

European Federation of Biotechnology Microbial Physiology Section

Open Meeting of the Section during the 7th Conference on Recombinant Protein Production in Laupheim, Germany at 18:10, March 7, 2013.

Attendees: Jeff Cole, Pau Ferrer, Brigitte Gasser, Carl-Frederik Mandenius, Dethardt Müller, Christine Lang, Ursula Rinas, Lars Christensen, Peter Neubauer, Markku Saloheimo, Joseph Shiloach, Gustavo Roth, Karsten Zimny, Diethard Mattanovich

Minutes:

1. Apologies for absence

Borth, Nicole; Francois, Jean M.; Larsson, Gen; Lund, Pete; Sauer, Michael; Villaverde, Antonio; Porro, Danilo; Branduardi, Paola; Alves, Paula.

2. Minutes of the last Section meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (Belgirate, 2012) have been posted on the EFB Microbial Physiology Section Website.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

4. Report from the Section Chairman

- Industrial sponsorship of Section meetings

Sponsorship has become difficult to obtain than few years ago, and required more effort by the meeting organisers. JC thanked Ursula Rinas and Karsten Zimny for their great effort in raising sponsorship.

- Brief report from the EFB Executive Board. The EFB almost broke even last year, but it is essential to recruit new Institutional Members to support EFB activities.

The current EFB ExBo has been elected in September 2012 at the General Assembly.

There is a continuing process to bring in new people.

EFB Finances: the financial situation of EFB has improved significantly during last year. In 2012 EFB had a small deficit of appr. 5000 EUR. The conservative budget for 2013 anticipates to break even.

EFB budget depends mostly on institutional membership. The section board is asked to help to increase membership. Institutional members are companies, learned societies, universities, research institutes. Conditions of membership can be found at <http://www.efb-central.org/>.

It is vital that EFB represents academia and industry across Europe. So countries with low representation should be encouraged to join EFB.

Journal income (New Biotechnology) will be 18,000 EUR In 2013, increasing annually.

The ExBo decided in January that inactive sections will be removed from the website after the next ExBo meeting in July.

- A report of the Belgirate meeting on microbial stress has been published in the EFB Journal New Biotechnology. Peter Neubauer and his colleagues volunteered to write a report of the current meeting.

Elsevier must publish Meeting reports much more rapidly (few months after the meeting, not 2 years as for RPP6). The Section Board encouraged JC to contact Elsevier with this message.

- Late items of business

EFB Section on Biochemical Engineering Sciences: since the former Section Board has resigned these positions are currently empty. The Microbial Physiology Section invites colleagues with interests both in physiology and biochemical engineering to join the Microbial Physiology section to initiate and support joint activities of microbial physiology and biochemical engineering, thus rebuilding the Biochemical Engineering Section.

Next European Congress on Biotechnology will be held In July 2014 in Edinburgh. There will be a strong focus on young biotechnologists. YEBN will be highly represented. JC is chairman of the programme committee and asked for suggestions of potential sessions, with 2 proposed invited speakers. Potential speakers should not be contacted before the programme committee decided on the prioritised sessions.

5. Treasurer's report

Pau Ferrer to report

Since the last Section Board meeting in Belgirate the Section received about 25000 EUR from last RPP, and 17000 EUR from the Stress Meeting.

Expenditures during last year were student fellowships at the synthetic biology (in total 1400 EUR?), Webpage of the section to the EFB Central Office: 1500 EUR per year.

Total expenditure last year were: 2900 EUR.

The total assets on the Section account are currently 65000 EUR

6. Report from the organizers of the current RPP meeting

Peter Neubauer and Dethardt Müller reported that the attendance was just short of 200, including invited speakers and trade exhibitors.

7. Review of progress in the organisation of forthcoming Section symposia:

(a) PYFF - 5th Conference on Physiology of Yeast and Filamentous Fungi

The next meeting will take place 4th to 7th June this year in Montpellier, organized by Sylvie Dequin (INRA; Montpellier)

Diethard Mattanovich reported that an attractive programme with 6 sessions and 12 invited speakers has been set up. For details see: <http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/pyff5/>
Registration and abstract submission are currently open.

Deadlines are:

22. March 2013: End of abstract submission

29. April 2013: end of early registration

(b) 6th International Conference on Analysis of Microbial Cells at the Single Cell Level

The next meeting will be organized by Nicole Borth in Austria in 2014 or 2015.

Diethard Mattanovich to report

Nicole is currently evaluating several locations in Austria. The date will be fixed and communicated upon the decision on the location to achieve a good price for hotels and the meeting location.

(c) Synthetic Biology II

JA Cole/Karsten Zimny to report

The meeting will cover a broad range of topics in biotech related synthetic biology. The location will probably at Sitges near Barcelona, in November 2014. The first announcement will be circulated around Easter 2013.

(d) Microbial Stress 3

This meeting is planned for 2015. Location and time need to be decided. Peter Lund, Paola Branduardi and Michael Sauer will lead the organising committee.

(e) Electron Transfer

The next meeting will be organised by Ligia Saraiva in Portugal in the Spring of 2015.

(f) Opportunities for Microbial Physiology contributions to the 16th European Congress of Biotechnology to be held in Edinburgh from 13-16 July, 2014

JAC to report

Section members were invited to propose potential sessions for the conference. Proposals should include the topic and names of 2 proposed invited speakers. Potential speakers should not be contacted before the programme committee decided on the prioritized sessions.

Finally the conference programme will consist of 20 sessions in 4 streams, with a mosaic structure regarding the biotech colours.

(g) Invitation to propose other Section activities.

All Section members are invited to propose new topics for meetings or other Section activities.

Lars Christensen noted that a higher number of meetings per year leads to a dilution of participants. The other section members agreed that it is important to keep meetings with a similar group if interests should be kept separate in time.

8. Election of Section Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

All people involved now have indicated their willingness to continue.

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer was re-elected unanimously. It was agreed to include new members who are willing to share some time for Section activities.

9. Any other business.

None.

10. Next meeting of the Section.

The next meeting will be held in Edinburgh during ECB 16, July 2014.