

Dear **SBIC members, colleagues and friends,**

Welcome to the 2021.02 edition of our quarterly newsletter published by the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (SBIC), which aims to keep you up to date with important developments in our society, award deadlines and other opportunities we are supporting! We hope you have all had a good start into the new year despite the ongoing pandemic. Here, we provide you with the latest information from your society and we hope that you will continue to support or join SBIC as a new member. We would also like to invite you to pass the newsletter on to your students and colleagues and if you have news to share, please get in touch. Stay safe!

eBIC – The 1st SBIC Electronic Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference

As ICBC20 has been postponed to 2023, SBIC will host an electronic Biological Inorganic Chemistry meeting (**eBIC**) to ensure that our community can remain connected and active until in-person meeting resume. We will have a continuous presentation of seminars, posters and the general assembly over a 48-hour period in order to serve our international community equitably and fully. Plenary lectures (45 min) and general session talks (25 min) will be based upon invitation of the international organizing committee. All flash posters (4 min) will be available through the eBIC website and selected work will appear in dedicated poster sessions within the online program. Abstracts for all these formats and details for preparation of posters will be announced on the eBIC website.

The dates for the conference will be **July 20, 2021 (8:00 UTC/GMT) to July 22, 2021 (8:00 UTC/GMT)**. All programming will run continuously, as a single session, over this 48-hour period. Selected presentations (e.g., plenary lectures and the SBIC general assembly) will be recorded and loaded onto the SBIC website for viewing at a more convenient time. Should you have any questions please refer to the [eBIC website](#) or contact us at eBIC@sbichem.org.

Your membership in **SBIC** will serve as your registration, therefore, all speakers and poster presenters must be **SBIC** members. If you are not a member and want to attend the meeting you may do so by joining the society by registering [here](#). Members will be notified by email of important dates for the meeting (e.g., opening and closing dates for poster submission).

JOIN SBIC TODAY: <https://sbic.memberclicks.net/join-today>

SBIC Early Career Researchers Committee

SBIC is pleased to announce the installation of a new committee called the Early Career Researchers Committee whose charge is to identify and implement opportunities to advance the career development of individuals at the beginning, or during transitional periods, of their careers. The committee will be composed of 6 to 8 ECRs plus two members of the SBIC Council that will serve as liaisons to the committee and provide persistence to the group. The ECRs will be selected by the president with terms that will be for one or two years. In some cases, renewal for a second term can occur at the discretion of the president. Each ECR appointed to the committee must be an SBIC member; however, one may apply for this position prior to joining the society. As with all SBIC events, we strive for full representation of our members including race, gender, region and scientific diversity.

To apply for membership on the ECR committee, please include the following documents in an email to info@sbichem.org:

1) Your CV

2) A personal statement indicating why your circumstances would provide representation for the broad ECR community and how you feel you would be able to contribute both to career development of ECRs and also to the Society.

3) A letter of reference

These documents should be sent as a single pdf. The deadline to apply for these positions is May 12th at 11:59 pm UTC/GMT.

Educational Resources

We encourage you to visit our [educational resources webpage](#) where we have accumulated links to important pedagogical information and lectures to aid in teaching inorganic and bioinorganic chemistry. We will be uploading new content to this area over the next month which includes advanced lectures on metals in medicine, metalloprotein design and metal uptake and homeostasis. If you are an SBIC member, you also have access to members-only content which is continuously growing. Follow this [link!](#)

Congratulations

We are keen to profile the success of our SBIC members and highlight recent awards and accolades. If you have received an award or know of someone who has received recognition for their work, please email the information to [Christian Hartinger](#). Great to see how many bioinorganic chemists are recognized for the hard work and achievements – congratulations everyone!

Congratulations to Alejandro Vila (Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina) for being elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Argentina.

Gilles Gasser was selected by the French Medicinal Chemistry Society as the Pierre Fabre Awarded winner 2021. Congratulations!



Alejandro Vila
Universidad Nacional
de Rosario



Gilles Gasser
Université PSL

Communicating chemistry in the COVID19 era: A Latin American perspective.

COVID19 has had a tremendous impact on every human on the planet, and our scientific community is not the exception. Yet, this pandemic has also been an opportunity to evolve and transform how we communicate science. The LatinXChem conference (<https://www.latinxchem.org/english>) is an example of this, as it became a virtual forum for Latin American chemists to share and discuss their research advances, regardless of where in the world they are located. Last September 7th, 2020, LatinXChem organized a poster session event on Twitter that lasted 24 hours and brought together over 1,100 chemists from around the world. #LatinXChem became a trend on Twitter that day. The poster session was organized in 11 categories, one of them was

#LatinXChemInorg, where bioinorganic chemistry was well represented. The event was followed by a dozen of webinars, where the inorganic chemistry lecture was delivered by a Latin member of our SBIC community, Prof. Alejandro Vila, from the University of Rosario, Argentina. This webinar will be available to the SBIC community through our website. With his lecture entitled “Facing the threat of antibiotic resistance: Inhibition of metallo-beta-lactamases inspired by snapshots of the catalytic mechanism”, biological inorganic chemistry was well represented at LatinXChem. We invite you to keep it this way by participating in the upcoming LatinXChem 2021 edition (stay tuned @LatinXChem). The COVID19 pandemic has helped lower our activation barriers to make use of existing electronic and media tools to share and discuss science online. While we obviously miss having in-person meetings, having conferences online, such as [VII LABIC](#) organized by Dinorah Gambino and with over 100 presentations (7 plenaries, 10 keynotes, 19 invited, 18 student orals and 52 posters), offer a great opportunity for students to attend meetings that would otherwise not be accessible due to funding constraints. For the Latin American community online scientific events represent a great way to stay involved.

by Lilitana Quintanar, Cinvestav, Mexico



JBIC symposia

In the spring of 2021, JBIC is hosting three 2.5 h online-only Symposia featuring some of the hottest topics in Bioinorganic Chemistry – check out the [JBIC symposia](#) on the SBIC website for more information!

The symposia will feature 5–6 speakers in two subsequent sessions, in total about 2.5 hours of focused content and discussion. Targeted to the online-only format, each contribution will be 15 min, plus five minutes discussion. There will be virtual Breakout rooms with each individual speaker during the break after each session in order to facilitate interaction with participants (especially PhDs and postdocs).

The symposia will be online only and broadcasted as a live event through Zoom. Registration until 24 h before the event is mandatory for participation.

Participation to all events is organized via [Eventbrite.com](#), which also has details of speakers and registration:

1st JBIC Symposium “Artificial Metallo catalysis towards in vivo applications”

Date: April 29, 2021, 14 – 17 h CET (Central European Time = UTC+2).

The design of artificial metalloenzymes is a hot topic in Bioinorganic Chemistry. Novel chemistry can be engineered into known enzyme scaffolds, either by modifying the enzyme or the cofactor. Clever catalyst design enables the realization of bioorthogonal catalytic reactions in vivo. Applications include the production of value-added chemicals from microorganisms, the complete re-programming of microbes as "chemical factories", the in situ activation of drugs, and many more. This symposium shines light on the most recent developments in this rapidly developing area of Bioinorganic Chemistry, presented by some of the leading scientists of the field.

To register follow this [link](#).

2nd JBIC Symposium “Energy Conversion inspired by Bioinorganic Chemistry”

Date: May 4, 2021, 14 – 17 h ET (Eastern Time = New York Time = UTC-4).

Energy Conversion and Storage is one of the mega topics of the future, and as such also a hot topic in Bioinorganic Chemistry. Building on established knowledge of biological systems, novel chemistry is needed to transform small molecules into valuable feedstock. This symposium shines light on the most recent developments in this rapidly developing area of Bioinorganic Chemistry, presented by some of the leading scientists of the field.

To register follow this [link](#).

3rd JBIC Symposium “Nanomaterials for Bioinorganic Chemistry Applications”

Date: Middle of May – Check website for details!

The design of inorganic nanomaterials is a hot topic in Inorganic Chemistry, with applications ranging from coatings to new materials, electrodes and sensors, energy conversion and storage, all through to medicinal chemistry. With material properties tailored through composition as well as through particle size & shape this symposium will focus on innovative nanomaterials for challenges in biological inorganic chemistry, e.g. imaging, delivery of therapeutics, and other bio-related uses. This symposium features some of the leading scientists of the field particularly from Asia.

To register follow this [link](#).

Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (JBIC) highlights

JBIC is the well-reputed journal of our society. Nils Metzler-Nolte is the Editor-in-Chief and in this role serves as a member of the SBIC Council. Nils always welcomes manuscripts with high impact results for publication in our journal. By submission of impactful articles to JBIC you demonstrate your active support of SBIC, our global learned society, regardless of whether you are a member of SBIC or not!

Here are some of the paper highlights recently published in JBIC and their full text is available free of charge for the next months. These articles have been selected by the journal Editor-in-Chief for their exceptional interest to members of the biological inorganic chemistry scientific community.

[The structure-based reaction mechanism of urease, a nickel dependent enzyme: tale of a long debate](#)

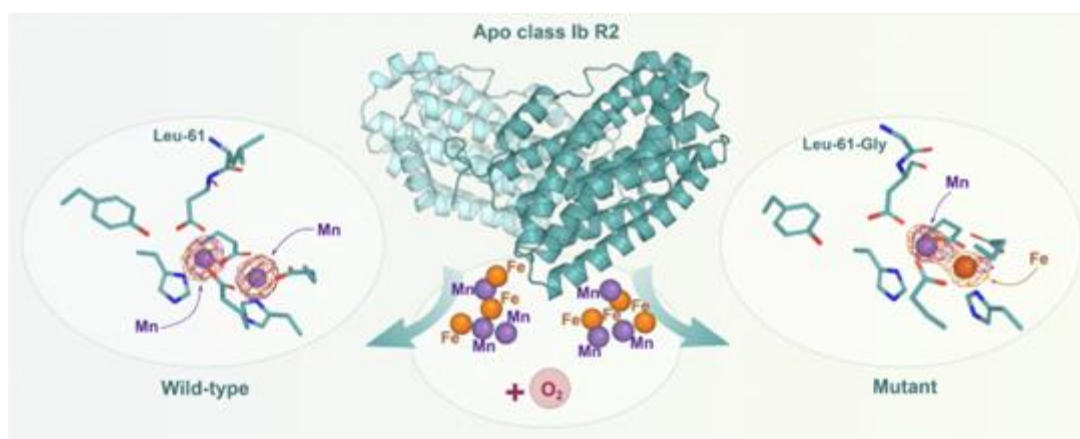
Luca Mazzei, Francesco Musiani & Stefano Ciurli

The long story of urease, told by Ciurli and colleagues. Also an excellent paper for teaching bioinorganic chemistry!

[The Bacillus anthracis class Ib ribonucleotide reductase subunit NrdF intrinsically selects manganese over iron](#)

Kristine Gräve, Julia J. Griese, Gustav Berggren, Matthew D. Bennett & Martin Högbom

How nature chooses the “correct” metal, even against the odds of the Irving-Williams series. See also the commentary in the same issue by Robinson.



For your diary: Upcoming conferences supported by SBIC

- eBIC July 20, 2021 (8:00 GMT) to July 22, 2021 (8:00 GMT)
- The International Symposium on Bioorganometallic Chemistry 2021 (ISBOMC21) in Braunschweig was postponed to 2023 and will be replaced by three ISBOMC webinars to be held on April 28, June 16 and October 13, 2021 (<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/en/pharmchem/isbomc21>)
- 12th [International Copper Meeting](#), Sorrento, September 19-24, 2021.
- 2022 Gordon Research Conference – Metals in Biology (<https://www.grc.org/metals-in-biology-conference/2020/>)
- 2022 Gordon Research Conference – The Roles of Tetrapyrroles in Catalysis, Regulation, Metabolism and Disease (<https://www.grc.org/chemistry-and-biology-of-tetrapyrroles-conference/2020/>)
- GRC Metals in Medicine, June 26 - July 1, 2022, Proctor Academy, NH (<https://www.grc.org/metals-in-medicine-conference/2022/>)
- LABIC-8, Chile, November 2022

Call for applications for conference support

SBIC financially supports international meetings on subjects related to Biological Inorganic Chemistry organized by members of our society. At many of these conferences, SBIC members will pay special, discounted registration fees and students and early career members may be eligible for travel awards.

In order to be eligible for conference support, the conference organizers need to be SBIC members. Applications need to be sent to the SBIC Treasurer [Charles G. Riordan](#). Please include a detailed conference program. Diversity in gender, age, race, ethnicity, geography and research topics covering a broad range of biological inorganic chemistry is a prerequisite to obtain SBIC funding. Adequate representation from underrepresented groups, including women for Plenary and Keynote lectures in particular, and the program in general, must be demonstrated. A maximum of 2,000 US\$ (conferences) or 3,000 US\$ for student workshops will be granted to non-BIC conferences. All SBIC financial support is exclusively given out as SBIC travel bursaries to be awarded to young researchers (PhD students and postdocs), being SBIC members, and the financial support by SBIC must be acknowledged.

For ICBIC, AsBIC, EuroBIC and LaBIC, special funding rules apply. Please contact the SBIC Treasurer [Charles G. Riordan](#) for details.

National meetings and those organized by national chemical societies are not eligible for SBIC support, including Pacificchem Symposia.

DEADLINES for applications: March 1 and October 1 each year.

Stay in touch with SBIC: Follow us on our Social Media channels!

You have been included in this mailing list as a current member of the society or because you have attended a conference of the BIC series (ICBIC, EuroBIC, AsBIC, LABIC). If you would prefer not to receive this information, please let us know and we will remove your email address from the distribution list. If you would like to receive the latest SBIC news on your social media feeds, like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/officialSBIC/>, or follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/sbicofficial/>. If you would like to advertise your events or anything biological inorganic chemistry-related, please email [Christian Hartinger](mailto:Christian.Hartinger@sbic.org) with all the relevant information.

