

5) EDBC 1987

The next European Developmental Biology Congress, organized by the Finnish Society for Developmental Biology, will be held at the University of Helsinki, 14th - 18th June 1987. To receive further information, please write to:

EDBC-Congress Secretariat,
PO Box 189,
SF-00171 Helsinki,
Finland.

Meeting reports

EDBO '87

The European Developmental Biology Organization (EDBO) aims to act as a clearing house for information exchange among European developmental biology societies and groups, as a sponsor of workshops and small meetings, and as a convenor of Congresses every 3-4 years. The latest Congress was held in Helsinki, in mid-June 1987. The U.K. contingent was small, partly because Helsinki is expensive to get to from Britain, but also because mid-June is not the most carefree time for anyone involved with the British university system.

Those of us who were able to attend the Congress enjoyed a wide-ranging scientific programme and a number of memorable social events, all impeccably organized by our Finnish colleagues. The extensive poster sessions were particularly rewarding. We were reassured to find that Britain is not the only place where it rains in mid-June, but the clouds cleared long enough for us to appreciate the beauty of the "White Nights".

The EDBO Board meeting in Helsinki approved a change in constitution, to appoint Dr. John Bluemink as honorary business manager. John Bluemink is the assistant director of the Hubrecht Laboratory, which had been agreed at the 1984 Southampton Congress to be the permanent seat for EDBO administration. His appointment should greatly facilitate this administration. Professor Signoret retired as President of EDBO, and since the BSDB's nomination of me as his successor was unopposed, I was perforce elected as the new president. Dr. Siegfried de Laet continues as Secretary/Treasurer.

On joining the Board I learnt with interest that the next EDBO Congress is to be in Israel in 1991 (the date has not yet been fixed but it will not be in June), that Australia and New Zealand are now constituent members of EDBO, and that the Chinese developmental biology society is an associate member. Clearly the boundaries of Europe are extending. It is of course important that developmental biologists throughout the world should be kept informed of one another's activities, and while no worldwide federation of developmental biology societies exists, it falls to EDBO to satisfy this need. But we see this as an interim role. The focus of EDBO remains in Europe. Western and eastern, northern and southern Europe share a common tradition of embryological research that forms one of the corner-stones of developmental biology as we know it today.

Anne McLaren
President, EDBO.