

Europe's leading life science researchers are to convene for the first annual EuroBioForum

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[摘要] 12 NOV 2006:Europe's leading life science researchers are to convene for the first annual EuroBioForum in Helsinki, Finland 14-15 December to discuss how to move forward on life science topics ranging from the production of hydrogen via artificial photosynthesis to learning how to survive without water.

[关键词] life science;EuroBioForum;hydrogen

02 NOV 2006:Europe's leading life science researchers are to convene for the first annual EuroBioForum in Helsinki, Finland 14-

15 December to discuss how to move forward on life science topics ranging from the production of hydrogen via artificial photosynthesis to learning how to survive without water.

In addition to providing a platform for key scientists to present proposals, EuroBioForum, organised by the European Science Foundation (ESF), together with the European Commission, will also act as a networking event and facilitate dialogue between researchers and funders.

Top speakers from within life sciences such as Frank Gantzen, executive director of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), will be present at a roundtable discussion on the future of the European Research Area (ERA). Mark Walpole, director of the Wellcome Trust will also present a talk on strengthening the role of life scientists in Europe.

Particularly topical proposals which require a coordinated approach on the European level include 'Solar-IF. This ambitious proposal aims to integrate two previously divergent approaches on the European level include 'Solar-

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made systems, and photobiological H₂ production in living organisms, in what is considered a truly bold scientific step. In addition to providing a clean source of fuel, the research may allow scientists to develop bio-

minimetic compounds and improve the H₂ production capabilities of organisms.

DeLife, another research activity which will be presented, is set to unravel the mysteries of desiccation -

the process by which certain plants are able to enter a state of suspended animation where life processes become undetectable. When dry, desiccation tolerant organisms are resistant to extremes of temperature, radiation and pressure, and ageing is reduced or eliminated. There is, therefore, considerable scope for the industrial application of the desiccation

-based arrays that may reduce the need for animal testing.

'InfraGenetic: The European Infrastructure for the Phenotyping and Archiving of Mammalian Models', proposes to coordinate, at a European level, the mammoth task of phenotyping and archiving mouse models, which will play a pivotal role in the future diagnosis and treatment of human diseases.

The nascent field of nanotechnology, with its near-

limitless potential in a wide range of areas, has come to be known in the scientific community as the new 'blue-

sky' field. The main aim of EuroNanoPAK is to develop and launch a self-

sustaining business, offering advisory and testing services on all aspects of occupational, consumer and environmental health, for the European Nanotechnology industry. Nanotechnology will play an important part in the growth of the European economy and so it is in the interest of Europe to develop policies to promote nanotechnology competitiveness

MITABOTECI aims to coordinate European national research efforts in the area of metabolomics -

the quantitative and qualitative analysis of small molecules in cells, tissues and body fluids. Metabolic profiles are indicative of changes in metabolic pathways. Consequently, metabolomics is ideally positioned to identifying treatment targets in diseases such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, obesity, diabetes, and depression.

Other proposals include: 'INCREASE: An Integrated Research Network on Climate Change Research Activities'; 'DeVeloar: Deciphering of the Vertebrate Regulatory Genome: Diagnostics for human genetic disease'; 'MitLIFE: Mitochondria in Life, Death and Disease' and 'TURBOOX: Expression and Function of Eukaryotic DNA/RNA Oxidoreductases'

Professor Bertil Andersson, CEO of the ESF, said: "EuroBioForum will provide a challenging opportunity to participate in new developments in research, development and innovation."

Highlighting the importance of pan-European co-

operation, Walter Speck, EuroBioForum Director, said: "Moving toward a more coordinated approach to funding life scientists is a challenging but necessary step if Europe is to remain an important global player in life sciences and biotechnology research."

