

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We share a passion for microbiology
and we know that microbes shape,
break, and make our human world.



2022 Belgrade



Get ready for Belgrade!

FEMS and the Serbian Society for Microbiology (SSM) are happy to announce the next FEMS Conference on Microbiology, which will take place from **30 June to 2 July 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.**

Our commitment at FEMS is to support microbiologists with their work, promote the best in microbiology research to the world, and bring microbiologists together. This event supports that commitment: giving high value for money at a low registration fee, it opens possibilities for networking and exchanging knowledge and experiences.

The FEMS Conference on Microbiology, a new FEMS event format, is organized in close collaboration with the respective local regional society. The FEMS Online Conference 2020 has already been successfully organized in collaboration with the SSM as an ONLINE format. Yet again, the FEMS Conference in Belgrade 2022 relies on its high-end scientific profile and combined expertise of FEMS and SSM in successfully organizing global and SEE regional scientific events and we are looking forward to a great experience for all involved.

Especially scientists and professionals from the Southeast of Europe will have the opportunity to be part of a world class event and most certainly a cornerstone of the new phase of the regional SEE development in Microbiology.

Be part of this event, where intercontinental, European, regional, and local scientists from all stages in their career and from all demographical backgrounds, can participate in a multifaceted conference.

WELCOME FROM FEMS



We, microbiologists, are not just scientists. We are people, born from different backgrounds, privileged and unprivileged, with different ancestries, different native languages, with and without caring responsibilities. Diverse as we are, we share a passion for microbiology and we know that microbes shape, break, and make our human world.

Our goal is to leave a legacy to science and to the next generations to come. At FEMS, we understand it takes sacrifices to work in science, and we don't take that for granted. We exist to support you, to connect you with other microbiologists, to find equal opportunities for all.

We encourage you to join this community and take part in our activities. Learn new skills that enrich your professional career and help others learn. You'll see it is a rewarding experience that helps you expand your network.

**Matthew Harvey, Managing Director and
Prof Hilary Lappin-Scott OBE, Director**



Federation of European
Microbiological Societies

We advance the visibility and reputation of microbiology by helping to connect people and share knowledge, without borders or barriers.

The Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) is a coalition of more than 50 Member Societies from 38 countries, a diverse network of 30,000 individual microbiologists. Our commitment is to help support microbiologists do their work, promote the best in microbiological research and knowledge to the world and bring microbiologists together to share that knowledge.

As a not-for-profit organization, we reinvest our revenues into supporting microbiologists throughout their career, publishing and promoting scientific research in our journals and organizing events to bring scientists together. Our Members are vitally important to our work, and we seek to support them do their work to jointly advance microbiology.

Our vision is for a connected, collaborative community of microbiologists sharing experiences, knowledge, research outcomes and best practice.

Micro-organisms play an essential role in humans, animals, plants, the environment and industrial processes and have a significant impact in a changing world. The challenges we face, alongside our Member Societies, are constantly changing and evolving.

We prioritized the following strategies in 2020:

NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Membership

1. We will **celebrate and share the achievements** of our Member Societies and their members to help strengthen the visibility and impact of microbiology.
2. We will **seek opportunities to work with our Member Societies** and their members to collaboratively organize events such as our Congress of European Microbiologists and Conference on Microbiology.
3. We will also **facilitate and encourage interaction** between member societies and foster collaborations to enable global responses to global issues.



Publications

4. We will **adapt to the changing scholarly publishing landscape** and ensure our journals meet the needs and expectations of researchers as authors and readers.
5. We will **maintain our reputation** for scientific integrity and work to increase the impact of the world class science found within our journals.



Grants & Awards

6. We will ensure that our **grants offer significant benefits** to our Member Societies members and beyond and remain relevant to the changing needs of those they support.



Events

7. We will **increase the capacity** for our events programme and expand the opportunities we create for microbiologists to attend.
8. We seek to **achieve events which offer value** but are also financially self-sustainable.



Influencing Policy

9. We will begin to **advocate for the importance of microbiology** to be considered when formulating policy, in conjunction with the European Academy of Microbiology.



Industry & Business

10. We will **help graduates be equipped** for employment and assist with finding jobs within industry and business.
11. We will **assist industry to find the best employees** for the roles they are seeking - 225 opportunities were posted on our Opportunities Board in 2020.



Education & Professional Development

12. We will use our **publications and events as tools** to offer microbiologists opportunities for continued professional development and offer workshops that offer parallel personal development in the additional skills required to become an effective researcher.
13. We will aim to **improve bachelor's level teaching** of microbiology by offering resources and training to educators.
14. We will use **International Microorganism Day**, (17 September), as an opportunity to promote the diversity of microorganisms and the varied roles they play in everyday life, to the wider public.

OUR MEMBERS

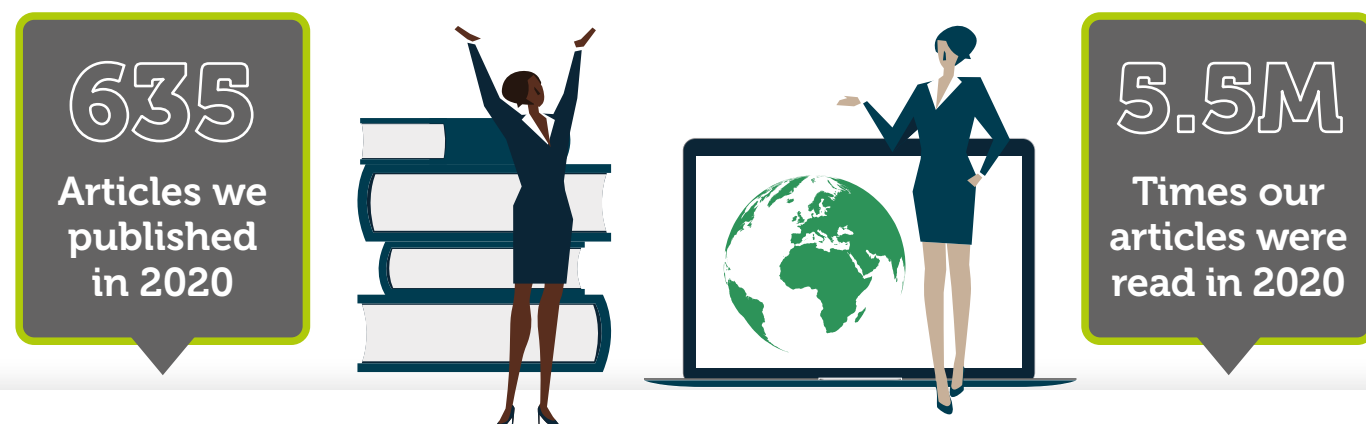
Our Member Societies serve the microbiology community through providing resources, building capacity, and stimulating collaboration. They can pass on to their members the unique member benefits by being a part of FEMS and can send a representative to participate in our Annual General Meeting.

We were pleased to welcome two new members: the Kazakhstan Association of Human Microbiome Researchers and the Georgian Association for General and Applied Microbiology.



THE GROWING FEMS JOURNALS FAMILY

FEMS launched two new journals in 2020 and now publishes seven peer-reviewed scientific journals. The journal portfolio covers the full spectrum of microbiology. We are committed to publishing high-quality scientific research that is accessible and shared across borders. As a not-for-profit organization, we use the income from our journals to fund our charitable activities and support the microbiology community.



In recognition of increased calls for openness and transparency in research, we are delighted to announce the **launch of two new fully gold open access journals** to help meet the latest needs of researchers:

FEMS Microbes will be our new community journal for sharing research findings. In particular, it will be a venue for early career scientists to read, publish, and contribute. It includes research articles, commentaries, reviews, as well as methodological advancements that are of general interest to a wide audience.

All microbes, including bacteria, archaea, fungi, protists, parasites, and viruses are covered. The journal is **fully gold open access** and all articles are free to read.

Editors-in-Chief: Jana Jass, Kimberly Kline, and Kathleen Scott



As the journal of the **European Academy of Microbiology (EAM)**, **microLife** will be the platform for leading experts in microbiology, publishing outstanding papers of the highest standard, novelty, and significance. All microbes are covered, including bacteria, archaea, fungi, protists, parasites, and viruses.

The journal is **fully gold open access** and all articles are free to read.

Editors-in-Chief: Axel Brakhage, Carmen Buchrieser, Matthias Horn and Paula Traktman



FEMS Microbiology Ecology

Your natural research habitat

FEMS Microbiology Letters

Promoting new ideas

FEMS Microbiology Reviews

Outstanding reviews from leading experts

Pathogens and Disease

Next generation host-pathogen research

FEMS Yeast Research

The yeast community journal

FEMS Microbes

Open science towards a sustainable world

microLife

The journal of the FEMS European Academy of Microbiology

Various initiatives were made by the FEMS journals to assist microbiologists during the pandemic like:

Google CASA was rolled out allowing users easier access to our content when working at home.

We organized a series of webinars, based around our publications, as a way to bring some of the benefits of scientific conferences to the comfort of people's home.

COVID-19 related content from the FEMS journals was included in the freely available collection of Oxford University Press to assist researchers, medical professionals, policy makers, and others who are working to address this health crisis.

We created a virtual issue "Education, wherever we are" based around content from the Professional Development Section in *FEMS Microbiology Letters* covering good practice in terms of online teaching tools to help educators in the for many people new remote teaching environment.

FEMS GRANTS

ACCESS GRANTED

We use the income from our FEMS Journals to support our grants. To date we have given thousands of grants to people from all around the world, Meeting and Attendance Grants (to attend meetings), Research and Training Grants (to train and advance their research) and Meeting Organizer Grants (to organize microbiology events).

With FEMS Grants we want to make our vision to advance the visibility and reputation of microbiology by helping to connect people and share knowledge, without borders or barriers, a reality.

As an increasing number of conferences, society meetings and congresses had to moving into online events, FEMS has opened the Meeting Organizer Grants (MOG) to support both virtual and in-person meetings. Also, due to COVID-19, we applied a flexible approach – meetings, trainings and lab visits that were funded with a FEMS Grant would keep the grant, also if they were to be postponed.

We initiated the Conference Attendance Grants, to allow Early Career Scientists to attend the first Online Conference on Microbiology 2020.

€10,000

Journals Grants will award an additional €5,000 to €10,000 in funding to early career scientists.



The FEMS Research and Training grant provided me with the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with the top scientists in my field. Additional unexpected benefit of the grant was that it provided me with an opportunity to continue my research in a safe environment after my home institution was heavily damaged in an earthquake."

Klara Filek, Croatian Microbiological Society



As a member of a society affiliated to FEMS, I found very fruitful the possibility to spend few months in the host laboratory thanks to the FEMS Research and Training grant. Thanks to all of this, I will be able to complete and publish a research project I have been involved since my PhD"

Fabio Giovannercole, Microbiology Society



I would like to thank to the FEMS flexibility and support during the grant application process, especially, in this last year with all changes generated by COVID-19."

Ylenia Jabalera, Spanish Society for Microbiology

FEMS EVENTS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION

At FEMS, we organize several events that focus on promoting and connecting scientists; promoting scientific excellence, encouraging diversity, and building momentum for public outreach, education, and communications projects.

Formal and informal events help develop relationships across all disciplines relating to microbiology and across all sectors and put the right people “in the same room”. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us review how our events achieve these and deliver events in a safe, flexible, effective and accessible manner. We realize that staying connected is more important than ever.

The first **Conference on Microbiology**, originally to be held in Belgrade, Serbia in July 2020, continued online in October 2020. Thanks to this change, we could offer more than 50% of the participants free registration. It was the first large online event FEMS would organize, but not the only online event. The FEMS Journals decided to stay in contact with their community by offering webinars in which editors and authors discuss current research publications in the FEMS Journals. These events that were offered for free, saw a growing interest.

Another partially online event, the second **International Microorganism Day**, increased its online programme including a 24 hour live stream of talks and discussions and Education Packs for teachers.



Realizing that the Congress that was to be held in 2021 in Hamburg, also could not be held as a physical meeting, we also started a new collaboration with our transatlantic peer, the American Society of Microbiology to make it a joint online event.

The two FEMS Summer Schools have been postponed.

*“The conference was very interesting and active.
I learned a lot from this online conference.
And it's good that everything was recorded.
You can go back and look at it first.”*

Participant survey FEMS Online Conference on Microbiology 2020

FEMS Conference on Microbiology

The FEMS conference aims to provide equal opportunities to European, regional, and local scientists, in particular Early Career Scientists from lower to middle income countries and their respective Microbiology Societies to participate in a high-profile conference.



FEMS Congress on Microbiology

FEMS welcomes you to the 10th Congress of European Microbiologists, taking place in Hamburg, Germany in 2023! Join us at an event dedicated to showcasing the latest developments in microbiology and connect to microbiologists from all over the world.



273
attendees
granted with free
registration to
our conference



7592
Our webinars
were viewed
7592 times

EDUCATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

24
hours non-stop
microbiology
video streams



On Thursday 17 September, we helped to run a fantastically successful 24-hour live video stream to mark International Microorganism Day (IMD). Speakers from across the world joined hosts, Joseph Shuttleworth, Ben Libberton, and members of the Portuguese Society of Microbiology (SPM) including Cláudia Sofia Pires Godinho and Isabel Sá-Correia, President of SPM.

The talks covered a huge variety of topics, from active microbiology research, to education, and science communication and outreach. As of Monday 21 September, 35000 minutes of video were streamed by viewers on Twitter, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

All 53 talks delivered across the 24 hours were recorded and made freely available as individual videos on the [IMD YouTube channel](#). The entire livestream was made available on the IMD Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube account for people to sift through as they desire.

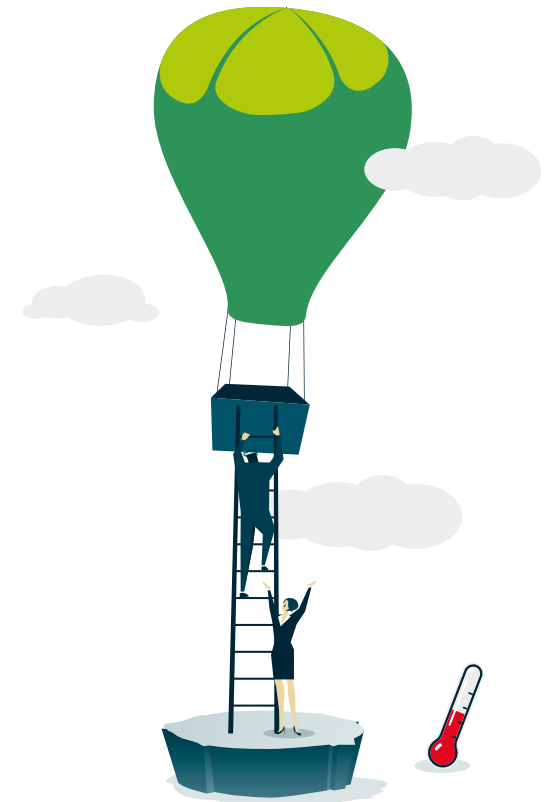


INFLUENCING POLICY

The groundwork for the working group Policy and Business was laid, with an initial consultation among our Member Societies.

This working group would later be initiated in order to establish a meaningful dialogue between scientists and policy makers at national and European level and support for microbiologists to develop the skills and knowledge – linking academia and industry - to keep up to date with recent developments, a changing world and changing research priorities.

Leading experts from the European Academy of Microbiology (EAM) have outlined the context and current issues to be considered by policy makers regarding developing vaccines in preparation for and during pandemics.



"Even with a vaccine against COVID-19, there are a number of steps required to ensure it is effective. It will need to be produced in sufficient quantities, extensively distributed globally, and taken up by a high enough proportion of the general population. These are issues for governments as well as scientists to encourage". **Eliora Z. Ron, Professor of Microbiology**, Tel Aviv University, one of the authors of the paper [Key Issues in Ensuring Effective Vaccines in the Time of Covid-19](#).



30+
companies
(and growing)
that could host
post-graduates

GET INVOLVED COMMUNITY

We are proud to work collectively with a growing community of microbiologists whose voluntary contributions are helping to put microbiology firmly on the map. We thank and acknowledge volunteers for the great work they have done so far in support of various business and science communication projects.

ALUMNI
EDITORS
AUTHORS REVIEWERS
SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
FOLLOWERS MEMBERS SUBSCRIBERS

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

EVENT PARTICIPANTS DELEGATES
RECRUITERS AWARDEES
GRANTEES ORGANIZERS
BOARD MEMBER
MEMBERS SOCIETIES

225

Opportunities
posted on our
Jobs Board



Federation of European
Microbiological Societies

FINANCIAL REVIEW

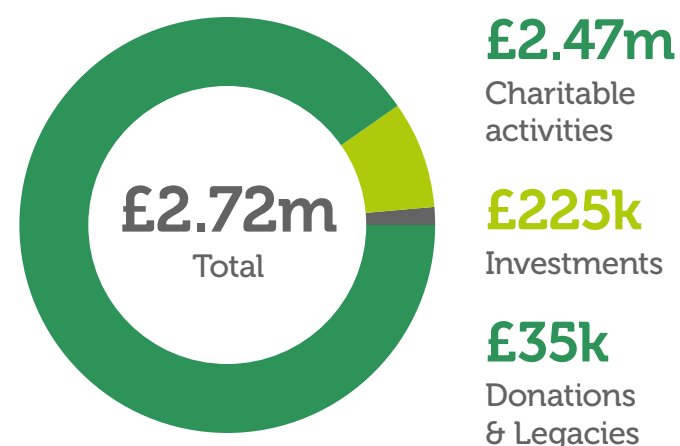
This Annual Return has been completed for the following dates:

Financial period start: **01 January 2020**. Financial period end: **31 December 2020**.

Next financial period end: **31 December 2021**.

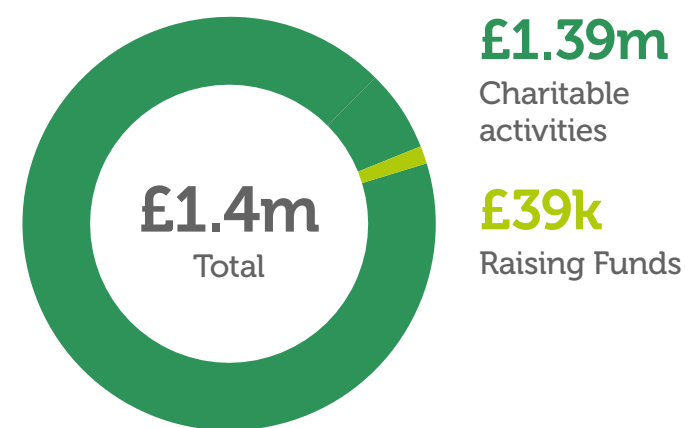
A full report has been registered with the UK Charity Commission and can be found via its webpage.

INCOME £2,727,400



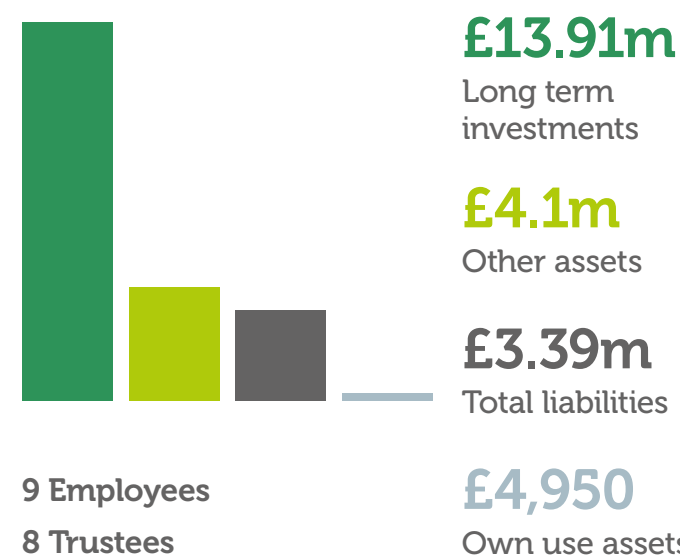
Other income: £0

EXPENDITURE £1,431,489



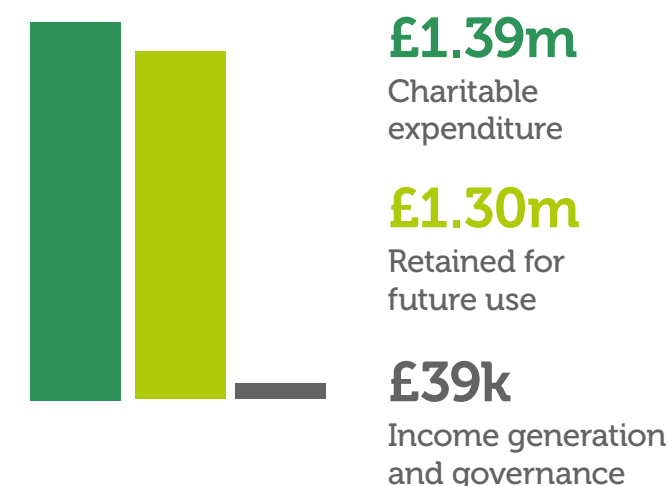
Other expenditure: £0

ASSETS, LIABILITIES & PEOPLE



9 Employees
8 Trustees
11 Volunteers

CHARITABLE SPENDING





**Federation of European
Microbiological Societies**

For more information please contact:
fems@fems-microbiology.org

Or visit our website: www.fems-microbiology.org

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