

8th ESAB NEWSLETTER

The Board of the EFB Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) held her 50th meeting in Groningen, the Netherlands, on April 5 and 6, 2003. A short report of the meeting is given below.

1. Recent symposia

CBM5 (5th Carbohydrate Bioengineering Meeting), organised under the auspices of ESAB, took place in Groningen, the Netherlands, 6-9 April last and was attended by 250 people, including many young scientists. There were lectures and 130 poster presentations. The proceedings will be published in a special issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*.

2. Upcoming events

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

BIOTRANS 2003, 28 June –3 July, 2003, Olomouc, Czech Republic, www.biotrans2003.upol.cz. The full programme will be on the website around May 5. There are around 400 registered participants at the moment. Although the official deadline has passed, it is still possible to submit a poster abstract which will be published in 'Chemické Listy'. In connection with this symposium there will be a workshop of COST action D25.

The 11th European Congress on Biotechnology (**ECB11**), Basel, Switzerland, 24–29 August, 2003, www.ecb11.ch. The deadline for early registration is 15 May. Although the official deadline has passed, it is still possible to submit a poster abstract, see the website. The theme of ECB11 is "Building bridges between biosciences and bioengineering"; the full programme is now available on the website. ESAB will have two sessions there, entitled "Novel enzymes – frontiers in discovery and improvement", and "Engineering the co-factor interface". The proceedings of the sessions will appear as a special issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*. At this moment there are around 2500 registered participants.

There will be a second symposium about "**Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry**" in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany), in september 2004. Organisers are prof. Lutz Fischer (Hohenheim) and dr. Maurice Franssen (Wageningen). There are also plans for another symposium about "**Biocatalyst stabilisation**" (Bratislava, Slovakia, second half of 2004), details will follow soon. The next **Carbohydrate Bioengineering** symposium (**CBM6**) will be in Barcelona (2005), organised by Toni Planas; Braunschweig is a candidate for 2007. The organisation of **Biotrans '05** is in Dutch hands. The location is Delft, the date is July 3-8, 2005. Spain (Oviedo) is a candidate for 2007.

3. Journal

The official journal of the section is *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/listings/b.html). The publisher has a very generous offer for registered ESAB members: you can get a personal subscription to this journal for only EUR 50 per year, including online access on a single user license basis. This price is valid for 2003 and 2004 and also includes back volumes. To take advantage of this offer, please contact the customer service team at Taylor & Francis UK, either by emailing journal.orders@tandf.co.uk, or by visiting the Taylor & Francis journals website at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/customer.html>.

4. Jubilee

In Groningen we celebrated the 50th meeting of our section. Poul Poulsen (Novozymes), one of the 'founding fathers' of the section, gave a historical overview. The section started in 1979 as the EFB-Working Party on Immobilised Biocatalysts, and was later renamed into the EFB-Working Party on Applied Biocatalysis. The transition into a section came in 2001. ESAB has now 457 registered members.

In his speech, dr. Poulsen also addressed the leading role of prof. Hans Tramper, honorary member of ESAB. Recently, Hans Tramper was also appointed as an honorary member of the Dutch Biotechnological Society (NBV).

Maurice Franssen (vice-chairman ESAB)