

# FEMS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

CHARITY NUMBER: 1072117



# CONTENTS

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



After three years as FEMS Vice President, I'm delighted to be taking on the role of President, following in the footsteps of Jean-Claude Piffaretti. Jean-Claude has provided the inspirational leadership that has put FEMS in the right position both to respond rapidly to the changing environment around us, and to provide the effective network-building that our Membership – and the microbiology community as a whole – has told us it needs.

Jean-Claude was not only pivotal in leading FEMS into a new era, but chaired the scientific committee that delivered the hugely successful FEMS Congress in 2015. Following his lead, I am happy to say that the scientific programme for FEMS2017 in Valencia, was successfully developed in 2016, allowing us to start promoting the event and open abstract submissions early on. We look forward to another equally successful event in Spain.

One of the most exciting developments in 2016 has been a series of pilot projects to look at issues such as how we can best support different regions, through consultation with the Central and Eastern European Working Group (CEWG), how we can approach different strategic issues (through the efforts of the Education Group), and if and how we can usefully contribute to the ubiquitous issue of applying for research funding. We are also looking at how we can expand our existing volunteer programme (which includes our Editors, Reviewers, Delegates, Executive Committee Members and many others) to provide additional career development, mentorship and leadership opportunities for microbiologists in the early and mid- stages of their career. In one such project, aimed at promoting skills in science communication, Germany-based volunteer, Dr Corrado Nai, produced a blog post on colistin resistance that was published by our publisher OUP (Oxford University Press).

Another important development this year, was the arrival of Hilary Lappin-Scott who joined us as our new Vice President. I would like to thank Hilary, Jean-Claude, and everyone who has contributed to FEMS work throughout 2016 – including the Executive Committee, members of the Council and the Team in Delft – and look forward to another exciting and productive Congress year ahead.

**Bauke Oudega**

**FEMS President, Sept 2016-Dec 2019**





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016 has been another great year for FEMS as we continue to work with our Member Societies and the broader microbiology community to connect microbiologists in promoting excellent science and effective societal impact. Now in the third year of our programme of change we have continued to build on the solid foundations of our traditional activities – our five journals, biennial congress and extensive grants programme – to further develop our collective contribution to the field.

We have seen progress in all of our key activities this year. Article downloads across the five journals increased to 3.3 million, and while our review journal, *FEMS Microbiology Reviews* maintained its position above *Annual Review of Microbiology* and *Trends in Microbiology*, our niche journal, *FEMS Yeast Research*, gained its first Impact Factor above 3. We welcomed new Editorial Board members from Spain, Mexico, Brazil, UK, Hungary, Sweden and France, published over 20 virtual or thematic issues, and were delighted to see that our “Editor’s Choice” articles have average usage levels of 257% higher than other articles published in the same period.

While 2016 was not a Congress year, we did undergo an extensive tendering process to identify a new professional congress organizer who can help us develop new partnerships across the commercial microbiology sector, while strengthening the legacy of our congress events. We are very sorry to say goodbye to our friends and colleagues at Kenes – who have so professionally managed our previous 2015, 2013, 2011 and 2009 congresses – but are also looking forward to working with our new Copenhagen-based partner, CAP.

Every year our popular grants programme sponsors a range of conferences, workshops and Member Society meetings. Throughout 2016 we supported a total of 23 events, which together allowed almost 4,600 international scientists – and many of our Member Societies – to meet, discuss and develop their work across 18 countries. These included 79 invited speakers and 211 Early Career Scientists. A further 38 Early Career Scientists received Meeting Attendance Grants, and 48 received Research Grants to learn new skills in another institution. In addition, our regular joint awards went out to Md. Ajijur Rahman (Bangladesh) for the FEMS-ASM Makela-Cassell Award with the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), Dr Alexander Borodavka (United Kingdom) for the FEMS-ESCMID award, and FEMS Research Grantee Juan Manuel Pericas (Spain) received the reciprocal award from our award partner ESCMID. The total expenditure on grants and awards was almost €350,000.

Meanwhile the Executive Committee said goodbye to President Jean-Claude Piffaretti, a key figure in leading FEMS into a programme of change, and who has presided over many of the key developments in FEMS in recent years, including the updating of our organizational statutes which were provisionally accepted at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), kindly hosted by the Hellenic Society for Microbiology, in Lisbon in September. In Jean-Claude’s place we welcomed new President, Bauke Oudega accompanied by new Vice President Hilary Lappin-Scott.

Throughout the year, and often behind-the-scenes, the FEMS international Team (based in Delft in The Netherlands) have been busy consulting with our Member Societies and the wider microbiology community to identify our collective strengths and opportunities, as well as potential barriers to success. We have also been working together to initiate pilot projects to develop and test potential new services in, for example, promoting opportunities, building funding coalitions, cross-promoting Member publications and events, and building the communications capacity of the whole microbiology community. Highlights to date include the redesign of our website and in particular the development of our Members’ section, our contribution (direct and indirect) to building four new funding consortia, the publication of our first joint virtual special issue across FEMS Member Society journals, and the expansion of the existing volunteer programme to bring in Early Career Scientists looking for opportunities in career development and leadership training.

I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, the FEMS Team, the FEMS Council, our authors and editorial and review boards, our business partners, and our many other volunteers and contributors who have worked together this year to promote microbiology, the excellence of its science and the societal importance of its findings. And I look forward to another fruitful year in 2017.

**Cath Cotton**  
CEO FEMS

# INTRODUCTION

Supporting a coalition of 51 professional organizations based in and around Europe, our goal at FEMS is to work closely with our Member Societies and their dedicated volunteers to build our collective influence and direct that influence for maximum effect. We are made up of an active and diverse network consisting of around 30,000 professionals who are committed to advancing microbiology for the benefit of society in the areas of health, energy, food, materials and the environment. Around half of those in the network are Early Career Scientists, others include business partners, established scientists, policy makers and campaigners. Together with the microbiology community we are working to deliver our 2015-2019 strategic framework, through a range of activities including our five international journals, biennial congress, sponsored events and popular grants programme.

## Some highlights of 2016:

### DOWNLOADS

Article downloads increased to 3.3 million per annum

### GRANTS

Almost €350,000 awarded through our grants programme.

### REPUTATION

*FEMS Yeast Research* sees Impact Factor increase to 3.299

### WEBSITE

Launch of our new website and Opportunities Board

### NETWORK

Piloting of possible Funding Network, bringing together over 70 potential research partners across 4 project proposals

### PARTNERSHIPS

New partnerships with author-services start-up Peerwith, Member Society publishers, and our new conference organizer, CAP Partner

***“FEMS is a professional organization that is well respected by microbiologists worldwide. It works with European microbiology societies as well as operates globally using the appropriate channels: by contacting people in their network directly and advertising to a broader audience they reach the relevant individuals.***

***This made a vast difference to the success of our Funding Network pilot. We constantly receive spams and requests via email that we must filter, but when FEMS is the sender, the message is trusted. This is transferred to the Funding Network. Even if we are unsuccessful with the funding we were applying for, we have now established a network of people that can be contacted for future collaborations.”***

**Dr Jana Jass, Funding Network**

# GOVERNANCE

FEMS is a UK Registered Charity and Not-for-Profit Company. It is governed by an Executive Committee that is elected by the FEMS Council. Our Council in turn, consists of elected representatives from each of our Member Societies and Affiliated Organisations. Both of these can elect and send a representative to our general meetings, but differ in that the Member Societies have voting rights whereas Affiliated Organisations do not. Our Registered Office is in the UK, while our Business Office, managed by our chief executive, is based in Delft in The Netherlands. In 2016 the Executive Committee included a total of six Directors along with two co-opted Executive Members. Succession takes place in September at our Annual General Meeting.



**Dr Jean-Claude Piffaretti**  
PRESIDENT TO 09/16  
(SWITZERLAND)



**Dr Bauke Oudega**  
VICE-PRESIDENT TO 9/16  
PRESIDENT FROM 09/16  
(THE NETHERLANDS)



**Dr Hilary Lappin-Scott**  
VICE-PRESIDENT FROM  
09/2016 (UK)



**Dr Stefano Donadio**  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(ITALY)



**Dr Jim Prosser**  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER  
(UK)



**Dr Colin Harwood**  
TREASURER (UK)



**Dr Jozef Anné**  
GRANTS SECRETARY  
(BELGIUM)



**Dr Per-Eric Lindgren**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE  
(MEETINGS) (SWEDEN)



**Dr Joanna Verran**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE  
(EDUCATION) (UK)



**Dr Catherine Cotton**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(THE NETHERLANDS)

## Succession

We had some significant personnel changes at the Executive Committee level with President Jean-Claude Piffaretti leaving, and Hilary Lappin-Scott taking on the Vice Presidency as elected at the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our chief executive is Catherine Cotton.



# Meetings

In 2016, the Executive Committee met three times: in January (Delft, The Netherlands), April (Aberdeen, United Kingdom) and September (Athens, Greece). The 2016 Meetings of the Council – Council consultation and AGM – were held in September at the Acropolis Hotel in Athens, Greece. We welcomed 27 Member Society representatives and were kindly hosted by the Hellenic Society for Microbiology (HSM). Representatives of FEMS Member Societies and the Executive Committee discussed the future development of FEMS with an upcoming change of statutes as main agenda item. We also consulted our membership on our future plans. We would like to thank our host HSM for organizing this event and especially the organizers, Athanassios Tsakris and Stefanos Alkidis for their warm welcome and hospitality.



*In the last 3 years, we have been reviewing our organization and identified a number of proposed changes to facilitate wider Member and community participation. These proposals, and the subsequent discussions around our existing statutes, have been very much driven by input from our Members.*

*Stefanos Alkidis - volunteer (left), and Athanassios Tsakris – FEMS Delegate (right)*



# Boards

---

Our Executive Committee has been supported by a number of Member Society representatives serving on our Grants, Awards, Meetings and Publication Boards over the year. We would like to thank all of our Delegate representatives for their hard work in helping us to support both our membership and the microbiology community.



**Dr Antonio Ventosa**  
PUBLICATIONS BOARD  
(SPAIN)



**Dr Beate Averhoff**  
AWARDS BOARD  
(GERMANY)



**Dr Alexander Netrusov**  
AWARDS BOARD  
(RUSSIA)



**Dr Vaso Taleski**  
GRANTS BOARD  
(MACEDONIA)



**Dr Helge Holo**  
GRANTS BOARD  
(NORWAY)



# MEMBERSHIP

Our Member Societies serve the microbiology community through providing resources, building capacity, and stimulating collaboration. Our membership currently spans 36 countries across Europe and beyond – including Israel, Turkey, Armenia and Russia.

## 2016 Highlights

---

### COMMUNICATIONS

- In collaboration with our Members we have further developed our communications with the redesign of the website and the FEMS Affiliates Letter, and have launched a pilot Opportunities Board allowing the microbiology community to freely exchange opportunities and resources with each other

### CONSULTATIONS

- Building on Member consultations and surveys of recent years, our meeting of the FEMS Council in Athens included further consultation with our members on the ongoing developments at FEMS
- We are seeing growing engagement with increasing response to our annual Member Survey and enthusiasm for collaborative projects

### PROJECTS AND PILOTS:

In 2016 these included:

- the Funding Network pilots aimed at facilitating international funding proposals across the FEMS community
- collaboration towards effective communications for our members including websites and public engagement initiatives
- the initiation of our Publications Network, with several Member Societies joining us in producing a virtual special issue (VSI) launched at the ASM meeting in June
- a range of pilot projects with new volunteers, including desk research and communication projects
- establishment of a rapid publications process, with OUP, that will help us to respond to urgent issues with rapid publication

# MEMBER Society Feature: Hellenic Society for Microbiology



The Hellenic Society for Microbiology was established on 1932 under the name “Hellenic Microbiological and Hygiene Union”. Since 1972, it appears as “Hellenic Microbiological Society- HMS”. Host to FEMS’ 2016 Council meetings, the Hellenic Society for Microbiology was one of the founding Members of

FEMS in 1974. Together with all Member Societies that had joined up to 2003, it helped to design and signed the European Declaration for Microbiology, the meaning of which continues to represent FEMS’ purpose today.

In the 42 years of collaboration, FEMS funded several meetings of the Hellenic Society for Microbiology. Today, HSM expresses all branches of medical biopathology. It organizes a national biennial conference, along with workshops weekly courses, and meetings with international participants. These latter have included the 10th International Symposium on the Biology of Acinetobacter (2015), and two Balkan Congresses of Microbiology (2001 and 2015).



*FEMS Council Meetings in Athens, Greece, hosted by the Hellenic Society for Microbiology*

# DELIVERING STRATEGY

Following from the publication of our **2015-2019 strategic framework**, our key goals are to build the capacity of our Members and work alongside the microbiology community to promote excellence and diversity in science, and improve the translation of science into impact on the ground. To this end we are continually improving and streamlining our existing activities, while working alongside our Members to provide opportunities, communications and resources.

## Publications

One of our key charitable activities is the publication of our five internationally recognized journals, which are published in collaboration with our publishing partner, OUP.

### THANKS TO EDITORS AND REVIEWERS:

Working together with OUP, our international journals attract and disseminate excellent science and bring in the revenues which fund our charitable activities. Dating back to 1977 (which saw the launch of *FEMS Microbiology Letters*) our journal editorial boards represent our longest-standing specialist network. This year our publications were supported by a professional community of 147 Editors (excluding Guest Editors) from 32 countries. We were also supported by almost 3,000 reviewers from across the globe. We would like to thank all our 2016 editors and reviewers from ***FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, *FEMS Microbiology Letters*, *FEMS Microbiology Reviews*, *FEMS Yeast Research* and *Pathogens and Disease***, whose efforts underpin our ability to deliver our other charitable activities.

	Asia	Australia/ Pacific	Europe	North America	South America	Africa
<b>Authors</b>	177	28	352	215	58	7
<b>Reviewers</b>	11.8%	4.0%	51.8%	28.6%	2.9%	0.8%
<b>Editors</b>	10	5	95	34	3	
<b>Readers (FTD)</b>	27.2%	1.9%	32.4%	34.1%	2.9%	1.3%

### 2016 JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Readership increased, across all of our journals, to 3.3 million downloads
- *FEMS Microbiology Reviews* retains its ranking above *Annual Review of Microbiology and Trends In Microbiology*, while *FEMS Yeast Research's* Impact Factor leapt above 3
- Editorial Board members joined from Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Wales, Hungary, United Kingdom, France and Sweden
- Editor's Choice articles proved our most popular in 2016 achieving an average usage of 257% higher than other articles
- Twelve virtual and eleven Thematic Issues across topics such as Dynamic Host Bacterial Pathogen Relationships, Biobutanol and Ecology of Soil Microorganisms involved thirteen guest editors from seven countries



Caption: Left to right: Matt Pacey (OUP), Beatrix Fahnert (*FEMS Microbiology Letters* Section Editor) and Frédérique Belliard (*FEMS*) at ASM Microbe 2016, Boston (US)





---

## 2016 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- We launched a new article type for *FEMS Microbiology Letters*: Spotlight articles, where eminent microbiologists discuss their current research and their career journey, and offer advice to early-career researchers in microbiology. From the start this initiative has been well received with a large readership and high engagement on social media.
- We also started publishing full-length articles and reviews in *FEMS Microbiology Letters*, typically in research areas that are not covered by other FEMS titles. The best performing article in 2016 of all of our journals, was the full-length review '*Zika virus: From pathogenesis to disease control*', that was downloaded almost 4,000 times since its publication in August 2016.
- Finally, we launched a new partnership with the author services platform, Peerwith, connecting journal authors with a relevant communications expert who can help in getting an author's manuscript submission-ready. These are a growing part of our expert network and can help with language editing, translation, support with visuals, consulting, or anything else that authors need.

---

## NEW EDITORS IN 2016

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all new Editors joining the FEMS journals in 2016, and look forward to working with you in the coming years.

***FEMS Microbiology Letters:***

Miguel Gueimonde Fernández – Spain

Ajejandra Bravo – Mexico

Marcos Vannier-Santos – Brazil

Geertje van Keulen – Wales

Károly Márialetti – Hungary

Guoqing Xia – United Kingdom

***FEMS Microbiology Reviews:***

Suzana Salcedo – France

***FEMS Yeast Research:***

Dina Petranovic – Sweden

---

## LEAVING EDITORS

We would like to thank all of the Editors leaving FEMS journals in 2016 for their dedicated service to the microbiology community, through their role in driving scientific quality and in contributing to FEMS extensive programmes of grants, events and other activities across our membership.

***FEMS Microbiology Ecology:***

Gerard Muyzer – The Netherlands

***FEMS Microbiology Letters:***

Colin Murrell – United Kingdom

Yaacov Okon – Israel, Peter Lund – United Kingdom

Holger Deising – Germany

Robert Burne – United States of America

Wilfrid Mitchell – United Kingdom

Peter Raspor – Slovenia

***FEMS Yeast Research:*** Günther Daum – Austria\*

***Pathogens and Disease:*** Eric Oswald – France\*

Recently, FEMS partnered with author-services specialist, Peerwith, in a partnership that allows contributors to FEMS Journals to help each other out in finding and recommending great author services.

**Peerwith**  
*connecting experts*



**Joris van Rossum**, co-founder and CEO of Peerwith met FEMS

CEO, Catherine Cotton, at a conference in Berlin in January. A couple of months later, FEMS and Peerwith partnered up, both with the same goal: to facilitate more affordable, more transparent and more efficient support for authors in preparing their manuscripts. Joris' motto is "never accept the status quo". He sees his company as a part of the open access movement, making the preparation of publishing articles more accessible.

## About Peerwith

Joris: "Peerwith is a platform for author services. We have introduced a peer to peer marketplace where researchers that are in need of an author service can easily find peers, experts who can do the work, while allowing them to work together. This is what differentiates us from the traditional agency where there's no option to collaborate with, or to select the expert. The second way we differentiate is by partnering with partners in the academic publishing industry which means academic institutions, social networks and of course also publishers and societies."

## Why did you feel the need to jump into the gap?

"I have worked for Elsevier for over fifteen years. In 2008 I started projects around author services and I found these services are important yet underestimated; helping authors from developing countries to overcome the language barrier, improving the illustrations of papers or helping authors to write a grant proposal. I then realized many of these things can be improved – and that's my biggest motivation. It's very important in academic communication to have trust and when you don't know who you're working with that trust is obviously lacking. It also has to do with pricing, because agencies charge quite a big fee for the mediating role they have. Also, in our model the expert can be the bridge between the ambition of the author and the needs of the journal."

## About the collaboration with FEMS - and future steps

One of the communications experts working with FEMS through Peerwith is Joanna, who is a member of FEMS Member Society, SfAM. She has herself published in FEMS Journals and in Joris' words: "it is no wonder [she is] able to help researchers to optimally prepare their manuscript, which benefits both the author as well as the society. FEMS is the first partnership of Peerwith, and was very open to think about a new approach to doing that. We were very happy that you were the first ones to think about and develop something more innovative and something that hopefully will really help the academic community. "With partners like FEMS looking for ways to extend the open market place beyond author services, Peerwith is flexible in its offer. There's so much more we can do. Making the whole process more efficient, integrating author services in the whole cascading flow or in the whole rejection flow. If an editor rejects certain manuscripts with comments – it will be very easy to pull in the experts to quickly, efficiently improve the paper so it can be accepted."

# EVENTS

While 2016 was not a FEMS Congress year we did conduct a successful tender for a new professional partner to organize our future congress events.

We are delighted to welcome **Copenhagen-based CAP**

as our new events partner. CAP specializes in conference organization, association development and project management to scientific associations. We have enjoyed the discussions with CAP about our forthcoming congresses so far and we are looking forward to our first congress with CAP in Glasgow in 2019.



## Sponsored Meetings

Throughout 2016 we supported a total of 23 conferences, workshops and Member Society meetings, on topics ranging from Microbial Diversity to Microbes in Industry & Environment, and from Listeriosis to Nitrogen Fixation. Together these events allowed almost 4,600 international scientists – and many of our Member Societies – to meet, discuss and develop their work across 18 countries\*. **In 2016, the following sponsored meetings took place:**



MONTH	FEMS MEETING GRANTS	COUNTRY	ATTENDEES
February	Ecology and Mycology: From the Environment to the Patient's Bed	Israel	101
March	Gordon Research Conference: New Antibacterial Discovery and Development	Italy	199
April	7th European Spores Conference	UK	150
April	Type III Secretion Systems	Germany	116
June	10th INRA-Rowett symposium on gut microbiology	France	370
June	The International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis	France	232
July	Gordon Conference on the Molecular Basis of Microbial One Carbon Metabolism	USA	60
July	6th Conference on Physiology of Yeast and Filamentous Fungi	Portugal	246
July	5th Central European Summer Course on Mycology: Biology of pathogenic fungi	Hungary	62
August	12th European Nitrogen Fixation Conference	Hungary	328
September	3rd Innovative Approaches for Identification of Antiviral Agents Summer School	Italy	56
September	Power of microbes in industry and environment 2016	Croatia	127
September	TB2016: Interdisciplinary research on tuberculosis and mycobacteria	France	550
September	Microbial Diversity and Specialised Metabolites	Croatia	56
September	EUROPIC 2016	Switzerland	192
November	International Symposium on Parasitic Zoonoses	Turkey	270
FEMS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONGRESS GRANTS			
June	6th Croatian Congress of Microbiology with International Participation	Croatia	260
September	27th Congress of the Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology	Czech Republic	350
September	8th ÖGMBT Annual Meeting – Life Sciences for the Next Generation – 2016	Austria	350
September	XX National (Spanish) Congress of Food Microbiology	Spain	150
November	37th Turkish Microbiology Congress	Turkey	550

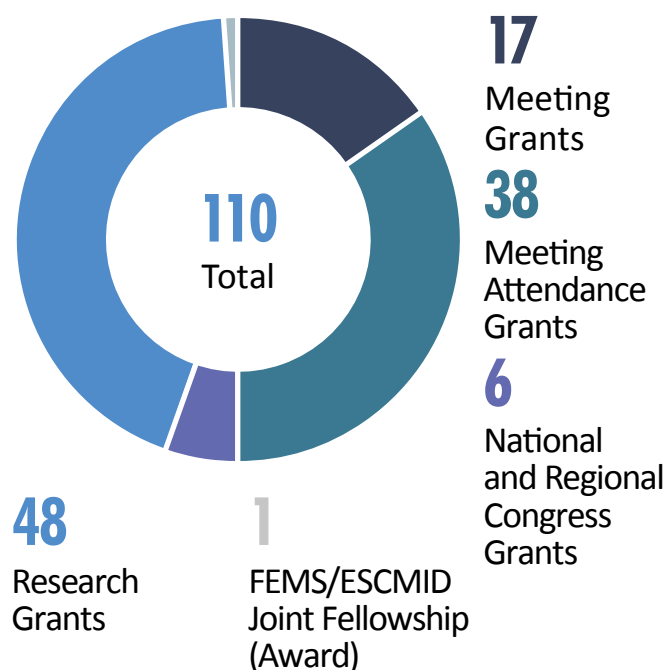


# GRANTS

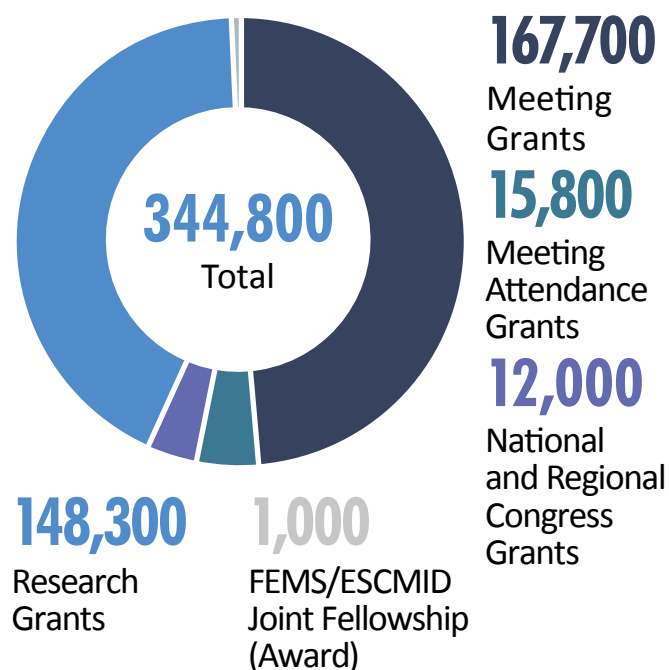
Anyone who is a member of a FEMS Member Society is eligible to apply for our grants. Our Congress attendance grants are available more widely to Early Career Scientists across the world.

## 2016 Grants summary

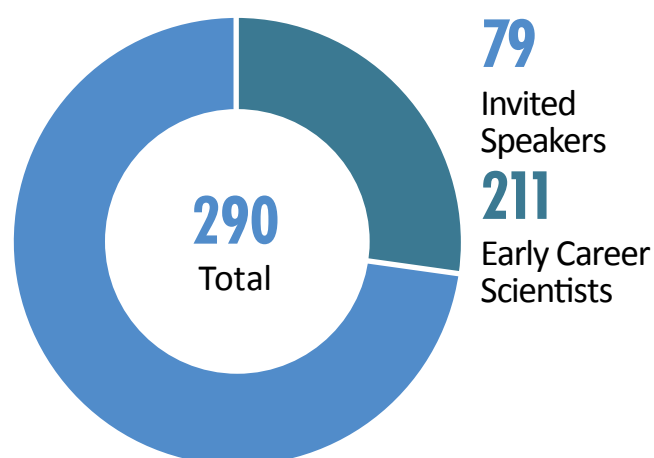
### NUMBER AWARDED



### VALUE AWARDED (€)



### SUPPORTING

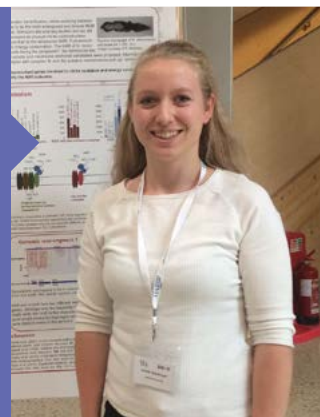


## 2016 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

It's clear from our consultations with our Members that our grants programme is highly beneficial and very well received, allowing Member Societies to offer benefits that can attract new members, and providing valuable networking and research opportunities that can have a profound impact on both individual career development and long-term collaborations between participating institutions. It's also clear that we must continue to promote both our grants programme and its powerful impact, and that we will need to find and channel new funding into our planned activities on policy, business and public engagement. In light of our 2015-2019 strategic framework – which extends our traditional focus from microbiology research to include Member microbiologists in education, policy, business and the wider public – we are further developing short- and longer-term strategic goals and have developed a new, more flexible, grants programme that will be put in place in 2017/18.

***“I was told that especially for an Early Career Researcher such as me it is important to ‘get out there’, meet the fellow scientists in your field and start sharing your research from as early on as possible. After returning from my first international conference with a huge confidence and motivation boost, plans for new collaborations and new ideas for my PhD project, I absolutely agree with this sentiment. I would like to thank FEMS for supporting me with this travel grant and making this possible!”***

Ms Aniela Mundinger, Meeting Attendance Grantee, Radboud University, Department of Microbiology, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Attended: 21st European Nitrogen Cycle Meeting, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, 05-08 September 2016



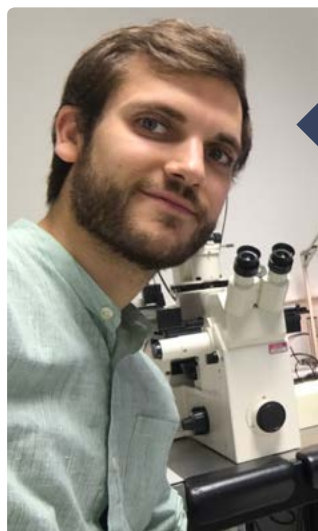
***“As a member, I do enjoy to attend the annual domestic meeting and the FEMS meeting to share my work with my colleagues in Europe.”***

Lumeng Ye, Meeting Attendance Grantee, Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Biosustainability, Technical University of Denmark.



***“I am definitely going to continue getting involved with FEMS and Spanish Society for Virology in order to share my experience and my research findings, promoting these powerful actions.”***

Alberto Domingo López Muñoz, FEMS Research Grantee, Molecular Biosciences, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Madrid, Spain



***“FEMS has helped me to attend meetings outside of my primary scope, which I am thankful for. Both meetings resulted in new connections, a boost of motivation and many new ideas which I wouldn't have had if I didn't have the chance to go.”***

Dr Cornelia Welte / ISME16 - 16th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology, Montreal, Canada, 21-26 August 2016



# AWARDS

Since 1999, we have been recognizing excellence and encouraging talent by giving out a number of prestigious awards in recognition of individual and group achievements in microbiology.

---

## 2016 AWARDS SUMMARY

We awarded **Md. Ajijur Rahman** (Bangladesh) with the FEMS-ASM Makela-Cassell Award at a value of € 2,000, allowing him to visit the ASM Microbe 2016 conference. In addition, **Dr Alexander Borodavka** (United Kingdom) received the FEMS-ESCMID award at a value of € 1,000, and FEMS Research Grantee **Juan Manuel Pericas** (Spain) received the reciprocal award from our award partner ESCMID, also at a value of € 1,000. Besides the monetary value, our awards aim to help scientists promote their work, including profiling their work through the various FEMS channels.



*“The recognition of my work through this award will also help me to get competitive research grants to pursue my academic career in microbiology. It will also provide inspiration that individuals from my home country can be competitive in the international arena and the award will be given pride of place in my office once I return to Bangladesh.”*

**Md. Ajijur Rahman M. Pharm**

*“His research aims to understand the molecular basis of genome segment encapsidation in reoviruses [...] an intriguing and potentially therapeutically important research target for many decades. Most recently, Alex has made a major breakthrough that suggests he is close to solving this riddle.”*

**Peter G. Stockley, Professor of Biological Chemistry about FEMS-ESCMID Awardee Alexander Borodavka**

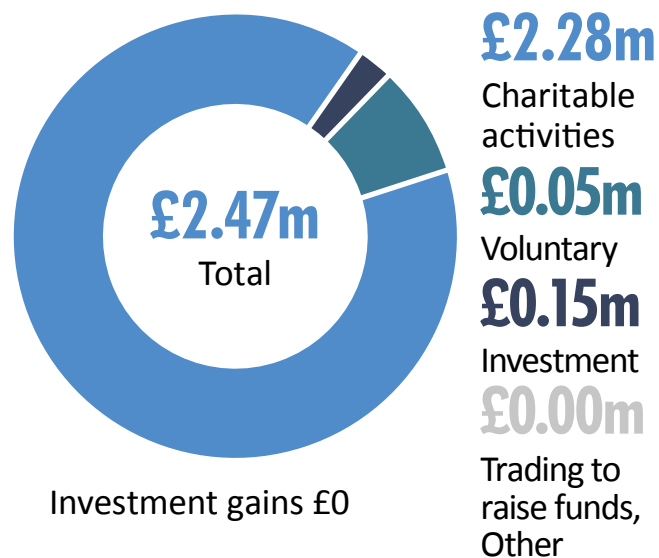


# FINANCE AND FUNDING

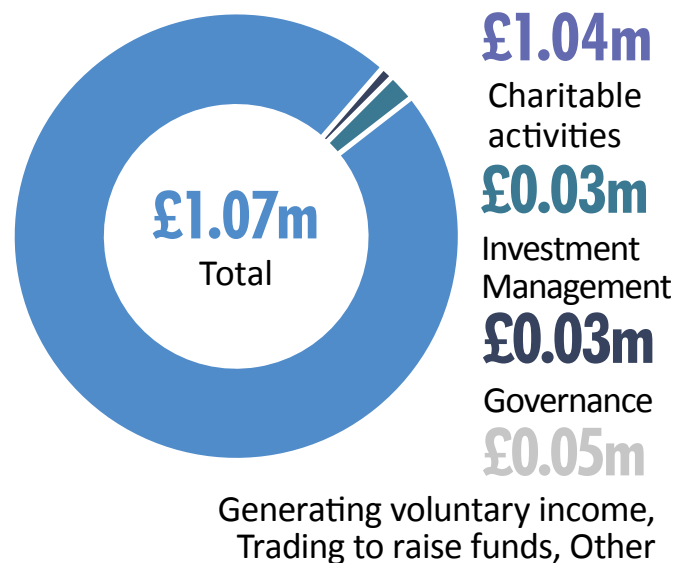
This Annual Return has been completed for the following dates:

- Financial period start: 01 January 2016
- Financial period end: 31 December 2016
- Next financial period end: 31 December 2017

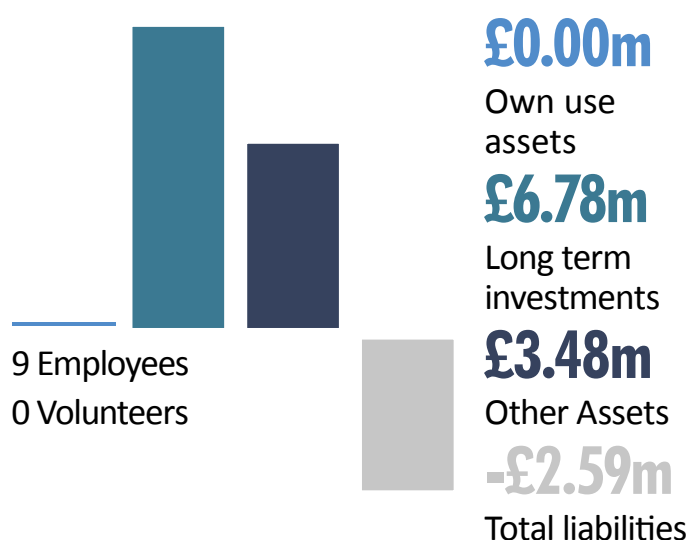
## INCOME £2,473,904



## SPENDING £1,073,220

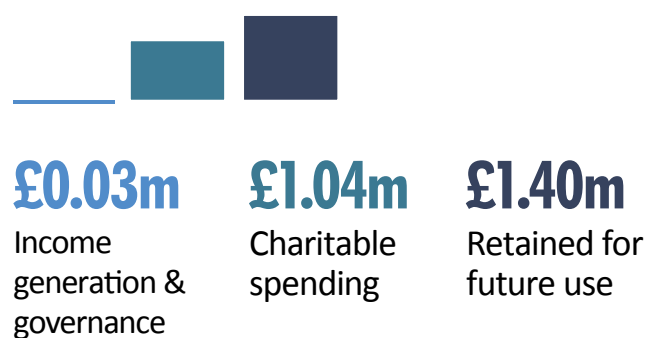


## ASSETS, LIABILITIES & PEOPLE



## CHARITABLE SPENDING

Gains on investments assets included



A full report has been registered with the UK Charity Commission and can be found via its [webpage](#)

# BUILDING THE MICROBIOLOGY NETWORK

FEMS supports a network of around 30,000 microbiologists across Europe and beyond, working closely together with a wide range of partners and special interest groups, as well as our Editors-in-Chief and editorial boards. A key activity underpinning all of our activities is our building of a broad network of researchers, communicators, students and others with a professional interest in microbiology.

---

## 2016 NETWORK SUMMARY

- **The Education Network** brings together people with an interest in encouraging microbiologists of the future. It comprises members from twelve countries and continues to grow under the guidance of Professor Verran. In 2016 the Network met in Bilbao, attracting 12 participants to discuss education strategy and prepare organization of the Education sessions at the FEMS 2017 Congress.
- **The European Academy for Microbiology (EAM)** grew by 38 to 113 members in 2016 and organized a retreat in Madrid, Spain.
- **Our Membership** comprises 51 members from 36 countries, together serving the microbiology community to promote research excellence and maximum impact
- **We continued our consultations** with the microbiology community both virtually and in person, and our networks held meetings in Spain, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark and Austria. One key development was the first meeting of the Central-Eastern Working Group, giving insights on the challenges faced, and how we might best support microbiologists in different regions.
- **Pathogens and Disease published a Thematic Issue** in collaboration with the University of Maryland, Baltimore, allowing the University to use printed issues as promotional tools.
- **Our Publications Network's first VSI** showcased European microbiology research through a selection of the best research recently published in our Member Societies' journals at America's key annual microbiology event, ASM Microbe Campaigns: we joined Peer Review Week, an international multi-sector initiative to promote understanding of peer review and celebrate the central role that peer review plays in research
- **Internships:** we started working with remote interns, Erin Frick and Neil Stoker, both of whom were studying for Masters in Science Communication at Imperial College, London. Operating from the UK during their internship, Erin and Neil made great contributions to helping us understand the community's communication needs, and developing possible solutions to them.
- **Volunteering:** we recruited volunteers for mapping, science communication and network activities
- **Dr Corrado Nai's blog post** on colistin resistance was published on the popular OUP Blog – with a monthly readership of over 110,000 views and 69,000 visitors, translating microbiology research to a larger audience.

The following volunteers have contributed to our emerging mapping, science communication and network activities:

Alem Mujkanovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Corrado Nai, Germany

José Jesús Gallego, The Netherlands

Luis Hurtado Soler, Spain

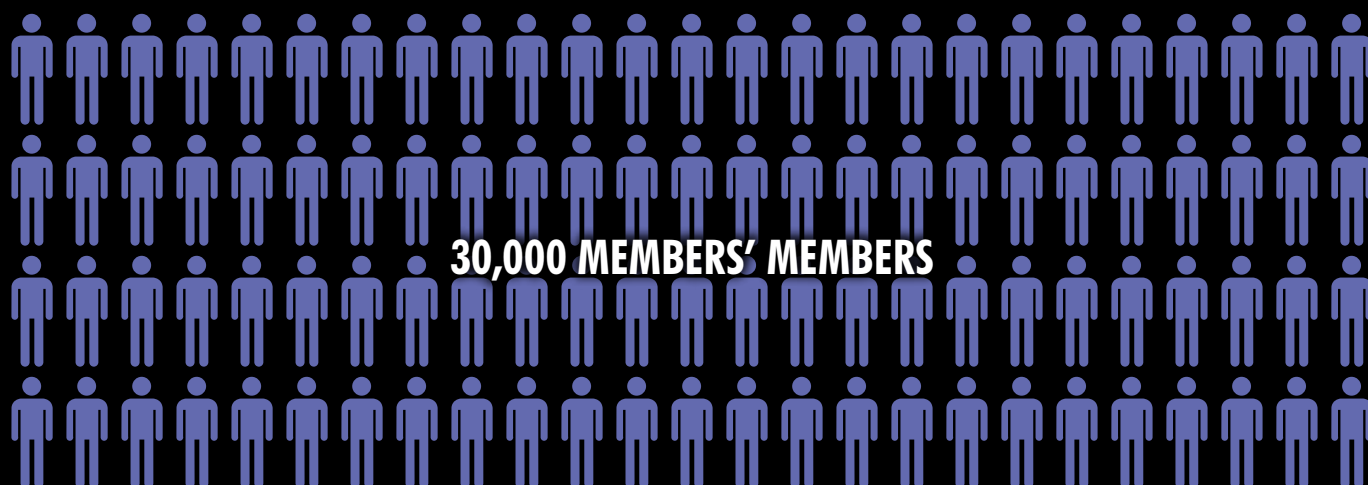
Mehad Omer, Italy

Roger Junges, Norway

Tomasz Benedyk, Finland

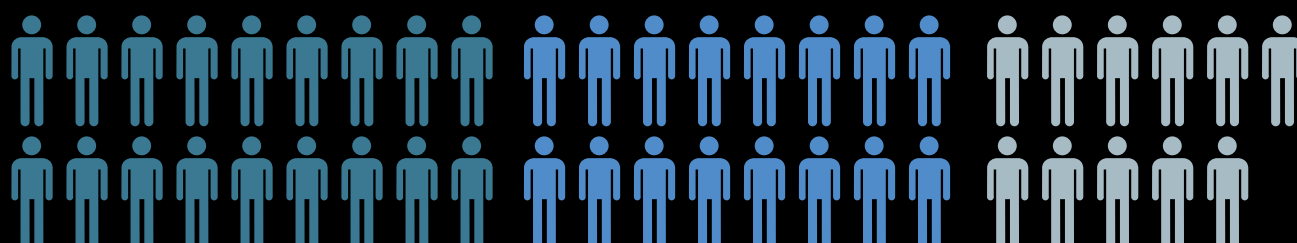
Benedita Sampaio Maia, Portugal

# THE MICROBIOLOGY NETWORK



## 90 MEMBER SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

(including Delegates and Presidents)



### 5,385 ALUMNI

(historic grantees and awardees)

### 4,721 AFFILIATES

(other individuals receiving our communications)

### 3,252 AUTHORS & REVIEWERS

(who contributed to our journals in 2016)\*



### 580 EXPERTS, EAM, EDITORS, INVITED SPEAKERS & AWARDEES

(including indirectly through meeting grants 2016)



### 382 GRANT RECIPIENTS

(including indirectly through meeting grants 2016)



### 82 MEMBERS OF SPECIALIST NETWORKS

(Education 8, Publications 8, One Health 1, Central European Working Group 11, Communications 44, Interns 4, Volunteers 6)



### PARTNERS 37

(FEMS 2015 Sponsors 33 and Delivery Partners 4)



### 16 WIDER FEMS TEAM

(staff and Executive Committee)

\*Including corresponding authors



# LINKING WITH PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

## Peer Review Week



19<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

**Theme:**  
Recognition  
for review

### Our involvement with Peer Review Week

(see our video here) marked an important milestone for us. As one of only a small number of scholarly societies, among many more publishers and publishing initiatives, peer review is central to the research community's success, and it is great to see that the global campaign to recognise its importance is clearly growing.

That this is the case is clear from the thousands of tweets appearing during September's Peer Review Week and from the almost 3,000 people who responded to our joint peer review survey with OUP and University of East Anglia. The goal of Peer Review Week 2016 was to promote the behind-the-scenes work of peer reviewers and share the value of their activities to the wider community. We joined in several activities recognizing the efforts of peer reviewers and the key role of peer review in research.

Our involvement with Peer Review Week marked an important milestone for us. As one of only a small number of scholarly societies, among many more publishers and publishing initiatives, peer review is central to the research community's success.

It is great to see that the global campaign to recognize its importance is clearly growing. That this is the case is clear from the thousands of tweets appearing during September's Peer Review Week and from the almost 3,000 people who responded to our joint peer review survey with OUP and University of East Anglia. As the results of the survey show, authors have most to gain from peer review.

Together with 21 organizations we promoted the behind-the-scenes work of peer reviewers and shared the value of their activities to the wider community. Our activities at FEMS varied from social media campaigns and blogging to research and publications, to highlighting both the need for peer review and the need for recognition and development of the peer review process.

# LINKING WITH FEMS MEMBERS

## Joint Journal Issue

### FEMS Member Societies that joined us in producing the VSI Europe's Microbiology Network:



***"Food Technology and Biotechnology is proud to be part of this VSI, as an official journal and close collaborator of FEMS Members, (Slovenian Microbiological Society and Croatian Microbiological Society). It is important to connect journals that publish the best European microbiology research, to remove boundaries between fields and expand scientific horizons"***

Iva Grabaric Andonovski, Food Technology and Biotechnology,  
Official Journal of the Slovenian and Croatian Microbiological Societies.

# WHO ARE WE?

Our international team based in Delft are:



**Dr Catherine  
Cotton**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**



**Dr Frédérique  
Belliard**  
**JOURNAL  
DEVELOPMENT EDITOR**



**Carianne  
Buurmeijer**  
**DIVISION  
COORDINATOR**



**Danielle  
Hoevers**  
**OFFICE MANAGER**



**Dr Alessio G.  
Maugeri**  
**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER**



**Lotte  
Nielsen**  
**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**



**Dr Erwin  
Ripmeester**  
**JOURNAL  
DEVELOPMENT EDITOR**



**Dr Goda  
Sporn**  
**PROJECT COORDINATOR**



**Lindsay  
Uittenbogaard**  
**COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR**



**Martijn  
van Veen**  
**PROJECT OFFICER**

All of our professional partners, including our publisher at OUP, Matt Pacey and our accountant Heather Lawrence.



**Matt Pacey**



**Heather Lawrence**

There were changes in the FEMS team, as Danielle Hoevers, Executive Secretary, left the office and was temporarily replaced by Sunny Ligtvoet. Our intern, Martijn van Veen joined as Project Officer and our Communications Director, Lindsay Uittenbogaard left our office in the third quarter. We received additional support from our interns, Neil Stoker and Erin Frick, who joined from the Science Communication Unit at Imperial College London.



## Meet ‘virtual colleague’ Erin

---

As an organization representing the interests of the microbiology community, we are always looking for ways to support our membership, a key aspect of which is career development. In 2016, we were happy to welcome Erin Frick as an intern from Imperial College London to our team. Her work has involved a significant amount of planning in order to determine the most effective ways to harness the expertise of the microbiology community, starting with creating and implementing an in-depth survey to learn more about the members of the European Academy for Microbiology (EAM). Her work also included interviewing EAM members, and developing profile pieces to publish across FEMS communications channels.

“This is my first experience working within an organization of FEMS’ structure. While I work remotely, my frequent contact with the FEMS Team and members of the EAM has allowed me to understand how FEMS is able to connect and promote scientific excellence within its Member Societies. I would highly recommend this experience to students interested in exploring the function of communications within professional networks in the sciences. As FEMS ties together a range of scientific activities – from funding research to publishing journals – the opportunity to work at the crossroads of these various areas of science is truly unique.”



