

Dear colleagues and friends,

A lot of activities and events are waiting for us after this hot summer break. Our meeting at ebc vi in Chania was a very good opportunity to gain the support of new members and young scientists to promote our Environmental Biotechnology section activities. Enjoy the reading of this Newsletter, which will be published every two months from now!

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Corvini; (philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch), 31 August 2015

NEWS FROM EFB

The organisation of ECB 2016 is progressing well and our section will be prominently represented. The scientific committee has succeeded in winning two outstanding keynote speakers for environmental biotechnology related sessions, namely em. Prof. Willy Verstraete (Gent University) and Prof. Mark van Loosdrecht. Furthermore our section will work with our colleague Wen-Chien Lee from AFOB on the organisation of a "Highlight event" on "(Bio)cellulose as a valuable resource". More info will follow.

NEWS FROM OUR EB SECTION

Our section welcomes new expert members:



Dr. Hermann J. Heipieper is Senior Scientist at the Department Environmental Biotechnology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ, Leipzig (DE). His research is mainly focused on

microbial biodegradation of aromatic and aliphatic pollutants, incl. marine hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria; microbial adaptation to toxic organic compounds and other environmental stresses on the level of cell surfaces and membranes; and *in situ* quantification of catabolic genes in constructed wetlands treating organic pollutants.



Dr. Alberto Scoma is a postdoc working at the Laboratory of Microbial Ecology and Technology University of Ghent (BE). He has been working on the hypoxic metabolism in green microalgae (ISE-CNR; IT); on

integrated, stand-alone 2nd generation biorefineries (Prof. Fava, UniBo, IT) and deep-sea hydrocarbon biodegradation (Prof. Boon and Rabaey, UGent, BE). His main interest is the interplay between physiology and ecology to steer microbial processes. He published 31 papers in the field of green- and biotechnology.



Dr. Giulio Zanaroli has a PhD in Applied Biocatalysis and Industrial Microbiology at the University of Bologna (2005). He holds a position as Assistant Professor in Fermentation Chemistry and

Biotechnology since 2008 at the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering of the School of Engineering, University of Bologna. His research activities are focused on the biodegradation of chlorinated and non-chlorinated organic pollutants with a particular focus on marine sediments. He also works on the treatment and exploitation of agroindustrial wastes and effluents for the production of fine chemicals and biopolymers. He has published 36 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

STRATEGICAL ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

EC-Workshop on maximising the impact of KET Biotechnology.

The European Commission (DG Research & Innovation, Key Enabling Technologies, D2-Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies) is currently preparing next calls. The EC is organizing a special workshop to collect input from various stakeholders on **22 September 2015 in Brussels**. Our section (represented by P. Corvini) belongs to the privileged representatives and will have the chance to contribute to forthcoming calls. We will present executive abstracts from the sessions on "blue growth: contamination affecting the marine-terrestrial interface" and "Future research needs in environmental biotechnology". Feel free to suggest visionary topics that match the goals of D2-Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies.

Position papers!

We still need volunteers to prepare the 2 first papers on i) Enzymes at the convergence of environmental biotechnology and industrial biotechnology and ii) Nanobiotechnology for environmental applications.

Join us!

SUMMARY OF OUR EB SECTION MEETING

We had section meeting at ebc vi in Chania on 1st of July. Here is a short summary of decisions and developments. The newsletter will be issued on a bimonthly basis and edited by A. Scoma (Gent University, BE). G. Zanaroli (University of Bologna, IT) and H. Heipieper (UFZ, DE) will advertise our section to SMEs and major companies working in the field of environmental biotechnology in order to increase the participation of the private sector to our section. F.

Aulenta (CNR-IRSA, IT) will support our secretary V. Tandoi to take care of our long list of members. Our section will intensify its dissemination strategy to emphasize the European needs for environmental biotechnology dedicated research. Lastly, our EB section will be present on the social network Twitter (more info to follow)!

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF OUR SECTION

These are the coming events of our Section in chronological order. *Check the dates!*

8th Int. Conf. on Environmental Engineering and Management (ICEEM08, *Sept. 09-12, 2015*; Iasi, Romania). The **ICEEM08** is organized by our colleagues Carmen Teodosiu and Maria Gavrilescu (Gheorghe Asachi Technical University-TUIASI) with the support of **EFB EB**, **InterMEDIU** and the Academic Organization for Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development (**OAIMDD**). The main themes will be: **I**) Environmental pollution and monitoring, **II**) Water and wastewater treatment and management, **III**) Air pollution, prevention and treatment, **IV**) Environmental biotechnology, **V**) Environmental management and sustainability assessments, **VI**) Sustainable production and consumption, **VII**) Waste management for resources and energy recovery, **VIII**) Environmental education, Workshops and Exhibitions. **Keynote speakers** include: Prof. Azapagic (UK), Prof. Castells Pique (ES), Prof. Corvini (CH), Prof. Friedl (AT), Prof. Lindhqvist (SE), Prof. Monteleone (IT), Prof. Royer (FR) and Prof. Schoonman (NL). **Best contributions** will be published on: *Process Safety and Environmental Protection, New Biotechnology, Environmental Engineering and Management Journal*. More info on: www.iceem.eu.

8th edition of European Symposium on Biopolymers (ESBP2015, *Sept. 16-18, 2015*, Rome, Italy). Chaired by M. Majone, this event is officially sponsored by EFB EB. The Symposium will offer scientists, professionals, and managers the opportunity to meet and discuss most relevant news about science and technology of biopolymers and bioplastics. More info on: www.esbp2015.org.

Ecomondo 19th International Trade Fair of Material & Energy Recovery and Sustainable Development (Nov. 3-6, Rimini, Italy). F. Fava is responsible for the whole scientific programme and our section will have several talks at this important fair. More info on: en.ecomondo.com

Asian Congress on Biotechnology 2015 (ACB2015, *Nov. 15-19*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Chaired by Prof. Mohd Ali Hassan and Prof. Suraini Abd-Aziz, the event is organized by AFOB Malaysia Chapter and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in collaboration with several other universities from Malaysia and Japan. ACB2015 focus is on Biotechnology and Bioeconomy for

Sustainable Future and will provide a platform for scientists, academia and industry on various biotechnological fields. The congress also serves as a platform for networking opportunities and knowledge sharing as it brings together researchers from around the world. Philippe Corvini will be the keynote speaker of the environmental biotechnology session. More info on: www.ksbb.or.kr/board/list.html?code=news3&num=569

IV SOLABIAA Congress (*November 8-13, 2015*, Florianópolis, Brazil). This congress organised by SOLABIAA (the Latin American Society of Environmental and Algal Biotechnology) will be another step to extend and disseminate the activities of the Society, and strengthen its operations in the Latin American territory. More info on: www.congresso2015.solabiaa.com.br

10th Conf. of the Int. Society of Environmental Biotechnology (ISEB, *June 1-3, 2016*; Barcelona, ES) ISEB2016 will be organized by J. Garcia (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) with the aim of bringing together scientists and practitioners to catalyse and advance scientific knowledge on environmental biotechnologies, and to present the most recent technological innovations to face environmental problems. More info on www.iseb2016.com.

JOB MARKET

The MELiSSA PhD program (POMP) is officially open. It is financed by the European Space Agency and is organized to (co-) finance a number of PhD students with the objective to carry out research in the MELiSSA technology domain. **The application deadline is Sept. 15**. The webpage is designed as a platform for students to prepare their applications and can be found here: www.melissafoundation.org

SPREAD THE WORD

Sustain the EB section of EFB!

Make your colleagues working on Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology subscribe to the Environmental Biotechnology section. Registration is for free! **INSTRUCTIONS:** visit to the webpage www.efb-central.org/index.php/3010hcet/register fill in the form and **tick the box Environmental Biotechnology** to be listed as one of our section members.

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