

Oggetto: IAB Meeting, October 30th 2023

The International Advisory Board together with the Chair Prof. Valeria Conte and a delegation of the Department met on 30 October 2023 at 4.00 pm for the first time.

People present: IAB and CSM, see Schedule

The Department continues to be a vital and dynamic hub of scientific research, teaching, and community engagement. The mission is to promote excellence in chemistry education and research while fostering innovation, diversity, and inclusion.

After the Chair presentation of the current situation of the project, the IAB met in a private session, discussing three issues.

1. Efforts to build the faculty appear to be on track, with searches concluding, ongoing, or about to start for one Associate Professor and three research Associates. Given the relatively small size of the Department, such faculty augmentation is an obvious and laudable goal.

The committee also focused on two areas in which it felt further focus is warranted as they would significantly leverage the available funds:

2. How best to attract PhD students from outside the Roma area.

3. How to stimulate less-active researchers to become re-engaged in significant new research activities.

In relation to the second point, the IAB suggests, if possible, raising the salary of the PhD students and improving awareness by advertising available positions through media and contacts with colleagues.

In relation to the third point, the committee encouraged the funding of new, internal projects in which “less active” researchers are drawn into the excitement and productivity of more active groups. The involvement of less active researchers should be a condition sine qua non to approve seed funding grants.

Finally, the committee expressed its enthusiasm regarding organizing the next IAB meeting in person in Roma, and doing so in concert with a Scientific Workshop in which the IAB is invited to give presentations. This would both improve communications within the committee and between the committee and the Department, but also provide an opportunity for researchers in the Department to be exposed to the international experts comprising the committee.

X-CHEM

International Advisory Board (IAB) 1st Meeting Oct. 30th, 2023

Agenda

Participants:

IAB:

Dr Gabriella Colucci (CEO, ArterraBioscience S.p.A.)

Professor Ian Hamley (University of Reading UK)

Professor Kevin W. Plaxco (UCSB, USA)

Professor Maurizio Prato (Università degli Studi di Trieste, IT)

Professor Graca Vicente (Louisiana SU, USA)

CSM (Commission for Supervision and Monitoring)

Professor Valeria Conte, Coordinator

Professor Silvia Orlanducci

Professor Fabiana Arduini

Professor Roberto Paolesse

Professor Massimo Bietti

Professor Francesco Ricci

Professor Elisabetta Di Bartolomeo

Professor Mariano Venanzi

Professor Silvia Licocchia

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION		Participants
16:00-16:10	Welcome and Outline of the agenda.	V. Conte, Project Coordinator and DSTC Chair
16:15- 16:30	Introduction of IAB and CSM Members	Chair, All
PROJECT OVERVIEW		
16.30-16:45	Overview of X-CHEM Project Concept, Objectives and 1st year Actions	Chair
16.45-17:15	IAB review and internal Discussion	IAB Members
17:15-17:30	IAB review: feedback, suggestions, and requirements from AIB	All
17.30	Conclusions	Chair