

PEER REVIEW IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE
Training course for Scientific Officers of European Research Funding
Organizations
Ronzano, Bologna, November 8-10, 2008

Outline of the Course

The European Genetics Foundation (www.eurogene.org), Telethon Italia (www.telethon.it), the PROGEN Consortium (www.consorzioprogen.it) and the University of Bologna are organizing a course devoted to the training of scientific officers responsible of the organization of the peer review of research projects in all areas of science.

The aim of this first course is to provide a platform of information/discussion on the themes related to the implementation of the best practices of peer review by public and private granting agencies, as well as to provide hands-on tutorials spanning the whole granting process, starting from the call for applications up to the review feedback provided to applicants.

The programme will be focused on the operational model adopted by leading European and American granting agencies to implement the peer-review system. This operational model is based on the key principle of ensuring complete independence of reviewers from those who are reviewed, and relies on three key figures: a) dedicated scientific officers with previous experience in research; b) a panel of scientists reviewing and discussing the research applications in a plenary session; c) external reviewers providing expert reviews in support of the panellists. Staff from the Telethon Scientific Office will represent the backbone of this course for the demonstration of the operational model in the workshop sessions.

The course will be aimed at scientific officers and prospective scientific officers at the European level, and will accept a maximum of 50 students. The course will take place in Ronzano, Bologna (arrival Friday November 7, 2008 departure Tuesday November 11). The course will be managed by the European School of Genetic Medicine.

Applications have to be submitted on line to www.eurogene.org.

The tuition fee for the entire Course for students and researchers is 500* Euro, 800* Euro including accommodation (room and board for the three days of the course). The Institutional Fee for participants sponsored by Institutions is 1600* Euro including tuition and accommodation.

*All prices are Vat Excluded

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Ronzano- Bologna (Italy), Novembre 8-10, 2008

FACULTY:

Ezio Andreta (Commissioner of the National Agency for the Innovation, Milan, Italy), **Silvio Garattini** (President of the Italian Drug Agency - AIFA, Milan, Italy), **Giuliana Gemelli** (University of Bologna, Director of the Master in International Studies in Philanthropy, Bologna, Italy), **Kenneth Keller** (Director of the SAIS - Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center, Bologna, Italy), **Cheryl Kitt** (National Institutes of Health, Center for Scientific Review, Bethesda, USA), **Luciano Modica** (University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy), **Lucia Monaco** (Chief Scientific Officer Italian Telethon Foundation, Milan, Italy), **Kathie L. Olsen** (Deputy Director & Chief Operating Office, National Science Foundation-NSF, Arlington, USA), **Renzo Orsi** (President of the IV Commission-Scientific Research, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy), **Francesca Pasinelli** (Dompè, Milan, Italy), **Giovanni Romeo** (University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy).

PROGRAMME

Friday, 7th November – Arrivals in Bologna

Saturday, 8th November

Morning Session (9,00-13,00)

Funding research: international strategies and policies

G. Gemelli	The role of philanthropy in the promotion of basic research in America
S. Garattini	The AIFA (Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco) Project
E. Andreta	The strategy of science policy in the EU
L. Monaco	Promoting research towards the cure of genetic diseases: how a charity faces its challenges

Lunch Break (13,00-14,30)

Afternoon Session (14,30-18,00)

Workshop n.1

Getting ready for peer review: call for applications; review panels, external reviewers

Sunday, 9th November

Morning Session (9,00-13,00)

Peer review: principles and applications

C. Kitt	The NIH organization of peer review
K. L. Olsen	The NSF organization of peer review

L. Monaco
K. Keller

The Telethon organization of peer review
Peer review in a American research universities

Round table discussion: *Comparative analysis of peer review systems*

Moderator: G. Romeo

Participants: All the speakers of the morning session

Lunch Break (13,00-14,30)

Afternoon Session(14,30-18,00)

Workshop n. 2

The review process: from the application to the study section

Monday, 10th November

Morning Session (9,00-13,00)

The practice of peer review

F. Pasinelli

The needs and benefits of peer review in the research system

Round table discussion: *The practice of peer review in different contexts*

Moderator: F. Pasinelli

Participants: L. Modica, R. Orsi, K. Olsen, G. Lucignani (T.B.D.).

Lunch Break (13,00-14,30)

Afternoon Session (14,30-18,00)

Workshop n. 3

After peer review: grant management and ex-post evaluation

Departures