UBIMOTIF
Newsletter 3
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2022 Annual Meeting in Jerusalem

Report by Javier Arroyo Gomez and Marcel Diallo

The annual meeting in Jerusalem was a great experience for all of us. We fellows arrived a week ahead to undergo a series of workshops, the first of which was given by HFP on presentation skills. It was very personalized and interactive, and allowed us all to approach our presentations from very creative and sometimes unconventional ways, and ultimately helped us feel more comfortable discussing our projects in more formal settings.

The two other workshops were given by two PIs from the network: one with Ora, with expert help from Julia, and the other with Norman. Ora and Julia's workshop was a crash course on the molecular visualization software Pymol and proved very useful, as evidenced by a good number of us spending the days after glued to our screens using what we learned for our own projects. Norman's workshop, on the other hand focused on the giving us a rundown on the publicly accessible databases and tools that we have at our disposal. Those ranged from commonly known ones like Uniprot, to more specific ones such as SLiMSearch. We also discussed not only where to look for which information, but how to understand them based on what kind of data it is, whether it is manually or automatically annotated, and how up to date the information is. It was overall a very comprehensive overview, and many of us felt it would have been good to have it earlier during the network's lifetime as it was so useful.

After our extensive week of workshops, discovering Jerusalem, and refining our presentations based on what we had learned with HFP, PIs finally arrived for the second part of the annual meeting. First order of business was the presentations of the fellows. We had been notified earlier not to try and make a perfectly refined presentation such as one made for a conference. Instead, we were encouraged to show our work in its truest form, good and bad; what worked, and what didn't. We each went through our presentations more like a conversation with the audience, where we received real-time feedback, and emphasized where we worked together with other fellows. After all of that, we then had individual meetings between groups to discuss ongoing or future collaborations, as well as secondments.

Once all the presentations were done, and fruitful scientific discussions were conducted, we moved on to housekeeping, in the shape of a meeting between the fellows and Jakob and Lotta, the network coordinator and the project manager, respectively. There, the fellows discussed how they are doing with respect to their PhDs, and about the network itself. We concluded that the next HFP meeting should be organized along with a fellows-organized visit to Novartis, with the aim of gaining some exposure to research within industry.

Finally, to conclude the meeting, we had one last morning, where PIs were invited to give a small presentation where they could share ideas, projects, or any cool research they had heard about. This was very informative and entertaining, since it was informal and designed to be easy to follow and engaging, and fellows definitely enjoyed seeing their supervisors also have to present.

Some of us couldn't be blamed for being a bit exhausted by the end of what was an intensive and compact meeting, but we still managed to sneak into our schedules time to visit the main sites of the ancient city of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada, and the occasional post-workshop social gathering. Next up: Rome!

Fellows' Meeting in Zurich

The next UBIMOTIF training meeting for fellows will be in Zurich, Switzerland from June 27 – July 1, 2023. It will include a two-day Career Development workshop run by HFP Consulting, and a visit to Novartis.

Final Annual Meeting and Symposium in Rome

The final UBIMOTIF Annual Meeting will take place in Rome, Italy. The Annual Meeting will be on November 15 and will be followed by a two-day symposium with invited speakers on November 16-17. More details coming soon.

Publications by UBIMOTIF Fellows in 2022

UBIMOTIF fellow Caio Oliveira from Petra Beli's group at IMB Mainz is lead author on a protocol, co-authored by UBIMOTIF fellow Ekaterina Isaakova from Petra Beli's group: 'A Mass Spectrometry-Based Strategy for Mapping Modification Sites for the Ubiquitin-Like Modifier NEDD8'.

UBIMOTIF fellow Julia Varga from Ora Schueler-Furman's group at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is lead author on the article: 'Structure-based prediction of HDAC6 substrates validated by enzymatic assay reveals determinants of promiscuity and detects new potential substrates', published in Scientific Reports. Julia Varga is also co-author on two other papers: 'Harnessing protein folding neural networks for peptide–protein docking' and 'Matching protein surface structural patches for high-resolution blind peptide docking'.

UBIMOTIF fellow Awa Diop from Stefano Gianni's group at the

University of Rome is lead author of the review: 'SH2 Domains: Folding, Binding and Therapeutical Approaches'. Awa Diop is also co-author on five other papers: 'Unveiling induced folding of intrinsically disordered proteins – Protein engineering, frustration and emerging themes', 'Folding and Binding Mechanisms of the SH2 Domain from Crkl', 'Exploring the effect of tethered domains on the folding of Grb2 protein', 'On the Effects of Disordered Tails, Supertertiary Structure and Quinary Interactions on the Folding and Function of Protein Domains', and 'Characterization of early and late transition states of the folding pathway of a SH2 domain'.

Remember to **acknowledge the EU funding** when the fellows are authors on a publication and to contact the project manager (Amelia Green) when you have a UBIMOTIF paper coming out so that we can spread the word!

Web and social media

https://ubimotif.ku.dk/ for information about UBIMOTIF.

Follow UBIMOTIF and our fellows on Twitter and remember to tag us!

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