EFB Bioengineering and Bioprocessing Section

Open Inaugural Meeting – 26th November 2013, Malaga, Spain

Unconfirmed minutes

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Tony Hitchcock (Cobra Biologics, UK), Jens Nielsen (Chalmers University, Sweden) and Anita Ghag (University of Birmingham, UK).

2. Report from the EFB Vice-President, Jeff Cole.

JAC described the history behind the new EBBS section and the current state of its predecessor, ESBES. He outlined the importance of the new section to the EFB, and reinforced the requirement for ‘new blood’ to ensure that the section and the EFB have a future, and that they move with the times.

JAC stated that he expected that the EBBS section followed the model of the Microbial Physiology section in terms of finances, in that they organise conferences and meetings that generate money for the section and thereby become financially self-sufficient. The ASBE 2013 meeting is an example of such an event that has generated money. He also repeated the offer of assistance by the EFB Barcelona office (Karsten and Fernando) for conference organisation (as in ASBE meetings).

The question of whether downstream processing would be covered by the new section was raised, to which the answer was yes.

3. Report from the Provisional Honorary Secretary to the Section, Tim Overton.

TWO reported that a provisional section board had been assembled, and during the meeting and immediately after additional offers of help were received. At the meeting, the following positions were proposed and supported:

Louise Horsfall – Chair (Later amended to Co-chair)
Tim Overton – Secretary (Later amended to Co-chair)
Roland Ludwig - Treasurer
Lars Christensen - Industrial Liaison
Anita Ghag – Biomedical Engineering
Peter Neubauer – Additional support for Industrial Liaison
Manuel Canovas

Immediately following the meeting, additional members of the board were appointed:

Sergey Zotchev
Alexander Frey
A Cecilia A Roque
Anton Glieder
In addition to the section board, an advisory board was proposed, who would advise on but not directly organise section activities. Initial membership of this advisory board consists of Tony Hitchcock, Diethard Mattanovich and Victor de Lorenzo. Jens Nielsen has offered assistance in this role and it is suggested he also joins the advisory board.

TWO nominated two representatives of EBBS to attend the EFB Executive Board meeting in Barcelona on Monday 27 January 2014: Louise Horsfall (in capacity as EBBS co-chair and member of ECB16 scientific committee) and Tim Overton (in capacity as EBBS co-chair and ABSE organiser). This was approved by the meeting.

TWO recommended that the EBBS Section Board and election of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Industrial Liaison representatives should be complete by ECB16 in Edinburgh in 2014.

4. Proposals for the initial activities of the EBBS and call for volunteers to help organise them – Tim Overton

TWO outlined four possible events that EBBS could organise as a section over the next few years:
(i) Applied Synthetic Biology in Europe 3 (2015; joint meeting between EBBS & EFB Microbial Physiology section) – TWO to lead.
(ii) Translational biotechnology; from science to market in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and fuels (date TBA)
(iii) Microbial biotechnology with non-model organisms (date TBA)
(iv) Applied Biocatalysis event (date TBA, joint meeting between EBBS and ECAB)

In addition, following discussion prior to the meeting with Matias Zotchev and Gary Loake, a Plant Biotechnology meeting was suggested if there was sufficient interest.

**ACTION:** TWO to contact UK plant biotechnologists at the John Innes Centre, MZ to contact European Plant Biotechnologists.

There was a general feeling that EBBS could tap into national bioengineering or biotechnology networks in order to expand.

**ACTION:** Peter Neubauer to contact the German Biomass Institute.

5. Ideas for future Section symposia and other activities.

Ideas for events were raised from the floor:
Tony Glieder suggested a small, focused biocatalysis meeting.
Sergey Zotchev suggested a meeting on the Synthetic Biology of Natural products. It was suggested that this could either form a stand-alone meeting or be a focus area of ASBE3.
Peter Neubauer suggested that EBBS could run a session at a German biocatalysis / biotransformation conference.
There was a general idea for a meeting on biofuels.

These will be discussed following the meeting and an action plan drawn up during January 2014.

**ACTION:** LH and TWO to coordinate consultation on activities and draw up action plan.
6. Contribution of the Section to the next European Congress of Biotechnology (ECB16, to be held in Edinburgh in July 2014) – Tim Overton and Louise Horsfall

EBBS will coordinate a symposium at ECB16 which will be held in Edinburgh in 2014. Andreas Schmidt (TU Dortmund) was suggested as a potential invited speaker.

**ACTION**: LH and TWO to consult on invited speaker for ECB16 session.

7. Any other business.

This has been covered in the above headings.

8. Next meeting of the Section.

At ECB16 in Edinburgh (13-16 July 2014), date and time to be arranged.