



In the mix

Photo: Christine Panagiotidis

EMBL DG Iain Mattaj addressing the audience at 26 June's official signing ceremony of the Unit for Virus and Host Cell Interactions Unité Mixte Internationale (UMI) between EMBL, CNRS and the Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble. The international unit is a unique structure in France in the areas of biology and health, and will facilitate interdisciplinary research in structural and molecular biology. Head of EMBL Grenoble Stephen Cusack (seated, front right) will direct the unit for the first five years, and deputy head will be Rob Ruigrok, professor at the University Joseph Fourier.

## EMBL site for chemists

On Lab Day this year group leaders Maja Köhn, Carsten Schultz and Edward Lemke asked 'what can chemistry do for biology?' and presented a new section of the EMBL website devoted to chemical biology ([www.embl.de/research/chemistry/index.html](http://www.embl.de/research/chemistry/index.html)).

The pages list the ten EMBL groups that incorporate different areas of chemistry into their research, such as chemical synthesis, spectroscopic and spectrometric methods, chemoinformatics, chemical docking and modelling, protein semisynthesis and engineering, and analytical and medicinal chemistry. There's also a page listing the related equipment that is available at all EMBL sites and one that lists upcoming events organised by the chemical biology community.

The website is in preparation for the rapidly expanding field of chemistry at EMBL eventually becoming an EMBL Centre.



ELLS' first visit to (not so sunny) Spain

When local education administrators in Castilla y Leon asked EMBL alumna Teresa Alonso to organise a course for biology teachers, she immediately came to EMBL's European Learning Laboratory for the Life Sciences (ELLS) for inspiration. Together with Rossana De Lorenzi, the ELLS officer based in Monterotondo, Teresa ran her course, 'New frontiers in research on genetic diseases: from the lab to the classroom', at the Instituto de Biología y Genética Molecular in Valladolid in April, with seminars in Spanish and practical activities in English.

The scientists and speakers who contributed to the course were Alfredo Moreno,

Diego Sanchez, Ana Sanchez and Juan Jose Tellería from the host university, former EMBL postdoc Filip Lim, who now leads a group at the Autónoma University in Madrid, and former PhD student Felipe Mora, who's now at Dresden's Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics.

"This first ELLS course in Spain was a big success, with a great atmosphere among the teachers and the scientists," says Teresa. "As a result, the teachers have set up a working network with a virtual platform to exchange useful ideas and teaching materials."