



European Federation of Biotechnology - Microbial Physiology Section

Open meeting of the section during the 2nd Microbial Stress meeting in Belgirate, Italy at 17:30, May 12, 2012.

Attendees:

Aertsen Abram, Branduardi Paola (PB), Caspeta Luis, Cole Jeff (JAC), Dolla Alain, Faleiro Lenor, Ferrer Pau (PF), Fletcher Eugene, Hussein Nahla, Kallel Hela, Kalnenieks Uldis, Larsson Christer, Larsson Gen, Logothetis Stelios, Lund Pete, Mattanovich Diethard (DM), Morrissey John, Nielsen Jens, O'Byrne Conor, Porro Danilo, Renaud Stefanie, Roldao Antonio, Saint-Ruf Claude, Saraiva M Ligia, Sauer Michael (MS), Wallace Valeria

Meeting minutes:

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the last section meeting

The Minutes of the last section board meeting (Vienna, 2011) have been posted on the EFB Microbial Physiology Section website and have been sent to interested individuals.

The minutes were approved by the plenum.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- Summaries of conference proceedings are being published in the EFB Journal New Biotechnology – see point 4 (d).
- The electron transfer meeting held in Lund was scientifically a great success. However, the contingency had to be used to off-set losses on exchange rates.
- A completely redesigned homepage of the section is online. It is managed by the EFB Central Office for 1500 €/y.

4. Report from the section chairman

(a) Current membership of the section board.

Currently the key section board members and their responsibilities are:

Jeff Cole, Chairman;

Diethard Mattanovich, Vice-Chairman;

Michael Sauer, Secretary;

Pau Ferrer, Treasurer;

Ursula Rinas, Membership Secretary and Sponsorship Manager;

Joost Teixeira de Mattos, Section representation on the ECB Organising Committee.

A complete list of current board members is published on the Section Website.

(b) Election of the section board.

All of the current members have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. All attendees of the section meeting agreed to the re-election of the board members, there was no opposing vote.

JAC raised the question to shrink the Section Board to active members. The established principle so far was that anyone who organises a meeting for the section is a member of the Board. However, the ever-increasing number of tasks and activities keep board members from actively taking part in the section activities. The increasing number of meetings organised by the section constantly increases the members of the board at the same time. In light of these developments the section should strive to keep the board limited to members who want to take actively part. JN suggested to shrink the board accordingly.

The agreement of the plenum was that JAC will send an e-mail to every current board member asking whether he or she still wishes to be a member of the Section Board. If yes, the member is highly welcome. If no response is received, the person concerned will be considered as having left the Board.

(c) Report from the EFB Executive Board.

JAC reported that there was a persistent shortfall in EFB income over expenditure. Nevertheless, a break-even budget had been agreed for 2012, with the prospect of raising a small surplus to repay any outstanding debts in 2013. An intensive campaign has been launched to recruit new EFB Institutional Members. He appealed to all Section members to help this recruitment campaign.

New income had also been received from the Synthetic Biology initiative. JAC and colleagues in the Microbial Physiology Section had commissioned the Central Office to organise the first meeting held in Barcelona in February 2012. The attendance was 76, sufficient for the meeting to break even having covered the administrative costs incurred by the Central Office. The meeting had provided a steep learning curve for staff in the Central Office, and key equipment has been purchased for them to be able to organise future meetings for other organisations.

A minor increase in Journal income was expected in 2012, hopefully to above €10,000. A further increase of €5,000 is guaranteed for 2013.

(d) Summary of Conference Proceedings for publication in the EFB Journal New Biotechnology.

A review of the previous RPP meeting by B. Gasser, D. Mattanovich, M. Maurer and M. Sauer is being published in New Biotechnology in 2012.

A meeting report of the Synthetic Biology meeting, held in Barcelona in February 2012 has been accepted and will be published in June.

A report of the current Microbial Stress Meeting is planned (T. Fossati, D. Porro and P. Branduardi volunteered to prepare it).

5. Treasurer's report

PF provided a short statement of income and expenditure on the section account since the last RPP2011 meeting in Vienna:

The balance was ~36.000 € in 2011.

The RPP 2011 conference contributed ~25.000 €.

Costs for the Section's webpage: 1500 €/y.

The Synthetic Biology meeting was supported with 1.400 € for fellowships.

The Electron Transfer Meeting received a subsidy of 5.000 €.

The overall balance of the Section account is ~55.000 € (already including an advance payment to the Microbial Stress Meeting, which will be paid back).

JAC thanked PF for his highly appreciated effort.

6. Report from the organizers of the current Microbial Stress meeting

PB acknowledged the efficient support of the Microbial Physiology Section for organisation of a meeting.

The Microbial Stress Meeting is fully booked, it will be financially balanced. There is

no fear of a loss. However, no significant gain is planned, as the Section rule to keep the registration fee as low as possible was adhered to and all invited speakers paid their own travel expenses.

JAC asked whether a questionnaire should be circulated after the meeting, even if the number of such mails is increasing. The plenum agreed NOT to send a questionnaire.

However, **comments about the meeting are very welcome and highly appreciated (to JAC, MS, PB).**

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 be organized by Sylvie Dequin (INRA; Montpellier), 4-7 June 2013 in Montpellier.

(b) Next Recombinant Protein Production meeting.

The next meeting will be organized by D. Mueller (Rentschler Biotechnologie GmbH) and P. Neubauer (TU Berlin), 6-9 March 2013 in Laupheim, Germany. DM reported that the budget is set up. The meeting venue will be the castle of Laupheim. All participants will stay in a hotel in the close by city of Ulm.

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

MS and JAC reported. The meeting in Carry-le-Rouet in November 2011 was a success, but thematically a bit too narrow. The section has to make sure that all of the topics and technologies of a field are well represented. The next meeting is planned for 2014. Interest from the Univ. of East Anglia and Julia Vorholt (ETH Zurich) have been expressed. JAC and MS will be happy to be involved into the meeting organisation.

(d) Microbial Stress – from Molecules to Systems

There is a general agreement that this meeting was very successful and that a follow up meeting should be organised not too late. JAC was concerned to avoid clashes with other meetings. Following some debate, it was agreed that the next event in the series should be held late in 2014.

PB, MS and PL would be happy to be involved again.

(e) Bacterial Electron Transfer

There is pressure for a next meeting. Ligia Saraiva volunteered to organise the next meeting in the series in Portugal in the spring of 2015.

(f) Synthetic Biology

A next meeting should be organised by the end of 2013 or early in 2014. South Spain or the UK were proposed. JAC asked for the approval to nurture plant biotechnology, with the final possibility to branch off as own section.

The Gordon conference on Synthetic Biology will take place in June 2013. It was proposed to invite the chair of the conference as it happened for Microbial Stress.

(g) Invitation to propose other Section activities.

JAC invited the plenum to propose further activities and to actively take part in the Section.

8. Changes to the EFB website

The new website is online. It is very well organised and maintained by the EFB Central Office.

9. Next meeting of the Section.

The next open meeting of the section will be held at the conference "Recombinant Protein Production" in Laupheim, Germany 2013.