

The exclusive © for all languages and countries is vested in the Federation of European Biochemical Societies

*No part of this volume may be reproduced in any form by print, photoprint, microfilm or any other means without the prior permission of the copyright owner**

No responsibility is assumed by the Publisher for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions or ideas contained in the material herein. Because of the rapid advances in the medical sciences, in particular, independent verification of diagnoses and drug dosages should be made.

Although all advertising material is expected to conform to ethical (medical) standards, inclusion in this publication does not constitute a guarantee or endorsement of the quality or value of such product or of the claims made of it by its manufacturer.

Special regulations for readers in the U.S.A.

This journal has been registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. Consent is given for copying of articles for personal or internal use, or for the personal use of specific clients. This consent is given on the condition that the copier pays through the Center the per copy fee stated in the code on the first page of each article for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. The appropriate fee should be forwarded with a copy of the first page of the article to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, U.S.A.; phone: (+1) (978) 7508400, fax: (+1) (978) 7504744, and in the U.K. through the Copyright Licensing Agency Rapid Clearance Service (CLARCS), 90 Tottenham Court Road, London 01LP, U.K. If no code appears in an article, the author has not given broad consent to copy and permission to copy must be obtained directly from the author. The fees indicated on the first page of an article in this issue will apply retroactively to all articles published in the journal, regardless of the year of publication. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as for general distribution, resale, advertising and promotion purposes, or for creating new collective works. Special written permission must be obtained from the publisher for such copying.

Special regulations for authors

Upon acceptance of an article by the journal, the author(s) will be asked to transfer copyright of the article to the Federation of European Biochemical Societies. This transfer will ensure the widest possible dissemination of information

*But see item 7 in Notes to Authors

Publication information: *FEBS Letters* (ISSN 0014 5793). For 2004, volumes 556–578 are scheduled for publication. Subscription prices are available upon request from the Publisher or from the Regional Sales Office nearest you or from this journal's website (<http://www.FEBSLetters.org>).

Subscriptions are accepted on a prepaid basis only, unless different terms have been previously agreed upon. Issues are sent by standard mail (surface within Europe, air delivery outside Europe). Priority rates are available upon request. Claims for missing issues should be made within six months of the date of dispatch.

Orders, claims, and product enquiries please contact the Customer Service Department at the Regional Sales Office nearest you:

Orlando: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-4800, USA; phone: (+1) (877) 8397126 [toll free number for US customers], or (+1) (407) 3454020 [customers outside US]; fax: (+1) (407) 3631354; e-mail: usjcs@elsevier.com

Amsterdam: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands; phone: (+31) 20 4853757; fax: (+31) 20 4853432; e-mail: nlinfo-f@elsevier.com

Tokyo: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 4F Higashi-Azabu, 1-Chome Bldg, 1-9-15 Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044, Japan; phone: (+81) 5561 5037; fax: (+81) (3) 5561-5047; e-mail: jp.info@elsevier.com

Singapore: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 3 Killiney Road, #08-01 Winsland House I, Singapore 239519; phone: (+65) 63490222; fax: (+65) 67331510; e-mail: asiainfo@elsevier.com

Advertising information: Advertising orders and enquiries can be sent to: **South America:** Mr Tino DeCarlo, The Advertising Department, Elsevier Inc., 360 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010-1710, USA; phone: (+1) (212) 633 3815; fax: (+1) (212) 633 3820; e-mail: t.decarlo@elsevier.com. **Europe, USA, Canada and ROW:** Miss Katrina Barton, phone: (+44) (0) 20 7611 4117; fax: (+44) (0) 20 7611 4463; e-mail: commercialsales@elsevier.com

US Mailing Notice

US mailing notice – FEBS Letters (ISSN 0014-5793) is published biweekly by Elsevier B.V. (P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, Netherlands). Annual subscription price in the USA US\$ 4314.00 (valid in North, Central and South America), including air speed delivery. Periodical postage rate paid at Jamaica, NY 11431.

USA POSTMASTERS: Send address changes to *FEBS Letters*, Publications Expediting Inc., 200 Meacham Avenue, Elmont, NY 11003.

Airfreight and mailing in the USA by Publications Expediting Inc., 200 Meacham Avenue, Elmont, NY 11003.