

REPORT

SIBBM SEMINARS - FRONTIERS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY – 2019

NUCLEIC ACID IMMUNITY: FROM CELLULAR MECHANISMS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES

BOLOGNA, JUNE 11-13

The SIBBM Seminar 2019 was held in Bologna at the “Opificio Golinelli” from June 11 to June 13, 2019, and the detailed program can be found here <https://sibbm2019.azuleon.org>. We had 16 invited speakers (8 Italians and 8 from abroad) and 1 recipient of the biennial Chiara D’Onofrio Award. In addition, 13 talks have been selected from the submitted abstracts. Globally, 185 researchers attended the meeting (about 10 from abroad) and 99 abstracts were submitted within the deadline (13 selected for a talk and 86 posters).

The main topic of this year Seminar (Nuclei acid immunity) was addressed by international leaders in this new research field, merged from areas such as DNA repair, bacterial defence, cancer, virology, hereditary diseases, autoimmunity, epitranscriptomics and bioinformatics, from mechanisms to technological applications. In addition, talks selected from submitted abstracts were on a wider range of different topics. The meeting has therefore allowed established and young researchers to discuss a variety of investigation lines with a focus on the interconnections among fields that have been separated up to recent days. In addition, specific talks have proposed new tools and research data in the area of computational biology and bioinformatics.

The SIBBM Seminar 2019 was a great success for excellent science and intense program that have involved all participants during the plenary lectures as well as during coffee breaks. A special session “meet-the-speaker” was organized for the first time, and many young people discussed for almost two hours with the invited speakers of their choice. In case of 4-5 speakers the table was large and the discussion was very lively. This initiative was appreciated and will be re-proposed next year.

The meeting was a success for the participation, in particular, of junior people. We could offer a special discount for PhD students coming from a single institution paying only 100 euro as registration fee. We could also award two best poster prizes with the collaboration of the NANA non-profit association (Naples) and of the EUROCLONE Company. In addition, we were able to award 8 travel grants to young researchers presenting a poster.

During the first evening the Round Table “*The Human Technopole and the Future of Italian Research*” was held (Special Guest Iain Mattaj, Director of the Human Technopole Foundation, panelists Valeria Poli, President of SIBBM, Prof. Gennaro Ciliberto, Direttore Scientifico Istituto Regina Elena, Board of Directors-ACC (Alleanza Contro il Cancro), President FISV (Federazione Italiana Scienze della Vita), Dr. Manuela Battaglia, Telethon Chief Scientific Officer and Prof. Salvatore Sciacchitano, Ministry of Health. The round Table was broadcasted in streaming, and is still available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aeZgBEGDGw>.

A big thank to all organizers and participants, and the appointment is now for the 2020 SIBBM Seminar, which will be held in Padua, July 1-3.

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