

# *Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease*

## **Executive Board**

**President:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*; **Past-President:** *Elisa Bertazzoni-Minelli*;  
**President-Elect:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*; **Secretary:** *Sandrine Claus*; **Treasurer:** *Yiannis Kourkoutas*;  
**Councillors:** *Alojz Bomba, Wendy Garrett, Raina Fichorova, Reet Mändar, Luisa Vieira Peixe, Marie-Benedicte Romond, Veronica Lazar*

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## **SOMED NEWSLETTER**

**Spring 2017**

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### **Letter of President**

**Dear colleagues, members and friends,**  
firstly, I would like to thank all of you for your trust as newly elected SOMED President for a mandate of 2 years.  
Secondly, I am pleased to announce the results of the latest SOMED ballot for the nomination of our new SOMED board.  
Among all of SOMED members, 75% of active members have expressed their preferences towards the candidates and the results of the votes are as follows:

#### ***Elections February 2017***

##### **Candidates and votes:**

##### **President-elect:**

Eugenia Bezirtzoglou - 33 votes;

##### **Secretary:**

Sandrine Claus – 23 votes;

Nadiya Boyko - 10;

##### **Councillors:**

Luisa Vieira Peixe- 25 votes;

Marie-Benedicte Romond- 32 votes;

Veronica Lazar – 30 votes;

Paola Mastromarino – 10 votes.

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Active members – 44

Valid ballots – 33

Nule ballot - 1

The Society expresses its gratitude for the members who have served our Society so far in these various positions.

Specifically, I would like to thank the past-President Prof Elisa Bertazonni for her leadership and the organization of the excellent SOMED meeting in Verona.

Finally, let me thank and express my confidence in the newly elected SOMED Board members to drive a similarly successful collaboration in this new mandate.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to assume the role of President of SOMED for a second time and I thank you deeply for your trust.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and for giving me the opportunity to have this prominent role.

Therefore, I commit to provide the leadership our Society requires in order to achieve its objectives and implement its strategies, and commit to listen and respond to your needs as members and work very closely with all members of the newly elected Board who I welcome .

Our Society plays a critical role in helping to resolve important scientific questions focusing specifically on intestinal microbiota and food. However, any aspect of microbial

ecology in health and disease is considered for investigation. We have come a long way since the Society began in the mid 70's, founded by a group of American and European scientists actively involved in the study of human intestinal flora, who named it the Society for Intestinal Microbial Ecology and Disease (SIMED). The first meeting was organized in the United States in 1976. I joined the Society 10 years later, as a young PhD student from France at the San Antonio Congress and since then, I could say almost every year I participated in the Society activities and I had the opportunity to meet all these famous scientists which for me were... just names for 'bibliographical citation'! A decade later, the scope of the Society had broadened considerably. This was driven by the emergence of new technologies, methods and skills, to which many Society members participated. Those who have steered the Society along this dynamic road have done so in a responsive and measured way, ensuring appropriate adjustments and continuity in the Society's affairs.

Many people have contributed to this outcome, far too many people to name them all here. I had the privilege to meet Tore Midtvedt, Sydney Finegold, Andrew Onderdonk, Tracy Wilkins, Sherwood Gorbach, Peter Boriello and many others.

Moreover, I had the great fortune to work in their famous laboratories under their supervision and I was honored twice to organize the international congress of our Society in my country.

Finally, the Society was renamed SOMED (Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease) in the late 80's to better reflect the diverse areas of microbial ecology in addition to intestinal ecology. I want to acknowledge here that during all these years, many prominent colleagues in the SOMED board performed an excellent work and offered their expertise to organize challenging conference programs that built bridges across scientific disciplines in order to support scientific development and make life healthier on this planet we all share.

An important priority for us is to enhance our inclusivity so that we better respond to the individual needs of our Society members.

Young scientists need to be supported to attend scientific events to confront their views to those of others. It is also an efficient way to draw new people into our Society.

I believe the essence of what we do in the Society is helpful to create an enabling environment that enhances outcomes in Health and Microbial Ecology. We live in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world. Our relationships with our physical world and the way we use our microbial environment are changing as we deploy technology to create new ways of interacting with each other.

The financial downturn of the last few years has led to tough austerity measures in funding University scientific research and restructuring the life sciences industry in many European countries. Despite signs of improvement, the global economy remains fragile, and the future of science funding continues to be uncertain. Unfortunately these difficult times have had a knock-down effect on our Society, which recorded fewer members in the last years. The financial crisis may also explain the limited participation at our congresses of researchers from transatlantic countries. For this reason I would like to attract more scientists from the United States. A first step will be to attract Gold sponsors to support our congresses, invite renowned speakers and offer grants to young students.

In a time when science and experts are sometimes distrusted, it is our role as a society to ensure that our voice is heard. In particular, it is our responsibility to reach a wide audience outside the field of microbiology, an audience made of both scientists and non-scientists. In that respect, we are lucky that most of our members are renowned experts with a track record of public engagement through their interactions with policy makers and the media. Therefore, in my new role as President, I intend to build up on this strength to promote the voice of microbiologists and thereby of the SOMED society. Another of my priorities for SOMED will be to develop the influence of the society by improving its communication, starting with a revamp of our website, and support the organization of stimulating scientific events. Let me thus finish by

encouraging you to spread the word about our next joint conference with the ISG and JAGG, organized in Tokyo from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017, details of which can be found on the next page. Finally I would like to congratulate all new elected members' board in their new roles. I look forward to working with you and receiving your contributions.

Wishing to see many of you at what promises to be an exciting meeting.

Once again thank you for your support and best wishes for a Happy Easter .

Best regards,  
Prof Eugenia Bezirtzoglou  
Professor in Microbiology,MD,PhD  
Democritus University of Thrace



## Upcoming meetings 2017:

The Joint Congress of The 19<sup>th</sup> International  
Symposium on Gnotobiology (XIX ISG) &  
The 50<sup>th</sup> Congress of Japanese Association  
of Germfree Life and Gnotobiology (L JAGG)&  
The 39<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Society for Microbial  
Ecology and Disease (XXXIX SOMED)

Tokyo Garden Palace, Ochanomizu, JAPAN, June 7-10, 2017

Early registration February 28, 2017

Abstract deadline February 28, 2017

<http://square.umin.ac.jp/JAGG/isgsomed2017>

MEETING VENUE: Tokyo Garden Palace, Ochanomizu

1-7-5, Yushima, Bunkyo-Ku, TOKYO, 113-0034, JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-3813-6211, FAX: +81-3-3818-6060



### Welcome address

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we warmly invite you to join us in Tokyo on 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Tokyo Garden Palace for the Joint Congress of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Gnotobiology (XIX ISG), the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress of Japanese Association of Germfree Life and Gnotobiology (L JAGG) and the 39<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease (XXXIX SOMED).

Our four days of symposia, seminars and free papers will cover recent developments in gnotobiology, basic microbiological research and clinical studies mainly in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). It is our hope that the joint congress delivers the opportunity to develop our understanding of the complexity of microbial ecology and diseases, and to expand the

*Tatsuo Ichinohe*

**Tatsuo Ichinohe, MD, PhD**

Department of Hematology and Oncology,  
Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine,  
Hiroshima University

**ISG Congress President**

**Organizing committee**

knowledge from the bench to the clinics for accurate diagnosis and better treatment. It provides a unique opportunity for each of us to exchange information, enter into dialogue and become better connected with other people across the world and the different fields of science.

Tokyo is a capital of Japan and known as a city with many tourist spots, historical atmosphere and traditional/modern Japanese cultures.

Tokyo Garden Palace, the venue of the Congress, is located in Ochanomizu, which is an academic area with many universities and institutions in Tokyo.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Tokyo in June 2017 for the ISG/JAGG/SOMED joint congress.

*Shigeru Kamiya*

**Shigeru Kamiya, MD, PhD**

Department of Infectious Diseases,  
Kyorin University School of Medicine

**JAGG, SOMED Congress President**

**President (ISG)** Tatsuo ICHINOHE  
**President (SOMED)** Shigeru KAMIYA  
**President (JAGG)** Shigeru KAMIYA  
**Executive Advisor** Hiroharu MATSUDA

**Advisory Board**

Yasuhiko Horiguchi  
Tadashi KAWAI  
Shuichi KIMURA  
Ichiro KITASATO  
Yoshihisa KODERA

Tohru MASAOKA  
Shinichiro OKAMOTO  
Bunsaku SAKAKIBARA  
Haruji SAWADA  
Tsutomu TAKEUCHI

**International Advisory Board ISG**

Philip B. CARTER (USA)  
Philippe GÉRARD (France)  
Peter J. HEIDT (Netherlands)  
Viacheslav K. ILYIN (Russia)  
Hoon T. LEE (Korea)  
Tore MIDTVEDT (Sweden)  
Elisabeth L. NORIN (Sweden)  
Boris SHENDEROV (Russia)  
Alexander SUVOROV (Russia)  
Betty R. THERIAULT (USA)  
Leda Q. VIEIRA (Brazil)  
Chrisoula VOIDAROU (Greece)

**SOMED**

Eugenia BEZIRTZOGLU (Greece)  
Alojz BOMBA (Slovak)  
Gianfranco DONELLI (Italy)  
Raina FICHOROVA (USA)  
Wendy S. GARRETT (USA)  
Yiannis KOURKOUTAS (Greece)  
Veronica LAZAR (Romania)  
Paola MASTROMARINO (Italy)  
Reet MÄNDAR (Estonia)  
Luisa V. PEIXE (Portugal)

**Local Organizing Committee**

Kiyoshi ANDO  
Takashi ASHIDA  
Yoshimi BENNO  
Shigeru FUJIWARA  
Fang HE  
Haruhisa HIRATA  
Kazuhiro HIRAYAMA  
Akira HOSONO  
Masamichi IKEDA  
Tsukasa IKEDA  
Emiko ISOGAI  
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Mamoru ITO  
Takanori KANAI  
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Hiroyuki KOYAMA  
Kuniyasu OCHIAI  
Toshifumi OKUSA  
Kanetada SHIMIZU  
Hitoshi SHIRAKAWA  
Haruhiko TAGUCHI  
Motomichi TAKAHASHI  
Shinichi TAKAHASHI  
Kazuo TANAKA  
Seiki TAZUME  
Takanori TESHIMA  
Yutaka UNO  
Hiroyuki YAMAGUCHI  
Hideki YAMAMUR

## Schedule overview (tentative)

Program of XIX ISG / L JAGG / XXXIX SOMED 2017

	7-Jun	8-Jun	9-Jun	10-Jun
Room	3F Hakuhou	2F Takachiho B	2F Takachiho A	3F Heian
8:30		<b>Registration</b> 8:30 - 16:00	<b>Registration</b> 8:30 - 17:00	<b>Registration</b> 8:30 - 11:00
9:00		<b>Opening Remarks</b> 9:00 - 9:10 <b>Free Paper 1</b> 9:10 - 10:10	<b>Free Paper 2</b> 9:00 - 10:00	<b>Free Paper 3</b> 9:00 - 10:00
10:00		<b>break</b>	<b>break</b>	<b>break</b>
		<b>Symposium 1</b> 10:30 - 12:00	<b>Symposium 3</b> 10:10 - 11:40	<b>Symposium 5</b> 10:20 - 11:50
11:00			<b>Photo session</b> 11:40 - 12:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> 11:50 - 12:00
12:00		<b>Lancheon Seminar 1</b> 12:00 - 13:00	<b>Lancheon Seminar 2</b> 12:00 - 13:00	
13:00		<b>Symposium 2</b> 13:00 - 14:30	<b>Memorial Lecture for late Professor Shogo Sasaki</b> 13:00 - 13:30 <b>Presidential Lectures</b> 13:30 - 14:10	
14:00		<b>break</b>	<b>break</b>	
15:00		<b>JAGG Session</b> 14:50 - 15:50	<b>Symposium 4</b> 14:30 - 16:30	
16:00		<b>Registration</b> 15:00 - 18:00 <b>Board Meeting 1 (JAGG)</b> 15:00 - 16:00 (3F Tachibana )	<b>Poster Viewing</b> 16:00 - 17:00 (3F Hakuhou )	
17:00		<b>Board Meeting 2 (JAGG)</b> 16:00 - 16:30 <b>Board Meeting (IAG)</b> 16:30 - 17:00 <b>Board Meeting (SOMED)</b> 17:00 - 17:30	<b>General Meeting (IAG/SOMED/JAGG)</b> 17:00 - 17:30	
18:00		<b>Reception (Tokyo Garden Palace)</b> 18:00 - 19:30	<b>Congress Dinner (Meiji-Kinenkan)</b> 18:30 - 20:30	
19:00				
20:00				

**Registration Fee (in Japanese Yen)**

(JYE)

	Membership	Early on-line	Standard on-line	On-site
		Before Jan 29	Jan 30 till April 20	June 7-10
<b>International participants</b>	<b>Member (IAG, SOMED)</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
	<b>Non-member</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Japanese participants</b>	<b>Member (JAGG)</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
	<b>Supporting Societies (JSB, JSHCT)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>
	<b>Non-member</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>All participants</b>	<b>Congress Dinner (Additional cost)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

IAG: International Association for Gnotobiology;  
 JAGG: Japanese Association of Germfree Life and Gnotobiology;  
 JSHCT: Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation

SOMED: Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease  
 JSB: Japanese Society for Bacteriology  
**Dr. Takako Osaki**, Dept. of Infectious Diseases,  
 Kyorin University School of Medicine, 6-20-2  
 Shinkawa, Mitaka, TOKYO, 181-8611, JAPAN  
 TEL: +81-422-47-5511; ex. 3464; FAX: +81-422-44-7325,  
 E-mail: gnotobiosaki@ks.kyorin-u.ac.jp

\*Registration fee for STUDENT is a half-price for each category. For this registration, a recommendation letter from a supervisor is needed.

***<http://square.umin.ac.jp/JAGG>***

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**Secretary General** , Joint Congress of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Gnotobiology (XIX ISG) & the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress of Japanese Association of Germfree Life and Gnotobiology (L JAGG) & the 39<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease (XXXIX SOMED)

## Other upcoming events



The 14th biennial Congress of the Anaerobe Society of the Americas will take place July 9-12, 2018 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

Call for Session Proposals - Submit by Jan.31, 2017.

Send proposals to [asa@anaerobe.org](mailto:asa@anaerobe.org)

Further details, on the website: [www.anaerobe.org](http://www.anaerobe.org).



### ASM Microbe 2017

June 1-5 2017 New Orleans, USA

Website: <http://www.asm.org/index.php/asm-microbe-2017>



### New Approaches and Concepts in Microbiology

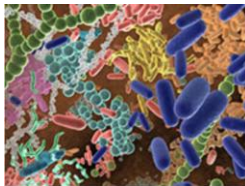
June 27-30 2017 EMBL Heidelberg, Germany

More details online: [embo-embl-symposia.org](http://embo-embl-symposia.org)





7th Congress of European Microbiologists  
July 13th 2017, Valencia, Spain



### Exploring Human Host-Microbiome Interactions in Health and Disease

13-15 September 2017  
Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

<https://coursesandconferences.wellcomegenomecampus.org/events/item.aspx?e=637>



### 5th World Congress on Targeting Microbiota

October 26-27 2017 Berlin, Germany

More details online: <https://www.microbiota-site.com>