

## Minutes Division Board Meeting November 30 2021

**Present:** Jussi Jantti, Stephanie Heux, Paola Branduardi, Verena Siewers, Pau Ferrer, Antonius Van Maris, Diethard Mattanovich, Kjeld Olessen, Ralf Takors, Pablo Ivan Nickel, John Morrissey, Jean Marie Francois, Karen Polizzi

**Absent:** Jan Maarten van Dijl and Pascale Daran-Lapujade

### 1. Welcome, and adoption of the agenda

### 2. Conferences organised and supported by the Division:

#### Applied Synthetic Biology (in cooperation with the Biochemical Engineering Division):

Work in progress: planned 2-4 November 2022. Organised by Marjan De Mey and Louise Horsfall. Scientific organising committee has been set up, Pascale Daran-Lapujade, Stephanie Heux and Jan Maarten van Dijl support the organisation from the side of Micr. Biotechnol., and Pablo Nickel for both divisions.

#### Physiology of Yeasts and Filamentous Fungi:

All the Division board accept that John Morrissey takes charge of the organisation of the next meeting planned in Cork early June 2023. Two vigilant points have been raised by the EFB division: (1) Put together a scientific committee from the EFB Board and (2) be careful with the planned date because a lot of congresses are already planned around this date!

#### Recombinant Protein Production:

Planned for Spring or early Autumn (Half September/beginning of October) 2023. Jan Maarten is committed to work on it but he definitely needs support. Pau can help him to organise the meeting if it takes place around Barcelona. As Jan was absent, this point will be further discussed directly with him next time.

#### Microbial Stress

All the Division board accept that Matthias Steiger takes charge of the organisation of the next meeting. Two COST actions could support the meeting if it takes place before the end of April 2023. The preferred date is in the week from April 3-7, 2023. Ralf Takors agreed to help in the organisation.

#### Webinars as additional formats:

Paola Branduardi: hot topics seminars that could be organised during the year: C1 carbon compound fixation, heterogeneity, single cells. Points to be considered: 1) the target of this webinar 2) be sure to create interest and not overlap with other activities / conferences, also taking into account our availability in terms of time and energy to dedicate

Ralf Takors.: How to build those webinars: Bottom up approach or Top down approach? Both should be considered.

John Morrissey.: Be careful on the amount of people that can attend the webinars, and think about the way of storing and advertising the webinar because lot of people can have a look on it afterwards. Proposition to co -organise a symposium with the Microbiology Society during their seminar in April 2023. One or half day symposium? All the board agreed to do it.

Diethard Mattanovich: With the recent cancellation of the EFB 2022 congress, we have been invited to plan an online event for May. We can run it through the EFB office and use their platform. The EFB office will help with sponsorship (with sponsors that were committed for ECB2022). Suggested to either run a webinar on a topic of a conference planned for 2023, or to organise an online conference on the C1 topic. There is common interest with the Biobased Materials Division to organise a meeting on “CO2 to Materials”.

The Board favoured the proposal of a joint online conference with the Biobased Materials Division, and asked DM and PB to contact the Division chair Georg Gübitz..

### **3. EFB Newsletter:**

Paola Branduardi has informed the Division board that a newsletter exists and if they want to tell something related to EFB and the division, they should inform Paola within the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **4. Opinion /position paper (eg. Nagoya protocols)**

Diethard Mattanovich: Based on a discussion with Kjeld Olesen, the Division could formulate a science based opinion on the impact of the Nagoya protocol on “Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources” on biotechnology. However, the topic is difficult because not all the countries are actively pursuing this subject. Ralf Takors proposes to build a paper based on the experience in handling the Nagoya protocols by the EFB members and by representatives from industries. The board agreed to handle the issue in three steps:

- i. Identify people around us who had to deal with the Nagoya protocol
- ii. Send a short questionnaire to EFB members in order to identify the most critical points for biotechnology
- iii. Condense the input as an EFB opinion paper

### **5. Financial points**

Pau Ferrer reports that the Division has a financial availability of over 70 000 euros, which is updated to June 2019. Feedback from the central office to the organisers of the last meetings (Microbial Stress and ASBE) in terms of incomes or deficit was still outstanding.

### **6. Miscellaneous (Membership, board meeting)**

EFB Membership lists are available in the database of the central office. Due to data protection reasons it is not possible to hand out these lists directly. DM and PB will explore at the next ExBo meeting how it is possible to share information and any questions with the subgroup of members who are interested in Microbial Biotechnology.

### **7. Late items**

none

### **8. Next meeting of the Board**

Around May/June 2022, date to be decided.