



# EUROPEAN LIGHT SOURCE

## RESEARCH NEWS

### A European Centre for Structural Biology inaugurated

The new Carl-Ivar Brändén Building (CIBB) was inaugurated on 13 January in Grenoble, France. The CIBB will be operated as a collaboration between major international and national partners based in Grenoble and is a further step in the development of the region as a European centre of excellence for structural biology. The CIBB comprises two complementary units: the Partnership for Structural Biology (PSB), whose members include the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), the Institut de Biologie Structurale (IBS) and the Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL), and the Institut de Virologie Moléculaire et Structurale (IVMS). The building is named after a former Director of Research at the ESRF.



P. Ginter

"These partners offer an amazing range of expertise in the life sciences, and the Grenoble campus is an ideal place to cluster them together in an important new centre for structural biology", says Eva Pebay-Peyroula, Director of the IBS and current Chair of the PSB. "It benefits from the presence of some of the world's most important instruments for structural biology: the ESRF's X-ray source is one of the most powerful in the world, and the ILL offers the world's leading source of neutrons." For many years the ESRF, ILL and EMBL have collaborated in offering scientists services and training connected to these instruments, already making the site a pivotal contact point for large European research projects and interdisciplinary collaborations.

The CIBB will house research groups and a complete pipeline for carrying out high-throughput structural investigations of proteins and other molecules, with a particular focus on molecules related to human diseases. The facilities include laboratories for high-throughput protein purification and expression, robotic crystallisation facilities, deuteration and isotope labelling, nuclear magnetic resonance, mass-spectrometry and cryo-electron microscopy.

#### SUPERBUGS

##### THE ESRF SCIENCE IN THE PSB FOCUSES ON RESISTANT BACTERIA

The ESRF Research Programme is mainly focused on molecular mechanisms underlying bacterial adaptation to their environment. Two exceptionally successful bacteria are studied: *Deinococcus*

*Radiodurans* and *Helicobacter Pylori*. The genomes of these bacteria have been sequenced, showing some remarkable features. The aim is to try to gain insight into different pathways particular to those bacteria, which are dedicated to adaptation to their environment or modification of their metabolism, allowing survival under extreme conditions.

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