

12th ESAB NEWSLETTER

ESAB had 655 members in April '04, which is an increase of 60 since December '03.

The Scientific Committee of the EFB Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) had her 52th meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 15-17 January 2004. A short report of the meeting is given below.

1. Meeting with the EC.

Up to now, the main activity of ESAB was the organisation of symposia relevant to the field of (applied) biocatalysis. Other activities were the organisation of a course on Applied Biocatalysis and the production of the corresponding course book. However, the ESAB board felt that we should make more use of the fact that ESAB is a well organised pan-European network of biocatalysis specialists. For this reason, we have contacted the DG Research of the European Commission, with the request to meet them and have a discussion about Industrial ("white") Biotechnology. This topic is virtually absent in EU's FP6, to the great regret of many of us. We were invited to come to Brussels on the 16th of January and we had a very fruitful meeting with representatives of the DG Research. They agreed with us that white biotech was hardly present in FP6 and admitted that this should be corrected. As a result of that, a round table discussion was arranged on March 17 last, in which all stakeholders (academia, industry, NGO's) were present. It was decided that a position paper will be written, which will, among others, identify on what topics EU support is needed. Our secretary Wim Soetaert and I will be the authors from academia. In conclusion, ESAB is making sure that in the coming FP7 industrial biotechnology will not be forgotten. Even the current FP6 may soon contain some specific calls for proposals that are relevant to our members!

2. Upcoming events

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

The **3rd International Conference on Textile Biotechnology** is taking place from 13-16 June 2004, at Graz University of Technology, Austria, see www.intb.org.

The second symposium about "**Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry**" will be held in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany), 19-22 September 2004. The website is www.biocatalysis-hohenheim.de. The list of invited speakers and the titles of their contributions are available on the website now. Please note that the deadline for cheap registration is 30 APRIL !!; the deadline for submission of any kinds of abstracts is 15 May.

Extremophiles 2004: the 5th International Conference on Extremophiles, will take place in Chesapeake Bay (near Baltimore), Maryland, USA. The European representative in the organising committee is Jennifer Littlechild (Exeter, UK). Topics of sessions are: Origins/Exobiology/Ecology; Industrial/Biotechnology (with ESAB involvement); Gene Expression; Structural Biology/Enzymology; Physiology and Metabolism; DNA Replication; Genetics and Genomics. The list of invited speakers is available on the website, go to www.asm.org/Meetings/index.asp?bid=19177. Deadline for orals is 14 May, for posters 25 June, for discounted submission 6 August.

The **6th International Conference on Protein Stabilisation** will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia, 26-29 September, 2004, see www.kirp.chtf.stuba.sk/protstab2004. The list of invited speakers and the titles of the lectures are on the website. Please note that the deadline for submission of oral presentations is 15 APRIL !! Deadline for poster submission is 15 July, for cheap registration 31 July.

The ESAB-workshop on **Biocatalysis in Non-Conventional Media** will be held in Manchester (@ UMIST), in April 2005, organised by Gill Stephens, Robin Curtis and Rein

Ulijn. Topics will include the following. Media: supercritical fluids, ionic liquids, substrate suspensions, polymer hydrogels, 'solvent free', gas-phase. Enzyme form: crosslinked aggregates, responsive polymers, micro-crystals, artificial metabolic pathways. Techniques: Microwave reactions, electro-biochemistry, micro-reactors. Enzyme Behaviour: Enzyme structure and molecular modelling in solvents and salt solutions. The date will be fixed soon, more info will follow in the next newsletter.

The symposium on **Environmental Biocatalysis** will take place in Córdoba (Spain), 23-26 April 2006. Organisers are Antonio Ballesteros, Miguel Alcalde and Manuel Ferrer. Its focus will exclusively be on enzymatic reactions, not on environmental microbiology or environmental biotechnology.

Symposia not organised by ESAB:

Workshop of the German **VAAM** together with the French Club "Bioconversions en Synthèse Organique (CBSO)", 24 – 26 May 2004, in Obernai (Alsace, F). Organisers are Andreas Liese and Oliver May (from the German side) and ?? from the French side. The symposium language will be English. Go to the VAAM-homepage for more info: www.vaam.de.

Biocat 2004, 29 August – 1 September 2004, organised by prof. Garo Antranikian at the University of Technology in Hamburg, see www.biocat2004.de. The list of invited speakers + titles is available now; deadlines for all kinds of abstracts is 31 May. Topics: Screening, enzyme discovery, evolution and design; Structure-function analysis and modelling; Efficient systems for recombinant enzyme production; Biotransformation with whole cells and under non-natural conditions; Bioprocess engineering and downstream processing; Green chemistry and sustainable development of industrial processes.

ESBES5, organised by the EFB-section on Biochemical Engineering, 8-11 September 2004, Stuttgart, Germany, see <http://www.ibvt.uni-stuttgart.de/esbes-5>. ESAB is not in any way involved in the organisation of this symposium, in contrast to previous announcements.

The GDCh-Workshop "**Biocatalysis for the Synthesis of Fine Chemicals**" is from 15 – 17 September 2004, in Karlsruhe (D), organised by Udo Kragl, Uwe Bornscheuer und Christoph Syldatk. See for more info: www.gdch.de/vas/fortbildung/kurse/vorschau2004.htm#BW.

SAS 2004 "**Food for Health: Improving Health and preventing diseases by functional food**", 21-22 October 2004, organised by Pierre Monsan (INSA – Toulouse), go to www.insa-tlse.fr/gba/aliment-sante for more info.

4th International Symposium on Glycosyltransferases - GlycoT 2004, 4 - 7 November 2004, Palais de l'Europe, Le Touquet (France), see www.univ-lille1.fr/GlycoT2004.

Organiser is prof. Philippe Delannoy (Lille/Villeneuve d'Ascq), the invited speakers are already announced.

3 Websites

A few additions and corrections to the list given in the previous newsletter:

http://www.chm.tu-dresden.de/bc/agbertau/agbertau_e.html (Martin Bertau)

www.uni-hohenheim.de/biotech/eng/index.php (Lutz Fischer)

<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Chemie/BC/fields/ak-liese/ali-topics.html> (Andreas Liese)

<http://www.bt.tudelft.nl/content/boc> (Roger Sheldon, new website)

<http://fltbtwww.UGent.be/limab> (Erick Vandamme/Wim Soetaert, new website)

www.catalysisnet.com (a portal that links chemical and biochemical knowledge databases to suppliers)

4. BCBT

The official journal of the Section is *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*, published by Taylor & Francis. Please visit <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10242422.asp> for information on the aims and scope of the journal and how to make a submission. Registered members of ESAB are entitled to a discount on the personal subscription for this journal, at only €50 per year including online access on the basis of a single user network license. To take advantage of this offer, please contact the Publishing Editor Matthew Pacey (matthew.pacey@tandf.co.uk).

Don't forget also to register for the free contents alerting service SARA (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/sara/>) to receive a full rundown of articles published in each issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* and in other T&F journals e-mailed directly to your computer.

Please direct any general enquiries about *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* to the Executive Editor, Antonio Ballesteros (a.ballesteros@icp.csic.es) or Publishing Editor Matthew Pacey.

Maurice Franssen (chairman ESAB)