

17th ESAB NEWSLETTER

1. New ESAB website!!!

When prof. Jacques Baratti was chairman of ESAB, he installed the first ESAB website on a server at the university of Marseille-Luminy. This event was most welcomed, but, as usual, websites have the tendency to become outdated very soon. Therefore, we were very pleased with the recent offer from dr. Willi Meier (DECHEMA and Regional Branch Office of the EFB in Germany). He is willing to host a new ESAB website and keep it updated, in collaboration with the ESAB board. We gratefully accepted this generous offer, so it is with great pleasure that I can announce The New ESAB Website: www.esabweb.org. You will find there, among others, the representatives from your country in the ESAB Scientific Committee, the previous newsletters and the Vision Document on Industrial Biotechnology which we prepared for the EC. Go and have a look!

2. Upcoming events in 2005, incl. deadlines

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

ECB12, 21-24 August 2005, Danish Technical University, Lyngby (near Copenhagen/DK), www.ecb12.dk. The deadline for orals and posters has elapsed; the deadline for cheap registration is **20 July**.

RSC Meeting on **Frontiers of Chemical Biology: Mechanistic Enzymology and Biocatalysis**, 31 August - 2 September, University of Exeter/UK, see <http://www.rsc.org/meb05>. The deadline for poster presentations and cheap registration is **30 June**. ESAB members receive a £ 100 reduction on the registration fee !!!

Renewable Resources and Biorefineries, Ghent/BE, 19-21 September, see <http://www.rrbconference.ugent.be>. The deadlines for all kinds of contributions has passed, but cheap registration is still possible until **1 September**.

Second Conference on **Enzyme Reaction Engineering**, 21 – 24 September, Dubrovnik/Cavtat, Croatia, see <http://www.fkit.hr/erec2005>. The deadline for payment is **30 June**.

Gram to tonne biocatalysis, 6–7 October 2005, Dortmund, DE. This will be a real *workshop*, in the sense that the first day will consist of group discussions and the second one will be spent on the outcome of the discussions. More details will follow later in a separate e-mail to all ESAB members.

Symposia not organised by ESAB:

Industrial Biocatalysis in Pharmacy and Fine Chemistry, 8-10 September, Nîmes, France, organised by the Comité Adebitech. The aim of this conference is twofold: to give an update on recent industrial achievements in the field of pharmacy and fine chemistry, and to enable fruitful discussions between industry and university representatives. See www.adebiotech.org/biocatalysis for more information. Deadline for posters is **4 July**.

Biocatalysis: Enzymes, Mechanisms and Bioprocesses, a Biochemical Society Focused Meeting in association with Pro-Bio Faraday Annual Conference; Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester, UK, 21 - 22 November 2005. There is an excellent programme, see http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings/programme.cfm?Meeting_No=SA043. Early registration deadline is 21 October.

3. Upcoming ESAB events in 2006

The Research Centre Applied Biocatalysis and ESAB jointly organise the symposium "**Multi-step Enzyme Catalysed Processes**", 18-21 April, 2006, Graz, Austria. The symposium is focused on the combination of defined biocatalytic process steps, but still allows for the inclusion of both the fermentation and metabolic engineering as well as the synthetic organic chemistry aspects of multi-step processes as long as the isolation and purification of the final product is included. Scientific sessions are scheduled on the following topics:

- A - combination of enzymatic and synthetic organic process steps
- B - combination of different enzymes to achieve several biocatalytic process steps
- C - combination in a multi-enzyme complex to perform several biocatalytic process steps
- D - combination in a whole cell performing the complete multi-step synthesis
- E - metabolic engineering
- F - related applications

Selected contributions will be published in a special issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*. The homepage of the symposium is continuously being updated: <http://www.applied-biocat.at/mecp06>. The deadline for all kinds of presentations is **19 December 2005**.

The 1st International Symposium on **Environmental Biocatalysis: From remediation with enzymes to novel green processes** (envbc2006) will be held in Cordoba, Spain from 23-26 April, 2006 organised by Prof. Antonio Ballesteros. A call for oral presentations (and other details) is now available at <http://www.icp.csic.es/abg/envbc2006>.

The following Invited Speakers have already agreed to participate:

- Frances H. Arnold, CALTECH, USA, *Keynote Lecture*
- Liliana Gianfreda, Università di Napoli, Italy
- Georg Gübitz, Graz Technical University, Austria
- Dick B. Janssen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- Angel T. Martinez, CSIC Madrid, Spain
- Kenneth Timmis, GBF, Germany
- Rafael Vazquez-Duhalt, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico
- Debbie S. Yaver, Novozymes, USA

Topics to be covered include (list not comprehensive):

- Enzymatic remediation of xenobiotics
- Enzymes in green processes (cytochrome P450s, laccases, peroxidases, lipases, glycosyltransferases, proteases...)
- Desulfurization with enzymes
- Enzymes in textile and pulp/paper processes
- Use of immobilized whole cells
- Enzymes and energy: biodiesel, bioethanol, biohydrogen
- New tools and advances in the engineering of enzymes for environmental approaches (laboratory evolution, metagenomics, etc)

Selected contributions will be published in a special issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*. The deadline for oral presentations is **30 September 2005**, for posters and cheap registration **31 January 2006**.

Non-ESAB events in 2006:

Industrial Biotransformations, 4-5 May 2006, Barcelona, Spain, see <http://www.scientificupdate.co.uk/conferences/conferences.php>. Speakers from all areas of the chemical & biotechnology industry (pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, fine chemicals, flavour & fragrances & colour chemistry) are invited to present case studies and examples of the problems and successes in process R&D. This could include topics such as new enzymes / organisms, new biotransformations (particularly for carbon-carbon bond formation), purification methods etc. If you would like to present a 35-40 minute paper on any of the above topics at this meeting and attend the event for free, please send a one page abstract describing your work for consideration to: Dr Claire Francis, Conference Manager (claire@scientificupdate.co.uk). Deadline: **30 June 2005**.

4. General Assembly

The General Assembly of ESAB will take place on Tuesday 5 July from 13.15-14.15, during Biotrans 2005, in lecture hall C in the aula of the TU Delft. All ESAB members are cordially invited to discuss past, present and future of ESAB with the Board!
Hope to see you all there!

Maurice Franssen (chairman of ESAB)