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## Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

**Executive Board:** **President:** *Gianfranco Donelli*; **President-Elect:** *Marika Mikelsaar*; **Secretary:** *Shigeru Kamiya*; **Treasurer:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*; **Councillors:** *Diane Citron, Francesca Clementi, Andrew B. Onderdonk, Arthur C. Ouwehand, Boris Shenderov, Michael Wilson*

# SOMED NEWSLETTER

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**WINTER**

**2009-2010**

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members, colleagues and friends,

I'm pleased to provide you with details on the last events and initiatives of our Society.

As you know, on October 29-30, 2009, the XXXII SOMED Meeting has been held in St. Petersburg with the participation of about 100 SOMED Members. However, the attendance was largely increased by the participation of many hundreds of other scientists interested in probiotics since our meeting was preceded by the International Congress "St. Petersburg-Probiotics 2009" held on October 28-29, 2009.

A brief summary on the two congresses received by Alexander Suvorov, Stanislav Sitkin and Boris Shenderov is reported in this issue:

The SOMED Executive Council Meeting and General Assembly held during the Congress, discussed the following issues:

1. President's overview on the Society; participation of SOMED Members in Panels of Experts on Probiotics and related Consensus Papers (**G. Donelli**)
2. SOMED 2008-2009 financial report (**E. Bezirtzoglou**)
3. 2010, 2011, 2012 SOMED Meetings (**E. Bezirtzoglou, S. Kamiya, Y. Sanz**)
4. 2010-2012 SOMED Ballot organization (**G. Donelli**)
5. The closing of the official Journal MEHD (**T. Midtvedt**)
6. Other SOMED-related issues (**all members**)

As the next meetings are concerned (point 3), in our webpage [www.somed.nu](http://www.somed.nu), you can find details on the XXXIII SOMED Cruise-Congress that Eugenia Bezirtzoglou is organizing in Greece, September 6-10, 2010.

The next SOMED Meetings will be organized by Shigeru Kamiya in Navios Yokohama (Japan), May, 18-21, 2011 and by Yolanda Sanz in Valencia (Spain), 2012, respectively.

As the point 4 of the Agenda is concerned, Anne Collignon, Paola Mastrantonio and Elisabeth Norin were appointed as Members of the Nominating Committee for proposing candidates for the following positions within the Executive Board for the period March 2010-2012: i) President-Elect, ii) Secretary, iii) Treasurer, iv) 3 Councilors for a two-year term. The candidates who confirmed their availability to serve SOMED in the above mentioned positions, if elected, are the followings:

**President-Elect:** *Andrew Onderdonk* (USA) as unique candidate

**Secretary:** *Veronica Lazar* (Romania) and *Reet Mandar* (Estonia) as alternative candidates

**Treasurer:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou* (Greece) as unique candidate

**Councillors:** *Elisa Bertazzoni Minelli* (Italy), *Anne Collignon* (France), *Paola Mastrantonio* (Italy), *Elisabeth Norin* (Sweden), *Michael Wilson* (UK); among them, SOMED Members will vote the 3 councillors for the years 2010-2012.

**I invite all members to renew their SOMED membership and to participate to the ballot by sending the forms included at the end of this Newsletter by March 8, at latest.**

As the point 5 is concerned, I invite you to read the precious editorial by Tore Midtvedt published on the final 2009 issue of MEHD.

Considering the closing of our official journal MEHD we decided to reduce the SOMED annual fee to 40 EURO for Regular Members, 20 EURO for Student Members, 400 EURO for Corporate Members and 1000 EURO for the new category of Supporting Members especially designed for Companies interested in financially support our Society with an unconditioned annual grant.

Gianfranco Donelli  
SOMED President

## XXXII International SOMED Congress St. Petersburg, 29-30 October, 2009

REPORT by Alexander Suvorov, Stanislav Sitkin and Boris Shenderov.

The XXXII International Congress of the Society for Microbial Ecology and Diseases (SOMED) supported by ISTC (International Scientific and Technological Center). The congress was held in St. Petersburg (Russia) in the Holiday Inn Hotel, 29-30 October, 2009. The Congress took place in parallel with the International Congress on Probiotics "St.Petersburg - Probiotics 2009", 28-29 October, 2009.

719 specialists (including 233 persons from Belarus and other countries formed from Republics of previous USSR), coming from 32 countries such as United Kingdom, Greece, Finland, Japan, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, USA and many others, were registered as official participants and guests of XXXII SOMED Congress. In whole 1200 specialists visited the different sessions of both scientific events.

Many well recognized scientists actively participated in the organization of the SOMED Congress : E. Tkachenko (Russia) – Congress President, G. Donelli (Italy) – Congress Co-President, V. Aleshkin (Russia) – Congress Vice-President, V. Dobritsa (Russia) – Congress Vice-President, Kisilev M (Russia)- Congress Vice-President , T. Midtvedt (Sweden) – Congress Vice-President, M. Mikelsaar (Estonia) – SOMED President elect, G. Onishchenko (Russia) – Congress Vice-President, B. Shenderov (Russia) – Chairman of Congress Scientific Committee, Congress Co-President, , S. Sitkin (Russia)- Congress General Secretary, A. Suvorov(Russia) - Co-chairman of Congress Scientific Committee, V. Uyba (Russia)- Congress Vice-President, and many others.

Principal Sponsors of XXXII SOMED Congress were SANDOZ, BIOCDEX and ISTC. Financial support was provided by more than 20 different Companies involved in the microbial ecology and probiotics.

Scientific program of the SOMED Congress included 2 plenary sessions and 3 scientific sessions covering most of the hot issues concerning the host microbiota and probiotics as means of support and rehabilitation after different stresses (infectious agents, antibiotics and other drugs, somatic diseases, etc.).

### Sessions / Symposia:

#### I. State of Art of Host Microbiota

1. Molecular Tools for Identifying, Typing, Quantifying and Profiling Representatives of Host Microbiota (Including Probiotic Cultures)
2. Host Microbiota Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics
3. Host Microbiota Cross-talk Languages

#### II. Impact of Microbiota on Host Physiology

1. Gut Host Microbiota & Nutrition (in Health and Digestive and Metabolic Syndrome Connected Diseases)
2. Host Microbiota & Immune System
3. Host Microbiota Regulation Disturbances & Human "Diseases of Civilization" (AIDS; Avian Influenza Virus Infection; Cancer, Healthcare-associated Infections; Drug Disease)



The Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

### III. Strategies for Improvement of Microbial Ecology Related Disturbances

1. Probiotics, Prebiotics & Metabiotics
2. Host Indigenous Microorganisms and Prospects of their Use in Biotechnology
3. Future Outlooks for Scientific and Applied Aspects of Microbial-Host Interactions in Health and Disease

#### Round Table

Round-table Discussion "Antibiotics and Probiotics are Two Sides of the Same Medal – "Medal of BioChemotherapy"

Among the speakers were many outstanding research scientists working in different fields of basic and applied science related to medical and veterinary microbial ecology and probiotics. It was important that together with basic scientists several famous clinicians illustrated their vision on the future of probiotics in clinical applications.

A professional exhibition, running in the following sections, was held in parallel with the Congress:

I. Diagnostic Test Systems, Instruments and Equipments for Isolation, Identification and Investigations of Host Indigenous Microflora and its metabolic interactions with the host.

II. Probiotics, Prebiotics, Symbiotic, Metabiotics, Functional Foods & Medicines for Prophylaxis and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections and Microbial Ecology Disorders in Humans and Animals.

The XXXII SOMED Congress has been widely recognized as a very interesting and useful international scientific event in 2009.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# SOMED Workshop on Probiotics

Rome, February 25-27, 2010

### PANEL 1 - COORDINATOR: MARIKA MIKELSAAR

Andrew Onderdonk, Brigham & Womens' Hospital, Boston, USA  
Marika Mikelsaar, University of Tartu, Estonia  
Veronica Lazar, University of Bucarest, Romania  
Franco Dellaglio, University of Verona, Italy

### PANEL 2 - COORDINATOR: YOLANDA SANZ

Elisa Bertazzoni Minelli, University of Verona, Italy  
Yolanda Sanz, University of Valencia, Spain  
Jacques Nicoli, Universidade de Belo Horizonte, Brasil  
Tore Midtvedt, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

### AGENDA

#### Thursday February 25

5.30 pm Welcome address by **Prof. Gianfranco Donelli**, President – SOMED and by **Prof. Claudio De Simone**, CEO – VSL Pharmaceuticals

6.00 pm Short presentation of the consensus papers drafts by the panel coordinators

**Prof. Marika Mikelsaar** – Coordinator of Panel 1  
*Monospecies and multispecies probiotic products: where is the efficacy?*

**Prof. Yolanda Sanz** – Coordinator of Panel 2  
*Minimal microbial dose able to exert clinical effect: appropriate dosing regimens*

6.30 pm General discussion on the two consensus papers drafts

7.45 pm Dinner

#### Friday February 26

9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Distinct meeting rooms will be available for the two groups of panelists in order to work on the final editing of the two consensus papers to be delivered by the end of the workshop.

A computer, a printer and internet access will be available for each group.

1.00 pm Lunch

7.15 pm Dinner

#### Saturday February 27

9.00 am – 11.00 am

Final approval of the two consensus papers to be submitted for publication in a peer review international journal and closing remarks.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Propionibacteria and Bifidobacteria:

### Dairy and Probiotic Applications

JUNE 1 – 4, 2010

OVIEDO, SPAIN – AUDITORIUM PRÍNCIPE FELIPE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Propionibacteria and Bifidobacteria: Dairy and Probiotic Applications will be held in Oviedo, Spain, on June 1st-4th 2010. This event aims at offering a unique opportunity for scientists, students and industry to analyse and discuss the most recent international breakthrough developments in propionibacteria and bifidobacteria, considering the important role of these microorganisms in dairy applications and human health.

The Symposium is structured in five scientific sessions:

1. Physiology and metabolism
2. Technological and industrial applications
3. Health effects: clinical data
4. Health effects: mechanisms
5. Omics

Contributions are invited for poster presentations on the topics mentioned above and others falling within the scope of the Symposium.

You can register and send your poster abstract now at [www.propiobifido2010.com](http://www.propiobifido2010.com). Some posters will be invited for oral presentation in short lectures or “flash” poster presentations. Selection of posters will be carried out by the Scientific Committee on the basis of quality of the abstract and special interest.

Speakers of plenary and short lectures will have the opportunity to publish their work in a special issue of *International Journal of Food Microbiology*. Papers will be subjected to the usual peer review procedure of the journal.

All summaries of posters and conferences will be published in the Proceedings of the Symposium.

Poster abstracts submission deadline: January 31, 2010

Early registration and Students presenting poster

Deadline for payment: April 15, 2010

#### Organising Committee

E-mail: [propiobifido2010@ipla.csic.es](mailto:propiobifido2010@ipla.csic.es)

Website: [www.propiobifido2010.com](http://www.propiobifido2010.com)



**15th - 17th June 2010, Kosice, Slovakia**

The International Probiotic Conference 2010 will be held on **15th - 17th June 2010**, in the university city of **Kosice, Slovakia**.

IPC 2010 is the oncoming event of the successful conference series focusing solely probiotics in 2000, 2004, and 2008. The scientific programme will focus on current advances in the research, production and use of probiotics and prebiotics with particular focus on their role in maintaining health and preventing diseases.

Researchers and expert scientists from research institutes and industry will present their recent findings and visions about the research, development, production, application and use of probiotics and prebiotics within the following subject areas:

- Models to Study Intestinal Interactions
- Microbiome of the GIT
- Modulation of the Intestinal Micro-flora
- Biomarkers of Probiotic Efficacy
- Mucosal Health and Integrity
- Diarrhoe Prevention
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Stimulation of the Intestinal Immune System
- Non-mucosal Interaction with the Immune System and Allergy
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Crohn's Disease
- Urogenital Applications
- Zoo-technical Benefits
- Mechanisms of Action
- Genetics, Functional Genomics, Metabolomics of Probiotics
- Non-LAB Probiotics - yeasts, bacilli
- Recombinant Probiotics
- Taxonomy - current issues
- Delivery Vehicles
- Quality Assurance and Stability
- Prebiotics
- Synbiotics
- Novel Strains and Approaches
- Identification, Characterisation of Strains
- Clinical Trials and Health Claim Substantiation
- Adverse Effects, Safety
- Regulatory Issues and Barriers
- Future of Probiotics and Prebiotics – Visions and Opportunities

The subject of the post-conference workshop is the regulatory framework related to health claims of probiotic foods in the European Union under the title:

**Health Claim Approval of Probiotic Food in the European Union Issues, Barriers, Success Drivers - Workshop**

For further information on the workshop please visit:

<http://www.probiotic-conference.net/regulatory-framework-workshop>

Further we are pleased to announce the following keynote speakers at the pre-conference symposia of IPC2010:

**Gastro-intestinal Models for the Study of Probiotics and Prebiotics - Symposium**

Avreljija Cencic, University of Maribor, Slovenia

*Title of presentation:* Application of the Gut Functional Cell Model in the Risk Assessment of *Bacillus Cereus*

Koen Venema, TNO Quality of Life, Department of BioSciences, The Netherlands

*Title of presentation:* Dynamic in vitro models of the GI tract - Essential tools to study the effect of pro- and/or prebiotics

**Bacteriocins, Antimicrobial Proteins and Peptides - Symposium**

Andrea Laukova, Institute of Animal Physiology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovakia

*Title of presentation:* Bacteriocins and Beneficial Effects of Bacteriocin-producing Strains

**Bacillus Subtilis and Sporeformers - Symposium**

Imrich Barak, Institute of Molecular Biology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia

*Title of presentation:* Basic Cell Processes in Bacillus Model Organism

**New confirmed keynote speakers for the main conference IPC2010:**

Caroline Herody, European Food & Feed Cultures Association, Belgium

*Title of presentation:* The Regulatory Environment of Probiotic Foods in the European Union

Sin-Hyeog Im, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Korea

*Title of presentation:* Probiotics as Immune Modulators - Mechanism of Action and Therapeutic Applications

Elinor Clare McCartney, EU Pen & Tec Consulting, Spain

*Title of presentation:* Characterisation and Safety of Probiotics - What EFSA Wants

If you are interested, who the keynote speakers are at the animal health session, please visit:

<http://www.probiotic-conference.net/animal-health-keynote-speakers>

For travel and accommodation information visit following sites:

<http://www.probiotic-conference.net/accommodation> ,  
<http://www.probiotic-conference.net/travel> .

Best regards,

Tel.: +421 904 837153

+421 918 707371

Fax: +421 41 4000123

Web: [www.probiotic-conference.net](http://www.probiotic-conference.net)

E-mail: [info@probiotic-conference.net](mailto:info@probiotic-conference.net)

## PROBIOTECH 2010

Paris, June 22-23, 2010



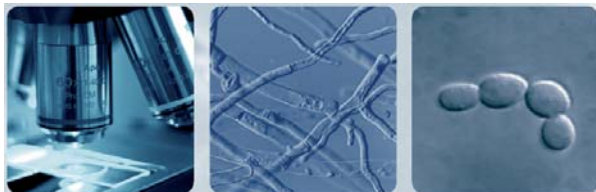
Website: <http://www.probiotech.eu/>

Contact us for more detail at [probio2010@gate2tech.com](mailto:probio2010@gate2tech.com)



# Food Micro 2010

30 August - 3 September 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark



The Danish Centre for Advanced Food Studies (LMC), Lund University and the National Society for Microbiology in Sweden look forward to welcoming you in Copenhagen in 2010!

We are planning an exciting congress with the overall theme

## Microbial Behaviour in the Food Chain

Special emphasis will be on how microbes respond to changes in their environment and the congress will address applied and fundamental aspects of microbial behaviour in

- Food fermentation and spoilage
- Adverse environments
- Risk assessment
- Food production
- The intestinal tract

Food Micro 2010, held at the Bella Center in the Oresund region, will be dedicated to the renaissance of microbial physiology for the production of fresh, safe, and healthy foods.

### Monday, August 30

Registration

### Tuesday, August 31

Opening Session: Food safety  
A: Microbial behaviour in food fermentation and spoilage  
A1: Functional starter cultures A2: Microbial metabolites

### Wednesday, September 1

B: Microbial behaviour in adverse environments  
B1: Microbial pathogenesis B2: Microbial resistance  
C: Microbial behaviour in risk assessment  
C1: Predictive microbiology C2: Risk assessment

### Thursday, September 2

D: Microbial behaviour in primary production and in primary production food processing  
D1: Pathogens D2: Food preservation  
E: Microbial behaviour in the intestinal tract  
E1: Human responses to gut microbiota E2: Probiotics and intestinal interactions

### Friday, September 3

EU-Seminar: PathogenCombat, ProSafeBeef, BioTracer

The FoodMicro 2010 website is under construction

[www.foodmicro.dk](http://www.foodmicro.dk)

**For more information contact:**  
Centre for Advanced Food Studies (LMC)  
University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences  
Rolighedsvej 30, 1958 Frederiksberg C, DK  
Tel: +45 3533 3228



## 3<sup>rd</sup> International *Clostridium difficile* Symposium

22-24, September 2010, Bled, Slovenia

International *Clostridium difficile* symposium series have started in 2003 with aim of bringing together researchers from different fields such as **epidemiology, toxinology, molecular biology, clinics, diagnostics...**

The topics are changing from meeting to meeting and are showing the evolution of *C. difficile* related interests and research.

ICDS usually has between 150 to 170 participants from more than 20 different countries from almost all continents.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICDS will again follow tradition of giving the **recent overview on *C. difficile*** related research and emerging topics and of setting the frame for establishing new networks.

### Organizing committee

Maja Rupnik (Maribor, Slovenia), Anne Collignon (Paris, France), Michel Delmee (Brussels, Belgium), Bruno Dupuy (Paris, France), Dale Gerding (Chicago, USA), Haru Kato (Tokyo, Japan), Tom Louie (Calgary, Canada), Paola Mastrantonio (Rome, Italy), Nigel Minton (Nottingham, UK), Ian Poxton (Edinburg, UK), Tom Riley (Perth, Australia), Bo-Moon Shin (Seoul, Korea), Glen Songer (Tuscon, USA), Linc Sonnenshein (Boston, USA), Scot Weese (Guelph, Canada)

### Programme

Programme will include human, veterinary and environmental aspects of:

- Epidemiology I (clinical outbreaks and infection control)
- Epidemiology II (geographical and molecular epidemiology)
- Diagnosis
- Virulence factors
- Immune response
- Antibiotic resistance
- Treatment and prevention
- Molecular biology and genetics
- Pathogenesis and pathophysiology

### Planned invited lectures will cover:

- Introduction on gut immunity
- Gut microbiota
- Classical and novel approaches in diagnostics
- Host/pathogen interactions

### Important dates

Early registration	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Abstract deadline	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Notification on abstract acceptance	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
ICDS	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2010

Website: <http://www.mf.uni-mb.si/mikro/icds2010/>

Contact information: [maja.rupnik@zvv-mb.si](mailto:maja.rupnik@zvv-mb.si)

Fax: 00 386 2 4500 193



'Beneficial Microbes' is issued four times a year (March/June/September/December). Each issue contains approximately 100 pages. The journal is published by Wageningen Academic Publishers in co-operation with Bastiaanse Communication.  
Editor-in-chief: Koen Venema

ISSN 1876-2883 (paper edition)  
ISSN 1876-2891 (online edition)

[Subscription information](#)

#### Aims and scope

Beneficial Microbes is a peer-reviewed scientific journal with a specific area of focus: the promotion of the science of microbes beneficial to the health and wellbeing of man and animal. The journal contains original research papers and critical reviews in all areas dealing with beneficial microbes in both the small and large intestine, together with opinions, a calendar of forthcoming beneficial microbes-related events and book reviews. The journal takes a multidisciplinary approach and focuses on a broad spectrum of issues, including safety aspects of pro- & prebiotics, regulatory aspects, mechanisms of action, health benefits for the host, optimal production processes, screening methods, (meta)genomics, proteomics and metabolomics, host and bacterial physiology, application, and role in health and disease in man and animal. Beneficial Microbes is intended to serve the needs of researchers and professionals from the scientific community and industry, as well as those of policy makers and regulators.



**SOMED Newsletter is an electronic, periodic publication of the Society of Microbial Ecology and Disease, open to contributions from members and colleagues on the Society's related matters.**

**Information on future meetings, courses, books and other publications as well as short commentaries on hot topics in the field of microbial ecology will be welcomed in order to be included in the next issues of the SOMED Newsletter.**

**Contributions can be e-mailed to the SOMED President ([gianfranco.donelli@iss.it](mailto:gianfranco.donelli@iss.it)) and/or to the SOMED Secretary ([skamiya@kyorin-u.ac.jp](mailto:skamiya@kyorin-u.ac.jp)).**

***Contributors to this issue:* Gianfranco Donelli, SOMED President; Yolanda Sanz, University of Valencia and Spanish National Research Council; Valencia, Spain; Norbert Bomba, Project Manager, IPC 2010, Slovakia; Lisbeth Nannerup, Centre for Advanced Food Studies, Frederiksberg, Denmark; Maja Rupnik, Institute of Public Health, Centre for Microbiology, Maribor, Slovenia.**

***Editing and layout:* Emilio Guaglianone**

## SOMED MEMBERSHIP 2010 APPLICATION FORM

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**I authorize the inclusion of my data in the SOMED Membership Directory as above detailed.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Regular membership: EUR 40 (or USD 55)**     **Corporate membership: EUR 400 (or USD 550)**
- Student membership: EUR 20 (or USD 25)**     **Supporting membership: EUR 1000 (or USD 1350)**  
*(Please provide student status certification)*

Please send your payment to the **SOMED Treasurer, Professor Eugenia Bezirtzoglou**, by:

- Bank transfer to: **EUGENIA BEZIRTZOGLOU**  
**PIRAEUS BANK, Athens, Greece**  
**IBAN: GR04 0172 3510 0053 5103 0344 567 - BIC: PIRBGRAA**

- By Cheque to: **EUGENIA BEZIRTZOGLOU**

Please send the cheque by registered mail to: **Prof. Eugenia Bezirtzoglou**  
Faculty of Agricultural Development  
Dept. Food Science and Technology  
Democritus University of Thrace  
2 Fleming Street, 163 45  
Ano Ilioupolis, Athens, Greece

**Please fax this form to Professor Eugenia Bezirtzoglou (+30 25 52041191) and Professor Gianfranco Donelli (+39 06 49387141).**

# 2010 SOMED Ballot

## President-Elect(March 2010 – March 2012)

Andrew B. Onderdonk

## Secretary (March 2010 – March 2012) vote only 1

Veronica Lazar

Reet Mandar

## Treasurer(March 2010 – March 2012)

Eugenia Bezirtzoglou

## Councillors (March 2010 – March 2012): vote only 3

Elisa Bertazzoni Minelli

Anne Collignon

Paola Mastrantonio

Elisabeth Norin

Michael Wilson

Send this form to Professor Gianfranco Donelli by E-mail ([gianfranco.donelli@iss.it](mailto:gianfranco.donelli@iss.it)) or Fax (+39 06 49387141) within March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.