



Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

Executive Board: President: *Marika Mikelsaar*; **Past-President:** *Gianfranco Donelli*;
President-Elect: *Andrew B. Onderdonk*; **Secretary:** *Veronica Lazar*;
Treasurer: *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*; **Councillors:** *Francesca Clementi, Maria Saarela, Boris Shenderov, Paola Mastrantonio, Elisa Bertazzoni-Minelli, Anne Collignon*

SOMED NEWSLETTER

Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

SPRING 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members, colleagues and friends,

I hope the spring finds you and your beneficial microbes in good condition and the nasty pathogens under strict control! More seriously, Nature has once again shown her supreme power over Mankind and our Society. Due to the *force majeure*, the so well planned congress in Yokohama has been postponed to November 2011.

I would like to express my deepest condolences in the name of our Society to our Japanese colleagues who have suffered from the recent earthquakes, tsunami and the disaster at Fukushima nuclear power plant. We all admire how brave and well organized the Japanese people have been in these very hard days. We know that they are doing their best to repair the worst damages of the disaster quickly. Thanks to this, we hope that it will be safe for us to meet in Yokohama in November.

The SOMED newsletter aims to serve academic scientists and industry members of our society. Therefore I allow myself to call your attention to some problems and concerns in connection with probiotics in Food and EU regulations. More precisely, EU Commission

has set an important task to European Food Safety Association (EFSA) of qualifying the health claims on food involving beneficial bacterial components. For this purpose, the Nutrition and Dietetic panel of 21 nutrition scientists has been composed under EFSA. We can be proud that some members of our Society, MD, PhD-s, specialists in human microbial ecology are also involved. A lot of necessary work has been done in evaluating the enormous number of health claim applications. However, there remains a considerable uncertainty regarding the level and methods of scientific substantiation required. There are no guidelines for assessing the efficacy of probiotic food in healthy population. In different treatment guidelines there have been defined subgroups of healthy persons whose biomarkers (blood pressure, cholesterol, serum glucose values) are on the high-normal level. According to the existing and widely accepted clinical guidelines the use of drugs for such subgroups is yet not indicated but a clear restricted “pre-treatment window” can be defined, where application of science-based foodstuffs with specific effects is clearly helpful. However, for such clinical trials of functional food the primary outcome, composite primary outcome and secondary outcome (mainly safety of applied functional food) are yet not defined in association with the beneficial nutritional effect (“beneficial to human health”).

Moreover, no directives have been provided how the successful modulation of some biomarkers registered in clinical trials should be associated with the assessed functional properties of the particular probiotic strain and shifts in microbial ecology of gut. This should clarify the association between the cause and effect, expected by EFSA. At the same time, the negative decisions of the NDA panel where no probiotic, even with good publication track or patents has been authorized, create public hesitations on the putative impact of microbes on human health at all. To refute this wrong attitude seems closely associated with the tasks and missions of SOMED.

The International Probiotics Association (IPA) has started a protest campaign against EFSA solutions and more than 160 scientists from 33 countries have subscribed the statement by signing the form at the website: <http://www.gut-health.eu/>. I suggest that the scientists of our Society would express their attitude to the matter on our website or sign the described statement. For your information, we also add the letter to Mr. Barroso

calling for his attention. According to my memory, there has never before been such a big protest by so many scientists of European countries.

SOMED Officers and Councilors have been busy making plans for the meeting of the year 2012. Prof. Yolanda Sanz has kindly indicated her willingness to host the Congress in Valencia, Spain.

Concerning the attempts to purchase MEHD, it seems the light shines at the end of the tunnel. INFORMA healthcare has sent its final Sales proposal and SOMED executive board has accepted it (8 out of 11 have sent their YES). We will inform you about the success by summer.

However, I am very unhappy that the membership fees have not been paid by many members, which makes buying the journal more difficult, too. Please fulfill your duties properly.

Happy Easter to all!

Yours sincerely,

Marika Mikelsaar

Re. Letter on behalf of the European academic community of pre-and probiotic research

Dear Mr. Barroso,

We kindly ask your attention for a difficult matter:

In 2006 the European Commission has adopted a law requiring health claims made on foods to be approved prior to their use.

The assessment of the scientific evidence is carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The opinions of the EFSA will then be evaluated by the European Commission and Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

As scientists in gut research, we have followed these developments with great interest and have observed with increasing worry the outcome of these assessments and their consequences for our field of expertise. To date, we have not seen a single positive pro- or prebiotic claim accepted by EFSA, despite the large convincing and generally accepted body of scientific data available. According to our understanding the negative outcome of the claim applications may not be only due to ill prepared applications, but as well the

consequence of unclear, not transparent and in part not scientifically valid criteria of the assessments and a too narrow legal framework.

At a stakeholders meeting organized by EFSA on 2 December 2010 in Amsterdam on this topic, we have tried to obtain further information on the underlying reasons for these rejections. The outcome of the meeting was unsettling: the way the claims requirements are formulated and applied is making it virtually impossible for the benefits of pre- and probiotics to be recognized. One of the major obstacles is the regulatory ban on clinical endpoints. A striking example is that in case of studies on prevention of traveler's diarrhea, diarrhea itself is not accepted as an endpoint but validated biomarkers and risk reduction factors are required.

According to article 14 and article 2 no. 6 applications can only be made for reduction of disease risk claims. Such claims are defined as any health claim that states, suggests or implies that the consumption of a food category, a food or one of its constituents significantly reduces a risk factor in the development of a human disease.

Regulatory issues thus form a fundamental obstacle for research aimed at substantiation of the beneficial effects of pre- and probiotics and we feel this is not benefiting public health. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for crystal clear guidelines that will not only facilitate the design of research flows, but also allow to make claim evaluation much more consistent, transparent and efficient.

We therefore would like to raise your awareness to this problem and seek for your support to address this issue properly on the level of the European Commission and amend the law or its application to enable pre-and probiotic research to benefit the consumer. One option would be to extend the wording of article 2 and article 14 of the Regulation 1924/2006/EC by changing the claim category 'reduction of disease risk claim' by a new category like 'influence of disease claim' meaning any health claim that states, suggests or implies that the consumption of a food category, a food or one of its constituents significantly contributes to a positive influence on the development of a human disease.

The feelings we express in this letter are shared by many of our academic colleagues who also believe that the current claims assessment process does not give due credit to the research performed in this area. In the end it may also have a negative effect to this field of research as a whole, including clinical and basic research as well as the possibilities to obtain funding for this research.

You can find a statement to that effect on the website: www.gut-health.eu.

We are willing to provide more clarification and also seek opportunities to discuss the scientific requirements for pre- and probiotic health benefits with the European Commission and EFSA. We are of the opinion that these developments have a far greater impact on society and should be addressed in a fundamental way. We ask you to help us achieve such an opportunity for debate, for example by organizing an European meeting on this matter.

With kind regards,

www.gut-health.eu, Stationsstraat 5, 5451 AM MILL, The Netherlands

Ger T. Rijkers, University Medical Centre Utrecht and Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Stephan Bischoff, University of Hohenheim, Germany
Bruno Pot, Institut Louis Pasteur Lille, France
Louis Akkermans, University Medical Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands
Fernando Aspiroz, University Hospital Vall de Hebron, Barcelona, Spain
Michael Blaut, Deutsches Institut für Ernährungsforschung, Potsdam, Germany
Robert Boyle, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
Eric Claassen, Erasmus Medical Centre Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Nathalie Delzenne, Université Catholique de Louvain Brussels, Belgium
Pal Demeter, St. Margaret Hospital Budapest, Hungary
Joel Doré, INRA Jouy-en Josas, France
Paul Henck, University Hospital Tübingen, Germany
Philippe Gérard, INRA Jouy-en Josas, France
Glenn Gibson, University of Reading, United Kingdom
Francisco Guarner, University Hospital Vall de Hebron, Barcelona, Spain
Hermie Harmsen, UMCG University of Groningen, The Netherlands
Mary Hickson, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust London, United Kingdom
Wilhelm Holzapfel, Handong Global University Pahong, Korea
Geert Huys, University of Ghent, Belgium
Michiel Kleerebezem, Nizo Food Research & Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Philippe Langella, INRA Jouy-en Josas, France
Philippe Marteau, Paris 7 University, France
Lorenzo Morelli, Facoltà Agraria Piacenza, Italy
Sam Possemiers, University of Ghent, Belgium
Gregor Reid, Lawson Health Research Institute London, Canada
Huub Savelkoul, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Johan Söderholm, Linköping University, Sweden
Koen Venema, TNO Zeist, The Netherlands
Willem de Vos, Wageningen & Helsinki University, The Netherlands, Finland
Renger Witkamp, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
...and about 125 more on the website...

Marika Mikelsaar, University of Tartu, Estonia

- A copy of this letter WILL BE sent to the Ministers of Health of the European Member States.

28. March 2011

Urgent Announcement

(Postponement of the ISG/SOMED joint meeting in Yokohama)

Dear Participants,

It is with our deepest regret that we inform you of the official postponement of the joint Meeting of the 17th International Symposium on Gnotobiology (ISG) and the 34th Congress of the Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease (SOMED). This has been made necessary due to the tragedy caused by “The Tohoku District-off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake” and the following tsunami, along with resulting damage to Fukushima Daiich Nuclear Power Station.

New date and venue of the joint Meeting are as follows;

Date: 20th -23rd , November 2011

Venue: Navios Yokohama, 1-1, Shinko-2chome, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 231-0001, Japan (TEL, +81-45-633-6000; Fax, +81-45-633-6001)

Registration fee will be refunded to the participants who have already registered online and will not attend the joint meeting in November.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience that we may have caused.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Yokohama in November 2011 for the ISG/SOMED joint Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Shunichi Kato, MD, PhD

Department of Cell Transplantation & Regenerative Medicine

Tokai University School of Medicine, ISG Congress President

Shigeru Kamiya, MD, PhD

Dept. of Infectious Diseases, Kyorin Univ. School of Medicine,

SOMED Congress President

SOMED- 35TH CONGRESS 2012
(SOCIETY FOR MICROBIAL ECOLOGY AND DISEASE)

Proposal from: Yolanda Sanz (as Congress' President)
Instituto de Agroquímica y Tecnología de Alimentos (IATA)
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Avda. Agustín Escardino, 7.
46980 Paterna, Valencia, Spain
E-mail: yolsanz@iata.csic.es

16-18 May 2012. Valencia, Spain

16 May, 2012

Session 1. Human microbial ecology and modern technologies

Session 2. Human microbiota and nutrient metabolism

Session 3. Pathogens, biofilms and infections

17 May, 2012

Session 5. Host-microbe interactions, immunity and disease

Session 6. Roles of gut microbes beyond the gut

Session 8. Probiotic roles of non-classical probiotic bacteria

Session 9. Technological challenges of microbial culture applications

18 May, 2012

Session 7. Evidence on health benefits of probiotics and prebiotics

Announcements of the up-coming meetings:

29th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) –

The Hague, The Netherlands, June 7-11, 2011

Web: www.kenes.com/espид

Grants for travel in medical research

<http://www.esf.org/activities/research-networking-programmes/medical-sciences-emrc/current-esf-research-networking-programmes/european-network-for-gastrointestinal-health-research-engihr/online-applications-forms.html>

International Scientific Conference on Probiotics and Prebiotics ,
14th – 16th June 2011 in the university city of Kosice, Slovakia

Tel.: +421 904 837153

+421 41 4000123

Web: www.probiotic-conference.net

E-mail: info@probiotic-conference.net

[<probiotics2011@emec-roma.com>](mailto:probiotics2011@emec-roma.com)

Scientific Events 2011, Sunny Beach Resort, Bulgaria
Science & Education Foundation (www.science-edu.eu)

20th International Symposium ECOLOGY & SAFETY

4- 8 June, 2011, Sunny Beach resort, Bulgaria

<http://www.sciencebg.net/symposiums/eng/ecoeng.html>

13th International Symposium **MATERIALS, METHODS & TECHNOLOGIES (MM&T)**

7- 11 June, 2011, Sunny Beach resort, Bulgaria

<http://www.sciencebg.net/symposiums/eng/technoeng.html>

For more detailed information (including guidelines, themes, submission and registration forms) please visit: <http://symposiums.sciencebg.net>

To submit a paper, a round table or to volunteer to serve as a chair or discussant, please contact office@sciencebg.net

If you have any inquiries about this symposium, please send them to office@sciencebg.net.

Read Free Journals International Scientific Publications:

www.Science-Journals.eu

ISP: Ecology & Safety

<http://www.science-journals.eu/ecology/index.html>

ISP: Materials, Methods & Technologies

<http://www.science-journals.eu/mmt/index.html>

4th Congress of the European Microbiologists, FEMS 2011,

Geneva, Switzerland, June 26-30, 2011; www.kenes.com/fems*Register Early & Save * ,
Online registration is already open, Register now and save up to *€150!* ***** Full
details here

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?KenesInternationalFE/deec75104b/5640753ed1/a39651fd09>>*

Grants for Young Scientists , FEMS will award grants to
220 young scientists to support their attendance at the upcoming congress;

FEMS Congress Award - for 5 young scientists (for the best papers - a Certificate and
an additional €500).

EUROBIOFILMS 2011,

Copenhagen, Denmark, 6 – 8 July 2011

E-mail: <eurobiofilms2011@ics.dk>

Web: www.eurobiofilms2011.ics.dk

7th International Congress of Food Technologist, Biotechnologist and Nutritionists,
20 - 23 September 2011, Opatija, Croatia (Information : www.pbncongress2011.hr)

EPIDEMICS³ – Third International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics,

29 November - 2 December 2011, Boston, MA, USA

Epidemics <<http://mail.elsevier->

alerts.com/go.asp?/bECO001/mCEM9U1F/qC5D9U1F/uNLMRU1F/xM2O9U1F>

"Scholarship and Job" <cambodiajobs@gmail.com>:

Erasmus Mundus - CSSM Scholarships

Deadline for 2011-13 applications is 17 January 2011

University of Warwick, Ecole Polytechnique (Paris), Chalmers University and University
of Gothenburg are pleased to announce a new joint Masters Programme in Complex
Systems Science;

Moreinfo: <http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/2010/09/erasmus-mundus-cssm-scholarships.html>

Publications:

ILSI EUROPE NEWSLETTER - The Quarterly Newsletter of the International Life
Sciences Institute Europe

Online version here <<http://www.ilsi-news.eu/>> | Click here <http://www.ilsi-news.eu/ILSI_Newsletter_09112010.pdf> for pdf logo issue November

FOOD NAVIGATOR, If you are experiencing difficulties in displaying this message
correctly, click here :<<http://www->

t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26.67f2cc5.67f2ccd&p1=ec105728079f6d3521

>

FoodNavigator Jobs - Boost your career with the first European Food Job Service!

<http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2cc6>

Try our Jobs by Email alerts and get fresh jobs delivered directly to your mailbox everyday!

Since its launch in May 2010, more than 8,000 job seekers have applied for a job, putting FoodNavigatorJobs firmly on the map as *the number 1 Pan-European jobs website for the food industry*.

We are proud to say that our website now has more than 2,000 jobs published in just 6 months, all by top recruiters: ADM Coca Cola Kerry Food

Nestlé SAB Miller Unilever

... And many more are waiting for you if you subscribe to our jobs by emails alerts

<http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2cc7>, it takes less than 5 minutes and will improve your job hunting!

RECEIVE JOBS BY EMAIL <http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2cc8>

Find a Job now! <http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2cc9>

Contact us: Privacy policy <http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2cca> | Unsubscribe

<http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2ccb&p1=S%2FCcw5zHRO8u2Xo3V6e5AE%2Bxrh5fMNTxEkJUIAIA>

© 2010 - Decision News Media S.A.S - All Rights Reserved
Le Belem - 355, rue Vendemiaire - 34000 Montpellier - France

<http://www.decisionnewsmedia.com> <http://www-t.decisionnewsmedia.com/r/?id=h1b45bb26,67f2cc5,67f2ccc>

"Probiotics and Functional Foods " will be in Latvia at the end of September, 2011.

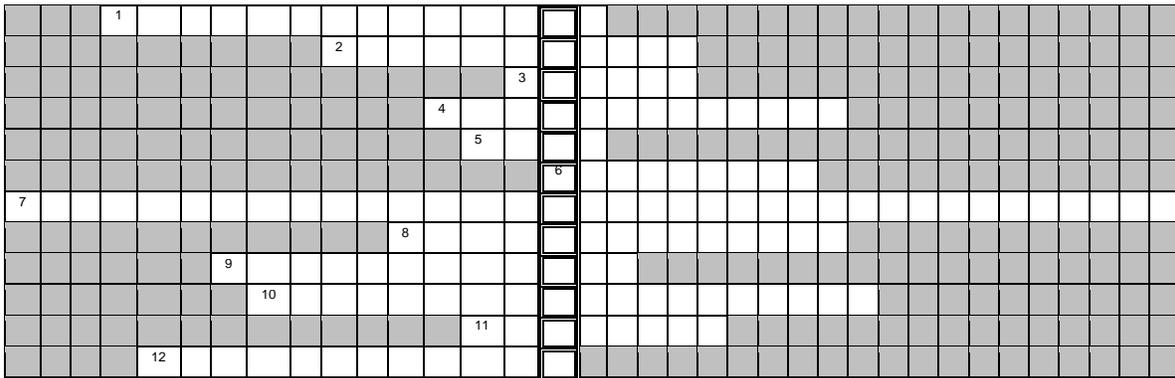
For details : phone Dr. Sitkin Stanislav Igorevich (89219349827);

E-mail: sitkins@yandex.ru

Cross words QUIZ

Down: French chemist-microbiologist who discovered asymmetry of crystals.

1. Name of the microbiologist who suggested the change of the name SIMED (Society for Intestinal Microbial Ecology and Disease) to SOMED during the minutes of the SIMED Business Meeting held in the occasion of the XIII International Symposium on Intestinal Microecology, September 11-14, 1988, Porto Conte, Sassari, Italy.
2. One of the two discoverers of *Lactobacillus* GG.
3. All SOMED members dream that MEHD will be indexed in this..... database.
4. Imbalance of oral microbiota characterized by decrease of lactic acid bacteria will lead to this disease ...
5. Delicious seafood whose name was given to a method of quantitative microbiology.
6. Live microorganism which when administered in adequate amounts confers a health benefit on the host.
7. In case of aggressive periodontitis the counts of this microorganism.... increase.
8. Modern molecular method in microbial ecology.
9. Anaerobic lactic acid microorganism.
10. Name of the microbiologist who organized an educating trip for SOMED members in September 2010.
11. A potent antimicrobial substance produced by one *Lactobacillus* species.
12. Name of the composer whose endocarditis was first diagnosed by blood culture.



SOMED MEMBERSHIP 2011 APPLICATION FORM

First name: _____ **Surname:** _____
Dept/Laboratory/Center: _____
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) (Please add student status certification)**
- Supporting membership: EUR 1000 (or USD 1350)**

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

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

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 (+30 25 52041191) or send by e-mail (empezirt@yahoo.gr) this form to Prof. Bezirtzoglou



Happy Easter 2011!