

## **Start of three new EU projects coordinated by the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB)**

The Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB) is coordinating two new projects that will start on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2005 and that are financed by the European Union (EU).

The first project is a 'Specifically Targeted Research Project (STREP)', which is entitled '**Function of small RNAs across kingdoms (FOSRAK)**'. It will study the cellular roles of ribo-regulators, which consist of various classes of short RNAs that play a hitherto unrecognised critical role in controlling gene expression at different levels in a variety of organisms across different biological kingdoms (eubacteria, protists, plants and animals).

The general objective is to advance knowledge on small RNAs, which will include microRNA (miRNA), snoRNA, and bacterial small RNA, as well as interacting protein components. Since small RNAs are implicated in developmental processes and the onset of cancer formation, the consortium plans to explore also potential applications in the prevention or cure of diseases.

The project is coordinated by Dr. Martin Tabler, principal investigator at the IMBB.

Besides the IMBB, the project includes the following European partners:

- Prof. Wolfgang Nellen, University of Kassel, Germany
- Prof. Martina Paulsen, University of Saarbrücken, Germany
- Dr. Pascale Romby, CNRS, Strasbourg, France
- Dr. Fredrik Söderbom, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
- Prof. E. Gerhart H. Wagner, Uppsala University, Sweden
- Dr. Michael Wassenegger, Centrum Grüne Gentechnik Neustadt-Mußbach, Germany
- Prof. Witold Filipowicz Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland
- Biaffin GmbH, Kassel, Germany

The financial contribution of the EU will amount to 1.442 million EURO for a period of three years.

-----

The second project is a Marie Cure training project of the European Union dedicated to "Early Stage Researchers, who are typically PhD students.

The project is entitled '**Functional analysis of miRNAs during early development (FAMED)**'

Students will receive specific theoretical and practical training on various aspects of microRNA (miRNA). Internet information is available under <http://www.imbb.forth.gr/famed/>

The project is coordinated by Dr. Martin Tabler. Besides him, the following IMBB Researcher will contribute to the training activities: Dr. Michalis Averof, Prof. Christos Delidakis, Dr. Nektarios Tavernarakis.

The financial contribution of the EU will amount to 1.022 million EURO for a period of four years.

-----

The third project is also a Marie Cure training project of the European Union dedicated to "Early Stage Researchers, who are typically PhD students.

The project is entitled '**Early Stage Training in Molecular Imaging Techniques (EST MOLEC-IMAGING)**'

Students will receive specific theoretical and practical training on molecular imaging.  
Internet information is available under [http://www.iesl.forth.gr/EST\\_molimg](http://www.iesl.forth.gr/EST_molimg)

The project is coordinated by Prof. Joseph Papamatheakis [IMBB]. Besides him, the following FORTH Researcher will contribute to the training activities:

IMBB: Clio Mamalaki, Nektarios Tavernarakis, Christos Delidakis, Giannis Talianidis

IESL: Eleutherios Economou, Jorge Ripoll, Giorgos Filippidis, Giannis Orphanos

IACM: Giorgos Makrakis, Athansios Tzavaras, Charalambos Makridakis

ICS: Stelios Orphanoudakis, Kostas Marias, Antonis Argyros

The financial contribution of the EU will amount to 814.906 EURO for a period of four years.

- - - - -