

EFB Bioengineering & Bioprocessing Section



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Newsletter 2015 – Issue 2

Dear EBBS Member,

In this issue of our newsletter we have some exciting news to share with you. Firstly, during the EFB Executive Board meeting held on Saturday 24th January in Barcelona Prof. Mathias Uhlén was elected as the new EFB President, along with the 3 vice-presidents namely Prof. Jeff Cole, Prof. Diethard Mattanovich and Prof. Philippe Corvini.

Following on from our last issue, the EFB has composed a response to the EC's Preliminary Opinion on Synthetic Biology II - Risk assessment and has submitted candidatures for new experts to the committee from the EFB namely our Co-chair Dr. Louise Horsfall and Dr. Patrick Rüdelsheim (see below).

You will also find an interview with our co-chair Dr. Tim Overton in our "Introducing EBBS Board Members" series where he elaborates on his contributions and visions for the section. Additionally, Tim and Louise are on the scientific committee for the 17th European Congress of Biotechnology 2016 (ECB2016) which is currently planning the symposia; this is a unique opportunity for you as a section member to contribute and [send us](#) topic suggestions!

Our latest addition to the EBBS Board, Dr. Jon Marles-Wright was awarded a 2015 SynBio LEAP fellowship earlier

this year and has kindly contributed an article on his experience so far (see below). If you would like to share news and stories in the next newsletter, please contact us!

We would like to thank our members who are actively in contact with us through our various news channels ([Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)). Please, connect with us using these media for the latest news and updates on funding opportunities, conferences and the latest developments in European Biotechnology. You could also use these to network within the section!

We are still actively recruiting new members for the section to increase our outreach and impact, therefore we would like to ask our current members to encourage anyone who could benefit from joining us (our new membership application form can be soon downloaded [here](#)).

This year there are some fantastic conferences. We would especially like to highlight the [Advanced Biomufacturing Conference \(UK\)](#) next month and [Bioflavour 2015 \(Germany\)](#) in September (see page 2). In addition to all this, there are also funding and exciting job opportunities featured in this issue (see page 3).

Beatrice V Vetter, April 2015



Section Co-chairs:



Dr. Louise Horsfall



Dr. Tim Overton

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For more info visit us on www.efb-ebbs.eu

Contributing Author:



Dr. Jon Marles-Wright is a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and joined the board of the EBBS in 2014. He was awarded a 2015 SynBio LEAP fellowship.

www.marles-wright-lab.org
[@jmarlesw](https://twitter.com/jmarlesw)

EFB Response to the EC's Preliminary Opinion on Synthetic Biology II

Last December, the European Commission (EC) Scientific Committees issued a [Preliminary Opinion on Synthetic Biology II](#) on whether existing risk assessment methods are adequate for synthetic biology in Europe. In response the EFB compiled comments on this opinion document which can be [downloaded](#) from the EFB website. Furthermore, the EFB believes there is a need for additional consultation to the Open Ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology and has there submitted candidatures for our co-chair Dr. Louise Horsfall and Dr. [Patrick Rüdelsheim \(PERSEUS BVBA\)](#) – Belgium; Chairman EFB Task Group on Safety in Biotechnology).



Meeting Report: SynBio LEAP

The [Synthetic Biology Leadership Excellent Programme](#) was set up as 'an incubator for emerging leaders across disciplines and sectors to develop new strategies for biotechnology in the public interest.' The first cohort of LEAP Fellows passed through the pilot programme in 2012, and it includes our very own section co-chair Louise Horsfall. It was a great honour to be selected for the second cohort this year on the basis of an application bemoaning the antique molecular biology practical skills I was teaching my Master's students and a plan to do something about this! The year-long fellowship kicked off with a Landscaping meeting in Washington DC, hosted in the impressive sounding Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, which is the 28th US President's official memorial. [This year's Fellows](#) are drawn from the US and Europe and represent industry, academia, scientific publishing, and government agencies. At the Landscaping meeting we met with policy makers, the government agencies tasked with implementing policy, and representatives from all the sectors found on the

fellowship. We discussed the challenges facing biotechnology and workshopped ideas about what we can do to positively influence the direction of the field in a wider sense than just by doing our day-jobs.

This summer we'll be heading to the historic Asilomar Conference Grounds to attend a leadership workshop where we'll be developing strategic action plans with mentors from across the biotechnology sector. I will be focusing on how we can develop practical molecular-biology education for biotechnology students, with a focus on things we have learnt from the iGEM competition, the growing DIYbio movement, and the skills needed by the biotechnology industry that is increasingly using synthetic biology tools to develop products and processes. If you've got strong feelings on this then drop me a line, or follow me and the other fellows at synbioleap.org. Next year the programme will be hosted in Europe, so look out for announcements later in the year about applications for 2016!

Jon Marles-Wright





Introducing EBBS Board Members:

Dr. Tim Overton (Section Co-Chair)

School of Chemical Engineering/Institute of Microbiology and Infection,
University of Birmingham (UK)

<https://sites.google.com/site/overtonlaboratory/>
[@Overtonlab](#)

Can you tell us about your background?

And where are you based now?

After my first degree in Biochemistry I did a PhD on transcriptional regulation in *Escherichia coli* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a theme I carried on in postdoctoral work on global and local gene regulation in response to oxygen limitation, nitrate and nitrite, and reactive nitrogen species. Then I shifted focus to bioprocessing, and took up a lectureship in the School of Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, which is where I still am.

What is your area of expertise?

I am interested in microbial processes, in particular the use of microbial physiology knowledge to optimise, develop and monitor processes. Part of this is done using flow cytometry, a single cell analytical tool that allows rapid measurements and determination of heterogeneities within populations during biological processes.

What is your current research?

I focus on three main areas. First, bacterial fermentation development and optimisation. The main product areas I am interested in are recombinant proteins for biopharmaceutical use and (more recently) biopolymers.

Second, bacterial biofilms and the ways in which they can be used for useful processes such as biocatalytic fine chemical manufacture. Understanding how biofilms can be generated also provides insight into how one might get rid of them, so this research is also relevant to clinical settings. Finally, I use flow cytometry to optimise processes that are designed to kill microbes.

Why did you join EFB/EBBS?

I attended EFB meetings on electron transport during my PhD and postdoc, so knew that the focus was on excellent science across Europe. When EBBS was set up I saw it as an exciting opportunity to offer something new to the European biotechnology community, with a particular focus on interactions between science and engineering aspects of biotechnology.

Where do you see your contribution as a board member for EBBS?

I organise the Applied Synthetic Biology in Europe meeting series, the next meeting being early 2016 in Portugal. The 2012 and 2013 meetings were very productive, so I have high hopes for the third in the series. We are currently finalising the venue and selecting invited speakers. I am also on the scientific committee for the European Congress of Biotechnology 2016 in

Krakov, so I am ensuring that symposia are selected that will interest the bioprocessing & bioengineering communities! My research interests also help me provide cohesion between EBBS and the Microbial Physiology and Applied Biocatalysis sections of EFB.

Where do you see EBBS in the future?

I would like to see EBBS organising meetings on aspects of bioprocessing and bioengineering, responding to academic and industrial needs and providing a forum for collaboration throughout Europe. With trans-Europe research programmes such as Horizon 2020 comes a need for trans-Europe events for discussion and networking. I also see a need for championing European research, and to create a strong identity for European research through meetings and conferences.

Would you share an interesting fact about your persona?

When not working, music plays an important part of my life. I play the French horn in orchestras in the Birmingham area and especially enjoy playing Romantic repertoire. Although not terribly relaxing, playing in an orchestra offers a different challenge to work!

Upcoming Conferences & Events

2015

22-24 April 2015

[8th Conference on Recombinant Protein Production](#)
Palma (Mallorca, Spain)

18-19 May 2015

[Advanced Biomanufacturing Conference](#)
Sheffield (UK)

05-09 July 2015

[2nd International Synthetic & Systems Biology Summer School](#)
Taormina (Italy)

19-22 July 2015

[6th Int. Conference On Analysis Of Microbial Cells at the Single Cell Level](#)
Retz (Austria)



27 - 29 July 2015

[CAS Conference - Synthetic Biology II](#)
Munich (Germany)

[DECHEMA 9-11 September 2015 Bioflavour 2015](#)
Frankfurt Am Main (Germany)

Extended abstract deadline for Last-Minute-Posters:
30th June 2015
[submit here](#)

2016

TBC - early 2016

[3rd Meeting on Applied Synthetic Biology in Europe](#)
Lisbon (Portugal)

3-6 July 2016

[17th European Congress on Biotechnology](#)
Krakow (Poland)



EBBS Featured Event: Advanced Biomanufacturing Conference



www.sheffieldbiomanufacturing.org



New biomanufacturing technologies are transforming our ability to produce new medicines, sources of energy, industrial chemicals and food. The **Advanced Biomanufacturing Centre**, located at the University of Sheffield (UK), aims to harness interdisciplinary expertise to develop and deliver new biomanufacturing solutions to industry by applying the engineering principles measure - model - manipulate - manufacture to biological systems. The **ABC** is delighted to announce it's first **International Conference in Sheffield on 18-19th May 2015**. The exiting programme features international speakers who are leaders in their fields of Protein Engineering, Analytics & Cell Engineering, and Synthetic & Systems Biology from both the academic and industrial sectors, including for

example the EFB's vice-president and EBBS Advisory Board Member Prof Diethard Mattanovich (BOKU), Prof Pauline Rudd (NIBRT, Ireland), Dr. Veronique Chotteau (KTH, Sweden) and Dr Ken Cook (ThermoFisher) and [many more](#).

The ABC is also welcoming young researchers to showcase their innovative projects. The conference will accommodate approximately 200 delegates and will be held at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield, UK.

CALL FOR POSTERS!

Abstract Deadline:
17th April 2015
[More info here.](#)

Full details of the event can be found here:

www.sheffieldbiomanufacturing.org/index.php/news-events/event/advanced-biomanufacturing-conference/



Member's input invited!

ECB2016: Planning Phase Initiated

The 17th European Congress on Biotechnology will be held 3rd – 6th July 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The executive board and scientific committee, including our co-chair Tim Overton, now begun planning the ECB2016 and setting the 25 symposia. We would like to invite our EBBS sections members to please send us suggestions for topics. If you have any recommendations, please [email](#) us!



Funding Opportunities & Programmes

BBSRC 2015

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/opportunities-index.aspx>



BBSRC & Innovate UK- The management and use of Biofilms

<https://interact.innovateuk.org/-/the-management-and-use-of-biofilms>



Horizon2020

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>



Job Opportunities

Closing Date	Job Title	Location	Job Reference
17:00h GMT, 27 April 2015	Business Development Manager - USA (Food Enzyme Unit)	Biocatalysts Ltd. - Illinois (USA)	http://www.biocatalysts.com/about-us/work-for-us/current-vacancies/en-gb/article
NA	Fermentation Research Assistant	Ingenza Ltd (UK)	http://www.ingenza.com/contacts/
NA	Senior Biochemist, Research Assistant/Scientist (Fermentation), Molecular Biology Research Assistants Scientists/Senior Scientists (Molecular Biology and Strain Development)	Biosyntha Ltd. (UK)	http://www.biosyntha.com/about-us/careers

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Bioengineering & Bioprocessing Section

Do you want to get involved?

If you would like to be part of the new section, if you have an idea for a new meeting in an area of bioengineering or bioprocessing, or if you would like to assist in section activities, please contact the section co-chairs:

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 Tim Overton
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About this Newsletter:

You receive a quarterly newsletter as part of your membership with EBBS.

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New Biotechnology is the official journal of the [EFB](#) and is published bimonthly. It covers both the science of **biotechnology** and its surrounding political, business and financial milieu.



Impact Factor: 2.106

Recent Issue:

Synthetic Biotechnology
(Volume 31, Issue 6, Pages 525-602)



Member's input invited!

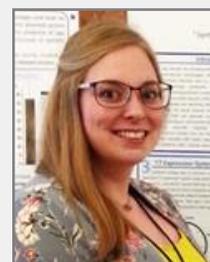
If you have interesting news, suggestions or job vacancies that you would like to advertise, please, get in touch!

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