

Proceedings of the joint biannual meeting of the “Société Française de Biophysique” (SFB), “Groupe d’Etudes des Interactions Molécules-Membranes” (GEIMM), “Groupe de Recherche en Ingénierie des protéines” (GRIP), Anglet France, 14–19 October 2006

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On 14–19 October 2006, the joint 20th biannual meeting of the “Société Française de Biophysique” (SFB), the “Groupe d’Etudes des Interactions Molécules-Membranes” (GEIMM) and the “Groupe de Recherche en Ingénierie des protéines” (GRIP) was held in Anglet-Biarritz (France). Owing to the dynamism of SFB, GEIMM and GRIP, 180 scientists participated actively in the congress and offered a large and multidisciplinary audience.

The diversity of the programme was illustrated by the titles in the sessions: Membrane organisation and domains; Membrane deformation and traffic; Membrane: model systems; Lipids and membrane proteins; Lipids and vectors; Biophysics and medical finality; Dynamics and structure; Molecular assemblies; Structural biology; Molecular tomography; Single molecules; Intrinsically disordered molecules; Conformational flexibility; Dynamics; Cellular biophysics; New approaches in biophysics.

We would like to thank the invited speakers for their excellent contributions. Didier Marguet (Marseille) presented how microdomains of lipids and cytoskeleton contribute

respectively to confined diffusion within the plasma membrane. Bruno Antonny (Valbonne) showed the interactions involved in proteic sensors of the membrane curvature. Xavier Collet (Toulouse) presented the molecular mechanisms regulating lipid transport at different levels. Daniel Scherman (Evry) explained physicochemical concepts of gene transfer. Catherine Royer (Montpellier) showed the role of water in conformational dynamics of proteins. Simon Scheuring (Paris) displayed the strength of AFM for imaging the supramolecular assembly of membrane proteins in native membrane. Sergio Marco (Orsay) emphasized the potent of transmission electron tomography. Sonia Longui et Veronique Receveur-Bréchet presented the topics of disordered proteins and the tools for their studies. Laurence Salomé (Toulouse) used FRAP and unique molecular studies to follow the modification of the diffusion of G protein-coupled receptors following interactions with a ligand. Special thanks are due to Marc Lutz, former president of the SFB, who presented an historical perspective of the power of Raman spectroscopy as a special event of the conference. Jean Alric, laureate of the 2006 young researcher SFB prize, presented an impressive contribution on photosynthesis. All young speakers are also thanked for their talented contributions, as well as the authors of this special issue.

Daniel Lavalette was president of the SFB from 2001 to October 2006, passing the chair to Catherine Royer during the 20th meeting. During these years, he gave his time and energy to our (his) society. He contributed intensely to the success of the organisation of the 2005 EBSA meeting in Montpellier. He promoted the principle of biannual French meetings alternating with those of EBSA. He wished the SFB meetings to be general, in such a way that the force and diversity of our community increased, while he was attentive in providing all facilities

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for the constitution of thematic groups, within SFB, focussed on more specific topics. Daniel Lavalette believed in the synergy and dynamism of these thematic groups for French Biophysics and also within European Biophysics. He also proposed the idea of a special journal issue related to the French meetings, allowing reviews and original works to be presented to a larger extra-national community. He thought that the European Biophysics Journal was the right place for it and the present issue is thus a consequence of his negotiations with the Editor in Chief, Prof. Anthony Watts, to whom we are also grateful. On behalf of SFB, GEIMM and GRIP we would like to deeply thank Daniel Lavalette for his fantastic contribution to French Biophysics, always made with kindness and dynamism. We wish him a peaceful retirement, dedicated, as we believe, to the historical knowledge of ancient stones around the world.



Daniel Lavalette, President of the SFB from 2001 to 2006