

13th ESAB NEWSLETTER

1. Upcoming events

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

The second symposium about "Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry" is in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany), 19-22 September 2004. The detailed programme is on the website now: www.biocatalysis-hohenheim.de. Posters abstracts can still be submitted until 1 September.

Extremophiles 2004: the 5th International Conference on Extremophiles, 19-23 September 2004, Chesapeake Bay (near Baltimore), Maryland, USA. The full programme is now on the website, go to www.asm.org/Meetings/index.asp?bid=19177. Deadline for discounted submission is 6 AUGUST.

The 6th International Conference on Protein Stabilisation, Bratislava, Slovakia, 26-29 September, 2004, see for the complete programme www.kirp.chtf.stuba.sk/protstab2004. Deadline for poster submission is 15 JULY !!, for cheap registration 31 JULY.

The date for the Workshop on Biocatalysis in Non-Conventional Media has now been fixed. It is going to be 13-14 April 2005, in Manchester, UK, at UMIST. Invited speakers are:

Doug Clark (Sol-gel structures containing active enzymes)

Jon Dordick (Enzyme reactions in concentrated salt solutions)

Sabine Flitsch (Enzyme reactions at the solid/liquid interface)

Karl Hult (Molecular modelling and enzyme-substrate interaction)

Udo Kragl (Biotransformations in ionic liquids)

Barry Moore (Protein coated microcrystals for biocatalysis)

Prof John McCarthy of MIB has offered to provide a tour of the new MIB building, while Prof Stan Roberts has offered to give a presentation on the new Centre of Excellence. Information regarding registration will be reported in the next newsletter.

Biotrans 2005 will take place from 3-8 July 2005 in Delft, NL. The list of invited speakers and a general timetable of the symposium are available now on the website www.biotrans2005.bt.tudelft.nl.

There is an idea for a new symposium, with the tentative titles "Towards (industrial) application of multi-step enzyme systems" or "Gram to kilogram scale application of multi-step enzyme systems". The organisers are, among others, prof. Klaus Kulbe (Vienna) and the Austrian competence centre "Applied Biocatalysis" located at Graz Technical University (Austria), in collaboration with ESAB. The location is going to be Graz and also the date is already fixed, 18-21 April 2006.

There are also more details now about EnvBC, the "International Symposium on Environmental Biocatalysis, from remediation with enzymes to novel green processes", which is organised under the auspices of ESAB, 23-26 April 2006, Córdoba, Spain. The organising committee consists of A. Ballesteros, M. Alcalde, M. Ferrer, F.J. Plou, K. Buchholz, J.M. Marinas, D. Luna. The website is www.icp.csic.es/abg/envbc2006.

Symposium topics include:

- Enzymatic remediation of xenobiotics
- Desulfuration with enzymes
- Enzymatic treatment in textile and pulp/paper processes

- Enzymes in green processes (cytochrome P450s, laccases, peroxidases, lipases, glycosyl transferases, proteases...).
- Enzymes and energy: biodiesel, bioethanol

2. Websites of biocatalysis research groups

www.chem.metu.edu.tr/~asl (Ayhan Demir, Ankara, Turkey)

3. Future activities – your input

Within the ESAB Scientific Committee and Board, we regularly ask ourselves what our members would like us to do. We are always happy to hear suggestions of topics for meetings in the field of biocatalysis. Offers to help organise the meeting are especially welcome - help and advice will be offered. Please contact any of the Board members with your ideas.

ESAB also has a course on Applied Biocatalysis that has been run on a number of occasions around Europe. Again, an offer to organise an edition of the course is always welcome. Speakers and tutors will often be able to obtain expenses from elsewhere, so the course can be fairly cheap for participants.

--- MENTAL BATTERY LOW ---

Fortunately, the summer holidays are close. I wish you all a successful recharge, powered by solar energy, at agreeable temperatures.

Maurice Franssen (chairman ESAB)