Five decades of research have indeed revealed that the importance of endocytic trafficking extends far beyond the mere uptake of materials from the extracellular space. The paramount importance of this system is due to its ability to serve as a cellular highway that interconnects the traffic between different cellular compartments including the plasma membrane, the cytoplasmic space as well as biosynthetic and degradative compartments. The endo-lysosomal system has emerged as a central regulator of cellular activities that governs not only nutrient uptake and signal interpretation from the cell surface, but also the regulation of cellular metabolism and the capacity of a cell to communicate with its neighbours. It is therefore no surprise that dysfunctions of this system have been shown to be highly deleterious to animal development and causative of a number of human diseases. The conference presentations reflected this breadth.

Altogether, the EMBO conference on "Systems Dynamics of Endocytosis" provided a description of the current state of the art of the field and identified major challenges for the years to come. The meeting underscored the fact that a comprehensive understanding of the biology of the endo-lysosomal system spanning from the detailed mechanistic understanding of individual endocytic events to the analysis of integrated system properties in complex multi-cellular environments will require the use of interdisciplinary approaches that range from state-of-the-art cell biology and biochemistry to quantitative biophysics, theoretical modeling, systems biology and *in vivo* studies.

The participants appreciated the quality of the facilities provided in the venue. The poster sessions were vibrant and the discussions during the talks extremely intense and constructive. The lunch, dinners, excursion and party sessions created a team spirit in the field that was very celebrated by the participants. We have received many emails after the conference thanking for the quality of the speakers selected and the establishment of an atmosphere conducive to scientific interactions.