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UMS 24 SERIES

4th–6th APRIL 2024

MONA PLAZA HOTEL, **Belgrade, Serbia**

XIII CONGRESS OF MICROBIOLOGISTS OF SERBIA

MIKROMED REGIO 5

FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY TO HUMAN AND PLANETARY HEALTH

ORGANIZER:

Serbian Society for Microbiology

WITH THE HELP OF :

Federation of European Microbiological Societies

Federation of European Microbiological Societies

Република Србија

Министарство просвете, науке и технолошког развоја

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITEE

On behalf of the scientific and organizing committees of the Congress, we would like to **cordially invite you to participate.**

The aim of this event is to present the latest developments in microbiology that contribute to a better understanding of the role of microorganisms in nature and to bring together microbiologists from Serbia and the region with **the best professionals from all over Europe,** including microbiologists of various disciplines: bioinformaticians, geneticists, molecular biologists, biochemists, epidemiologists, pediatricians, infectious disease physicians and all other scientists with common interests.

This regional meeting will address all current microbiological problems and **offer solutions to overcome them by world-class experts in the field.** The resistance of microorganisms to antimicrobial drugs is causing major problems in veterinary and human medicine, necessitating the improvement of vaccines and the discovery of new drugs, but also alternative treatment models. Growing antimicrobial resistance, especially biofilm-related, requires alternative measures to biocontrol the spread of the microorganisms in various environments. These sessions will discuss the possible alternatives to the common antimicrobials, varying from bacteriophage applications, new natural compounds biotechnology or nanotechnology, as well as biological control, for the inactivation of the pathogenic and/or resistant phenotypes of the microorganisms.

In addition, food manufacturers and retailers have been trying for decades to reduce the material damage and risks to human health posed by biofilms in food processing facilities. The environment is already too polluted by many human missteps, so any help from microorganisms to remove or process waste materials can be a big help. We are getting better and better at **using microorganisms in technological processes,** firstly in the medical field, but also in agriculture, industry and the energy sectors.

Our knowledge of how microbial diversity is distributed in natural environments and how microbes influence ecosystems is constantly evolving as public databases are established and new techniques based on massive sequencing are developed. The microbiomes found in anthropogenic environments and on human-made materials are generally much less complex than those found in natural environments. Despite this simplicity, it is very difficult to link cause and effect when it comes to determining the role of individual microorganisms. **Improved genome engineering tools in model organisms** allow for a comprehensive remodeling of metabolic and regulatory networks.

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At the same time, a growing number of non-model organisms can be modified with different traits so that they can be further used in different applications and environments. This expanded **range of engineering capabilities and modified species** brings their application in the real world closer and has the potential to make a real contribution to sustainability and addressing global health challenges.

Microorganisms are the key drivers of ecosystem functions, and microbial diversity plays a central role in maintaining the stability and sustainability of ecosystems. These sessions will examine some of the principles that shape and maintain this biodiversity and explore the factors that shape microbiomes and contribute to the success of specific members of communities in different habitats. Presentations will focus on omics techniques such as **metagenomics, metatranscriptomics, proteomics** and **metabolomics**, which are used to better understand why the health of humans, animals and plants depends on microbial interactions. In this way, the complex microbiomes and the interactions between the microbiota and a variety of host organisms from different domains of life will be explored.

The Congress is in the process of accreditation by the **Health Council of the Republic of Serbia.**

So, **SAVE THE DATE** for the Congress **FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY TO HUMAN AND PLANETARY HEALTH** to meet people, expand your network and get an insight into new trends in microbiology.

We look forward to meeting you **in Belgrade in April 2024.**

IVICA DIMKIĆ
University of Belgrade - Faculty of Biology, Serbia
Scientific Committee Chairperson

DUŠAN KEKIĆ
University of Belgrade - Faculty of Medicine, Serbia
Organizing Committee Chairperson

LAZAR RANIN
President of the Serbian Society for Microbiology
Scientific & Organizing Committee Co-Chairperson

SESSIONS AND TOPICS OF THE CONGRESS

INDUSTRIAL AND FOOD MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Microbial valorization of wastes and secondary materials
- Biotechnology and synthetic microbiology
- Food Microbiology

ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Antimicrobial resistance: a One Health challenge
- Biodeterioration of materials/Extreme environments
- Towards a more sustainable agriculture and soil microbial legacy
- Host-microbe interactions
- Phytopathology

MICROBIAL GENETICS, METAGENOMICS AND METAPROTEOMICS

- Microbiomes and recent developments
- High-resolution bioinformatics & modeling
- Microbial genomes and their evolution

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES IN ANTIMICROBIAL CONTROL

- Bacteriophages applications
- Biotechnological approach of using natural products
- Nanotechnology in microbiology

ACTIVE IMMUNIZATION AS THE KEY ELEMENT IN INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Antipneumococcal vaccine
- Eradication of Poliovirus: Vaccination and Surveillance
- Vaccines for Influenza and COVID-19 – What We Need to Know
- Progress, Challenges, and Innovations in the Development of Vaccines Against Hepatitis B and C
- Research and Development of New Vaccines with a Focus on the Novel RSV Vaccine
- MMR Vaccine and Seroprevalence of IgG Antibodies Against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Among Medical Students in Serbia
- HPV Vaccines in the Prevention of Carcinomas – Recommendations and Challenge

MULTI-DRUG AND PAN-DRUG RESISTANCE/HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

INTRAHOSPITAL INFECTIONS

BIOINFORMATICS WORKSHOP - NGS TECHNOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION IN MICROBIOLOGY

LECTURERS CONFIRMED SO FAR

Jose Alexander
Clinical Microbiologist and Director of Microbiology, Virology and Immunology; AdventHealth Central Florida,
USA

Alexander Osmolovskiy
Lomonosov Moscow State University
Russian Federation

Alfonso Esposito
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Enna “Kore”
Italy

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Italy

Cecilia Flocco
Leibniz-Institute DSMZ
Germany

Svetlana Ugarčina Perović
Laboratory of Computational Metagenomics, Department of Cellular, Computational and Integrative Biology – CIBIO, University of Trento
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Mariagrazia Di Luca
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Division for Marine and Environmental Research, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb
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1 Institute of Plant Biology, Biological Research Centre, Szeged, Hungary;
2 University of Public Service, Faculty of Water Sciences, Baja, Hungary;
3 Seqomics Biotechnology Ltd.
Hungary

Tamar Sachaneli
Deputy dean for science and international direction Georgian Technical University, Faculty of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Science
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Vittorio Venturi
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Trieste
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Maja Rupnik
Microbiologist at NLZOH
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Slovenia

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Serbia

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Tamara Janakiev, Serbia

Katarina Kruščić, Serbia

Nenad Antić, Serbia

Marko Janković, Serbia

Miloš Jovićević, Serbia

Jovana Kabić, Serbia

Ana Tomić, Serbia

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Alfonso Esposito, Italy

Cecilia Flocco, Germany

Konstantinos Papadimitriou, Greece

Luís Daniel Rodrigues de Melo, Portugal

Mariagrazia Di Luca, Italy

Ivana Gobin, Croatia

Nikolina Udiković Kolić, Croatia

Svetlana Ugarčina Perović, Italy

Tamar Sachaneli, Georgia

Vittorio Venturi, Italy

Aleš Lapanje, Slovenia

Nemanja Kuzmanović, Germany

Mirna Mrkonjić Fuka, Croatia

Djordje Bajić, The Netherlands

Vaso Taleski, North Macedonia

Nataša Opavski, Serbia

Jovana Grahovac, Serbia

Tatjana Stević, Serbia

Nemanja Mrković, Serbia

Marina Soković, Serbia

Nikola Unković, Serbia

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Jasmina Glamočlija, Serbia

Milica Marković, Serbia

Branka Vasiljević, Serbia

Dragana Mitić Ćulafić, Serbia

Sanja Jeremić, Serbia

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Paul Cos, Belgium

Aleksandra Kneževic, Serbia

Ina Gajić, Serbia

Branko Jovčić, Serbia

Srđan Miletić, Serbia

Nedjeljko Karabasil, Serbia

Milica Ljaljević Grbić, Serbia

Dejan Baskić, Serbia

Stoimir Kolarević, Serbia

Gordana Subakov Simić, Serbia

Snežana Jovanović, Serbia

REGISTRATION, FEES AND DEADLINES

- **ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER THEIR TRAVEL COSTS.** A limited number of grants will be available for selected Ph.D. students and Early Career Scientists who are FEMS members; this grant will cover registration fee and accommodation for the period of the Congress.
- **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF FEMS SUPPORTED PARTICIPANTS** – Selection will be based on the applicant's abstract, one-page CV and letter of motivation; preference will be given to Ph.D. students and Early Career Scientists (maximum 5 years after obtaining Ph.D.). Please provide proof of your institution and/or a diploma confirming your Ph.D. status. All documents should be combined into a single PDF file no larger than 10 MB before submission.

RATES

Category	Dates	Congress Fee (in EUR)	
		Member of SSM	Non-Member of SSM
Senior delegate	Early (till Jan 31, 2024)	180	210
	Late (after Feb 1, 2024)	220	250
Students and Early Career Scientists	Early (till Jan 31, 2024)	130	150
	Late (after Feb 1, 2024)	170	190
Accompanying Person*	All the time	-	70

*The rate for accompanying persons is only possible for attendees who are an accompanying person for some of the active participants

IMPORTANT DATES

- Registration, Abstract & Grant submission: **JANUARY 31, 2024**
- Abstract acceptance announcement: **FEBRUARY 10, 2024**
- Early fee payment due: **FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

REGISTRATION FEE FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE INCLUDES:

- Access to the all scientific sessions
- Congress materials & Certificate of attendance
- Access to Exhibition sponsors area
- Access to coffee breaks, lunches, welcome cocktail & Congress Dinner

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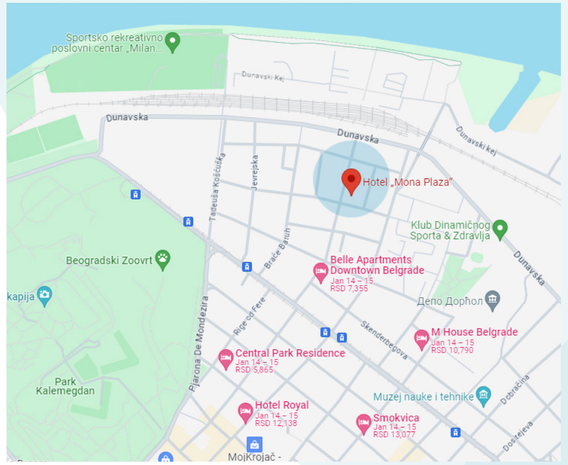
VENUE

MONA PLAZA HOTEL

Cara Uroša 62-64, Belgrade, Serbia



Located in downtown Dorćol an urban crossroads of cultures and styles, Mona Plaza is the **largest convention center in the old part of town.** You can book your stay in one of the 170 rooms and suites overlooking the most beautiful parts of the Serbian capital. In addition to the large multifunctional convention and exhibition area of over 2000 m², the hotel also includes a cafeteria with a wide range of chocolate treats, a restaurant, a bar, wellness and fitness center and a two-level underground parking lot.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chair of the Organising committee:
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Registration, payment, booking and other practical matters:
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