



SOMED NEWSLETTER

Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

WINTER

2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members, colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure for me to announce that the 2008 campaign to recover past members as well as to recruit new members is going on quite well.

In this regard, I would like to remind you that until few years ago, 210 regular members, 14 student members and 10 corporate members belonged to our Society. At present, members that have applied for their membership for the year 2008, have only reached a total number of 85. Thus, I would like to invite all past members to renew their membership especially on the light of the benefits the Society is currently offering including reduced annual meeting registration fee, quarterly electronic Newsletter and free annual subscription to its Official Journal *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease (MEHD)*.

The way to reinforce our Society is hard but I'm positive towards the future of SOMED and MEHD because of many reasons.

Firstly, we recently recovered to the active life of our Society a number of "dormant" members and recruited, as members and/or Councillors candidates for the new Board, several outstanding scientists including John Bartlett, Diane Citron, Andrew Onderdonk and Michael Wilson.

On the other hand, the presence among the new members of Daniela Cattivelli (Advanced Analytical Technologies, Italy), Francesco Marotta (Gai Foundation, Italy), Eveliina Myllyluoma (Valio, Finland), Arthur Ouwehand (Danisco, Finland), Maria Saarela (VTT, Finland) and Peter Silley (MB Consult, UK) demonstrates that important Companies and Foundations are interested in our Society.

To these and other Companies/Foundations, I'm proposing not only to apply to our Society as Corporate members but also to support our Official Journal "*Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease (MEHD)*".

This fund-raising campaign, started in mid December, asks Companies/ Foundations to support the Journal as Platinum (10,000 EUR), Gold (5,000 EUR) or Silver (3,000 EUR) sponsors with a number of benefits including free Journal subscription and a number of advertising pages according to the level of sponsorship. I'm convinced that an active collaboration of Companies with SOMED will be not only useful for common interests in microbial ecology and disease but also to increase the visibility of strategies, products and services offered by Companies themselves.

Regarding MEHD, I would also remember that the Journal is indexed in Current Contents/Life Science, reach a large number of scientific institutions all over the world and is now available online.

I would take the occasion to invite all of you to submit your papers to our Past-President and Editor-in-Chief, Professor Tore Midtvedt (e-mail: tore.midtvedt@ki.se).

As our next XXXI SOMED Congress is concerned, I invite you to plan an active participation by submitting your abstracts no later than May 10th to Elisabeth Norin (e-mail: elisabeth.norin@mtc.ki.se).

As you know, this year the Congress will be held in Djurönäset, May 28 – 30, 2008 jointly with the XVI International Symposium on Gnotobiology.

Djurönäset is just 45 km from Stockholm and 82 km from Arlanda. In Stockholm there are scheduled buses from Slussen: routes 433 and 434. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes and the stop is "Djurönäset". For bus timetable ask Elisabeth Norin by fax (+ 46 8 330744) or phone (+ 46 8 52486726).

The Preliminary Programme and General Information can be found on our SOMED webpage (www.somed.nu) as well at www.djuronaset.com.

Finally, I would like to give you the figures of the SOMED Ballot just closed on February 20th for the confirmation of myself as SOMED President and the nomination of the President-elect, of 3 Councillors 2008-2010 and 3 Councillors 2008-2012.

Out of the current 85, regularly paying SOMED members, 48 have expressed their preferences towards the candidates and the number of votes for each candidate results as follows:

President 2008-2010:

Gianfranco Donelli **46**

President-elect 2008-2010:

Marika Mikelsaar **40**

Councillors 2008-2010:

Elisa Bertazzoni Minelli 22

Diane Citron **26**

Lansing Hoskins 18

Elisabeth Norin 21

Arthur C. Ouwehand **29**

Michael Wilson **23**

Councilors 2008-2012:

Francesca Clementi **30**

Andrew B. Onderdonk **38**

Maria Saarela 21

Abigail Salyers 21

Boris Shenderov **26**

Thus, on the basis of these results, from March 1st 2008 the Officers of the SOMED Executive Board will be the followings:

President 2008-2010

Gianfranco Donelli

President-elect 2008-2010

Marika Mikelsaar

Secretary

Shigeru Kamiya

Treasurer

Eugenia Bezirtzoglou

Councillors 2008-2010

Diane Citron

Arthur C. Ouwehand

Michael Wilson

Councilors 2008-2012

Francesca Clementi

Andrew B. Onderdonk

Boris Shenderov

Firstly, I would like to warmly thank all members who gave me their vote thus confirming their appreciation towards my efforts to relaunch the Society.

I would also express the Society's gratitude to all members that accepted to be candidate as Officers and welcome in the Board the President-elect Marika Mikelsaar and the new Councillors Diane Citron, Francesca Clementi, Andy Onderdonk, Arthur Ouwehand, Boris Shenderov and Michael Wilson.

I'm sure that our collaboration in the SOMED Board will be successful.

I hope to see you all in Djurönäset.

Gianfranco Donelli
SOMED President

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**XVI International Symposium on
Gnotobiology**
joint with
**XXXI International Congress on Microbial
Ecology & Disease**

Djurönäset, Stockholm archipelago
May 28 – 30, 2008



Wednesday, May 28

Function and genetics – normal flora
Metabolomics
Intestinal disturbances

SOMED Business Meeting and Assembly
IAG Assembly

Thursday, May 29

Immunology
Innate immunity & intestinal peptides
Nutrition
Cancer

Friday, May 30

Antibiotics and gene transfer
Biofilms of medical relevance
Pre- & Probiotics

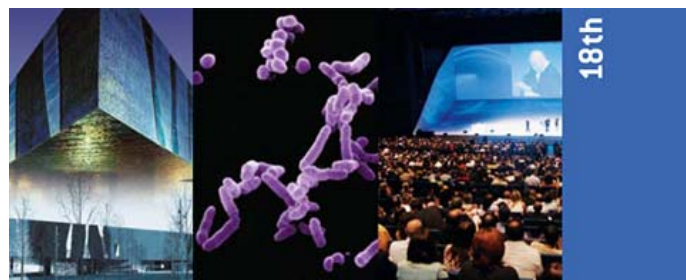
For the Preliminary Programme, General Information
and Registration visit:

www.somed.nu, www.djuronaset.com,
www.gnotobiotics.org.



18th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Barcelona, 19 – 22 April, 2008



For detailed information on the congress visit the
web site: <http://www.akm.ch/eccmid2008/>

13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Kuala Lumpur, June 19 – 22, 2008



Organized by the International Society
for Infectious Diseases in collaboration with the
Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases and
Chemotherapy

For detailed information on the congress visit the web
site: www.isid.org/13th_icid/

FESCI ECC 9
9th EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF
CHEMOTHERAPY & INFECTION

MCC 16
16th MEDITERRANEAN
CONGRESS OF CHEMOTHERAPY



Turkey
Istanbul

NOVEMBER 8 - 11, 2008

Important Dates

August 1, 2008

Abstract submission deadline

August 15, 2008

Abstract acceptance notification

September 1, 2008

Early pre-registration deadline

Registration cancellation deadline

September 15, 2008

Early registration deadline for presenting authors of accepted abstracts

Hotel accommodation cancellation deadline

October 15, 2008

Late pre-registration deadline

November 8 - 11, 2008

9th ECC and 16th MCC Congress

Scientific Programme

PLENARY LECTURES

A) INFECTION

1. Newer approaches in antimicrobial chemotherapy (H. Giamarellou, GR)
2. Vaccines: Is there a future? (N. Emiroğlu, WHO)
3. Antibiotics: Is there a future? (R.C. Moellering, USA)
4. Newer approaches in antiviral drug design: Drugs for HIV and HCV (E de Clerq, BE)
5. Present and perspectives in antimicrobial resistance in Gram negatives (P. Nordmann, FR)
6. Changing face of TBC in immunocompromised host (G.L. Daikos, GR)
7. HIV and opportunistic infections in the Mediterranean area (J. Kosmidis, GR)

A) SYMPOSIA ON INFECTION

- SYMP 1.** Crimean- Congo hemorrhagic fever: Eurasian perspective (O. Ergönül, TR)
- SYMP 2.** Latest developments in the field of invasive β -hemolytic streptococcal infections (A. Efstratiou, EU Group Strep / Euro)
- SYMP 3.** Present situation of Gram positive infections management in Spain: Pitfalls and Success (J.J. Picazo, ES - Spanish Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 4.** Infective endocarditic & bloodstream infections (C. Naber, DE-ISC Working Group on Endocarditis and Bloodstream)
- SYMP 5.** Avian influenza (H. Eraksoy, TR)
- SYMP 6.** Control of permeability of MDR Gram negative pathogens to antibiotics: The role of porins and MDR efflux pumps (L. Amaral, Portuguese FESCI Group)
- SYMP 7.** MRSA both in hospital and community: Basic Science (G. Donelli, IT)
- SYMP 8.** Update on the prophylaxis and treatment of infections in leukemia patients (J. Martens, EORTC-IDG)
- SYMP 9.** Risk infections and bioterrorism (K. Metodiev, BG - Bulgarian Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 10.** Control of multi-drug resistant gram negative bacterial infections: multidrug-resistant bacteria (C. Büke, TR)
- SYMP 11.** MRSA both in hospital and community: Clinical Science (S. Sakarya, TR)
- SYMP 12.** Infections in thalassemic patients (G. L. Petrikos, CY- Cyprus Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 13.** Brucellosis (G. Pappas, N. Tülek, GR/TR)
- SYMP 14.** Patient safety and infection control (E. Akalın, TR)
- SYMP 15.** Hepatitis vaccines (O. Ş. Yenen, TR)
- SYMP 16.** Emerging fungal infections in Europe and the Mediterranean area (J. Meiss, ECMM)
- SYMP 17.** Chemotherapy for tropical diseases (V. Krcmery, SK - Slovak Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 18.** PK-PD of new antimicrobial drugs (F. Scaglione, IT - Italian Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 19.** Metallobetalactamases a local problem or a global threat? (G.L. Daikos, GR- Hellenic Society of Infectious Disease)
- SYMP 20.** Nosocomial fungal infections (H. Akalın, TR)
- SYMP 21.** Tropical medicine for the European physician (L. Amaral, PT - Portuguese FESCI Group)
- SYMP 22.** New possibilities for reversal multi-drug resistance (I. Yalçın, ISN/COST B16)
- SYMP 23.** Infections in the ICU (H. Giamarellou, GR - Hellenic Society of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 24.** Treatment and prophylaxis in invasive fungal infections (M. Akova, TR)
- SYMP 25.** Infection control and antibiotic resistance in Middle East and Africa (A. Shibl, - MENF - Arab Society of Chemotherapy, Microbiology & Infectious Diseases)
- SYMP 26.** Papillomavirus vaccines (S. Badur, TR)
- SYMP 27.** Treatment of HCV infection: standards and new approaches (Y. Çakaloğlu, TR)

- SYMP 28.** Nosocomial and catheter associated UTI
(K. Naber, DE - ESIU)
- SYMP 29.** New resistance genes and microorganisms
(G. Russo, MSC)
- SYMP 30.** Collateral effects of anti- infective drugs -
relevance for medical practice
(M. Nechifor, RO - Romanian Society for the Study of
Chemotherapeutics)
- SYMP 31.** Antibiotic Policy in CEE
(V. Krčmery, M. Čížman, Slovak and Slovenian
Societies of Chemotherapy)
- SYMP 32.** Neisseria meningitidis: Can we overcome?
(O. Öncül, TR)
- SYMP 33.** Sepsis: 2008
(H. Giamarellou, GR - Hellenic Society of
Chemotherapy)

Important Addresses

Congress President

Prof. Dr. Bülent Berkarda
TURKISH SOCIETY OF CHEMOTHERAPY
Lamartin Cad. No.36/4
Taksim, Istanbul - Turkey

Phone: +90 (212) 238 0321
Fax: +90 (212) 238 0322
e-mail: bulent.berkarda@gmail.com

Congress Secretary General

Prof. Dr. O. Şadi Yenen
TURKISH SOCIETY OF CHEMOTHERAPY
Lamartin Cad. No.36/4
Taksim, Istanbul - Turkey

Phone: +90 (212) 523 1645
Fax: +90 (212) 238 0322
e-mail: osadyenen@doruk.net.tr

Congress Organizing Secretariat and Accommodation

KONGRESIST International
Convention Management Inc.
Cumhuriyet Cad. 295 Daire 15
Harbiye 34373, İstanbul - Turkey

Phone: +90 (212) 231 2772
Fax: +90 (212) 233 7678
e-mail: contact@kongresist.com
www.kongresist.com
www.ecc9-mcc16.org

Congress Hotline

+90 (212) 231 2772
+90 (533) 657 2851



GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN | JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2009

The Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) announces the 3rd Congress of European Microbiologists to be held from June 28 - July 2, 2009 in Göteborg, Sweden. In reflection of FEMS being a federation, this congress will be hosted by the five Nordic member societies of FEMS: Svenska Föreningen för Mikrobiologi, Norsk Forening for Mikrobiologi, Societas Biochemica, Biophysica et Microbiologica Fenniae, Danmarks Mikrobiologiske Selskab, Örverufræðifélag Íslands.

Following in the tradition of previous FEMS congresses, this event will address a wide range of topical microbiological issues and provide an unique opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue and discussion between all microbiological specialities. Furthermore, this congress will give young scientists a valuable opportunity to present their work and to meet experienced senior colleagues in their field of research.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline

January 20, 2009

Early Registration Deadline

March 25, 2009

For detailed information on the congress visit the web site: www.kenes.com/fems-microbiology/

Congress Secretariat

KENES International
CARES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

GLOBAL CONGRESS ORGANIZERS AND
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1-3, Rue de Chantepoulet
P.O. Box 1726
CH-1211 Geneva 1 Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 908 0488
Fax: +41 22 732 2850
E-mail: fems@kenes.com

COMMENTARIES

Aberrant expression of activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID) and gastric carcinogenesis following *Helicobacter pylori* infection

Infection with *Helicobacter pylori* induces acute/chronic gastritis and acts as healing-inhibitory factor or recurrence factor in gastro-duodenal ulcer. In addition, *H. pylori* has been considered to be definite carcinogen group 1 by WHO in 1994 mainly according to epidemiological data on correlation between the occurrence of gastric cancer and serum positivity of antibody against *H. pylori*. Several groups of Japanese scientists reported that *H. pylori* infection induced gastric cancer in Mongolian gerbil after long-term infection (1-1.5 year), but the mechanism by which *H. pylori* infection induced gastric cancer has not been clearly understood.

Matsumoto *et al.* (Nature Medicine 13:470-476, 2007) have recently reported association of aberrant expression of activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID) in gastric epithelium with gastric carcinogenesis following *H. pylori* infection. AID is a member of the cytidine-deaminase family that acts as a DNA- and RNA-editing enzyme, via the IkappaB kinase-dependent nuclear factor(NF)-kappaB activation pathway. Recent studies have shown that inappropriate expression of AID act as a genomic mutator that contributes to tumorigenesis. Matsumoto *et al.* reported that infection with *cag* pathogenicity island (PAI) positive *H. pylori* induced AID expression and mutation of TP53, tumor suppressor gene in human gastric epithelial cell line, AGS cells. TP53 in cells infected with *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori* had significantly higher frequencies of nucleotide alterations than did TP53 in control cells, suggesting that infection with *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori* promotes somatic mutations in TP53 in AGS cells. Quantitative real-time RT-PCR showed that upregulation of the gene (AICDA) encoding AID in AGS cells was induced by *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori*. It was confirmed that the induction of AID expression in AGS cells by infection with *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori* was achieved through the activation of NF-kappaB. Specific expression and precise localization of AID protein by immunohistochemistry in 84 gastric tissue specimens was analyzed. In *H. pylori*-positive chronic gastritis tissues, AID immunoreactivity in gastric epithelial cells was detected in 29 of 35 (83%) tissue specimens. In *H. pylori*-infected gastric cancer tissues, AID protein was expressed in neoplastic cells in 21 of 27 (78%) specimens.

The results presented in this paper provide evidence that aberrant AID expression caused by *H. pylori* infection might be a mechanism of mutation accumulation in the gastric mucosa during *H. pylori*-associated gastric carcinogenesis. Their report indicates the importance of *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori* strain in gastric carcinogenesis through aberrant expression of AID. However, the isolation frequency of *cagPAI* positive strains of *H. pylori* is almost 100% in east Asia

(China, Korea and Japan). As gastric carcinogenesis cannot be seen in all the patients infected with *cagPAI* positive *H. pylori* strain, further analysis of other factors regulating aberrant AID expression in gastric cells following infection with *H. pylori* needs to be performed.

Shigeru Kamiya



Advanced Analytical Technologies

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Address
Via Emilia Parmense, 84 - 29100 Piacenza (Italy)
Mob. 0039 335 7988122/3/4/5 - Fax 0039 0523 595246
www.aat-taa.eu
info@aat-taa.eu

www.aat-taa.eu

LETTERS TO THE SOMED PRESIDENT

February 1, 2008, Moscow – St. Petersburg

Prof. Gianfranco Donelli
SOMED President

Prof. Lucio Capurso
4th Probiotics, Prebiotics & New Food International
Conference President

Prof. Gregor Reid
ISAPP President

Prof. Tore Midtvedt
Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease Editor-in
Chief

Dear colleagues,
We consider it an honour to inform you that Russian
side confirms our agreement in undertaking to organize
International Open Forum “Microbial Ecology and
Functional Foods: Scientific, Clinical and
Biotechnology Aspects” (St. Petersburg, Beloselskih
Palace, Russia, October, 2009)



A number of participants: 300 – 350 persons

Languages: English and Russian

Executive Committee (Russia): E. Tkachenko (Forum
Chairman), B. Shenderov (Chairman of Scientific
Committee), V. Aleshkin, V. Dobritsa, V. Kharitonov, A.
Panin (Co-Chairmen)
Secretary: S. Sitkin

International Advisory Panel: L. Capurso, G. Donelli,
T. Midtvedt, G. Reid

We offer Forum which will include 3 separate
meetings:

XXXII SOMED Congress
Chairman of Russian Executive Committee: E.
Tkachenko / B. Shenderov
Chairman of International Advisory Panel: G. Donelli

International Conference “Probiotics, Prebiotics and
Functional Foods”

Chairman of Russian Executive Committee: V. Aleshkin
/ V. Dobritsa / V. Kharitonov
Chairman of International Advisory Panel: L. Capurso
/ G. Reid

International Conference “Probiotics and Prebiotics in
Rational Feeding, Prophylaxis and Treatment of animal
Diseases”

Chairman of Russian Executive Committee: A. Panin

The joint plenary session (first day) is intended to
address “Microbial Ecology and the Most Serious
Threats Facing our World Today: AIDS, Avian
Influenza Virus Infection, Radiation and other
Disasters, Metabolic Syndrome, Stress, Drug Disease,
Cancer, Gastroenterological Diseases”. Invited
speakers (report: 30 min.)

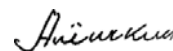
Official Organizers: **SOMED**, ISAPP, Ministry of
Health and Social Development of Russia

**We are waiting for your consent in written form for
beginning of active work of Russian Executive
Committee.**

All financial and other problems will be solved as the
necessity arises.

On behalf of Russian Executive Committee:

V. Aleshkin, Prof., Ph.D., Academician
of New York Academy of Science
Director of Moscow Research Institute of
Epidemiology and Microbiology
after G. N. Gabrichevsky



E. Tkachenko, Prof., Ph.D., M.D.
Director of St. Petersburg Institute of
Gastroenterology and Clinical
Pharmacology



B. Shenderov, Prof., Ph.D., M.D.,
Academician of New York Academy of
Science
President of All-Russian Association
“Epidbiomed”

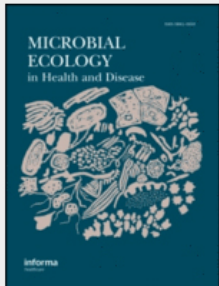


President's comments

This interesting proposal will be submitted for
evaluation and final decision to the new SOMED
Executive Board as well as discussed in the next
SOMED General Assembly in Djurönäset.

Send your manuscript to the SOMED Official Journal !!!

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REVIEW ARTICLE

- How to use the world's scarce selenium resources efficiently to increase the selenium concentration in food** 209 – 228
Authors: Anna Haug; Robin D. Graham; Olav A. Christophersen; Graham H. Lyons
DOI: 10.1080/08910600701698986

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

- Assessment of the diversity and stability of faecal bacteria from healthy adults using molecular methods** 229 – 240
Authors: Guy C. J. Abell; Alexandra L. McOrist
DOI: 10.1080/08910600701662248
- Purification and characterization of enterocin 62-6, a two-peptide bacteriocin produced by a vaginal strain of *Enterococcus faecium*: Potential significance in bacterial vaginosis** 241 – 250
Authors: Diane C. Dezwaan; Michael J. Mequio; Julia S. Littell; Jonathan P. Allen; Silvia Roszbach; Vivien Pybus
DOI: 10.1080/08910600701538240

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DOI: 10.1080/08910600701485350

Miscellany

- Acknowledgement to our referees** 256
DOI: 10.1080/08910600701810987

SOMED Newsletter is an electronic, periodic publication of the Society for 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) and/or to the SOMED Secretary (skamiya@kyorin-u.ac.jp).

**Contributors to this issue: Gianfranco Donelli, SOMED President; Elisabeth Norin, Chair of XXXI SOMED Congress; Shigeru Kamiya, SOMED Secretary; Annalisa Battistini, FESCI Organising Secretariat; Daniela Cattivelli, Advances Analytical Technologies; Sue Christie, Administrative Secretariat, ECCMID2008; Barbara Dartee, FEMS (Federation of European Microbiological Societies) General Manager; Laurence Mialot, ISID Organising Secretariat; Boris Shenderov, President of All-Russian Association "Epidbiomed".
*Editing and layout: Emilio Guaglianone***