



Forging partnerships report Valencia 18-21 January 2010

“Forging partnerships” aimed at bringing together scientists of all INTERBIO-associated institutions in order to explore each others’ research activities and initiate interregional collaborations.

The conference was hosted by the Centro de Investigacion Principe Felipe, a brand new research institute located amidst the impressive buildings that constitute the arts and science park of Valencia.

The local organizers were Oscar Sanchez and Antonio Pinedo, supported by two members of FIVEC (Fundacion para la Innovacion urbana y Economia de Conocimiento), Manuel Martinez and Ana Barbera. The activities took place in a comfortable lecture hall with excellent audiovisuals and two conference rooms which served for board meetings for the coordinators of the workpackages GT3 and GT4. The large hallway served as coffee/tea and lunch room.

The meeting has attracted 63 scientists of which 51 have given presentations. Amongst these were 16 junior scientists (PhD/post-doc). To achieve even greater exposure, posters were presented in the hallway throughout the meeting.

Wednesday afternoon was used for a guided tour to the Scientific Park of the University of Valencia (PCUV) with visits to local companies.

On Wednesday evening we all gathered in a restaurant (“Ben Fet”) down town Valencia, a great environment for forging informal contacts. The quality of the scientific presentations was remarkable and most were followed by brief (time was limited) but lively question sessions.

The coordinators of GT3 gathered twice with the mission of setting the agenda for the next events and, importantly, with the mission of discussing the format of the second forging partnerships meeting hosted by the autonomic university of Barcelona (UAB) in June 2010 and coordinated by Francesc Godia.

In the Barcelona meeting we are going to bring together, in two partly overlapping events, INTERBIO-members with expertise in nanotechnology and in information technology for health and natural sciences. In addition, a number of teaching events, both formal teaching (Bologna conditions) and summer school-like activities were put on the agenda, as well as a special junior scientist symposium.

We look back to an extremely intense, tightly organized, superbly catered meeting in which a first step is made towards the creation of an interregional collaborative environment. We thank Oscar, Antonio and FIVEC for having given us this opportunity.

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