

Hosting institution – call for application

Based on a successful project funded by the EU H2020 Research and Innovation Programme ([www.enablenetwork.eu](http://www.enablenetwork.eu)), the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series was established as a joint initiative of FEBS, IUBMB and four leading biomedical research institutes across Europe. Since 2017, the ENABLE consortium (see Table 1 for a full list of members) has promoted the interdisciplinary 3-day international conferences organised by and for young researchers from the molecular life sciences disciplines, bringing together up to 300 participants from all over the world. These annual gatherings have been hosted yearly by a partner research institute that participated in the consortium. Since the launch of ENABLE, FEBS and IUBMB as the main sponsors of the events have been awarded more than 40 travel grants to young researchers to attend the conferences in Barcelona, Copenhagen, and Nijmegen<sup>1</sup>. With the joined efforts, FEBS, IUBMB and ENABLE continue to support this event and therefore invite **worldwide research institutes that are involved in molecular life sciences research to host ENABLE conferences.**

ENABLE conference is unique because it is organised by a Scientific Committee of young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) from several European institutions. This conference is comprised of various sessions. The most significant is the scientific symposium, which reports the most latest research and development in the field of molecular life sciences. Coupled to this symposium, a wide range of activities focused on employment opportunities, including a career day, career workshops and a job fair are also organised. This conference is also organized to engage the public via outreach activities especially tailored to target certain audiences. In addition, these activities provide an ideal training opportunity for PhD students and post-doctoral fellows who are interested in science communication.

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series provides a platform to empower young researchers by giving them the necessary tools and inspiration to successfully organise a set of activities for their peers.

**Table 1. ENABLE participants within the EU-funded project (2016-2020<sup>1</sup>)**

<b>ENABLE: a young researchers' network to celebrate achievements in molecular life sciences and clinical research and development</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Mission</b>
Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)	<b>Barcelona 2017</b> ...to understand fundamental questions about human health and disease.
The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research (CPR)	<b>Copenhagen 2018</b> ... to promote basic and applied discovery research on human proteins of medical relevance.
Radboud university medical center (Radboudumc)	<b>Nijmegen 2019</b> ... to create scientific impact that leads to the innovation of health and healthcare

<sup>1</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event that should have been held in Milan in 2020 was postponed to May 2021 and was held online.

European School of Molecular Medicine (SEMM)	<b>Milan 2021...</b> to promote training and research within emerging sectors of biomedicine, such as genomics, molecular medicine, nanotechnologies and bioethics.
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**Table 2. FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE adhered institutions (2022-2025)**

<b>FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Symposium: a PhD and Postdoc meeting</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Mission</b>
Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla (IBiS)	<b>Sevilla 2022...</b> to investigate the causes of the most prevalent pathologies in the population and to develop new methods for their diagnosis and treatment.
University of Cologne	<b>Cologne 2023...</b> to promote training and research in the life sciences, thereby advancing the molecular and cellular understanding of health and disease and connecting basic research to translational medicine.
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine – Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore)	<b>Singapore 2024...</b> to transform healthcare by redefining the medicine of tomorrow: the way it is practised and delivered by pursuing medical innovations and creating cutting-edge approaches to healthcare.

#### Do you want to host a FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE event?

**FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE is inviting interested institutions to host the 2025 FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference. The 2025 Conference should be held in a country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#).**

This event will be organised by a committee of young researchers that belong to the **4 ENABLE institutions (Table 1-2)**, the 2024 host institution NTU Singapore, and the host institution in 2025. It will be organised following the standards and structure of the previous ENABLE events (more information on previous conferences at [www.enablenetwork.eu](http://www.enablenetwork.eu)) as summarised below:

- The topic of the conference must revolve around the molecular life sciences research undertaken at the institutions involved. However, the topic should be broad enough to ensure interdisciplinarity and a sound understanding by an audience with different levels of expertise.
- The scientific symposium of the conference must involve the participation of renowned international experts as speakers.
- The conference must include activities in which young researchers can discover career opportunities in the molecular life sciences.
- The conference must include activities that allow discussion and communication between scientists and the general public.
- The conference must be organised by young researchers (namely PhD students and postdocs). The 2025 Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) should be formed by 2 young researchers from each of the **ENABLE institutions (thus, the 8 organizers from the four previous organizers)**, 2 young researchers from the **2024 associated institution**, and 2 young researchers from the **2025 associated (host) institution**. The committee should include 2 members from FEBS and the IUBMB.
- A Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the associated institution will support the SOC in all practical and logistical aspects that need to be arranged in the hosting city (according to

previous editions, the LOC is normally formed by around 20 young researchers from the hosting institution). Two members of this committee should join the SOC. The LOC should form subcommittees to handle all aspects that are related to the venue, catering and restaurants, travel arrangements for invited speakers, and accommodation, etc.

- The Organising Committees (SOC and LOC) should ensure a certain number of travel grants are awarded to participants, in order to broaden the impact of international participation. Sponsors must be sought for these travel grants. Companies that have sponsored past FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conferences can be sought again for sponsorship. In this regard, **it must ensure that travel grants are also provided to the members of the Organising Committee of the 2025 event.**
- The LOC and SOC should have administrative support from their own institutions. In particular, the LOC should have local support from the Human Resources, Academic Office, PR/Communications Dept., and secretarial assistance of the associated institution. In this regard, the hosting institution should manage the registration and accounting processes, as well as the budget. All logistical details related to the venue and associated catering will also fall under the responsibility of the hosting institution.
- In addition to face-to-face events, online and live-streaming facilities should be available to conduct lectures, seminars, and roundtable discussions. This option will facilitate more participation of young researchers worldwide.

#### How will the event be funded?

FEBS and IUBMB fund the event up to a total of:

- Up to €65,000 + (€5,000 for organizing committee travel and accommodation costs)  
FEBS and IUBMB will transfer most of the funds in advance at the start of the event, with a small sum retained until after its successful completion. Any remaining costs should be covered by registration fees or other revenue.

The funds will be transferred in accordance with the schedule in the table below:

Schedule of payments for 2025	- 14 months	- 12 months	- 6 months	- 3 months	+3 months	total
FEBS	5%	35%	20%	10%	0%	70%
IUBMB	2%	20%	4%	0%	4%	30%

The **Application Form** includes a **budget table** that should be completed by the Associated Institution. The total income shown in this table consists of the FEBS and IUBMB grants, registration fee for participants, and all other available support. The FEBS and IUBMB grants provide funds to cover the travel (economy class) and accommodation expenses of invited speakers and organizing committee (entries a, b), and general costs of event operation, including secretarial help and event materials (entries c–g). Please note that the funding from FEBS and IUBMB cannot be used to pay honoraria for speakers.

The Associated Institution will receive a Decision Letter after obtaining approval from the evaluating committee, together with Disclaimer and Declarations Forms. The two latter documents should be completed and returned to the FEBS Treasury – details for their reply are provided on the forms. Once the forms have been received by FEBS, the details of the application will be shared with IUBMB, the allocated grant will be transferred to the bank account provided by the Organiser. FEBS and IUBMB shall transfer the funds in a timely manner. Note that the Organiser is fully responsible for the proper use of the funding provided by FEBS and IUBMB and should cover any deficit in the case of overspending. Any surplus remaining after the event should be returned to FEBS and IUBMB by the end of the reporting period, proportional to the amount of funding each one provided. Any significant changes to the approved budget require approval from FEBS and IUBMB. Note that the Organisers have no right to enter any commitments or render any services in the name of FEBS or IUBMB.

Three months after the event has taken place, the Organisers are required to send FEBS and IUBMB a Financial Report. This should give a summary of the income and expenditure for the event and is to be signed by the Associated institution and legal representative.

### **Eligibility requirements**

Institutions interested in applying to host the event must:

- Be an academic institution (either a university or research institution) with a strong research background in molecular life sciences
- Be located in countries whose national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Societies are Constituent Societies of FEBS . Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying ([FEBS](#))
- Have an established young researchers' organisation (Student Council, Young Researchers Association, or similar).
- Have an administrative structure devoted to providing support to young researchers (Academic Office or similar) with experience in event management.
- Be able to host the conference (in its country) in November 2025 (3 days).
- Have a letter from their national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, which is a FEBS (and IUBMB – optional) member, expressing support for the organisation of the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference.
- Be able to provide a venue with suitable capacity and requirements for the planned activities (main auditorium with 250-300 places, rooms for workshops, open-plan area for a job fair and poster sessions).

In addition, the following point should be positively evaluated:

- Support of the local national molecular life sciences society/ies with respect to offering travel grants to its members (either for the conference organisers or participants).

## Application procedure & timeline

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE 2025 | country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#)

Institutions interested in hosting this event should complete the **application form** and the **budget table**, duly signed by the legal representative of the institution, and send it to [info@enablenetwork.eu](mailto:info@enablenetwork.eu). The deadline for applications is **15 April 2023**. For **additional information**, please contact [info@enablenetwork.eu](mailto:info@enablenetwork.eu)

Call opening: 13 February 2023

Deadline for applications: 15 April 2023

Notification of results: Beginning June 2023

Setup of SOC: March 2024

First face-to-face meeting of all SOC members at the host institution venue: May 2024

Invitations to speakers for the 2025 Conference: July 2024

***Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying.***

## Evaluation of the proposals:

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Team (FIET; composed of 2 FEBS coordinators, 2 IUBMB coordinators, and 5 institutional academic coordinators) will evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Robustness of the Training/Students/Predocloral Programme of the associated institution.
- Level of organisation and activity of the Student Council (or similar) at the associated institution.
- Level of internationalisation and quality of the research undertaken at the associated institution. In this regard, the number of publications of the institution, as well as the number of projects and international agreements in which the institution is involved, will be considered.
- Readiness and capacity to organise an event of such characteristics.