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Finding Aid - European Life Sciences Forum Material (ELSF)

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European Life Sciences Forum Material

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Summary information

Repository:	Archive of the European Molecular Biology Organisation
Title:	European Life Sciences Forum Material
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) was founded in 1964 by a group of leading European scientists to strengthen research in molecular biology and foster collaboration across Europe. Its establishment was closely linked to the creation of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC, 1969), which provided intergovernmental support for EMBO's activities. EMBO promotes excellence in the life sciences through initiatives such as the election of distinguished researchers to its membership, the awarding of fellowships and grants, and the organization of scientific meetings, workshops, and training courses. In 1974, EMBO played a central role in establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), an intergovernmental research institution. Today, EMBO continues to support life scientists at all career stages and advocates for science policy across Europe and beyond.

Scope and content

This collection consists of correspondence, and administrative and organisational documents related to EMBO's involvement in the activities of the ELSF.

In 1999, EMBO, EMBL, and ELSO engaged in talks to create a Forum for the life sciences in Europe, coming together at a meeting at the EMBO headquarters to establish the ELSF shortly thereafter. The ELSF aimed to empower scientists to engage more actively in strategic and science policy matters, to present a unified voice on issues of shared concern, and to enhance the visibility and policy influence of organisations representing the life sciences.

A small governing body was appointed consisting of Frank Gannon, Fotis Kafatos, Kai Simons, and Julio E. Celis as President. Luc van Dyck joined as manager six months after the organisation was created. The secretariat was set up at the EMBL/EMBO facilities in Heidelberg and the EMBL, EMBO, and FEBS offered to cover a large fraction of the expenses for a period of 3 years.

Additionally, the ELSF identified as priorities the career of young scientists and the creation of a European Research Council (ERC) to support basic research.

Notes

Arrangement

These materials are arranged at the collection level.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published