



European Federation of Biotechnology Microbial Physiology Section

Open Meeting of the Section during the 6th Recombinant Protein Production meeting in Vienna at 18.30 h on Friday, 18th February 2011.

Attendees:

Branduardi Paola (PB), Cole Jeff (JAC), Darvishi Farshad, Ferrer Pau (PF), Finnis Chris, Gurramkonda Chandrasekhar, Inan Mehmet, Leticianz Ana, Li Zhaopeng, Mattanovich Diethard (DM), Neubauer Peter (PN), Peleg Yoav, Pfeffer Martin, Rinas Ursula, Satish Nemani, Sauer Michael, Steiger Matthias, Zahid Maria

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

Alves Paula, Archer David, Borth Nicole, Carrondo Manuel, Lang Christine, Porro Danilo, Saloheimo Markku, Villaverde Antonio

2. Minutes of the last Section meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (Alghero, 2008) have been posted on the EFB Website and have been sent to any interested individual.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matter have been arising

4. Report from the Section Chairman

(a) Current membership of the Section Board.

Currently the key Section Board members and their responsibilities are: Jeff Cole, Chairman; Diethard Mattanovich, Vice-Chairman; Michael Sauer, Secretary; Pau Ferrer, Treasurer; Christine Lang, Website Manager; Ursula Rinas, Sponsorship Manager; Joost Teixeira de Mattos, Section representation on the EFB Congress Organising Committee.

(b) Election of the Section Board.

All of the current members have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. All attendees of the section meeting agreed to the re-election of the board members, there was no opposing vote.

(c) Report from the EFB Executive Board.

Until December 2009, the EFB was heavily subsidized by the Catalan government with an annual subsidy of 100.000 € per year. This supported the salaries of three staff in the Central Office in Barcelona. Considerable progress was made throughout 2010 to increase EFB income, decrease costs and yet maintain scientific activity. A current list of meetings and activities planned across the EFB has been sent to all interested individuals.

Sections make use of the EFB website to advertise their activities to the membership, but make no financial contribution towards the costs involved. In his role as EFB Vice-President, JAC is leading a Strategic Review of EFB organization and activities. EFB is currently operating at a deficit, but expects to be in surplus by 2012. A list of proposals accepted in January by the EFB Executive Board has been sent to interested individuals.

(d) Contribution from the Section to ECB 2009

None of the satellite symposia planned for ECB9 was brought to fruition. It has now been agreed that other ways need to be found to involve Sections more fully in ECB15 (Istanbul, September 2012) and other future Congresses.

DM remarked that the organizers should better integrate the wishes of the sections if the sections are supposed to involve themselves.

(e) Summary of Conference Proceedings for publication in the EFB Journal “New Biotechnology”.

A review of the current RPP meeting will be written by Diethard Mattanovich, Michael Sauer, Brigitte Gasser and Michael Maurer.

(f) Late items of business.

5. Treasurer’s report

PF provided a short statement of the sections account since the last RPP 2008 meeting in Alghero:

Account balance February 2011: 36,900 €

Recent Incomes: 5,000 € from RPP 5 (2008, Sardegna)
13,000 € from Microbial Response to Stress (2009, Semmering)

6. Report from the organizers of the current RPP meeting

DM reported:

RPP 6 had 247 registered participants, 36% students, 64% regular, 70% from academia, 30% from industry; this appears as a very good distribution

The largest group of participants was from Austria what reflects the particular interest in this topic in the Vienna region as well as a high interest from students.

The draft budget amounts to 70,000 €. 20,000 € were raised from sponsoring, including 4800 € for student grants and 1750 € for poster prices.

FEMS was again very generous and provided 6000 € in total; 12 students received grants and the travel expenses of two keynote speakers could be paid. 2 additional student grants were paid from the conference budget.

The section is grateful to Ursula Rinas for the organisation of the sponsoring.

DM underlined the importance of a functional communication with the companies in order to meet their needs to receive sponsoring.

50 participants registered in the last three weeks, this reflects a recent trend for late registration what should be taken into account when organising a meeting.

DM raised the topic of the accounting as a major challenge in context of the organisation of a meeting. The EFB central office might be of help here – however at a cost.

JAC agreed, however the handling of the financial transactions has to be resolved in a case-by-case manner at the time being.

7. Review of progress in the organisation of forthcoming Section symposia:

(a) Electron transfer in microbial metabolism and its regulation

May 11 to 15, 2011, Backagården, Lund, Sweden, Organized by Jeff Cole and Lars Hederstedt

JAC reported

The website is now open. There will be no registration fee for this fully residential meeting, but participants will be required to pay for their meals and accommodation at very reasonable prices (495 €).

(b) 5th International Conference on Analysis of Microbial Cells at the Single Cell Level

Planned for November 5th to 8th, 2011 in Carry-le-Rouet, nearby Marseilles, Organized by Gérald Grégori and Michel Denis

(c) Microbial response to stress. From molecules to systems. II

PB reported

The next meeting in this series is being organised in Belgirate at the shores of Lago Maggiore in Italy, by Paola Branduardi in spring 2012.

2 committees will be formed: an academic committee and an industrial committee to underline the importance of viewing the topic from academic as well as industrial perspective.

Application for a FEMS grant is due in the following days.

(d) PYFF - 5th Conference on Physiology of Yeast and Filamentous Fungi

The next meeting will be organized in 2013 by Sylvie Dequin (INRA; Montpellier)

(e) Next Recombinant Protein Production meeting.

The next RPP meeting will be held in Germany.

Discussion partners are Roland Wagner and Dethardt Müller from Rentschler Biotechnologie GmbH in Laupheim as well as Peter Neubauer from Berlin. PN was suggested as academic chair by DM. PN suggested involving Christine Lang and Vera Mayer (both Berlin).

The meeting is scheduled for spring 2013.

JAC: April and September should be avoided for organisation of conferences by our section.

(f) Invitation to propose other Section activities.

JAC invited everybody to suggest new meeting ideas.

PN announced a new meeting to be held in March 2013 in Berlin: Bioprocess Scale-up and Scale-down. The section will be associated partner for this meeting

8. Changes to the EFB website

It was agreed that the homepage needs some updates. Christine Lang will take care.

9. Any other business.

10. Next meeting of the Section.

The next open meeting of the section will be held at the conference “Microbial response to stress“ in Italy 2012