



European Crystallographic Association

ECA

Report for school financial support

1. Date, location and title of meeting:

Title meeting	Heart of Europe Bio-Crystallography meeting (HEC23)
Location	online
Date	September 16-17 th 2021
Website address	

2. Please describe how the bursary was used.

We covered the conference fee for the following six PhD students:
Wojciech Witek (Inst. Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznan, Poland)
Pankaj Thapa, Anuradha Chaudhary, Prabakaran Chandrasekaran, Marzena Nowacka (all International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Warsaw, Poland)

3. Report (min. 250 words, max. 500 words, will be published on the ECA web site)

Meeting report for the 23rd Heart of Europe Bio-Crystallography meeting (HEC23)

The 23rd Heart of Europe Bio-Crystallography meeting (HEC23; <https://www.hec23.uni-bayreuth.de>) was initially planned to take place in for Vierzehnheilingen, Germany in September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemics the meeting was postponed for a year and eventually organized as an online event on September 16-17th, 2021 by the group of Clemens Steegborn at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

The HEC23 meeting was attended by 122 academics from 23 research groups (including 65 PhD students, along with postdocs, staff scientists and PIs) and 16 representatives of the 10 sponsoring companies. The program comprised 42 presentations: 21 regular presentations and 12 flash talks (both presented by PhD students or postdocs), 9 scientific presentations of company representatives, and the traditional « HEC lecture » on Thursday night. The excellent talks were organized in six sessions focused on bacterial enzymes and regulators, nucleic acids and interacting proteins, drug development, proteins from plants and pathogens, molecular machines, and techniques, technologies and applications, The HEC lecture was given by Dr. Herbert Nar, director of Structural Research at Boehringer Ingelheim, and provided exciting insights in structural biology applications in drug development in big pharma.

Despite the online mode, the tradition to include opportunities for personal exchange and some social activity at HEC meetings was followed at HEC23. Breakout rooms allowed to visit sponsors and to chat with friends, a quiz offered a chance to meet new people in a relaxed atmosphere, and Friday night dinner was supplemented with entertainment created by the PIs. At the end of the HEC23 meeting, IUCr sponsored presentation prizes were awarded to Lena Maria Gras (Wahl group, Berlin, Germany) and Kristyna Adamkova (Dohnalek group, Vestec, Czech Republic). Further, conference fees were covered by the ECA for six PhD students from Poznan and Warsaw, Poland, and general financial support was provided by the ten sponsoring

companies – all these contributions are gratefully acknowledged and helped to make HEC23 a successful platform for excellent scientific exchange and an enjoyable event.
The 24th Heart of Europe Bio-Crystallography meeting (HEC24) is planned for September 2022 at lake Lipno in South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

Please return this form (in Word format) within three month after the event to
Prof. Carl Henrik Görbitz
meeting.officer@ecanews.org

A group picture is appreciated!

