attention should also be paid to the involvement of **younger applicants** and those from **developing countries**, and over-representation of scientists from the host country should be avoided. Moreover, the gender balance should be taken into consideration. ESF Research Conferences are expected to large conferences of up to 150 participants. The attendance should generally be at least 80 participants.

Final Selection, Programmes & Invitations

The Chair should decide on the participation within **3 weeks** of receiving the applications. At this stage he/she should finalise the scientific programme and email it to ESF, together with the list of participants and the allocation of financial support. A formal invitation will be sent by post to each invited speaker and participant. The Final

Programme and Practical Information Guide will be emailed to them, as well as the invitation, and will also be available on the ESF Research Conferences website.

Book of Abstracts

If the Conference Chair wishes to have the lecture abstracts and/or (extended) abstracts for posters assembled into a **Book of Abstracts**, this should be undertaken independently of ESF. The ESF Office regrets that it cannot be involved in arranging for the production of this booklet and suggests that this task could be delegated to a young collaborator who could be offered a grant to cover his/her attendance at the conference.

On-site Administrative Arrangements

The ESF Conferences Unit will finalise all on-site administrative arrangements with the hotel. A **Conference Officer** from ESF will be present for the duration of the Conference to take care of registration, any travel payments and to oversee the local administrative organisation. Owing to the size of the events, Chairs are encouraged to provide an **assistant or young researcher** to be responsible for the organisation of the poster sessions and/or other on-site scientific aspects and to help at the registration desk as required.

Questionnaires

Participants will be required to complete a **questionnaire** on various aspects of the Conference. The completed questionnaires should be returned to the on-site secretariat during the event.

Report on the Conference

The Chair is expected to write a **conference report**, as it is a condition of sponsorship that a scientific report be submitted after every Conference. The **conference report** should have the following format:

1. An **introduction** (up to two pages) on the topic in non-specialist terms (especially for highly technical subjects);
2. **Scientific content** of the conference:
 - a. a summary of the conference sessions focusing on the scientific highlights
 - b. an assessment of the results and their potential impact on future research or applications
3. **'Forward Look'²Plenary Discussion'**:
 - a. State-of-the-art in the field;
 - b. Emerging topics;
 - c. Visions for the future of the research field – identification of issues in the 5-10 years+ timeframe;
 - d. Is there a need for a foresight-type initiative?
4. The **reaction of the participants** to the location and the organisation, including networking, and any other relevant comments.

The reports should be sent to ESF **no later than six weeks** after the end of the Conference. The reports will be forwarded to the appropriate ESF Standing Committees and Expert Committees for information and consideration in their science policy discussions and also to ESF's Partners in the ESF Research Conferences Scheme. The **Introduction** may be posted on a **'Conference Highlights'** page within the ESF Research Conferences website (subject to the explicit authorisation of the Author).

Enquiries Further Information

For all enquiries and/or for further information concerning the Conference, please contact conferences@esf.org.
(June 2007)

² See <http://www.esf.org/flooks>