

5th ESAB NEWSLETTER

The Board of the EFB Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) held her 49th meeting in Paris on September 14 and 15, 2002. 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 120 participants from 27 countries. There were 20 plenary lectures (5 sessions) and 40 posters. 30% of the participants were from industry.

The symposium “**Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry**” took place from June 16-19 last in Harrow, North London, UK. There were 58 participants who attended 20 plenary lectures and a small poster session.

Our sister section organised **ESBES4** from August 28 to 31, in Delft, the Netherlands. There was a session on biocatalysis, in collaboration with ESAB. The symposium was well attended with 300 participants.

The ESAB-symposium “**Engineering enzymes for biocatalysis by directed evolution**” in Paris, September 16 to 18 last, was attended by 200 people. There were 30 oral presentations of excellent level and 30 posters. An EFBIC workshop was organized in parallel.

2. Future symposia

CBM5 (5th Carbohydrate Bioengineering Meeting), which is organized under auspices of ESAB, will take place in Groningen (the Netherlands), from April 6-9, 2003, under responsibility of Prof. Lubbert Dijkhuizen. A second announcement will be posted on the internet shortly, also the registration for participation and submission of abstracts will be possible then. A list of invited speakers is already available. Please go to www.biol.rug.nl/cbm5.

BIOTRANS 2003 will take place from June 28 – July 3, 2003 in Olomouc, Czech Republic. A list of plenary and invited lectures is available on the website www.biotrans2003.upol.cz. Detailed information will appear on October 30 at this site.

The 11th European Congress on Biotechnology (**ECB11**) will take place in Basel, Switzerland, August 24–29, 2003 (website: www.ecb11.ch). The general theme is “Building bridges between biosciences and bioengineering”. There will be 2 sessions on Biocatalysis, entitled “Novel enzymes – frontiers in discovery and improvement”, and “Engineering the co-factor interface”.

The venue of **BIOTRANS 2005** will be Delft, the Netherlands. The organizers are, among others, Prof. Roger Sheldon (Delft; chairman), Dr. Adrie Straathof (Delft) and Dr. Maurice Franssen (Wageningen). The dates have not been fixed yet.

There are also plans for a second congress on “**Directed evolution**” (first part of 2004) and on “**Biocatalyst stabilisation**” (Denmark, 2004), more details will follow in the next newsletter.

Other symposia that may be of interest to ESAB members:

Trends in monitoring and control of life sciences applications, organized by ESBES, 7-9 October 2002, Marienlyst Conference Center, Helsingør, Denmark, info on www.ifm.liu.se/m3c.

Biotechnology Crossroads, 15 and 16 October 2002, Lille, France: a big event in which many biotechnological industries of Europe, America and Asia are brought together. See www.biotech-lille.com.

The Working Group "Biotransformation" of the VAAM organizes a symposium at the ETH Zürich on **Applied Biocatalysis** on October 10 and 11, 2002. The local organizer is Dr. Andreas Schmid. Information including the full program is now available at www.biotech.biol.ethz.ch/symposium.

2nd Czech-Swiss Symposium on Advanced Biotechnology (Prague, Nov.7-9, 2002) under the auspices of SGVC/SSCE. There will be contributions by Schmidhalter (Lonza) on "LONZA Group, 20 years of industrial biotransformation and biosynthesis"; Muench (Givaudan) on "The future in

biotransformations and biosynthesis in the flavor industry", A. Schmid (ETH) on " Biocatalyst and bioprocess engineering for highly selective oxygenation in organic/aqueous emulsions". Registration on <http://czech-swiss.vscht.cz>.

The **International Biotechnology Conference** in Zagreb, Croatia, February 17-20, 2003, is dedicated to Biotechnology and Food. See www.hdb.hr/biotechnology3.html for online registration and submission of abstracts.

The VAAM-Working Party on Applied Biocatalysis has a joint meeting with the German Society for Fat Science (DGF) on **Enzymes in lipid modification**. The local organizer is Dr. Uwe Bornscheuer. The venue is Greifswald, dates are March 26-28, 2003. For more information and a call for presentations please go to www.dgfett.de/meetings/greifswald/index.htm.

Dr. Gilles Courtois is organizing an International Symposium on **Green Chemistry**, May 19-22, 2003, in Poitiers, France. See <http://labo.univ-poitiers.fr/umr6503/symposium>.

3. FP6 developments

In continuation of the EoI on Novel Enzymes and the symposium on Directed Evolution, Prof. Jacques Baratti and Dr. Roland Wohlgemuth will develop a database of groups working in the field of directed evolution and related areas, in order to build a network which is able to rapidly react on any relevant call for proposals on this topic within FP6. All interested ESAB members are encouraged to visit the ESAB webpage (<http://www.luminy.univ-mrs.fr/jcb/ESAB/ESABaccueil.htm>), on which there is a one-page form in which you have to give your name, website, key resources (personnel and technology), major achievements and research interests.

4. Journal

The official journal of the section is *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/listings/b.html). The publisher has recently announced a very generous offer: registered members of ESAB can get a personal subscription to this journal for only EUR 50 per year, including online access on a single user license basis.

5. Section news

The number of personal members of ESAB has increased to 357 in September.

The section will have its second General Assembly during ECB11 in Basel, August 2003; more information will be given in the next newsletter.

Maurice Franssen (vice-chairman ESAB)

Jacques Baratti (chairman ESAB)