

# EMBRIC Newsletter



## EMBRIC News



### **The Configurator is at your service, marine scientists**

The new [Configurator portal](#) has been launched on the EMBRIC website! The Configurator provides free consultancy on data management, analysis, curation, standards and cloud compute capacity. It has been initiated to assist marine scientists with their (data) needs around biotechnology and biomolecular work.

The Configurator team from the European Bioinformatics Institut (EMBL-EBI, UK) presented the data consultancy service to more than 20 interested parties in Porto on the 17th of January – just prior to the EuroMarine General Assembly. Participants of the workshop were curious to learn about the details of the initiative and – for example – wondered about the difference between EMBRIC and ELIXIR or whether the authorship needs to be shared when using the configurator. These are important questions to understand how the configurator functions:

1. ELIXIR is an intergovernmental Research Infrastructure for life science. It provides resources like databases, software tools and training materials. ELIXIR is connected to the EMBRIC cluster as one of the six partner Research Infrastructures. This liaising between EMBRIC and ELIXIR makes it easier for the marine community dealing with biomolecular data, to find the right tools, training and learn about best-research practices. The Configurator data consultancy, which was developed as part of EMBRIC, provides a great entry point into the ELIXIR resources.

2. Although it is a consultancy service, the Configurator is non-profit and fully sponsored by EMBRIC. Selected experts advise on specific Configurator cases relevant to their

expertise, but do not claim authorship. Their mission is to help the user in making more informed decisions and becoming fully aware of the available resources.

If you have any other question on this service, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Configurator team at [annalisa@ebi.ac.uk](mailto:annalisa@ebi.ac.uk).



## Marine life – a source for novel drugs and cosmetics

Our oceans are rich in biodiversity. Algae, fish and shellfish, but also microorganisms, sponges and bacteria populate the underwater landscape. While we usually only notice the larger animals in the fisher-nets, the inconspicuous ones – such as algae and sponges – can be a source of chemical diversity, useful for the development of new drugs or cosmeceutical applications.

Within the [EMBRIC Transnational Access Program](#), scientists from the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn studied ovothiols – which have been identified in marine invertebrates, human pathogens and some microalgae – for their potential therapeutic use in humans and as antioxidants to repair skin damage. Within the EMBRIC Transnational Access program, scientists successfully tested the anti-inflammatory and skin-protecting properties of ovothiols. Moreover, they investigated the mechanism by which ovothiols inhibit an enzyme, previously identified as target for cancer therapy. These tests were done at CCMAR in Faro (Portugal) and at FMP in Berlin (Germany). The results of this project will be published in a scientific paper and may also be object of a patent development.

Ten research projects were funded within the first Transnational Access Call. The second Transnational Access Call will open on the 15th of February 2018. Do you have a project that is innovative, dealing with marine biotechnology and realizable at the facilities of [EMBRIC Access Providers](#)? In a first step, please choose between the different Access Providers, get in touch with a Local Access Officer of your choice and discuss whether your application is feasible within their facilities. In a second step, you can then fill in the details of the application. We are looking forward to support the development of your ideas!

Check out our [Application Guide](#) and submit your online application from the 15th of February onwards.

[Submit your online application](#)

EMBRIC started in 2015 and has since then published various interesting results. If you want more insights and see what has been accomplished so far, please have a look [here](#).



**Deliverable D7.2**  
Database of compounds across  
microalgal lineages published

## Marine microalgae in the spotlight

**Deliverables 7.2:** Unicellular marine algae are an extremely diverse group of organisms containing well-studied species as well as species for which very little is known.



Marine microalgae have evolved unique strategies to adapt to different environmental conditions and this has given rise to a great richness in novel and unexplored small molecules with potentially important biotechnological applications for human health.

Within EMBRIC, different procedures needed for small molecule discovery have been defined and applied. Scientists set up cultivation and extraction protocols for 42 representative microalgal strains and characterized the extracts in metabolome profiling experiments and biological assays. The dataset is stored in the publicly accessible database MetboLights and provides a source for future exploitation within and outside EMBRIC.

[Read D. 7.2](#)

## Get to know ... MIRRI

**This section introduces our EMBRIC Research Infrastructure team - this time: MIRRI**

The pan-European Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI) exists since 2012. MIRRI's vision is to be a pan-European platform that comes up with solutions to societal challenges by stimulating interaction between academia and bioindustry.

The services MIRRI offers include:

- access to microbial material and related databases
- isolation, cultivation, identification, phenotypic and molecular typing of microorganisms
- screening and bioassays with microorganisms

If you want to have sponsored access to MIRRI services, apply to the EMBRIC Transnational Access call (15. February). For pay-and-play access, check out the [MIRRI services](#) and contact the selected institution.



### Call for 500 new scientific positions in Portugal - apply to work at CCMAR

The Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal (FCT) opened 500 new scientific positions at all levels (Junior researcher, Assistant Researcher, Principal Researcher, Coordinating Researcher). The call is open between 19th January and 15th February.

**CCMAR** is a top marine research institute in Portugal, with a vibrant and enthusiastic group of scientists and support, excellent facilities, extensive international collaboration and leading member of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre ([EMBRC](#)). CCMAR invites candidates in all areas from Oceanography, ecology, organismal biology, bioinformatics, biotechnology, etc. to get in touch.

Detailed information about the call can be found [here](#) (in Portuguese, but CCMAR will help with translation and the application). The guidelines in English can be downloaded [here](#).

## Upcoming EMBRIC event

The banner features a dark blue background with a white and orange wavy line running horizontally. On the left, the EMBRIC logo is displayed, consisting of the word "emboric" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font with orange circles above the letters, and the full name "EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER" in smaller blue text below. Below the logo are three circular images: a row of laboratory flasks containing green liquid, a group of blue fish swimming, and a green, multi-lobed biological structure. On the right, the word "Symposium" is written in a large, white, italicized serif font. At the bottom right, the "eu:openscreen" logo is visible, with "eu:" in blue and "openscreen" in a grey, lowercase, sans-serif font.

## Save the date!

### Symposium “Successful roads from organisms to molecular tools”

22-23 March 2018, Leibniz Research Institute for Molecular Pharmacology (FMP),  
Campus Berlin-Buch, DE

Register for free until 15 February 2018

The purpose of this two day symposium is to present established harmonized experimental workows to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and innovation from bio-resources. Successful developments in the areas of proteins, secondary metabolites and carbohydrates will be showcased.

Confirmed speakers include (among others) Prof. Ray Owens (University of Oxford, Protein Production Facility) – expert in high throughput expression of recombinant proteins, Prof. Mark Brønstrup (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research) – drug discovery and chemical biology expert and Cécile Hervé (Station Biologique de Roscoff) – expert on marine carbohydrates.

[Register here](#)

## Other upcoming events

- CORBEL webinar "Lightweight Service Management for Research Infrastructures: FitSM Approach", 6 February 2018  
[More information and registration](#)
- ENA Sequence Retrieval Course at European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) - Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK, 13 March 2018  
[Register now](#)
- EMBRIC - CPMR blue bioeconomy meeting will take place at the CPMR headquarters in Brussels on 20 March 2018 (invitation-only event)
- Workshop "Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology" at the

European Parliament in Brussels on 21 March 2018 (invitation-only event)

- Company Forum Workshop “Advances in Aquaculture Genetics: North meets South” in Bergen, Norway, 3-4 May 2018
- Computational molecular evolution, Heraklion, Greece, 6 May 2018
- EMBRIC General Assembly, Heraklion, Greece, 17-19 September 2018

EMBRIC project  
<http://www.embric.eu/>



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[Unsubscribe](#)

Gesendet von



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