

4th ESAB NEWSLETTER

The Board of the EFB Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) held his 48th meeting in Toulouse (France) on April 21 and 22, 2002. At this meeting, Hans Tramper, professor of Bioprocess Engineering at Wageningen University and one of the founders of the former Working Party on Applied Biocatalysis, was appointed as Honorary Member of the Section.

A short report of the meeting is given below.

1. Recent symposia

The symposium “**Biocatalyst Stability: different levels of observation...**” (3rd International Congress on Protein Stabilization) in Toulouse, France, April 21-24 last, was attended by about 125 people.

2. Future symposia

The symposium “**Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry**” will be held from June 16-19, 2002 in Harrow, North London, UK. The organiser is Prof. Christopher Bucke. The deadline for poster submission has officially passed, but there is still room for some posters. Details of the symposium are available <http://www.soci.org/SCI/events/search.jsp>, look at symposia in the month of June. The registration costs are 259 pounds, lodging + lunches amount to 114 pounds.

Our sister Section organises **ESBES4** from August 28 to 31, 2002 in Delft, the Netherlands, see www.esbes4.tnw.tudelft.nl. There is a session on biocatalysis, in collaboration with ESAB. Poster submission may still be possible, please contact the organisers.

Our Chairman Prof. Jacques Baratti organises an ESAB-symposium entitled “**Engineering enzymes for biocatalysis by directed evolution**” in Paris at the Institut Louis Pasteur, from September 16 to 18, 2002. The following speakers have accepted the invitation: Frances Arnold, Manfred Reetz, Pim Stemmer, Karl Jaeger, Jean Louis Reymond, Jesper Vind, Andreas Plückthun and Romas Kazlauskas. There will be sessions on ‘creating biodiversity’ (1), ‘screening and selection’ (1) and ‘applications’ (3). A website will be available in short time.

CBM5 (5th Carbohydrate Bioengineering Meeting), which is partly organised by ESAB, will take place in the Netherlands: April 6-9, 2003, in Groningen, under responsibility of Prof. Lubbert Dijkhuizen. Details can be found at <http://www.biol.rug.nl/cbm5>.

BIOTRANS 2003 will be held from June 28 – July 3, 2003 in Olomouc, Czech Republic. More details will appear this month at the website www.biotrans2003.upol.cz.

The venue of **ECB11** will be Basel, Switzerland, August 24 – 29, 2003. There will be 2 sessions on Biocatalysis.

The symposium series on “**Biocatalyst stabilisation**” will be continued, more details to follow.

3. COST action

Within the framework of the COST Action D25 "Applied Biocatalysis: Stereoselective and Environmentally Friendly Reactions catalysed by Enzymes" there is a kick-off symposium in Como, Italy, from May 10-12 next, see www.unil.ch/cost/chem.

A working group on "improving lipases for biocatalysis using directed evolution" will be proposed as an emanation of the section. This group will first focus on changing enantioselectivity but other properties (heat stability for instance) are envisaged. People willing to participate may contact rapidly Prof. J. Baratti (baratti@luminy.univ-mrs.fr).

4. Expression of interest to FP6

Following the invitation of the European Union, the Section is preparing two proposals. One is an integrated network on Applied Biocatalysis (co-ordinator is Prof. Joaquim Cabral, joaquim.cabral@ist.utl.pt), and the second one is an integrated project on "Novel Enzymes" (co-

ordinator is Dr. R. Wohlgemuth, rwohlgemuth@sial.com). Information on how to join these proposals will be released soon.

5. Journal

The journal of the Section, *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*, has an impact factor of 1.31 in 2000 and therefore belongs to the sub-top of journals that focus on this field. The new publisher, Taylor and Francis, has decided from this year on to print the journal on A4 format with double columns, because of the strong influx of manuscripts. This will lead to a strongly decreased time span between acceptance and printing of a paper.

6. Website

If you have not registered yet at the EFB website (www.efbweb.org/members/joinus.htm), then please do it as soon as possible, if you still want to receive this newsletter! You will be able to register for more than one section, and you will also get information via EFB, for instance on FP6 of the EU.

Maurice Franssen (vice-chairman ESAB)

Jacques Baratti (chairman ESAB)