Dear Colleagues, EBSA Executive Committee Members,

I am pleased to inform you that the 12th International School of Biophysics was successfully concluded a month ago in Primošten, Croatia. It was organized by the Rudjer Bošković Institute (RBI) and the Croatian Biophysical Society (CBS) and coorganized by the COST action CM1306 Molecular Machines. The organization was substantially facilitated through EBSA financial support (5000 EUR). This support was used to provide grants to 12 students (grants covered the accommodation, full board – list of students is attached). Your support in promoting and advertising the School was equally valuable.

I would also like to emphasize the continuing support of Anthony Watts and Helmut Grubmüller who lectured at this School as well as in 2012 – a strong signal of EBSA support for the School. The Lecturers were from Germany (4), Croatia (4) and then Austria (2), USA (2), UK (2) and also from Australia, Switzerland, Sweden, France and Belgium. The Lecturers presented in total 50 lectures of about 45-60 minutes.

We had 74 students, 45 of them outside Croatia, 9 coming from Germany and also from Slovakia and Slovenia (4), Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Hungary, France (3), Italy and Spain (2), and Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Iran, Lithuania, Serbia, Sweden, the Netherlands and UK (1). Gender balance was well respected – more than a half were female students. According to the questionnaire that they filled, students were of rather diverse backgrounds, from molecular and structural biology, biochemistry, physical and computational chemistry to biophysics. Most (46) of the students presented a poster. EBSA Grantees, and other selected students (24 in total) presented their work also with a short, 10 minute talk. University of Zagreb awarded 5 ECTS points to participants.

The positive feedback gathered from the students and also from the lecturers will encourage us to engage in the organization of the next School. Many of the students who participated this time were informed by their colleagues who attended in 2012. The Lecturers are also quite open to the idea of coming back for the next School. The positive atmosphere of the School reflects also in strong bonds formed among the students which may be somewhat visible in our photo gallery at http://soft.ifs.hr/school/
The prospective date for the next School is the fall 2016. For 2016, along with your support, we also hope to obtain the support of IUPAB and make the School more international, but with a strong European character.

With hopes that our cooperation will continue and with many thanks,

Sincerely,
Dr. sc. Tomislav Vuletić
The School Chair

Zagreb, 05.11.2014.