

Argentina joins EMBL as associate member state

Connecting life science research across the Atlantic

Buenos Aires, 22 April 2014 – At a signing ceremony today, Argentina joins the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) as an associate member state. The move strengthens the ties between the European and Latin American life science communities. It grants Argentinian scientists access to EMBL's world-class facilities and programs, and stimulates mutually beneficial collaborations.

“Ever since its inception, fostering excellent life science research and promoting its internationalisation have been at the core of EMBL's mission,” says EMBL Director General Iain Mattaj. “The burgeoning Argentinian scientific community, with its strong tradition of biomedical and agroindustrial research, is an excellent partner to expand upon that legacy.”

As an associate member state, Argentina will have observer status in EMBL's governing body – the EMBL Council. Argentinian scientists will be able to access EMBL's state-of-the-art facilities and services, and the country's early career researchers will be eligible for scholarships in EMBL's highly reputed PhD and Postdoctoral programmes. Additionally, the Argentinian scientific community will be able to draw on experience and expertise regarding EMBL's organisational model, recruitment strategies and partnership programme.

“This agreement is very significant as part of a strategic project for Argentina,” said Dr. José Lino Salvador Barañao, Argentina's Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation. “Associate membership of EMBL means the ability to access research centers and laboratories of the highest level, knowledge exchange among researchers, but essentially



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Argentina signs up as EMBL associate member state.

- Argentina will have observer status in EMBL's governing body
- Argentinian scientists will have access to EMBL's world-class facilities, services and training programmes
- Building a bridge between the Latin American and European life science research communities

it means that Argentina will be the hub to articulate between Latin America and Europe in scientific and technological matters.”

The ceremony will be followed by a two-day symposium which brings together experts from EMBL and Argentina to explore synergies and opportunities. ●

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About EMBL

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory is a basic research institute funded by public research monies from 20 member states (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), associate member states Australia and Argentina, and prospect member state Slovakia. Research at EMBL is conducted by approximately 85 independent groups covering the spectrum of molecular biology. The Laboratory has five units: the main Laboratory in Heidelberg, and Outstations in Hinxton (the European Bioinformatics Institute), Grenoble, Hamburg, and Monterotondo near Rome. The cornerstones of EMBL's mission are: to perform basic research in molecular biology; to train scientists, students and visitors at all levels; to offer vital services to scientists in the member states; to develop new instruments and methods in the life sciences and to actively engage in technology transfer activities. Around 190 students are enrolled in EMBL's International PhD programme. Additionally, the Laboratory offers a platform for dialogue with the general public through various science communication activities such as lecture series, visitor programmes and the dissemination of scientific achievements.

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