

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

the beginning of 2019 was fast and intensive. We gathered important information on last developments at EFB, research funding opportunities, important events, and more. Enjoy reading this newsletter and follow us on twitter @envbiotechEFB!

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Corvini

#### NEWS FROM EFB

**EFB Executive Board meeting** (Jan 26, 2019)  
President Mathias Uhlen, and Vice-Presidents Jeff Cole, Philippe Corvini and Diethard Mattanovich were re-appointed with unanimous support. Francesc Gòdia was elected unanimously to serve as a fourth Vice-President. The chair welcomed new members of the Board, Gerrit Borchard (University of Geneva), Maria José Hernáiz (SEBIOT), Richard van Kranenburg and Aldrik Velders (co-chairs of the ECB2020 Scientific Programme Committee), Manfred Zinn from the Section on Polymer Biotechnology (in substitution of Georg Gübitz), and Nick Goodhew (TFI Group).

**ECB 2020** (Jun 28 - Jul 1, 2020; Maastricht, NL)

The programme will be organised into the 5 traditional streams plus a 'Grand Challenges' stream. Each symposium will have 2 invited speakers and 4 short talks selected from submitted abstracts. Your input and suggestions are welcome!

#### Collaboration with AFOB

The president and vice-presidents of EFB will attend the Asian Congress on Biotechnology ACB 2019 (July 1-4, 2019, Taipei, TW). Giulio Zanaroli (University of Bologna, IT) will give the keynote lecture in the AFOB-EFB session on environmental biotechnology. Note that AFOB plans a special article in Biotechnology Journal, which will provide readers with an exhaustive overview on the collaboration between AFOB and EFB.

#### NEWS FROM OUR EB SECTION

##### New industrial member

BD Biodigressioni srl is an Italian start-up born in 2014, which is devoted to the application of a blend of multidisciplinary scientific cutting-edge competences for the bioremediation of soils, waters and air. The aim is to improve industrial processes, reduce their footprint, promote social wellness and sustainability of the environmental quality, within a circular economy. More informations at: [www.biodigressioni.it](http://www.biodigressioni.it)

##### Conference on Bioremediation

2<sup>nd</sup> international meeting on New Strategies in Bioremediation Processes (**BioRemid2019**, Oct 24-25, 2019; Almeida Garrett's Library, Porto, PT). This meeting will bring together scientists and industry professionals in a friendly environment, and share the latest developments and innovations to face environmental problems. Topics such as identification and monitoring of biohazards, strategies to remediate

sites polluted with emerging and priority pollutants, new biodegraders and consortium-based strategies, impact of anthropogenic activities on the native microbial communities and waste recovery will be discussed. Other topics such as modelling and new treatment technologies will be also considered. There will be 3 awards for Best short poster presentation by young MSc or PhD students. More info at: <http://conference.mercatura.pt/events/bioremid2019>

**Bioeconomy - Environmental Biotechnology meeting** (presumably October, 2020, Krakow, PL). This is organised by the EFB Office together with our colleague Tomas Twardowski and EB section of EFB. The EB section is currently seeking for persons who are willing to actively participate in the organization of the meeting and shape the scientific program.

**The project ELECTRA** (H2020, NMBP, BIOTEC-04-2018)  
Energy-low and chemical-free optimized EleCtron TRansfer processes for Accelerated bioremediation.

The ELECTRA project is 4-year EU-China RTD joint initiative, with the EU-funded consortium gathering 22 partners from EU and China. ELECTRA will deliver 2 innovative sets of electromicrobiology-based environmental biotechnologies, facilitating/improving electron transfer during microbial degradation processes. The approach will accelerate the elimination of several classes of pollutants and mixtures thereof in contaminated wastewater, groundwater, sediment and soil. The first set of biotechnologies employs bioelectrochemical systems requiring low energy input and no chemical addition. The second set comprises biotechnologies which necessitate no energy input and minimal chemical amendment using electromicrobial concepts. ELECTRA builds on recent groundbreaking advances in biotechnology to develop them for environmental bioremediation applications and test the 4 most advanced technologies during field trials under various environmentally-relevant conditions to prove their efficiency and robustness for contamination by organic and inorganic pollutants as well as nutrients. More information at: [www.electra.site](http://www.electra.site)

Facebook @ELECTRAH2020; Twiter @ElectraH2020  
LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/groups/13687161/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/13687161/)

##### Special Issue in the memory of Valter Tandoi

Colleagues and friends of Valter Tandoi have suggested a list of 20 manuscripts for publication in a Special Issue dedicated to Valter. Manuscripts are

currently handled by Simona Rossetti, Mauro Majone and Philippe Corvini.

#### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

##### Foreseen calls of interest

- BIOTEC-06-2020: Reprogrammed microorganisms for biological sensors (IA)
- BIOTEC-07-2020: Multi-omics for genotype-phenotype associations (RIA)
- CE-BIOTEC-08-2020: New biotechnologies to remediate harmful contaminants (RIA)
- CE-BIOTEC-09-2020: Upcycling Bio Plastics of food and drinks packing

#### IMPORTANT EVENTS OF OUR SECTION

These are the forthcoming events of our Section in chronological order. *Check and earmark the dates!*

**BioBio** (UCTP Prague, CZ) is organised by Kata Demnerova together with Eugenia Olguin (ISEB) and the Environmental Biotechnology section of EFB in late spring 2019.

**ACB2019** (14<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress on Biotechnology, Jul 1-4, 2019; Taipei, TW) organized by the Asian Federation of Biotechnology (AFOB) and Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering Society of Taiwan (BEST). More info: [www.acb2019.tw](http://www.acb2019.tw)

**ICEEM10** (Sep 18-21, 2019; Iasi, RO) is organised by Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi (RO) in collaboration with the University of Bologna (IT) and the EB section of EFB. Young scientists/PhD students are invited to present their research work at ICEEM10. Special fees of 250 EUR/person will be available for 20 PhD students (under 30 years old).

Sponsors' packages for ICEEM10 are:

- SILVER - € 1000 - Logo on Webpage and conference booklet/program;
- GOLD - € 1.500 - Logo on Webpage, conference booklet/program, Logo on Beamer screens in all conference rooms, during all conference breaks;
- PLATINUM - € 2.000 - Logo on Webpage, conference booklet, Logo on Beamer screens during the conference breaks and space for a poster or an exhibition stand.

More info: [www.iceem.ro](http://www.iceem.ro)

**Bioremid 2019** (Oct 24-25, 2019; Porto, PT). The 2<sup>nd</sup> international meeting on New Strategies in Bioremediation Processes will be held at the Almeida Garrett's Library. More info at: <http://conference.mercatura.pt/events/bioremid2019>

**ISPTS 2019** (Oct 25-29, 2019; Hoboken, USA). The 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Persistent Toxic Substances will be held at the Stevens Institute of Technology.

**Ecomondo** (Nov 5-8, 2019; Rimini, IT). The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of Ecomondo will be held at Rimini Expo Centre. Ecomondo is the leading event in Europe for the new models of circular economy. It is an international exhibition with an innovative format that brings together all sectors of the circular economy in a single platform: from material and energy recovery to sustainable development.

#### JOB MARKET

**PhD position:** 3D printing of biofilms to remove organic pollutants. Please send your application to [philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch](mailto:philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch).

**Postdoc or PhD position** in the frame of the newly funded EU BBI project INGREEN on the production of oligosaccharides from whey. Please send your application to [philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch](mailto:philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch).

**PhD position** in the frame of the newly funded EU NMBP project TERMINUS on enzymatic approaches for multilayered plastic packaging. Please send your application to [philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch](mailto:philippe.corvini@fhnw.ch).

**Postdoc or PhD position** at Aarhus University (DK) on the electromicrobiology of homoacetogenic bacteria and their H<sub>2</sub> utilization thermodynamics. More info: <http://phd.scitech.au.dk/for-applicants/apply-here/may-2019/the-electromicrobiology-of-homoacetogenic-bacteria/>

Please send your applications to Prof. Jo Philips [jo.philips@eng.au.dk](mailto:jo.philips@eng.au.dk) or Prof. Alberto Scoma [as@eng.au.dk](mailto:as@eng.au.dk)

Do not hesitate to announce your jobs and internships to Alberto Scoma ([as@eng.au.dk](mailto:as@eng.au.dk)).

#### SPREAD THE WORD

##### Sustain the EB Section of EFB!

Make your colleagues active in environmental sciences and biotechnology subscribe to the Environmental Biotechnology Section. Registration is free: <http://www.efbiotechnology.org/3010hcet/register> fill in the form and tick the box Environmental Biotechnology. In addition, write an e-mail to [rossetti@irsa.cnr.it](mailto:rossetti@irsa.cnr.it) in order to receive this newsletter.



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