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## Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

**Executive Board: President:** *Andrew B. Onderdonk*; **Past-President:** *Marika Mikelsaar*;

**President-Elect:** *Elisa Bertazzoni-Minelli*; **Secretary:** *Veronica Lazar*; **Treasurer:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*;

**Councillors:** *Sandrine Claus, Reet Mändar, Leda Quercia Vieira, Alojz Bomba, Wendy Garrett, Athanasios Alexopoulos\**

*\*A. Alexopoulos has agreed to complete the term vacated by Yolanda Sanz at the request and recommendation of the Board*

## SOMED NEWSLETTER

## Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

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Summer 2012

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### Message from the President

Our recent SOMED meeting in Valencia, Spain demonstrated the diverse and vibrant interest in all aspects of microbial ecology. With the soon to be published results of the human microbiome project, along with the new information about the many interactions of microbial communities and the host, the role of our society as a vital means for sharing information has never been greater. For those of us who have been members since the very beginning of the society, we must recognize that for this to happen we need to attract active members from many other disciplines. Microbial ecology is no longer a niche interest, but is rapidly becoming one of the fastest growing areas in biology and now includes immunologists, systems biologists, mathematicians and epidemiologists. We now know that the microbial community that resides in our GI tract is not only important in protecting the host against bacterial pathogens, but is essential to the maturation of the host immune system during the first years of life. While many of us have held this belief for years, the scientific basis for this is becoming evident on a molecular level through the use of the many new tools available to scientists. Sequenced based studies indicate that there are many more species present as part of the human microbiome than our phenotyping methods can clearly identify. However, it is also important to note that the diversity from individual to individual of the human microbiome based on either phenotypic or genotypic analysis is probably not as important as the overall metabolic activity of the community that is present in a particular anatomic location, regardless of the various members of the community. Perhaps equally as important is the recognition that the pool of genes present as part of the microbiome may make the

notion of speciation of bacterial strains less important than the metagenome and its potential effect on the host.

While these are provocative ideas, we must embrace both the new information and our established knowledge as we advance our understanding of the vital role that microbial communities play in our very existence. With this in mind, I ask each of you to actively promote the society as a forum for dissemination of new information and as a place for scientists from different disciplines to exchange ideas and information. Many of our colleagues have simply never heard of SOMED or about our journal, MEHD. We need to actively reach out to these scientists and encourage them to become members of the society and to participate in both our annual meetings and to publish in MEHD. Imagine how much more stimulating our meetings will be if each of us can enlist one additional scientist to participate in our discussions.

Andy Onderdonk

## **Summary of SOMED Meeting**

### **May 15-17 in Valencia, Spain**

Our most recent SOMED meeting in Valencia, Spain was a wonderful example of the many different areas of research on microbial ecology as it relates to both health and disease. The meeting organizing committee is to be commended for arranging a most interesting three days of oral presentations and poster sessions. Of particular interest to me as the President of SOMED was the fact that the sessions and discussion on the last day of the meeting were as lively as those during the first day of our meeting. Our presentations ranged from the use of genomics and metabolomics to better understand human microbial ecosystems to a discussion of how probiotic organisms are produced and the quality of the preparations checked before use in commercial products. We also learned a great deal about human clinical trials, as well as some of the mechanisms by which microbial organisms interact with the human host.

The scientific information presented throughout the conference was excellent and supports the concept that microbial ecology and in particular the use of probiotics is based on measurable outcomes in human and animal clinical trials that validate both the overall outcomes and the possible mechanisms by which probiotic effects occur. This is an exciting time for SOMED as so many of our members apply new technology to the fundamental questions surrounding the relationship of the human host and microbial communities. There was ample time during our coffee breaks and lunch for open discussion of the many topics presented. As has been our tradition, the conference dinner was an exceptional occasion to view a part of Spain that most of us have never seen and to experience some of the local food.

I am very much looking forward to our next meeting in September of 2013 in the university city of Kosice as an opportunity to extend the observations presented in Valencia.

Andy Onderdonk

President, SOMED

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If you want to see a few selected photos from the SOMED Congress held in Valencia (Sercotel Sorolla Palace Hotel), please see below:



The SOMED Congress Opening ceremony....

and the some moments of the oral presentations:

Dr. Yolanda Sanz – the Congress' President





The present President of the Society for Microbial Ecology and Diseases – Andrew Onderdonk is speaking about the our society’s scientific mission:



The SOMED past president – Marika Mikelsaar and the treasurer Eugenia Bezirtzoglou are about offering SOMED awards to two young researchers:



Going together by boat to the gala dinner...



Visiting the beautiful city of Valencia....



Upcoming meetings and recent publications of interest for SOMED members:



www.eci-glasgow2012.com Email: eci2012@kenes.com

Abstract Topics include: Immunodeficiency; Transplantation; Cancer ; Asthma/Allergy; HIV

International Conference and Exhibition on Probiotics, 24 –26 Sept.2012, Chicago, USA

The conference is organized by OMICS Group and will be focused on "Future of Probiotics-Visions and Opportunities ". The conference is designed to bring together scientific researchers, business entrepreneurs & professionals to discuss the development and progress of research in the areas of biomedical and pre-clinical research, diagnostics, personalized medicine and economic considerations.

For detailed information on Probiotics-2012, you are invited to visit the event website at : <http://www.benchmarkemail.com/c/l?u=437C94&e=107429&c=188E5&t=0&l=9997A7&email=LMNalxdXtPle6xiOg81pmmbrblHo0ct0vHK1SYNRifo%3D> http://www.omicsonline.org/probiotics2012/<http://www.benchmarkemail.com/c/l?u=437C9F&e=107429&c=188E5&t=0&l=9997A7&email=LMNalxdXtPle6xiOg81pmmbrblHo0ct0vHK1SYNRifo%3D>

Probiotics-2012 Emphasizes on:

- Molecular Nutrition
• Food Technology & Dairy Technology
• Enzyme Engineering
• Microbial Pathogenesis
• Microbial Fermentation
• Types of Probiotics
• Applications of Probiotics
• Current Research & Future Perspectives on Probiotics
• Health Benefits of Probiotics
• Regulatory issues & Safety Challenges

Contact: Jithender. D (from local Organizing Committee), OMICS Group Conferences 5716 Corsa Ave., Suite110, Westlake, Los Angeles, CA91362-7354, USA Phone:+1-650-268-9744; Fax:+1-650-618-1414;

Toll free: +1-800-216-6499 E-mail: probiotics2012@omicsonline.org <mailto:probiotics2012@omicsonline.org>

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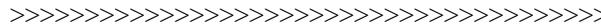
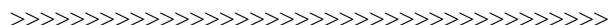
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Visit: http://www.gtcbio.com/newsletter/BMeul-w.htm GXSWX-5165 GTC is pleased to announce our 2nd Biomarker Europe Summit taking place in Zurich, Switzerland on the dates of September 5th - 7th. Oncology Biomarkers, Neurological Biomarkers, and Inflammatory Biomarkers The tracks are:

- 5th Oncology Biomarkers (Sept. 5th - 6th)
Inflammatory Biomarkers (Sept. 6th - 7th)
- Cardiovascular, CRP, Renal Disease, Diabetes, COPD, Metabolic Disease, etc.
Neurological Biomarkers (Sept. 6th - 7th)
- Alzheimer's, CSF, CNS, NeuroImaging, Parkinson's, Depression, etc.

Please visit: http://www.gtcbio.com/newsletter/M3D8-w.htm





## **Eurobiofilms 2015, Brno, Czech Republic, organized by Veronika Holá.**

### **Recent publications of interest for the SOMED members:**

#### **Human Microbiome Project References**

- (1) [A framework for human microbiome research.](#)

Human Microbiome Project Consortium.

Nature. 2012 Jun 13;486(7402):215-21. doi: 10.1038/nature11209.

PMID: 22699610 [PubMed - in process]

- (2) [Structure, function and diversity of the healthy human microbiome.](#)

Human Microbiome Project Consortium.

Nature. 2012 Jun 13;486(7402):207-14. doi: 10.1038/nature11234.

PMID: 22699609; [PubMed - in process];

#### **MetaHIT**

- (1) [Enterotypes of the human gut microbiome.](#)

Arumugam M, Raes J, Pelletier E, Le Paslier D, Yamada T, Mende DR, Fernandes GR, Tap J, Bruls T, Batto JM, Bertalan

M, Borrueal N, Casellas F, Fernandez L, Gautier L, Hansen T, Hattori M, Hayashi T, Kleerebezem M, Kurokawa K, Leclerc M, Levenez F, Manichanh C, Nielsen HB, Nielsen T, Pons N, Poulain J, Qin J, Sicheritz-Ponten T, Tims S, Torrents D, Ugarte E, Zoetendal EG, Wang J, Guarner F, Pedersen O, de Vos WM, Brunak S, Doré J; MetaHIT Consortium, Antolín M, Artiguenave F, Blottiere HM, Almeida M, Brechot C, Cara C, Chervaux C, Cultrone A, Delorme C, Denariac G, Dervyn R, Foerstner KU, Friss C, van de Guchte M, Guedon E, Haimet F, Huber W, van Hylckama-Vlieg J, Jamet A, Juste C, Kaci G, Knol J, Lakhdari O, Layec S, Le Roux K, Maguin E, Mérieux A, Melo Minardi R, M'rini C, Muller J, Oozeer R, Parkhill J, Renault P, Rescigno M, Sanchez N, Sunagawa S, Torrejon A, Turner K, Vandemeulebrouck G, Varela E, Winogradsky Y, Zeller G, Weissenbach J, **Ehrlich SD**, Bork P.

Nature. 2011 May 12;473(7346):174-80. Epub 2011 Apr 20. Erratum in: Nature. 2011 Jun 30;474(7353):666.

- (2) [A human gut microbial gene catalogue established by metagenomic sequencing.](#)

Qin J, Li R, Raes J, Arumugam M, Burgdorf KS, Manichanh C, Nielsen T, Pons N, Levenez F, Yamada T, Mende DR, Li J, Xu J, Li S, Li D, Cao J, Wang B, Liang H, Zheng H, Xie Y, Tap J, Lepage P, Bertalan M, Batto JM, Hansen T, Le Paslier D, Linneberg A, Nielsen HB, Pelletier E, Renault P, Sicheritz-Ponten T, Turner K, Zhu H, Yu C, Li S, Jian M, Zhou Y, Li Y, Zhang X, Li S, Qin N, Yang H, Wang J, Brunak S, Doré J, Guarner F, Kristiansen K, Pedersen O, Parkhill J, Weissenbach J; MetaHIT Consortium, Bork P, **Ehrlich SD**, Wang J.

Nature. 2010 Mar 4;464(7285):59-65.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1075996412000911> (<http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/science/article/pii/S1075996412000911>)  
<http://gut.bmi.com/content/61/6/829.long> (<http://gut.bmi.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/content/61/6/829.long>)  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6086/1251.long>  
(<http://www.sciencemag.org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/content/336/6086/1251.long>)  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6086/1246.long>  
(<http://www.sciencemag.org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/content/336/6086/1246.long>)

And our papers:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22027006>  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21264056>

## SOMED MEMBERSHIP 2012 APPLICATION FORM

First name:

Surname:

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Institution/Company: Street/P.O.Box:

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**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**  
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**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:

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By Cheque to: **EUGENIA BEZIRTZOGLOU**

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