

# ISOBC Newsletter

**Nov. / 2008**

**Volume 3, Number 2**

**Iran Society of Biophysical Chemistry**



### News

#### ➤ *The First Regional Symposium on Bioelectrochemistry in Iran*

The First Regional Symposium on Bioelectrochemistry was held at Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB), University of Tehran, Iran, from 13th to 15th October 2008. The symposium was co-organized by Iran Society of Biophysical Chemistry (ISOBC); Center of Excellence of Electrochemistry (CEE), University of Tehran and Iranian Chemical Society, Electrochemistry Division.

After welcome addresses, a plenary lecture was held by Prof. A.A. Moosavi-Movahedi, the patron of symposium. He spoke about rationale of the symposium and the need to form the initial nucleus of a Bioelectrochemistry research team. Then, He requested the scientists to keep holding this conference biennially either in Iran or other regional and Asian countries. The full-text of his lecturer is annexed to this report.

Although several symposiums have already been held on electrochemistry in Iran; this symposium was the first on Bioelectrochemistry, which achieved a resounding success. This symposium had about 100 delegates, from Iran and regional countries, including scientists, professors, lecturers, and students who participated in the lectures and posters as well as the workshop sessions.

The main scope of the symposium was to provide a platform for the exchange of informations, ideas and concepts. Besides stimulating further research, it provided an opportunity for collaboration of the scientists from regional countries. In the symposium 12 talks, 68 posters and 1 workshop were presented, addressing the state of the art techniques in all aspects of the interdisciplinary area of Bioelectrochemistry, with contributions of electrochemistry, biophysics, biotechnology and medical biophysics. All the abstracts were published in the symposium booklet (see: [www.ibb.ut.ac.ir/rsb](http://www.ibb.ut.ac.ir/rsb)). Also, full papers, after peer reviewing, would be published in Journal of the Iranian Chemical Society (JICS).



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Finally, in order to encourage young scientists, the jury of professionals awarded two young scientists who were both ISOBC members.

The winner's names along with their addresses are as follows:

1. ***Sharareh Sajjad***, PhD student

Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB), University of Tehran , Tehran, Iran.

2. ***Parandis Daneshgar***, PhD student

Center of Excellence in Electrochemistry, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

➤ ***The Opening ceremony speech was held by Prof. A.A. Moosavi-Movahedi***

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all, especially our foreign guests, to this Bioelectrochemistry Conference and hope that this meeting will be scientifically fruitful, resulting in further future research collaboration. Although this is the first Bioelectrochemistry conference in Iran, we have already held several conferences on electrochemistry and we intend to have more in the future but not in Bioelectrochemistry. The main objective behind holding this conference is to lay the foundation for a circle of researchers to conduct studies on Bioelectrochemistry in Iran, the region and all over Asia in order to achieve outstanding results and to contribute to the global production of science and knowledge through academic cooperation.

Almost 60% of global science production takes place within the domain of Biological science and biosciences; therefore, other disciplines should be joined with biosciences to develop interdisciplinary studies. Electrochemistry enjoys a prestigious status in Iran and it is wise to channel part of its potentials towards biosciences to enhance Bioelectrochemical research projects in Iran, the Middle East and Asia.

The scientific-executive committee of Bioelectrochemistry conference managed to invite several distinguished researchers from Iran and regional countries to form a Bioelectrochemistry research team working in Iran, the region and Asia. Hereby, I invite the honourable guests to



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create the initial nucleus of this team and keep holding this conference biennially either in Iran or other regional and Asian countries.

Finally I hope that all dear participants benefit from the lectures and posters presented here and raise the scientific level of the conference with their scholarly comments and discussions. I also wish our dear guests a very pleasant and memorable stay at University of Tehran and Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

### ➤ *Iranian Journals Prosperities*

Journal of the **I**ranian **C**hemical **S**ociety (**JICS**) obtained **1.389** as its second Impact Factor in 2007. The Rank of JICS in 2007 is **51** among the **127**. The first Impact Factor of JICS was **0.644** in 2006 and its rank was **82** among the **124**.

Please see the web site: [www.ics-ir.org/jics](http://www.ics-ir.org/jics)

### *International joint projects*

Bioactive peptides encrypted in milk proteins are a major source for novel functional food ingredients. These peptides can be produced in vivo during gastrointestinal digestion or in vitro through out food processing using specific enzymes. Recent studies have shown that enzymatic hydrolysis of some food proteins specially milk proteins can act as antioxidants. The field of natural antioxidants has developed enormously in the past decade. Peptides with antioxidant activity possess great potential for use as natural antioxidants in food and pharmaceutical products. Most of the studies on the bioactive peptides to this day have been done on cow's milk. A novel source for these peptides is camel milk proteins. Currently in Biophysical Chemistry lab at IBB/UT, students are working on investigation of the antioxidant properties of peptides produced using different digestive enzymes. This is a joint project between Biophysical Chemistry lab and INRA (French National institute for Agricultural research). This work is being done under the support of Jondishapoor project, which is an approved project of Ministry of science and research and technology of Iran and French embassy in Tehran.

### ➤ *Meeting of the Biophysical chemistry laboratory Alumni in IBB*

The first annual meeting of the graduate students of the Laboratory of Biophysical Chemistry (BCL) was held on 25th of June. Up to now, 30 PhD and 50 Master students have graduated from this lab in Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran (IBB).

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## ➤ *New Conferences*

### **VIII European Symposium of The Protein Society**

Zurich, Switzerland, June 14-18, 2009



Online Registration, Abstract Submission and Online Hotel Reservation will be open from September 1st 2008. For more information please visit [WWW.proteinsociety.org](http://WWW.proteinsociety.org)

### **2nd International Conference on ATTD**

Athens, Greece, Feb 2009



For more information please visit:  
<http://www2.kenes.com/attd>

**10th Iranian Congress of Biochemistry & 3rd International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Conference [10th ICB & 3rd ICBMB] & The second BBB (Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Bioengineering ) between Iran, China and Pakistan**  
11-14 July 2009 Tehran-Iran

For more information please visit: <http://www.biochemiran.com/congress10>

### **Nucleic Acids Conference 2009**

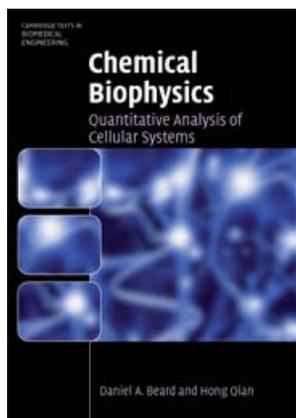
➤ **February 2009 Mexico**

For more information please visit: <http://www.zingconferences.com/z.cfm?c=59>

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## ➤ *New Books*

### *Chemical Biophysics*



Quantitative Analysis of Cellular Systems

Series: [Cambridge Texts in Biomedical Engineering](#)

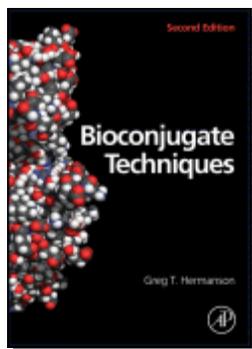
Daniel A. Beard /*Medical College of Wisconsin*

Hong Qian /*University of Washington*

Also available in [eBook format](#)

Published May 2008

### *Bioconjugate Techniques*



Second Edition

By Greg Hermanson, Director of Technology, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Rockford, IL USA

Audience

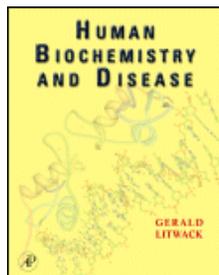
Researchers in biochemistry, molecular biology, immunology, pharmacology, cell biology, and microbiology

Bibliographic & ordering Information

Last update: 2 Sep 2008

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## *Human Biochemistry and Disease*



By **Gerald Litwack**, Jefferson Medical College,  
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Last update: 26 Aug 2008



## *Methods in Nano Cell Biology, 90*



By **Bhanu Jena**, Wayne State University School of  
Medicine, Detroit, MI, USA

### **Audience**

Researchers in cell, molecular and developmental  
biology.

publication date: DEC-2008

## *Molecular and Cellular Biophysics*

By Tuszynski, Jack A.

Tuszynski introduces undergraduate students in the biological sciences to the application of concepts and techniques from physics in the study of biological systems, focusing here on the smallest units. He covers what life is, the molecules of life, biological cells, and life processes. Chapter-end problems are included, as is a glossary without pronunciation indicated.

SciTech Book News, March, 2008

## ➤ *Interview*

Professor Faizan Ahmad is the director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India. He is an expert in his field and has several joint projects with IBB from 1992. He is member of ISOBC.



### **Please tell us about yourself:**

I was born on July 10, 1949 in India

I got my B.Sc. in physical chemistry and Ph.D. in Biophysical chemistry from the Aligash Muslim University

### **Please tell us about your relationship with IBB:**

I got an invitation to present my work at the Iranian first meeting of society of biochemistry organized by Professor Moosavi-Movahedi held in 1992. Professor Moosavi-Movahedi knew me from my work but we hadn't met till then. After this meeting I started coming to IBB for joint research.

### **What do you think of Iranian people and students?**

Generally speaking people are very good host here, I never felt that I am a Muslim from a different part of world. I have been interacting with IBB students and I am impressed by the fact that a large number of graduate students are girls and that they are dedicated to their studies following the course of Islam. I was impressed by the fact I saw girl student leaving the university after sunset alone, this is something we can't think of in India because of the insecurity there.

Another thing that I found very amusing was the intelligence of the M.Sc and Ph.D student here; but I strongly felt that in spite their good knowledge in science most of the students should improve their English language. I am sure if they can master their English language they will be among the best students of the world.



## ➤ *New Terminology*

### **Folding potency**

Folding potency (FP) is a factor to elucidate the role of important atoms in protein Folding pathway. Based on FP, we can predict representative protein folding intermediates in Biophysical Chemistry lab of IBB. FP may provide a more realistic evidence for Hydrophobe Polar (HP) model of protein folding. This Work will be published soon.

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