

11th ESAB NEWSLETTER

ESAB had 595 members in December '03, which is an increase of 138 since March this year.

1. Upcoming events

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

The **3rd International Conference on Textile Biotechnology** is taking place from 13-16 June 2004, at Graz University of Technology, Austria. Organisers are prof. Georg Gübitz and prof. Artur Cavaco-Paulo. The website is www.intb.org. The main scientific themes focus on new enzyme systems designed for textile processing, advances in process development and treatment of textile effluents. Furthermore, different issues in industrial implementation of Textile Biotechnology and process integration will also be subject matters of the conference. The **deadline** for submission of oral communications and posters is **31 December!!** Contributions can be published in a special issue of *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*.

ESBES5 is the 5th edition of the biannual symposium of our sister section on Biochemical Engineering. It will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, from September 8-11, 2004. The website is open now: www.ibvt.uni-stuttgart.de/esbes-5. There will be one session on Applied Biocatalysis to which ESAB will contribute. **Deadline** for oral presentations is **15 February**, for posters 15 April.

The second symposium about "**Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industry**" will be held in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany), 19-22 September 2004. The website is www.biocatalysis-hohenheim.de.

The **6th International Conference on Protein Stabilisation** will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia, September 26-29, 2004. The website www.kirp.chtf.stuba.sk/protstab2004 has all details.

There are plans to organise a second symposium on **Engineering enzymes for biocatalysis by directed evolution**. It will take place in Germany, probably in late 2004 or early 2005; organisers will be prof. Karl-Erich Jaeger and prof. Manfred Reetz.

There are also concrete plans for a workshop on **Biocatalysis in non-conventional media**, to be held in spring 2005 in Manchester (UMIST). Organisers will be dr. Rein Ulijn, dr. Gill Stephens and dr. R. Curtis. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Biotrans '05 will be in Delft, the Netherlands, July 3-8, 2005. There is already a website: www.biotrans2005.bt.tudelft.nl. At the previous Biotrans in Olomouc it was decided that Oviedo (Spain) is going to be the venue for the 2007 version of Biotrans.

Dr. Antonio Ballesteros will organise a symposium entitled **Environmental Biocatalysis**. The location will be Córdoba (Spain), presumably in April 2006. Its focus will exclusively be on enzymatic reactions, not on environmental microbiology or environmental biotechnology.

2. EFB news

At the meeting of the EFB Executive Board in Delft, last weekend, it was decided that the new EFB Central Office will be at the Delft Technical University, under the supervision of prof. Karel Luyben (well known in the field of Biochemical Engineering, now dean at TU Delft). The excellent offer made by prof. Luyben's team (with support from the university, the Dutch industry and even the city of Delft) will guarantee the continued service of EFB to its members.

3. Websites

At the ESAB General Assembly in Basel it was asked by one of the attending members to provide a list of websites of European groups working in biocatalysis. I am prepared to comply to this request, although with some hesitation: I know that many people just want to have information (and that is OK since that is what these websites are for) but many also use them for sending job applications. In order to avoid bombardments of e-mails of people looking for any kind of job all over the world, I want to make a few remarks, based on my own experiences.

I get quite a lot of e-mail applications (every other day or so) from people who start their mail with "Dear Sir" and then start a general story about their background and their "keen interest in the research carried out in my distinguished laboratory". Those e-mails I throw away without replying, because it is clear that they are just copies that are sent all over the world. If you want to catch my attention, then start by mentioning my name and make clear that you have read my website by indicating your personal interest in one of the topics I am working on (with motivation). Furthermore, many labs and/or universities (including mine) indicate whether they have vacancies or not; it is wise to have a look at them first.

So, here is a first list, sorted by country and alphabetically. The URLs were checked early this year, I hope they are still OK..... The list is of course far from complete but these are the ones that I currently have, and use. If you want your website to be added then let me know (however: it is up to me to decide whether I will include it or not; only websites in English language can be accepted).

<http://borgc185.kfunigraz.ac.at/> (Faber)

<http://www.orgc.tugraz.at/orgc/institut/ebiocat.htm> (Griengl)

http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~tparlevl/voc/OrgSyn_bioorg.htm (Van der Eycken)

<http://aiwww.rug.ac.be/Onderzoeksbeleid/techno2002/EN/LA/I-LA06V01.htm> (Vandamme)

<http://www.protein.ethz.ch> (Hilvert)

<http://dcbwww.unibe.ch/groups/reymond/start.html> (Reymond)

<http://www.biotech.biol.ethz.ch/schmidan/index.html> (Andreas Schmid; has links to biocat websites)

http://www.rereth.ethz.ch/biol/biotechnologie/witholt.proj_overview.html (Witholt)

<http://www.biomed.cas.cz/mbu/biotrans/> (Kren)

<http://www.chemie.uni-greifswald.de/~biotech/Prof-Bornscheuer.html> (Bornscheuer)

<http://www.oc.chemie.tu-darmstadt.de/fe/> (Fessner)

http://analytik.fb-chemie.uni-rostock.de/tc/index_e.html (Kragl)

http://www.mpi-muelheim.mpg.de/kofo/institut/arbeitsbereiche/reetz/englisch/reetz_research.html (Reetz)

<http://www.kfa-juelich.de/ibt/wandrey.html> (Wandrey)

<http://www.icp.csic.es/abg/index.html> (Ballesteros)

<http://www.iiqab.csic.es/frameicer.htm> (Clapès)

<http://www.iqo.csic.es/pagperso/alfonso/principal%20.htm> (Fernandez-Mayoralas)

<http://www12.uniovi.es/quimiorg/> (Gotor)

<http://www.biomedicale.univ-paris5.fr/umr8601/azerad.html> (Azerad)

<http://www.luminy.univ-mrs.fr/recherche/recherche.htm> (Furstoss/Baratti)

<http://www.insa-tlse.fr/ects/current/html/en/id-dpt-gba.html> (Monsan)

http://www.cgm.cnrs-gif.fr/pompon/index_gb.html (Pompon)

<http://www.icrm.cnr.it/> (Carrea/Riva)

<http://www.ftns.wau.nl/prock/Research/research.htm> (Boom/Tramper)

<http://www.ftns.wau.nl/oc/research/biocatalysis/biocatalysis.htm> (Franssen)

<http://www.chem.rug.nl/gbb/> (Janssen; look for "biocatalysis")

<http://www-orgchem.sci.kun.nl/index.html> (Rutjes)

<http://www.science.uva.nl/research/imc/hiemstra/index.html> (Schoemaker)

<http://www.bt.tudelft.nl/bocf.htm> (Sheldon)

<http://www.science.uva.nl/research/imc/koomen/pubs.html> (Wever)

<http://bendik.chembio.ntnu.no> (Anthonsen)

<http://www.med.uio.no/imb/research/glyco/medlem/eijsink.html> (Eijsink)

<http://dequim.ist.utl.pt/cebq/berg/f-members.html> (Cabral)

<http://www.biotech.lu.se/research/bioorgan/Intro/index.htm> (Adlercreutz/Mattiasson)

<http://www.kep.mh.se/orgchem/> (Hedenström)

<http://www.biotech.kth.se/biochem/biocatalysis/Index.html> (Hult)

<http://www.utu.fi/ml/kemia/okemia/enzyme.htm> (Kanerva)

<http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/biol/> (Bruce)

<http://homepages.strath.ac.uk/~cdbs05/pjhres.htm> (Halling)

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/Chemistry/Staff/roberts.html> (Roberts)

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/staff/turner.html> (Turner)

<http://www.biochemeng.ucl.ac.uk/new%20pages/Woodley.html> (Woodley)

4. Book on Applied Biocatalysis

Taylor and Francis, the publishers of the section journal *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*, also publish an excellent book entitled **Applied Biocatalysis**, which is very suitable for MSc courses on this subject. Editors of this second editions are Adrie Straathof and Patrick Adlercreutz. T&F now offers a paperback version for around 47 pounds, see their website: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/books> (note: there are several entries for “Applied Biocatalysis”, take #1, ISBN 9058230244).

I wish you all, on behalf of the Board of ESAB, a very merry Christmas and all best wishes for the coming year, both scientifically and personally!

Maurice Franssen (chairman ESAB)