




## Editorial

### 9th Molecular Biology Conference

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The Students' Scientific Circle of Young Biophysicists (Studenckie Koło Naukowe Młodych Biofizyków, SKNMB) is one of the oldest student organisations promoting scientific activity at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Lodz. Its membership, composed of undergraduate students from various degree courses at the Faculty (but also from other faculties and even universities), dedicates itself to contributing to progress in life sciences by three main avenues of activity: laboratory research by individual members under the supervision of university scientists, coordinated by SKNMB; public outreach and scientific education activities, with experimental demonstrations and workshops at numerous events and science fairs; and finally, organising scientific conferences where undergraduate and graduate students from all over Poland present and discuss their research and findings in an ambitious and nurturing atmosphere. These student conferences have been organised by SKNMB at different scales, locations and scopes throughout the years, but the flagship series of events are indubitably the Molecular Biology Conferences, yearly meetings initiated in 2012 and dedicated to scientific presentations by students of all levels in basic and applied aspects of biology at the molecular (biochemical and biophysical) level. These conferences take place on the premises of the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection of UL and involve oral and poster presentations from between 80 and 150 participants affiliated with various universities (including medical and technical universities) in Poland. They also always include plenary invited lectures given by eminent scientists from the best Polish research centres. Its 2024 edition, the 9th Molecular Biology Conference, took place on March 14th–15th and gathered 106 participants.

Organising a nationwide scientific conference after a long pandemic-linked break was an extraordinarily difficult task that involved the time and efforts of all SKNMB members for many months. This corresponds to the core of our organisation's mission, which is to aid the personal and scientific development of student members by doing ambitious things of which we can later be proud. The conference was remarkably successful, with presentations of dozens of speakers and a rich poster session testifying to its high scientific level. In addition, the event attracted the attention of industry

companies whose representatives were present in large numbers, enabling both conference participants and University staff to learn about latest technological developments.

As the Chairman of the Organising and Scientific Committee of the conference (M.R.) and scientific supervisor of SKNMB (L.P.), we have the pleasure, together with the editors of *Folia Biologica et Oecologica*, to present the readers with this special issue of the journal, devoted entirely to student research that had been presented at the 9th Molecular Biology Conference. The articles in this issue are not identical in content to conference presentations, but have been prepared as full manuscripts and have undergone independent peer review separate from acceptance to the conference. With a feeling of pride and encouragement at the quality of research performed by the upcoming generation of Polish life scientists, we hope for the readers appreciation and acknowledgement. We sincerely thank the editors of *Folia Biologica et Oecologica* for their patronage.