

## news

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### **Josep Egozcue is appointed honorary member of the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology**

On 29 of June 2003, Josep Egozcue, a professor in the Department of Cellular Biology of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and a senior member of the Biological Sciences Department of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), was appointed an honorary member of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), one of two honorary members that the Society appoints annually.

His appointment was formalised as part of the inaugural ceremony of the annual conference held this year in Madrid between the 29 June and the 2 July. Josep Egozcue will be the only honorary member from Spain and also the only non-retired honorary member.

Josep Egozcue i Cuixart is a former President of the ESHRE, who received the Catalan Research Foundation Prize in 1996. He is a member of the Bioethics and Law Observatory of the University of Barcelona and a consultant to European Council, the European Commission and the Spanish Parliament in matters of assisted human reproduction ethics. Josep Egozcue's research interests lie in the field of cytogenetics and chromosomal evolution in primates and the application of this knowledge to human genetics and fertility. He has published over 300 articles in scientific journals dealing with his area of speciality.

The ESHRE was founded in 1985 and held its first annual conference in Bonn. Last year's edition in Vienna

drew some 4,200 participants. This year the annual conference, which took place in the Municipal Palace of Congresses of Madrid, included 67 working sessions on practically all aspects of research into human reproduction and embryology, from ovarian stimulation, male fertility and the selection of embryos to premature pregnancy, stem cells and complex genetic illnesses.

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### **The University of Valencia creates the Cañada Blanch Chair for Publicising Science**

An agreement between the Rector of the University of Valencia and the Cañada Blanch Foundation has led to the creation of the Cañada Blanch Chair for Publicising Science at the University of Valencia (UV), sponsored by the Caixa d'Estalvis del Mediterrani (CAM) and designed to promote teaching, research and the publicising of scientific knowledge among the public.

The new UV Chair for Publicising Science is a singular initiative in the European university context, since only the University of Oxford has a similar chair, entitled Public Understanding of Science. The University of Valencia has made the publicising of scientific knowledge a priority aim in recent years. The functioning of the new Chair is planned along lines similar to the successful UV Cañada Blanch Chair of Contemporary Thought. The teaching, research and publicising activities will be carried out by visiting lecturers selected from among experts in public communica-

tion of the sciences and from among recognised scientific publicists.

The activities of the new UV Chair will include courses at advanced undergraduate and post-graduate level, as well as research in the areas of interest to the Chair and other activities in relation to public information. Special emphasis will be placed on activities that publicise scientific activity through conferences, debates, and the use of the technologies for public scientific communication and information of the Cañada Blanch Chair.

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### **Two new online medical surgeries for healthcare professionals and sufferers from rare diseases: *Telegenética* and *Orphanet***

On the 27 February 2003, the new *Telegenética* and *Orphanet* portals were formally inaugurated in a ceremony held at the Josep Marull Hall of the Municipal Institute for Medical Research (IMIM) of Barcelona. *Telegenética* and *Orphanet* are two communication and educational sites available to healthcare professionals and sufferers from rare diseases.

Dr. Luis Alberto Pérez Jurado, lecturer in genetics, Dr. Miguel del Campo Casanelles, researcher, both of the Genetics Section of the Department of Experimental Sciences and Health of the University Pompeu Fabra (UPF), and Ségolène Aymé, Director of Research of the French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and Sci-

entific Director of *Orphanet* participated in the ceremony.

Sponsored by Novartis, *Telegenética* is the first interactive portal providing consultation, educational and information facilities for the medical specialty of genetics in the Spanish language. Luis Pérez Jurado and Miguel Del Campo Casanelles have created this virtual space for healthcare professionals who work particularly in the areas of paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, family medicine and internal medicine.

The user of *Telegenética*, who must first register and have accreditation confirmed, can make private consultations in the areas of dysmorphology, prenatal diagnostics, inborn metabolism errors, genetic illnesses without malformations, cancer genetics and multifactorial inheritance. Photographs, reports and other tests related to the consultation can also be attached. Expert geneticists will consider the consultation and issue a diagnosis, which will be accompanied by the corresponding clinical opinion, genetic and reproductive advice and the recommendations of the experts.

*Orphanet* is a public information service on rare diseases and freely available orphan drugs. Created in France in 1997, *Orphanet* is by now the most comprehensive information source in Europe on the resources available for the diagnosis, research and treatment of rare diseases. Its aim is to contribute to improved treatment for unusual illnesses, whether of genetic, auto-immune or infectious origin, unusual neoplasias and illnesses with no precise diagnosis. Its makes its services – a resource database and online encyclopaedia covering over 1,100 unusual illnesses – available to sufferers and their families, healthcare professionals, researchers, patient associations and the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Miguel del Campo is the head of the Spanish version of *Orphanet*.

Further information:

*Telegenética*: [www.telegenetica.org](http://www.telegenetica.org)

*Orphanet*: [www.orpha.net](http://www.orpha.net)

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### **WADA awards the IMIM with the programme for external quality control of accredited anti-doping laboratories worldwide**

On the 7 June 2003, the Executive Committee of the WADA (World Anti-Doping Association) entrusted the programme for external quality control of accredited anti-doping laboratories worldwide to the Pharmacological Research Department (URF) of the Municipal Institute for Medical Research (IMIM) of Barcelona.

The URF will prepare all the samples to be used by the WADA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to examine accredited anti-doping laboratories worldwide. These samples will be used to perform the quality controls necessary (performed four times a year) to certify the suitability of anti-doping laboratories. The results issued by the laboratories will be evaluated by the WADA and the IOC. The project will be headed by Drs. Rafael de la Torre and Rosa Ventura.

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### **European Project for Internet Security**

The Spanish organisation for co-ordinating responses to telematic network emergencies (esCERT), based at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), represents Spain in the European eAWARE Internet security project. The project is aimed at creating a European platform for informing web users of the security measures necessary for safe surfing on the Internet.

Viruses, intruders, and violation of email privacy have all led to a need for Internet users to have information made available to them on security. EsCERT-UPC participates in this European initiative designed to create a

platform for the education and information of European users of the information and communications technologies (ICTs), particularly in relation to risks and dangers and rights and responsibilities. More specifically, eAWARE makes the necessary security procedures for safer surfing available to the web user. It also aims to contribute to reversing general opinions in relation to the insecurity of the Internet.

In order to put these aims into practise the experts participating in the eAWARE project, among them, those from esCERT-UPC, have organised educational workshops, seminars and conferences in countries all over Europe. A free guide has also been published in which advice is given to web users on the tools and methods for safer surfing on the Internet and the protection of their systems from intruders and viruses.

Important European organisations, such as Rand Europe, Eltrun, Clusit and Infolab, are involved in the eAWARE project, which has for many years been involved in promoting safe use of the Internet.

European Commission awareness of the question of security was heightened following the events of 11 September 2001, and its main concerns are reflected in the eEurope Action Plan 2002. Apart from eWARE – an initiative designed to educate and train the web user in security matters – the Commission has sponsored projects such as the EISPP (European Information Security Promotion Programme), a vulnerability warning system that endeavours to improve security for European SMEs.

It is also planned to create a European security agency with the aim, among others, of obtaining a consensus in the area of information security in Europe, so as to ensure the necessary security in both networks and information systems.

Further information:

<http://www.eaware.org>

<http://escert.upc.es>

<http://eispp.org>

## Centre of Land Policy and Valuations of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia

On 5 February 2002, the Centre de Land Policy and Valuations hosted a small event to formally recognise its 15th Anniversary as a Specific Research Centre within the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Dr. Josep Roca Cladera, Director of the CPSV since its inception in 1986, made a short presentation of the principal areas of activity over the preceding 15 years, before a select audience of invitees from the public and private entities of Barcelona's metropolitan region, with whom collaborations had been established. The occasion also coincided with the acquisition of new office accommodation within the NEXUS Building on the UPC's North Campus, complementing the existing accommodation within the School of Architecture (ETSAB) of the University's South Campus.

Focussing upon 2002 in particular, in terms of participation in international projects, the CPSV has been active in three projects: two based within Europe and one in China.

A *Leonardo da Vinci* EU initiative entitled "Development of competencies in Local Agenda 21 processes", is being co-ordinated by the Fondazione Istituto per il Lavoro (Italy). This project seeks to face the existing relationship between Sustainable Development and Labour, taking into consideration that Local Agendas 21 should determine a number of impacts on work and occupation. As part of this ongoing and evolving programme, the CPSV hosted a meeting of all the participants in Barcelona 29/30 November 2002. (<http://www.ambiente-lavoro.it/>)

In a similar vein, the CPSV has participated in INTEL CITY is a one year RTD roadmap project, funded by the Information Society Technologies programme, exploring the opportunities for sustainable development of cities

through the intelligent application of information and communication technologies. This initiative is being co-ordinated by the University of Salford (UK).

(<http://www.scpm.salford.ac.uk/icpart>)

Also as part of an EU financed project, but in a very different geographical location, Joaquim Clusa spent two months in China, acting as an external consultant working on the Sustainable Shenyang Urban Planning Project (SSUPP), through the EU-China Training Programme. His input was principally related to assessing the potential for urban regeneration in this formerly highly industrialised city in the Liaoning province. This secondment followed a previous visit to Shenyang, in June 2001, and the successful realisation of a training week hosted in Barcelona by the CPSV, in December 2001, directed to the specific needs of some 12 professionals from the public administration, engaged on the SSUPP. The training week was focussed upon learning from Barcelona's experience in the area of urban regeneration, and the urban and planning transformation of the city since the mid-1980s.

At the time of writing the CPSV is eagerly awaiting the result of a INTERREG III B research proposal, prepared in collaboration with a French company (SCOT) specialised in remote sensing, the Universities of Toulouse and Lisbon, the Cartographic Institute of Catalonia and the French Satellite Agency (SPOT), aimed at analysing the dynamics of the urban expansion of the metropolitan areas of South Western Europe, namely Barcelona, Madrid, Seville and Valencia in Spain; Lisbon and Oporto in Portugal; and Bordeaux, Montpellier, Toulouse and Clermont-Ferrand in France. This project would represent a continuation of previous work carried out for the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, between 1998-2001 addressing the characteristics of the Spanish metropolitan areas.

During the year the CPSV has actively participated in a wide range of international conferences and events, namely the First Conference on Advances and Applications of GiDI, in Barcelona in February; both the Collo-

quium concerning the Urban System of South Western Europe<sup>2</sup> in Toulouse, (France) and the Eighth International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment for the 21st Century<sup>3</sup>, held in Seville, in March; the Ninth International Congress on Architectural Graphic Expression<sup>4</sup> in A Coruña in April; the European Urban Research Association 2002 Conference on Urban and spatial European policies<sup>5</sup>, held in Turin, in April; the Third Latin American Workshop of Architecture and Planning<sup>6</sup>, held in Barcelona in May; the GIS and CAMA 2002 Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association<sup>7</sup>, held in Reno Nevada, in April; the Fourth European Urban and Regional Studies Conference (Re)placing Europe: economies, territories and identities<sup>8</sup>, held in Barcelona in July; the International Workshop on industrial area regeneration in Shenyang<sup>9</sup>, TIEXI WORKSHOP, held in Shenyang, within the context of the Sustainable Shenyang Urban Planning project, in August; both the Third International Seminar on Real Estate of Latin America<sup>10</sup>, held in Sao Paulo, and the First Workshop of the INTEL CITY project<sup>11</sup>, held in Oslo, in September; the Third International Symposium of Valuers<sup>12</sup>, held in Bogota; the Twenty First Congress of the Federation of Lonjas de la Propiedad Rair<sup>3</sup>; the Second International Conference on the Museology of Archaeological Sites<sup>14</sup>, in Barcelona; and the Tenth Iberoamerican Planning Conference<sup>15</sup>, held in Saragossa all in October.

## Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize

Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer (1912-1967) was a self-taught Catalan mathematician who, in spite of a serious physical disability, was very active in research in classical Mathematical Analysis, an area in which he acquired international recognition. Each year in honour of the memory of Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer, the Fundació Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer

awards an international mathematical research prize bearing his name, open to all mathematicians. This prize was awarded for the first time in April 1993.

The prize is awarded for a mathematical monograph of an expository nature presenting the latest developments in an active area of research in Mathematics, in which the applicant has made important contributions. The monograph must be original, written in English, and of at least 150 pages. The monograph must not be subject to any previous copyright agreement. In exceptional cases, manuscripts in other languages may be considered. The prize, amounting to 10,000 euros, is provided by the Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Foundation. The winning monograph is published in Birkhauser Verlag's series "Progress in Mathematics", subject to the usual regulations concerning copyright and author's rights.

The winners from the last editions had been:

Patrick Dehornoy, *Braids and Self-Distributivity*.

Juan-Pablo Ortega and Tudor Ratiu, *Hamiltonian Singular Reduction*.

Martin Golubitsky and Ian Stewart, *The Symmetry Perspective*.

Alexander Lubotzky and Dan Segal, *Subgroup Growth*.

Andre Unterberger, *Automorphic Pseudodifferential Analysis and Higher-level Weyl Calculi*.

F. Andreu-Vaillou, V. Casellas and J. M. Mazon, *Parabolic Quasilinear Equations Minimizing Linear Growth Functionals*.

Monographs should preferably be typeset in TeX. Authors should send a hard copy of the manuscript and a disk with the DVI and PS (PostScript) files enclosing an accompanying letter to the Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Foundation. Submissions should be sent before to the following address:

Centre de Recerca Matemàtica  
fundació Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer  
Apartat 50  
08193 Bellaterra  
e-mail: [ffsb@crm.es](mailto:ffsb@crm.es)  
Internet: [http://www.crm.es/  
FerranSunyerBalaguer/ffsb.htm](http://www.crm.es/FerranSunyerBalaguer/ffsb.htm)

## Code of Good Scientific Practice

The second edition of the Code of Good Scientific Practice – a pioneering effort in Catalonia and Spain – has been published. The Code has been drawn up and adopted jointly by the Department of Experimental Sciences and Health of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), the Municipal Institute for Medical Research (IMIM) of Barcelona and the Centre for Genomic Regulation. This Code is a compilation of statements and commitments freely and voluntarily entered into by the teachers and researchers in these centres, with the aim of conserving research integrity and guaranteeing maximum quality and excellence.

The Code sets out a series of guidelines for scientific research practices in seven areas of activity: supervision of scientific personnel in training; preparation of research protocols; documentation, storage, custodianship and sharing of data records and biological or chemical materials resulting from research; research projects sponsored by the healthcare industry or other profit-making sectors; publication practices; authorship of scientific works; and finally, peer reviewing by experts.

The new edition includes additional criteria in relation to the handling of biological samples for genetic analysis and documents the reappointment of the Committee for Research Integrity (CIR). The CIR, an independent body at the service of the scientific and research community, has the aim of supporting the quality of research and contributing to its integrity. A wide consensus exists by now in the international scientific community in relation to the most important elements to be included in a code of good clinical practice.

Further information:  
[www.upf.es/cexs/codi.pdf](http://www.upf.es/cexs/codi.pdf)  
[www.imim.cs/imim/](http://www.imim.cs/imim/)

## AWARDS

### Manfred Donike Award for Barcelona Anti-Doping Laboratory

In the latest edition of the annual meeting of anti-doping control laboratories held from the 17 to 21 March 2003 in Köln, Dr Rosa Ventura was granted the Manfred Donike Award for Scientific Excellence in Doping Control. Dr Ventura is a researcher at the Anti-Doping Laboratory of the Municipal Institute for Medical Research (IMIM) of Barcelona, attached to the University Pompeu Fabra (UPF), as well as a lecturer in the UPF Department of Experimental and Health Sciences. The award was granted to Dr Ventura in recognition of her scientific contributions to the world of anti-doping control and for her research into the level of reliability of the results obtained in anti-doping laboratories. Colleagues include Meritxell Ventura, member of the Anti-Doping Laboratory team in Barcelona, and Ricard Boqué, Alicia Maroto and Jordi Riu from the Chemometrics and Quality Group of the Department of Analytical and Organic Chemistry of the Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona. This award is an acknowledgement on the part of the international scientific community of the high technical and scientific standards of the Barcelona Anti-Doping Laboratory.

The anti-doping control annual meeting brings together scientists and experts with a view to exchanging information on the most important scientific advances in the field.

### Award of the Narcís Monturiol 2002 Medal and Plaque

In 1982, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia inaugurated the Narcís

Monturiol Medal and Plaque Awards for scientific and technological merit, designed to pay tribute to bodies or individuals that have made a special contribution to the advance of Catalan science and technology. The Medal is awarded to individuals and the Plaque to corporate bodies.

This year, the Narcís Monturiol Medals and Plaques for scientific and technological merit were awarded to nine individuals and two institutions. Two of the institutions operate in the scientific area, as also four of the researchers.

The Medal is awarded to the following individuals:

**Ramon Albajés i Garcia**, Professor of Agricultural Entomology at the University of Lleida: works in scientific research and the application of biological controls to agricultural plagues, and in integral control in general. As researcher and researcher trainer in the area, has created a research group in this field in Catalonia.

**Marcial Moreno i Mañas**, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB): for his notable contributions to practically all branches of organic and organometallic chemistry, but principally to transition metal catalysis, and for his efforts in forging links between universities and the chemicals industry and for many services to public authorities.

**Ramon Pallàs i Areny**, Professor in the Department of Electronic Engineering at the Advanced Polytechnic School of Castelldefels (attached to the Polytechnic University of Catalonia): for his work as an academic and for his scientific contributions to electronic and medical instrumentation, particularly sensors and electronic interfaces.

**Carles Perelló i Valls**, Professor in Applied Mathematics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona: this outstanding engineer and mathematician educated in Mexico and the United States has advanced Catalan studies in dynamic systems and partial derivative equations and has assisted in the creation of a research school in the area.

The Narcís Monturiol Plaque is awarded to the following scientific institutions:

**Sabadell Astronomy Collective**: Since its foundation in 1960, this body has contributed enormously to the development of Catalan and Spanish astronomy, promoting the creation of links between enthusiasts and carrying out educational and research activities with amateur enthusiasts.

**Catalan Society for Biology**: Affiliated to the Institute for Catalan Studies, the Society was created in 1912 to promote and publicise activities related to research into the life sciences. It continues active thanks to the dynamism and efforts of its members.

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## CONFERENCES

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### Frontiers in Molecular Biology: 3rd EMBO-SPAIN Encounter

The meeting of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) was held on the 11 April 2003 at the Institute of Molecular Biology of Barcelona (IBMB-CSIC). The EMBO was founded in 1964 by a group of eminent scientists with the aim of promoting the biosciences in Europe. Its most important initiatives have included the creation of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), with headquarters in Heidelberg and various centres in Europe (Hamburg, Grenoble, Hixton and Monterotondo), the publication of two important magazines (the EMBO Journal and EMBO Reports), the organisation of meetings and scientific workshops, a programme of trans-European grants and, most recently, a grants programme to assist young scientists wishing to set up new research groups.

EMBO is composed of over 1,100 European scientists, some 30 of which have received the Nobel Prize. Spanish scientists in EMBO have for some time

been organising an annual meeting in which to present the more important scientific results of members. This year the encounter was held in Barcelona and participants included, as well as scientists from Spain, Frank Gannon, Executive Director of the EMBO.

Further information: [www.ibmb.csic.es](http://www.ibmb.csic.es)

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### Bioinformatics: Present Applications and Future Challenges

From the 19 to 21 May 2003, a conference entitled 'Bioinformatics: Present Applications and Future Challenges', organised by the Catalan Research Foundation (FCR) and the Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) was held at the Parc Científic de Barcelona. The conference brought together the principal researchers from all over the world in this new multidisciplinary science, which has evolved rapidly in recent years due mainly to its contribution to the human genome project. Scientific supervision of the conference was the responsibility of the Barcelona Institute for Biomedical Research-Parc Científic de Barcelona

Bioinformatics is a new science resulting from the fusion of biology and computerisation. Computerised analysis, modelling and simulation of structures and phenomena observed at different levels of organisation of living things have led to results that, in terms of their scientific, medical and social impact, will make a spectacular contribution to the most important technological advances of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Discussed within the framework of this conference were the existing and future challenges implied by this discipline concerned with the collection, storage and processing of computational data from knowledge areas such as molecular biology, biomedicine and biochemistry. Among the subjects discussed were computational biology (analysis of biological systems using

computers), biocomputation (design of software for analysing DNA sequences and proteins, genomics and proteomics), silicon biology (creation of computational models of cells and tissues, including the modelling of illnesses and the validation of the predictive potential of computer models).

Participating experts included José Maria Carazo, General Sub-Director for Planning and Monitoring of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology and a researcher at the National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB-CSIC), Janet M. Thornton, Director of the European Bioinformatics Institute (Great Britain), Hugo Kubinyi, Heidelberg University (Germany), and Xavier Estivill, from the Centre for Genomic Regulation of Barcelona.

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## EUCARPIA Symposium

Organised by the Spanish section of EUCARPIA (the European Association for Plant Breeding Research) and held in Barcelona at the headquarters of the Institute of Molecular Biology of Barcelona (IBMB-CSIC) between the 4 and 7 June 2003, the Eucarpia Symposium brought together experts from all over Europe in the molecular biology of maize (*Zea mays*) and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) to discuss the most recent research in the improvement of these species.

The various lines of research of these experts have as their common aim the improvement of maize and Johnson grass plants, so as to obtain strains more resistant to adverse conditions or more agriculturally productive or nutritional plants.

The scientific programme, of some 40 presentations over four days, dealt with areas such as the identification of new plant genes, their applicability to programmes for obtaining more resistant strains under stress conditions (drought, salinity, adverse weather conditions) and strains resistant to parasites and pathogens, the outlook for Johnson grass in Europe, and the iden-

tification of factors that determine the nutritional value of maize.

Also discussed were themes related to industrial and intellectual property protection, the need for harmonising the standards applied to assays and the registration of new strains, the importance of biotechnology in the improvement of small-scale crop cultivation, as also the applicability of biotechnology to a second green revolution that will meet the challenge posed in the 21st century of feeding 10 billion people in the poorer countries.

EUCARPIA, a non-profitmaking organisation, has as its central aim the promotion of scientific and technical cooperation in areas related to plant reproduction. It has different sections, including animal feeds, biometrics in plant reproduction, biotechnology, genetic resources, maize and Johnson grass, vegetables, fruit, ornamental plants, and oils and proteins.

Further information: [www.eucarpia.org](http://www.eucarpia.org)

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## International Conference on Visual Health and Development

On the 6, 7 and 8 June 2003 the 1st International Conference on Visual Health and Development, organized by the UNESCO Chair of Visual Health and Development of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), was held on the UPC North Campus. Experts from five continents cooperating to promote visual health in the most disadvantaged countries in the world met for three days with a view to raising awareness and exchanging experiences on matters concerning visual health and development.

Thirty experts from different NGOs representing developing countries met with UNESCO Chairs from the five continents. These experts described their experiences with natural catastrophes, war and extreme poverty. They also discussed political visual health initiatives, educational programmes and

other national and international actions, as also training projects at the local and regional levels.

This first edition of the conference saw the presentation of programmes and projects on visual health from Colombia, the Philippines, Nigeria, Pakistan and Palestine. The ultimate aim is to create a specialist visual care network for lesser developed countries. With this in mind an NGO fair was also organised to provide the NGOs with the opportunity to disseminate information on their cooperation activities.

The UNESCO Chair of Visual Health and Development of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) has, since March 2002, has been working to ensure that less advantaged groups have access to visual healthcare, through its teaching, research and cooperation projects.

Further information:

[www.unescovision.org](http://www.unescovision.org)

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## 2nd INSERM-Catalonia Symposium on Neuroscientific Research

The second edition of this Catalan-French Symposium on the Neurosciences was held at the headquarters of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) on the 16 and 17 of June 2003. The symposium has as its main aim the building of relationships between Catalan and French neuroscientists, thereby facilitating the exchange of knowledge on common matters of interest whilst optimising the utilisation of existing cooperation programmes.

Nicole Mahy and Bernard Giros from U513 (Creteil), Patricia Robledo from UPF-IMIM, (Barcelona), Jean Luc Martinot from ERM 0205 (Orsay), and Carme Junqué from the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute Barcelona (IDIBAPS) were among the symposium participants. Subjects discussed included neurotransmission and drug dependency, functional and structural neuroimaging in psychiatry,

neuronal death and neurodegeneration, neurotoxicity from oxidative stress, and neuroprotection *in vitro*.

Further information:

[i.neurociencias@uab.es](mailto:i.neurociencias@uab.es)

### 7th International Conference on Plant Molecular Biology in Barcelona and Symposium on Biotechnology in Developing Countries

This Conference on Plant Molecular Biology brought together over 2,000 specialists from all over the world. Participants included Montserrat Gomendio, Vice-President of the Spanish Science Research Board (CSIC), Bernard Pau, Director of the Department of Life Sciences of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), David Baulcombe, President of the International Society for Plant Molecular Biology (ISPMB, based in the USA), as also Pere Puigdomenech (CSIC) and Michel Delseny (CNRS), the directors of the present edition of the Conference.

The keynote speech was given by Nam-Ha Chua (Rockefeller University, USA), who spoke on the subject of the role of the E3 RING proteins in plant development and growth. The International Conference on Plant Molecular Biology, which is sponsored by the ISPMB, is held every three years. Previous editions have been held in Tucson (1991), Amsterdam (1994), Singapore (1997) and Quebec (2000).

The International Symposium on Biotechnology Applications in Developing Countries was held on the 25 June 2003 within the framework of the Conference.

Further information:

[www.ispmb2003.com](http://www.ispmb2003.com)

### 18th International Conference on Alzheimer's

The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease, held in Barcelona from the 23 to 26 October 2003, brought together over 2,000 national and international experts from the medical, scientific and social fields in order to review scientific advances and the social significance of this illness. The conference was organised by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), the Spanish Confederation of Families Affected by Alzheimer's and Other Dementias (CEAFA) and the National Alzheimer's Conference.

The conference was intended for anybody interested in or affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. The plenary sessions dealt with the quality of life of sufferers and their families – particularly in lesser developed countries – and the role played by the environment, design and architecture in dementias. Questions of ethics related to treating these illnesses, legal aspects, the role of institutions in dealing with families and social problems were also discussed. Research in the area was another important topic of the conference. During the sessions the most recent advances in the areas of diagnosis, neuroimaging, genetics and pharmacological treatment were discussed.

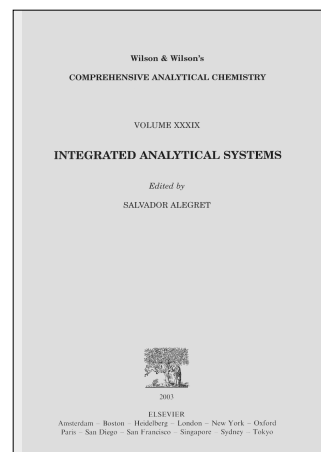
Further information:

[www.alzheimer2002.com/](http://www.alzheimer2002.com/) and

[www.ceafa.org/](http://www.ceafa.org/)

## BOOKS

### Integrated Analytical Systems



Salvador Alegret, Editor  
Comprehensive Analytical Chemistry,  
XXXIX.

ELSEVIER, 2003, 568 pages  
ISBN 0-444-51037-0

This book summarizes the main integration strategies currently found in analytical instrumentation or laboratories, giving a wide and updated panorama of analytical chemistry. The objective of this book is to highlight the different integration solutions, currently used in analytical chemistry. The book is aimed at graduate students and researchers in industry and academy to help them acquire a critical vision of some of the current tendencies in analytical chemistry. It is written by an international team of researchers active within the fields covered in the book. The authors come from a wide diversity of technological and scientific fields including: chemistry, electrochemistry, physics, materials science, microelectronics, electronic engineering, and the instrumentation industry, thus highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of analytical chemistry in today's world.

