



PRESS RELEASE

EU-LIFE welcomes the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (IIMCB) as a new member

January 23, 2020, Barcelona & Warsaw — The International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (IIMCB) has officially joined EU-LIFE as part of the process of expansion of the alliance. The decision was ratified by the EU-LIFE Board of Directors and the IIMCB Director and is effective as of January 1, 2020.

The EU-LIFE alliance was composed of 13 leading research centres in life sciences from 13 European countries since its creation in 2013. By welcoming this 14th, Polish member, the alliance broadens its geographical spread to keep advocating for excellent research in Europe.

Welcoming the decision, Professor Marta Międzyńska, Director of the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, said: "IIMCB strives for constant development towards excellence in research for the benefit of society. We are honoured to join the EU-LIFE alliance sharing the same values and to speak with one voice on issues related to the European science policies, to work on improving the quality of research and to share and draw on our mutual experience." "Joining the EU-LIFE alliance will help and inspire us in an exciting phase of growth of our institution" Professor Międzyńska underlined.

The EU-LIFE Board of Directors considered the IIMCB was perfectly fulfilling the EU-LIFE eligibility and selection criteria as this independent Polish institute is both a nationally and internationally recognised leading organisation striving for research excellence and best practices. "We are pleased to welcome a partner that actively shares our values, our commitment to excellence in research, and is engaged to act as an open and constructive member of the EU-LIFE alliance – and is enthusiastic about the collaborative possibilities offered by the EU-LIFE alliance," said EU-LIFE's Chair Rene Medema. Moreover, this new membership will enrich the alliance regarding understanding of challenges faced by research entities in Central & Eastern Europe.

The International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw is a public and independent research institution, established in 1999. IIMCB is the only Polish research institute created upon an international agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Poland (1996) and has a dedicated Parliamentary Bill (1997) that secures the Institute's special status and independence.

IIMCB is one of the most modern research institutes in its field in Poland holding the A+ category resulting from the parametric evaluation of research entities in Poland by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The institute is recognized internationally for its research in bioinformatics, structural biology, cell biology, neurobiology and developmental genomics.

The EU-LIFE alliance unites European research institutes' forces working on excellence in the life sciences, giving high regard to quality and responsible science – such as assuring a good gender balance in science, promoting inclusive and diverse environments, career development and fair assessment of research within the European research area. The other central mission of EU-LIFE is to contribute to the European research agenda with a special attention to the European Research Area and Horizon Europe, the new European framework programme for research and innovation (2021–2027), for which preparations are in full swing. EU-LIFE has been advocating for a doubling of the R&I budget with respect to the current programme, Horizon 2020.



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About EU-LIFE

EU-LIFE is an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence (www.eu-life.eu). EU-LIFE members are leading research institutes in their countries and internationally renowned for producing excellent research, widely transferring knowledge and nurturing talent. Since its foundation in 2013, EU-LIFE has become a stakeholder in European policy participating regularly in the EU policy dialogue. www.eu-life.eu

EU-LIFE Partners

Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG, Spain) | Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC, Czech Republic) | European Institute of Oncology (IEO, Italy) | Flanders Institute For Biotechnology (VIB, Belgium) | Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI, Switzerland) | Institut Curie (France) | Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM, Finland) | Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC, Portugal) | International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (IIMCB, Poland) | Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC, Germany) | Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (CeMM, Austria) | The Babraham Institute (Babraham, United Kingdom) | The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI, The Netherlands) | The University of Copenhagen Biotech Research & Innovation Centre (BRIC, Denmark)

About IIMCB

International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (IIMCB) is a publicly funded independent research entity in Poland. IIMCB is the only Polish research institute created upon an international agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Poland (1996) and a dedicated Parliamentary Bill (1997) that both secure the Institute's special status and independence.

IIMCB's mission is to support ambitious scientists of any nationality, driven by passion to pursue frontier research that aims to make a difference for society. IIMCB staff follows the principles of scientific freedom, integrity, and responsibility. IIMCB helps researchers develop their careers through training and mentoring at all levels, and encourages collaborations among them. The Institute provides efficient administrative support that enables scientists to focus on their research.

IIMCB scientists conduct high-quality research in the broad field of molecular and cell biology and biomedical studies focused on the pathogenesis of civilization diseases in order to search for new therapeutic solutions. IIMCB is recognized for its studies in structural biology, protein engineering, bioinformatics, genomics, cell biology, neurobiology and neurodegeneration. IIMCB has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to carry out scientifically and organisationally challenging projects and to implement new research topics, models and technologies. The most important successes of the Institute's scientists include publications in leading scientific journals and obtaining prestigious foreign and domestic grants.

Figures

11 research groups | 15 nationalities | 58% of funding from competitive sources (2014-18) | 3 ERC grants (completed)

Website: www.iimcb.gov.pl

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