

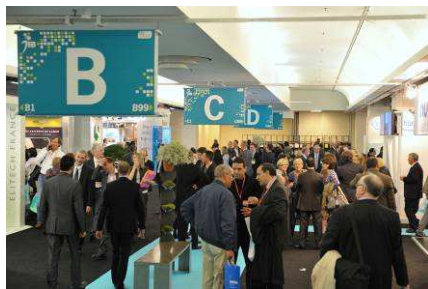


Press release
Paris, December 3rd 2009

THE JOURNEES INTERNATIONALES DE BIOLOGIE 2009 (JIB) AN EVENT WELL RECEIVED BY THE PROFESSION

In 2009, the JIB, THE meeting for the profession, attracted 10,025 visitors compared with 9,773 in 2008, an increase of 2.6%. The international element was even more important, accounting for 27.17% of the visitors to the Journées Internationales de Biologie.

10,025 visitors and 175 exhibitors at a show that all know and look to



"Against a background of the economic crisis and in a tense and uncertain climate resulting from the reorganization of the profession, French and foreign biologists visited the JIB in even greater numbers, drawn by the cutting edge new products on show and the vitality of the exhibitors", reports Jean Benoit, President of the Syndicat des Biologistes.

Although the natural target groups of the JIB continue to display their attachment to the event (private laboratories: +2.76% and hospital laboratories: +18.97%), specialist laboratories and research laboratories are displaying an increasing interest in this medical gathering. This is due in large part to the breadth, depth and quality of the content of the congress, which continues to attract the profession, and recorded 1,830 attendees.

The **international dimension** of the event grew both in terms of visitors (+21.4%) and exhibitors (20 manufacturers from Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Iceland).

Focus on the rapid advances in understanding the biology of cancers

Coinciding with the announcement of the Cancer Plan II, the scientific programme of the JIB, co-ordinated by Prof Gilles Favre and the scientific committee, presented the latest advances in understanding the **biology of cancers** and the hopes for improved diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of cancer. The medical and scientific sessions looked at tumour cells, molecular markers in the different types of cancers, such as breast, prostate and digestive tract... and there were also sessions devoted to the practice of the profession and new techniques and technologies.



The JIB Congress is the forum for the latest developments in biology and for biologists it is the place where science lays the foundations for the biology that will be practised tomorrow.

The scientific programme was not just supported by the EFCC (European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) and the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) but was also supported by the INCa (French national cancer institute)... This support was symbolized by the presence of the President

of the INCa, Prof Dominique Maraninchi, who gave a lecture on Wednesday 4th November on, "What biomarkers for studying the risk, establishing the diagnosis, proposing the indication and carrying out the therapeutic monitoring?"

New in 2009: for the first time, the JIB organised an active training session with **Practical Cases** with an electronic voting system that allowed the participants to interact in an enjoyable way with the moderator.

The call for posters generated a massive response. Among the 230 posters received, 147 were selected and displayed within the poster exhibition. Three of them received a "Best JIB 2009 Poster" award.

The future of biology in France



In 2009, the year of dialogue, the profession has made substantial advances, particularly in relation to the difficult question of the non-liberalization of the capital of French laboratories. *"However, a certain number of measures remain to be taken to ensure that the biologist is free to pursue his or her profession independently in the interests of the patient, of the professional and of the Assurance Maladie [Health Insurance]."*, declared Jean Benoit for the benefit of Michel Ballereau, who attended the meeting of

the Syndicat des Biologistes on Friday 6th November.

Focus on Morocco, a great success

As country of the year in 2009, Morocco achieved great success in encouraging Moroccan visitors. 658 did in fact attend this year and there was a special session on Thursday 5th November for the official visit of His Excellency El Mostafa SAHEL, the Moroccan Ambassador, the presentation of the plan to fight cancer proposed by the Association Lalla Salma and the signing of an agreement between the two countries, all of which helped make Moroccan medical biology better known to the professionals present at the JIB.

BioMi: a high profile centre of expertise within JIB

The BioMi centre was created in 2008 and once again this year was a great success with the public. Fully integrated into the core of the JIB, molecular biology offered more and more technological innovations at both the show and during the BioMi session of the congress on Friday 6th November, with specialist workshops run by Roche, BioMérieux – Mérieux Alliance and Qiagen.

The next JIB will be held from 2nd to 5th November 2010

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