

The Forward Look **RNA World: a new frontier in biomedical research** aims to integrate several RNA research areas, not only within eukaryotic but also prokaryotic RNA research. Through a series of three thematic workshops and a consensus conference this foresight activity endeavours to investigate the *status quo* of the field, to determine European strengths and weaknesses and to establish a 5-10 year outlook. Workshops and the conference are considered stepping stones towards a planned report that is designed to give advice to research funding and research performing institutions.

The consensus conference in Granada is by invitation only and will involve contributions and discussions about the future of RNA research among scientists from academia and industry as well as policy makers, representatives of national funding institutions and the European Commission. Recommendations on how to strengthen RNA research in Europe which resulted from the three thematic workshops entitled: *Methodologies for RNA Discovery*; *RNA Interaction Partners*; and *RNA Therapeutics* will be discussed and challenged.

Foresight studies, referred to as ESF Forward Looks, represent the flagship activity within ESF's strategic portfolio. Forward Looks enable Europe's scientific community, in interaction with policy makers, to develop medium to long-term views and analyses of future research developments with the aim of defining research agendas at the national and European level. Forward Looks are driven by ESF's Member Organisations and by the European research community.



The court of the lions – Alhambra Palace

FORWARD LOOK

Consensus Conference

RNA World: a new frontier in biomedical research

22-23 February 2009

Instituto de Parasitología y Biomedicina "López-Neyra"
CSIC, Granada, • Spain



Qal'at al-Hambra", "the red fortress" - Alhambra at night

Chairs:

Lars Thelander (Chair), Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Umea University, Umea, SE

Jörg Vogel (Co-chair), Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, DE

Annick Harel-Bellan (Co-chair), Institut André Lwoff, CNRS, Villejuif, FR

Confirmed Speakers:

David Baulcombe, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

René Bernards, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, NL

Thomas H. Cech, Keynote Speaker

Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Chevy Chase, MD, USA

Reinhard Lührman, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, DE

Marja Makarow, ESF Chief Executive, Strasbourg, FR

Markus Stoffel, Institute of Molecular Systems Biology, Zürich, CH

Eric Westhof, Université Louis Pasteur, CNRS, Strasbourg, FR

Mihaela Zavolan, University of Basel, Basel, CH

Preliminary Programme:

Soon available at: www.esf.org/rnaworld

ESF Coordinator: Dr. Thomas Bruhn

Science Officer at the ESF Medical Sciences Unit (EMRC)
tbruhn@esf.org

Host: Prof. Alfredo Berzal-Herranz

Instituto de Parasitología y Biomedicina "López-Neyra",
CSIC, Granada, ES

European Science Foundation

European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

1 Quai Lezay Marnésia / BP 90015/ F-67080 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel: + 33 (0)3 88 76 71 18 | Fax: +33 (0)3 37 05 32

Email: bfacchini@esf.org | www.esf.org/rnaworld