



Delegates meet at the EMBL Advanced Training Centre



Iain Mattaj bids farewell to Reinhard Lührmann

Council approves five-year programme

Approval of EMBL's budget and the scientific programme for the coming five years was the headline news from an action-packed Winter Council Meeting in Heidelberg

The programme, which has been on the drawing board for over a year, sets out plans for EMBL's research, services, training, outreach, technology development and transfer, administration and integrative function in the European research landscape. An indicative scheme, which foresees an annual increase of 2%, was endorsed, with a review scheduled for the end of 2013.

"The unanimous approval of the programme reflects the excellent performance of EMBL staff and the effort put into the programme document and in communicating its importance to member states," says Iain Mattaj, EMBL Director General.

A number of important staff appointments were confirmed at the meeting, including the appointment of Philip Avner as Head

of EMBL Monterotondo, the promotion of group leaders Ewan Birney and Rolf Apweiler as Associate Directors of EMBL-EBI – see below – and group leaders Florent Cipriani (Grenoble), Wolfgang Huber (Heidelberg) and Dmitri Svergun (Hamburg) as senior scientists – see page 12.

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- Iain Mattaj

In a positive review by the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), EMBL Hamburg was praised for its substantial contribution to software development, synchrotron instrumentation and using structural biology techniques to address fundamental biological

questions. Leadership at the outstation and the teams working on the EMBL@PETRA3 project – developing beamlines on the most brilliant storage-ring-based X-ray radiation source in the world – were commended for their achievements.

Other important developments included a proposal by the Spanish delegation to transform the EMBL-CRG partnership for systems biology into an EMBL outstation in Barcelona, and elections, which saw Eero Vuorio (Finland) and Claudio Sunkel (Portugal) re-elected Chair and Vice-Chair of Council respectively, while Reinhard Lührmann stepped down from his position as German scientific delegate after 11 years of service. Reinhard was also Vice-Chair of Council before he stepped down.