

Luxembourg Life Sciences Association (LISA) A.S.B.L.

Siège social: L-1445 Luxembourg, 1A-B, rue Thomas Edison.

R.C.S. Luxembourg F 8.456.

1 Mission statement

The Luxembourg Life Sciences Association aims at

- Developing and promoting life sciences in the Luxembourgish research institutions.
- Facilitating the exchange and meeting between researchers and students in Luxembourg and the Greater Region.
- Establishing national and international collaboration in life sciences and associated topics.
- Integrating technological innovations in the various Luxembourgish research institutions.
- Organizing events, such as conferences, symposia and workshops in relation with its activities.

2 Organization

LISA is organized in and acts as an umbrella association for thematic working groups in life sciences. While these working groups are self-organizing and financially independent, they benefit from the legal entity provided by the association.

As a non-for-profit legal entity, LISA is entitled by these working groups to submit projects, request grants (such as *Fond National de Recherche - Accompanying Measures*) and organize workshops and symposia.

Additional stand-alone working groups have approached the Management Board, showing their interest in joining LISA (e.g. *Proteolux, Luxembourg Cytometry Association*).

2.1 Work group - LuciLinX: the Luxembourg Bioinformatics Network

The first meeting of the Luxembourg Bioinformatics Network LuciLinX was held on April 2nd, 2008 at the CRP-Santé, by representatives of the major public and private research institutions active in the field of bioinformatics in Luxembourg. LuciLinX aims at promoting communication between bioinformaticians in Luxembourg and increase the national and international visibility of bioinformatics research and applications in Luxembourg

Since its inception, LuciLinX has excelled at moderating the budding community of Luxembourgish bioinformaticians, effectively and regularly bringing together

scientists from all research institutions. Services and tools proposed by LuciLinX include:

- An up-to-date website to catalogue bioinformatics activities, resources and contacts in Luxembourg
- A mailing list moderated by LuciLinX to exchange news, invitations, calls-for-papers, start discussion...
- Regular Meetings with LuciLinX members to discuss current affairs and upcoming events
- Annual symposia, focusing on the inter-institutional communication in Luxembourg and the Greater Region:
 - o First Annual LuciLinX Symposium (2008) at the Chamber of Commerce of Luxembourg, co-hosted by Luxinnovation.
 - o Second Annual LuciLinX Symposium (2009) at the University of Luxembourg, co-hosted by the University of Luxembourg and the CRP-Santé.
 - o Third Annual LuciLinX Symposium (2010) at the Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg, co-hosted by the CRP Henri Tudor and CRP Gabriel Lippmann.

In addition, the following activities are planned:

- Involvement in the organization of international bioinformatics meetings.
- Submission of projects aimed at promoting bioinformatics in Luxembourg (e.g. in collaboration with FNR, LuxInnovation).
- Participation at fairs (e.g. student / job / industrial happenings), so as to advertise the research and investment potential in bioinformatics in Luxembourg and to create contacts between researchers, students, private companies, public institutions and others.

The mission statement and goal of the LuciLinX working group were co- signed in 2008 by Lucien Hoffmann (CRP-Gabriel Lippmann), Pierre Plumer (CRP-Henri Tudor), Andreas Jahnen (CRP-Henri Tudor), Francisco Azuaje (CRP-Santé, Cardiovascular Research Laboratory), Yvan Devaux (CRP-Santé, Cardiovascular Research Laboratory), Céline Yvorra (CRP-Santé, Cardiovascular Research Laboratory), Arnaud Muller (CRP-Santé, Microarray Center), Petr Nazarov (CRP-Santé, Microarray Center), Daniel Struck (CRP-Santé, Retrovirology Laboratory), Anne-Marie Ternes (CRP-Santé, Retrovirology Laboratory), Olivier Keunen (CRP-Santé, Head of IT), Patrick Pirrotte (Institute of Immunology, LNS/CRP-Santé), Marc Diederich

(Laboratoire de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire du Cancer), Serge Eifes (Laboratoire de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire du Cancer), Carsten Carlberg (University of Luxembourg), Merja Heinäniemi (University of Luxembourg).

2.2 Work group - The BioLux Network - Connecting Researchers

The idea to establish the BioLux Network evolved during the networking meeting for the AFR (Aides à la Formation-Recherche) beneficiaries organized by the FNR (Fonds National de la Recherche) in December 2009. One month later, Julia Kessler and Nancy Gerloff, both PhD students at the Centre de Recherche Public-Santé (CRP-Santé) founded the BioLux Network in cooperation with the FNR. The main objective of the newly founded Network is to serve as a platform for PhD students (doctoral candidates) and Postdocs (young researchers with recent PhD degree) to facilitate scientific exchange through enhanced communication between the different research institutions of the Life Sciences domain in Luxembourg. Contacts between younger and senior researchers should also be improved.

The regular BioLux Network meetings (every last Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm) have so far been organized at different locations including the CRP-Santé in Luxembourg (www.crp-sante.lu), CRP Henri Tudor in Esch-sur-Alzette (www.tudor.lu), the University of Luxembourg (www.uni.lu) and the CRP Lippmann in Belvaux (www.lippmann.lu). Topics of the past reunions were not only focused on research, but dealt also with career development in different scientific fields. With great interest the Networkers interviewed guests from pharmaceutical companies, public administrations, and senior researchers to learn more about possible career opportunities following their doctoral studies.

One BioLux Network meeting took place at the University of Luxembourg with Prof. Rudi Balling, the Director of the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (www.lcsb.lu), Dr. Jean-Claude Schmit (Chief Executive Officer) and Daniel Cardao (Administrative and Financial Manager), both from the CRP-Santé. The objective of the active round-table discussion was "The bottlenecks of your PhD in Luxembourg". The guest speakers and the BioLux Networkers discussed possibilities to further enhance communication within the institutions as well as between them, especially at the different CRP's and the University of Luxembourg. As an example, the initiation of national annual meetings was suggested and will be elaborated in the future.

The success of the Network is evident by more than 60 participants from various research institutions throughout Luxembourg. The great interest in the BioLux Network is also reflected in several radio broadcasts on the local radio station 100,7 (www.100komma7.lu; http://www.100komma7.lu/lu/d-archiven-vum-radio-100,7/archiv/programmesemissionfiche/n_196505/invite-virum-dag; [http://www.100komma7.lu/lu/d-archiven-vum-radio-100,7/archiv/programmesemissionfiche /n_198276/innovatioun-a-fuerschung](http://www.100komma7.lu/lu/d-archiven-vum-radio-100,7/archiv/programmesemissionfiche/n_198276/innovatioun-a-fuerschung)), as

well as an article in the Cahier Scientifique 01 /2010 of the Revue Technique Luxembourg (http://www.revue-technique.lu/categorie/cahier_/).

In the future, scientific presentations of members of the BioLux Network will be organized. This will give young researchers the possibility to present their data and discuss their problems with more experienced researchers in their field and thus enhance communication amongst the new generation of researchers. In addition to improve communication amongst young researches, the BioLux community will encourage members to actively participate in promoting scientific culture (e.g. Science Festival, Researchers Night).

3 Membership

Two forms of membership are possible:

- Active members ("*personne morale*"), with a voting right. This type of membership is targeted at individuals. As of 2010, active membership is, equal to a yearly membership fee of 0€, with possible adjustments in the future.
- Honorary Members ("*personne juridique et/ou morale*"), without a voting right. This type of membership is targeted at research institutions, companies, association or any other type of organization who wishes to support the association. To help fund the activities of the association, a yearly membership fee is collected per supporting organization and tied to a convention signed between each institution and LISA.

Each membership will be reviewed by the Management Board (Conseil d'Administration) and is subject to their agreement. Care is taken to balance the representation of each member institution in the Management Board.

Membership to any working group is equal to membership to LISA.

Current membership of LuciLinX is approximately 50 members, BioLux approximately 60 members.