

FEMS ANNUAL REPORT 2017 BUILDING COMMUNITIES

CHARITY NUMBER: 1072117



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



2017 was a record year for FEMS. The groundwork done by Jean-Claude Piffaretti and his 2014-2017 Executive Committee has allowed us to really flourish as a professional organization dedicated to connecting the microbiology community, and helping to deliver both scientific excellence and impact for society and the environment.

This first year as FEMS President was a busy one, starting with the Membership's adoption of our new Articles of Association at the beginning of May. I'm delighted to say that the passing of our new governing principles attracted votes from 86% of our Membership, all of whom voted in favour.

One of the highlights of the year was our Congress in Valencia which marked the 40th Anniversary of our flagship journal, FEMS Microbiology Letters. The FEMS 2017 Congress achieved our highest number of participants and abstracts submitted to date, brought together almost 2,700 scientists, presented around 780 posters each day and attracted more than 1 million Twitter impressions to #FEMS2017. But perhaps the biggest success of the Congress was our partnership with our hosting Member Society, the Spanish Society for Microbiology. It was a fantastic collaboration, and the wonderful city of Valencia was the perfect location for our biggest and most vibrant congress yet.

Working closely with all of our Member Societies, collaborating on projects that nurture future talent and internationalize successful national activities, are two of our key functions. And in 2017 we built on earlier pilots to further develop both cross-society publishing projects and cross-sector funding applications.

Such close collaborations between our Members and their federating body, are partly developed during our annual Council meetings, where we hold our Annual General Meeting and run consultation sessions with our membership. In 2017 these meetings were kindly hosted by the Portuguese Society for Microbiology in the country's beautiful capital, Lisbon. It is here that we held very successful elections for our new Trustees in Research & Publications, Events & Internationalization, and Education & Public Engagement.

Unfortunately, the arrival of each new Trustee means the departure of another, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank three Trustees who have moved on after many years of excellent service to the FEMS community: Jim Prosser, who ushered in the move to professionalize our activities, Per-Eric Lindgren who brought great enthusiasm to our Events, and Joanna Verran who pioneered our Education programme taking it from an idea to an active network of some 160 people. It is on the selfless dedication of these volunteers that organizations like FEMS, and our Member Societies, are a success.

Bauke Oudega
FEMS President, Sept 2016-Dec 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Since the publication of our new strategic framework in 2015, FEMS has been successfully building on its first 40 years of successful network-building to connect an increasingly diverse community of researchers and practitioners with an interest in microbiology. Initially bringing together the international research community, we are successfully connecting with stakeholders in policy, business and the civil society, to promote scientific excellence that translates into tangible benefits for science, society and the environment.

Crucial to this has been closer collaboration with our Member Societies, from those focusing on largely on research, to those, like the UK's Society for Applied Microbiology and Germany's Society of Hygiene and Microbiology, that have broader sectoral reach. Examples include publishing joint journal issues, providing promotional opportunities and working with Members to internationalise successful local projects. In 2017, we produced a collection of articles on "Microbiology & Infection" together with two of our Member Societies: the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM) and the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) in connection with the 5th Joint Conference VAAM Annual Meeting 2017 • 69th Annual Meeting of the DGHM 5–8 March 2017 • Würzburg (Germany). We also brought together several Member Societies to exhibit at the FEMS2017 Congress in Valencia, and co-hosted our most successful congress to date, with the Spanish Society for Microbiology. We are looking forward to a similar experience in Glasgow in 2019, with our co-hosts the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM).

In practice our network extends well beyond the 30,000 or so researchers and practitioners who are members of our Member Societies. Of almost 3,000 Congress participants, and another 3,000 respondents to our annual survey on barriers to effective working, around two thirds were not members of Member Societies. At the same time the majority of our journal authors, editors, readers and reviewers are based beyond Europe, while the 31 conferences that we sponsored in this year, contributed to allowing some 7,000 researchers and 713 Early Career Researchers and 116 Invited Speakers to meet, present, and share expertise and ideas.

As we move to 2018 our focus remains firmly on strengthening this network, collaborating with our Members, and promoting microbiology, its people and its impact to the wider global community.

Cath Cotton
CEO FEMS

KEY FIGURES 2017

**2.6
MILLION**

article downloads
across all our journals.

**OVER 1
MILLION**

Twitter impressions
from #FEMS2017

2686

a record number of
2686 attendees at
our Congress from 85
countries.

2,700

responses received from our
survey inquiring about the needs
of microbiologists, and revealed an
animo for a platform offering several
facilities for microbiologists.

713

early Career Researchers and 116
invited speakers were able to
attend scientific meetings via the
FEMS Grant.

139

authors from 45 countries, editors
from 37 countries and reviewers
from 57 countries around the world
contributed to the FEMS Journals.

BIG 40

we celebrated 40 years of FEMS
Microbiology Letters' by launching
the Letters Incubator, aimed at
developing new publishing ideas and
mentoring the future editorial talent.

24

FEMS-sponsored
meetings enabled early
career scientists to
develop their career.

SEVEN

Member Societies
collaborated on a
joint Virtual Special
Issue showcasing top
microbiology research.

ONE

in 2017 we welcomed
a new Member, the
Lithuanian
Microbiological
Society.

INTRODUCTION

Supporting a coalition of 52 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.

"I must say that this was a great opportunity for us. We cannot engage more than 500 people in our national meetings at their best... FEMS 2017 has been a boost of hope for Spanish microbiologists. We were badly in need for oxygen, and this Congress has put our science in value and made us feel like we are breathing again. We really feel proud to contribute to building a competitive community of European microbiologists from our modest, yet significant, situation. Furthermore, I think that the co-organization of the Congress by FEMS and SEM was very fruitful in scientific terms."

Victor Cid, SEM

"I was honoured that I was elected as FEMS Director for Education and Public Understanding of Science, it's an honour for me personally and also for the Society of Microbiology of Ukraine. We are in a position to improve education in microbiology."

Andriy Sibirny

"Esteem your collaborations, collaborators, and technicians. These make life-long friendships. You will habitually be in the presence of many bright and some absolutely brilliant people, who will hopefully serve as role models to emulate."

Dr Ronald S. Oremland,
lead author of 2017's winning FEMS
Microbiology Letters Mini Review

GOVERNANCE

FEMS is a UK Registered Charity and Not-for-Profit Company. It is governed by a Board of Trustees 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, with Member Societies, along with our Trustees, have voting rights. Our Registered Office is in the UK, while our Business Office, managed by our chief executive, is based in Delft in The Netherlands. In 2017 the Board of Trustees included a total of six Trustees along with two co-opted Members-at-Large. Elections take place at our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

STATUTES

After three years of reviewing our statutes and consulting our Member Societies, we have updated our governing document to improve our responsiveness to internal and external change and allow wider community participation in our activities. Our Membership formally accepted the new Articles of Association on 1 May 2017.

SUCCESSION

At the AGM, elections took place for three Trustee positions, with all positions contested. For the first time, nominees for Director positions were not required to be Delegates, which resulted in a broad spectrum of Nominees. Our Council elected for the period 2018 – 2020: Dr Vaso Taleski (Macedonian Microbiological Society) for the portfolio Events & Internationalization, Dr Andriy Sibirny (Society of Microbiologists of Ukraine) for Education & Public Engagement and Dr Patrik Bavoil (USA) for Research & Publications. As they start in January 2018, Dr Per-Eric Lindgren, Dr Joanna Verran and Dr Jim Prosser will step down from their positions.

"It's a great honour for me to be elected as a Director of Events and Internationalisation. I will give my best."

Vaso Taleski

"I'm very privileged to be elected. I look forward to contribute my knowledge and whatever I have to offer to fulfil this mission and particularly for young people, that's something that is dear to me."

Patrik Bavoil

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DR BAUKE OUDEGA
PRESIDENT
(THE NETHERLANDS)



DR HILARY
LAPPIN-SCOTT
VICE-PRESIDENT (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 (UK)

COMMITTEES



DR ANTONIO VENTOSA
PUBLICATIONS



DR BEATE AVERHOFF
AWARDS



DR ALEXANDER
NETRUSOV
AWARDS



DR VASO TALESKI
GRANTS



DR HELGE HOLO
GRANTS

“Being a member of the FEMS Grants Committee gives an excellent opportunity to try different roles and to accept new challenges in the field of microbiology.”

Dr. Triinu Visnapuu, research scientist of microbial glycobiotechnology, University of Tartu, Estonia (EE-EMU)

FEMS has been supported by a number of Member Society representatives serving on several committees contributing to our Grants, Awards, Meetings and Publications programmes 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.

As a consequence of the amended Articles of Association, we have established a new Election Committee to contribute to ensuring excellence among the FEMS Trustees. The Election Committee members have been elected by the Council in September and have been tasked to encourage nominations to Board of Trustees of candidates representing the full diversity of FEMS Member Societies and of the FEMS community. Also, the Grants Committee, Awards Committee and Publications Committee have been reorganized with new members joining from 1 January 2018.

MEETINGS 2017

The 2017 Meetings of the Council – Council consultation and AGM, were held in September in Lisbon, Portugal. We welcomed 25 Member Society representatives and were kindly hosted by the Portuguese Society for Microbiology (SPM). The FEMS Council, comprising representatives of FEMS Member Societies and the FEMS Board of Trustees discussed the future development of the FEMS community, providing opportunities for our membership to provide input on our future plans. We would like to thank our host SPM for organizing this event and especially the organizers, SPM President Isabel Sá Correia and Secretary-General Rogério Tenreiro as well as the volunteers Cláudia Sofia Pires Godinho and Catarina Costa for their warm welcome and hospitality.



JAN 25

**DELFT
THE NETHERLANDS**

**MAY
11-12**

**ABERDEEN
UNITED KINGDOM**

SEPT 8

**LISBON
PORTUGAL**



MEMBERSHIP 2017 Highlights

Our Member Societies serve the microbiology community through providing resources, building capacity, and stimulating collaboration. Our membership currently spans 37 countries across Europe and beyond – including Israel, Turkey, Armenia and Russia.

COMMUNICATIONS

- In collaboration with our Members we have further developed our 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 Portugal included further consultation with our members on the issues facing our Member Societies within the context of ongoing developments at FEMS

PROJECTS AND PILOTS

- The Funding Network pilots, aiming at facilitating international funding proposals across the FEMS community
- The Publications Network shares publication expertise and develops cross-promotional opportunities for Member Societies who publish journals, books and any other publications. Through this network, the seven Member Societies and their six publishers can extend their promotion to reach not only their own audiences, but also the audiences of FEMS and the other societies and journals
- 40 ECV (Early Career Volunteers) responded to the open recruitment call on the Opportunities Board, opening new ways to collaborate with the microbiology community

“Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to advertise the ‘Science Me 2017’ competition on your Opportunities Board; I’ve followed your instructions and submitted a blog; wait and see if it will be accepted for publication. The favour has already been returned: the webpage of our forthcoming event mentions your 7th FEMS Congress, with your banner and with links to your website and to your document. I hope this will fit your requirements.”

Didier Perret,
Université de Genève



MEMBER SOCIETY FEATURE

The Portuguese Society of Microbiology

The Portuguese Society of Microbiology (SPM) is one of the founding members of FEMS, member since 1974. It represents a dynamic, international scientific community that, in Portugal, studies and organizes professional activities, related to the microorganisms.

In recent years, SPM has broadened and strengthened the interaction with partners and society in general, as well as with the major networks of international collaboration. Organizing national congresses with the Portuguese Society of Biotechnology SPBT, together with the Spanish Society for Microbiology (SEM) and promoting the XL Chilean Congress of Microbiology (SOMICH).

Besides offering their members access to all types of FEMS Grants, the Portuguese Society of Microbiology has been successful in – together with FEMS - expanding its reach. To mark the FEMS-sponsored meeting 6th Conference on Physiology of Yeasts and Filamentous Fungi (PYFF6) held in 2016, we published a Joint Virtual Issue highlighting some of the best representative papers from FEMS Microbiology Letters and FEMS Yeast Research.

In 2017, the zero edition of the International Day of the Microorganism arose; a joint initiative of the Portuguese Society of Microbiology, Ordem dos Biólogos, Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO and Ciência Viva Agency. The International Microorganism Day was celebrated at the Lisbon Pavilion of Knowledge with a set of 40 interactive activities, involving 128 scientists from 22 different public and private organizations. The event received about 850 visitors, bringing to about 1000 the number of people of all ages that were present during the activities.

On 17 September 2018, the International Microorganism Day will be celebrated worldwide and highlight the positive role of microorganisms in our lives and economy. FEMS helps to promote this day by engaging the FEMS Members in this meeting.

FEMS Congress - also a success for Portugal

With 711 of the FEMS 2017 delegates from Portugal and Spain, the Iberian Peninsula was well-represented at FEMS 2017. The Spanish Society for Microbiology and the Portuguese Society for Microbiology co-organized a symposium at FEMS 2019. The symposium, entitled “Yeast as eukaryotic models and cell factories”, had two presentations by Portuguese researchers and two presentations by Spanish researchers.



*The two mascots, SACA (yeast) and BAK (bacterium), the latter flanked by the President of SPM and the Bastonario of the Order of Biologists

DELIVERING STRATEGY

While continuing to develop the organization and deliver our 2015-2019 strategic framework, we are now also thinking ahead to 2020 and setting our future strategic goals. 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.

Publishing 5 microbiology journals, launching new publication initiatives, continuing to grow readership and developing our international editorial boards, celebrating 40 years of FEMS Microbiology Letters

Delivering congresses and sponsoring meetings for the global microbiology community – taking new steps in developing our congresses

Delivering and developing our grants programme

Awarding excellent science and stimulating microbiology through our awards programme

Financing our activities and investing in science

Building our network with members, partners, affiliates volunteers and interns

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, Oxford University Press (OUP). The journals continue to be served by international specialists, with our editorial boards consisting of 146 editors from across 37 countries. New Editorial board members joined from Canada, USA, Germany, UK and Switzerland.

ALSO IN 2017:

- OUP switched to the SilverChair platform which provides the potential for much greater functionality for journal publishing and readership
- the Editor's Choice articles across all five journals continue to resonate with readers, and are downloaded an average of 203% more than other published content the journals had presence at more than 20 international conferences throughout 2017, and saw the successful implementation of poster prizes at key meetings
- don't forget that all five FEMS journals continue offer discounted member rate subscriptions to members of FEMS member societies

THANKS TO EDITORS AND REVIEWERS

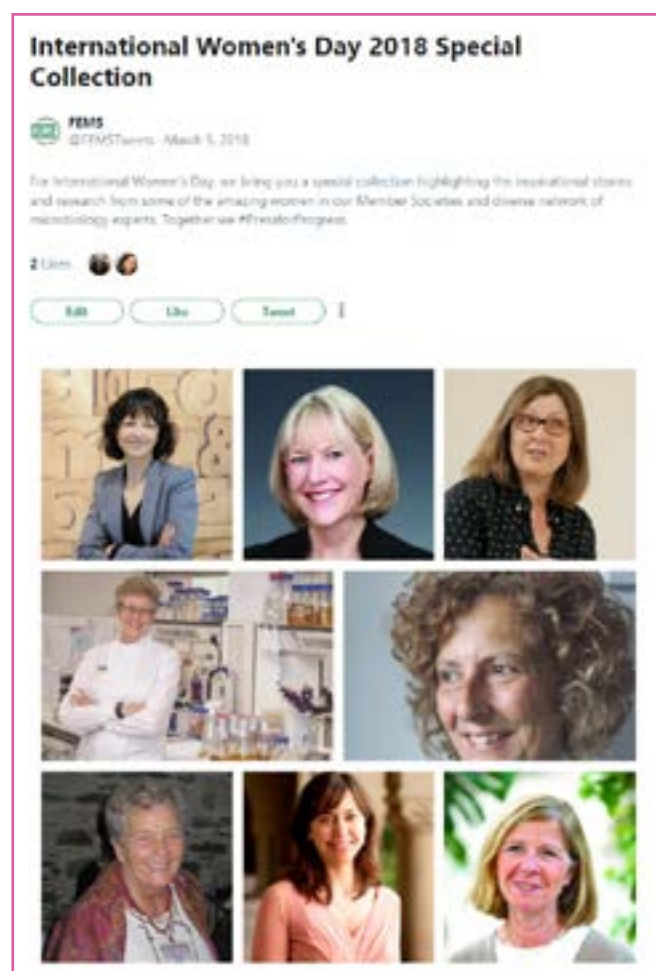
Working together with OUP, our international journals attract and disseminate excellent science and bring in the revenues which fund our charitable activities. Dating back to 1977 (which saw the launch of our flagship journal, **FEMS Microbiology Letters**) our journal editorial boards represent our longest-standing specialist network. This year our authors – from 45 countries around the world – were supported by a network of 146 international Editors from 37 countries and 2572 reviewers from 57 countries. Our journals received a total of 2.6 million downloads from readers from across the globe. We would like to thank all our 2017 authors, 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
Authors %	28	41	22	6	1
Reviewers %	15	52	25	6	1
Editors %	12	39	24	2	2
Readers (FTD) %	45	39	10	4	2

MICROBIOLOGY LETTERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

From its first publications in 1977, **FEMS Microbiology Letters** has flourished with the help of the microbiology community. As a key contributor towards our research and meeting grants, Awards and Congress, FEMS Microbiology Letters has been investing in science for 40 years. In celebration of this milestone, FEMS Microbiology Letters has produced a new Virtual Special Issue showcasing some of the faces behind the story of Letters.

In addition, to celebrate the community brought together by **FEMS Microbiology Letters** over the last 40 years, we invited congress attendees to add their career highlights, first published articles, favourite microbiological discovery to a timeline of milestones with some of FEMS' excellent achievements - many coming as a result of the launch of its first journal 40 years ago. This resulted in a mix of personal stories and scientific achievements, some of which literally came together.



MICROBIOLOGY LETTERS INCUBATOR

We launched a new article type for **FEMS Microbiology Letters**: Incubator. Building on the journal's long history of nurturing research talent and promoting new ideas, the **Letters** Incubator offers the opportunity for key opinion leaders to develop new publishing ideas, whilst mentoring the future talent of the microbiology community.

Explore the [Thematic Series that are currently underway](#) with the **Letters** Incubator and find out more about the guest editors.

"I very much enjoy being exposed to a variety of novel projects and ideas. The possibility to explore new studies and contribute to their improvement and dissemination seems very promising. Moreover, I am looking forward to gaining a deeper understanding of the details of the publication process."

Daniel Tamarit, Guest Editor Microbial Symbioses

"The ability to be a mentor and work with a young researcher on a research theme that is at the core of my research interests... I have greatly enjoyed being one of the pioneers in genomics and bioinformatics in Sweden. Now, I want to pay back the opportunities that others have given me by supporting young researchers and helping them to learn and do great science."

Siv Andersson, Guest Editor Microbial Symbioses

"We hope that this Thematic Series will facilitate exchange of knowledge between academia and industry regarding state-of-the-art approaches to leverage big data for both scientific and industrial gain. We are excited to specifically seek the involvement of industrial partners, as we think their practical experience will be of great value to make progress in other areas."

Marnix Medema, Guest Editor Big Data Approaches for Industrial Microorganisms





FEMS MICROBIOLOGY LETTERS

PROMOTING NEW IDEAS



Read the **Virtual Special Issue** showcasing some of the faces behind the story of Letters...



**First FEMS symposium
was held**

1976

***FEMS Microbiology Letters* journal is born**

- Microbiology research saw the rise of rapid publication with *FEMS Microbiology Letters*

1977

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Dave Timpest
1977 - 1981

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Prof. E.A. Daves
1982 - 1990

1974

The start of FEMS

*FEMS Microbiology Letters,
always the journal of choice
when I want high quality
reviewing and rapid publication.*

Jim Prosser
Publications Manager
(Convenor Publications Board)

1982



GRANTS

**Success of *FEMS Microbiology Letters*
funds FEMS first grant**

- Nurturing microbiologists all over the world

1990

***FEMS Microbiology Letters*
undergoes rapid growth**

INVESTING IN SCIENCE

FEMS Microbiology Letters funds FEMS programmes, including grants, to support the microbiology community



298 EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS RECEIVED GRANTS FROM FEMS IN 2016



FEMS Microbiology Letters facilitates expansion of publications portfolio

1985

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Fergus Priest
1997 - 2002

Establishing an office in Delft to centralize the work of FEMS for the wider community

- A place to start work on activities that benefit the microbiology community

1998

Have to say, the microbiol journal @femsletters was really nice to deal with! Hope to publish with them again in future. #Thanks @BodenLab



Dane Lyddiard
PhD candidate
University of New England

EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.A. Fewson
1991 - 1996

Rich Boden is using an article he commissioned for @FEMSTweets Letters to teach UG microscopy tomorrow!



Plymouth University's School of Biological and Marine Sciences

2000

Contributing towards the first FEMS-Lwoff Award

2003

Enabling microbiologists to better share their research with the advent of online journal submissions

- Responding to the needs of the microbiology community



THE JOURNAL IN NUMBERS



2,800 PEER REVIEWERS IN 2016

1 EDITOR IN CHIEF

8 SECTION EDITORS

62 HANDLING EDITORS



21 DAYS AVERAGE
TIME FROM
SUBMISSION TO
FIRST DECISION



Success of *FEMS Microbiology Letters* funds first FEMS Congress

- Remaining true to its core:
investing and nurturing the
scientific community

2003



**Extending the scope with a
new Section in Virology**

2015

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Rich Boden
2015 - NOW

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Jeff Cole
2003 - 2014

2008

**Advancing
microbiology with
Open Access journal
articles**

2015

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

**A year of international collaboration -
tackling the Ebola virus crisis with the first
joint collection of free online resources**

- Responding to real world problems

2015

**Introducing the new
Professional Development
Section - nurturing
the career progression,
education and skills of our
microbiologists**

JOURNAL IMPACT



> 1 MILLION FULL ARTICLE
DOWNLOADS ANNUALLY



AVAILABLE IN >
160 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



FULLY INDEXED IN WEB
OF SCIENCE JOURNAL
CITATION REPORTS



4.5/5 RATING FOR QUALITY,
SERVICE AND COMMUNICATION
AS RATED BY AUTHORS IN 2016



Altmetric

Enabling our authors to track
the impact of their research
with Altmetrics



Celebrating our MiniReview
authors for promoting microbiology
to the global community with
our MiniReview Award

"I believe that FEMS is doing an excellent job in bringing (young) scientists together, not only by offering Research Grants but also by organizing brilliant, biennial general meetings, which for me, already catalyzed my future scientific career."

Bram Van den Bergh
Research grantee testimonial

2016

2017

THANKS TO ALL
OUR CONTRIBUTORS
OVER THE YEARS!

2015

GET INVOLVED



Previous *FEMS Microbiology Letters* author, Professor
Satoshi Omura, wins Nobel
Prize in Physiology or Medicine

FEMS Microbiology Letters
attracts world renowned authors

Get involved in our activities
and be part of the wider
microbiology community!

- *FEMS Microbiology Letters*
attracts world renowned authors



EDITORIAL TEAM

New editors in 2017

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all new Editors joining the FEMS journals in 2017, and look forward to working with you in the coming years.

FEMS Microbiology Ecology:

Lee Kerkhof (USA, Handling Editor who was already FEMSEC editorial board member) and Marcus Horn (Germany, MiniReview Editor who was already FEMSEC editorial board member)

FEMS Microbiology Letters:

Alistair Bishop (UK) and Kathleen Scott (USA)

FEMS Microbiology Reviews:

Christian Münz (Switzerland) and Justin Nodwell (Canada)

Pathogens and Disease:

Nick Carbonetti (started as Deputy Editor-in-Chief but was already Handling Editor)

Leaving editors

We would like to thank all of the Editors leaving FEMS journals in 2017 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 Letters:

Derek Jamieson and Craig Winstanley (still Guest Editor for Thematic Issue *Pseudomonas* 2018), Hans Kusters

FEMS Microbiology Reviews:

Maggie Smith and Paul Duprex

Pathogens and Disease: Patricia Bozza (PAD)

Cletus Kurtzman (editor for ***FEMS Yeast Research***) and Dieter Haas (former Chief Editor ***FEMS Microbiology Reviews***) passed away in 2017.

EVENTS 2017

2017 was a Congress year, and this time our focus across our events programme has been on improving Sponsorship and Advertising, profiling Member Societies – and building sustainable communities across the microbiological world.

FEMS 2017 has been delivered very successful with a record number of participants. The main goal of this Congress was to bring together microbiology thought leaders, researchers and early career scientists from around the world to share and engage with others on their research and to get involved with FEMS, so we can jointly take steps to make microbiology count. FEMS 2017 saw a huge diversity of microbiology researchers and topics presented, ranging from marine microbiology to antimicrobial resistance to fermented beverage microbiology. It was particularly successful, raising the profile of all five journals amongst target audiences and giving a boost to the festive activities around.



FEMS 2017 AT A GLANCE

2,686 DELEGATES

representing 85 countries, ranging from South Korea (the second highest represented country) to Australia to USA – our biggest record to date

3,067

submitted abstracts – another record number

248

invited speakers shared their research

200 PLUS

delegates received the FEMS Congress Grant to attend FEMS 2017, coming from as far as Chile, South Africa and Kenya to name a few

780 POSTERS

on average 780 different posters were shown every day in the poster sessions. These poster sessions were a positive and productive hub of activity throughout the whole of the Congress, and it was great to see so many delegates networking and engaging with others on their research. Particular posters were accompanied by short oral presentations each day in different themed poster sessions

5 SOCIETIES

FEMS Member Societies *Microbiology Society*, *Society for Applied Microbiology*, *SEM*, *SIMTREA* and *SIM* were represented at the Congress

3,000 TWEETS

with the hashtag #FEMS2017 from a total of 789 contributors helped extend the congress beyond the venue. You can see a round-up of the global conversation here...

3 MINUTES

the FEMS Education Network organized sessions on how to educate and communicate research and the human microbiome to the wider public, as well as organizing a science communication contest, Engage your Audience! that encouraged delegates to come up to the stage and sell their research to the audience in the space of 3 minutes.

TWITTER ACTIVITY

Mike Jetten @msmjetten – EAM member

#FEMS2017 on behalf of the #anaerobic microbiologists many thanks for the opportunities, hospitality & a great #microbiology meeting

Antonio Ventosa – SEM President and Chair of FEMS 2017 Organising Committee

“It has been great working with you during the past two years to make FEMS-SEM 2017 an exciting and successful congress!”

Doganhan Er – Congress grantee, Turkey

“This grant has helped me come to the Congress and it allows me to discuss microbiology with microbiologists all over the world and helps me promote my work with other poster presenters especially. I have previously taken a Meeting Attendance grant for an ESCMID meeting in 2014 in Spain, and this is my second meeting helped by FEMS – it’s great. I have had chance to go to two international conferences and I have come both times because of FEMS.”

Juan Alfonso Ayala Serrano – SEM and FEMS 2017 Organising Committee

“Thanks to all people involved in the scientific and organization committees, as well as the human team of Kenes, not only for the successful meeting that FEMS and SEM have gotten, but also for the high human quality of all of you. It was a pleasure to work jointly with you.”

Ina Gajic – Congress grantee, Serbia

“This is my first time at a FEMS Congress and I’m very excited to be surrounded by all these posters and research. Without the FEMS Early Career Scientist grant, I wouldn’t be able to come to all this. I’m very grateful.”

Chelsey VanDrisse @DearBacteria

Closing ceremony of #FEMS2017: check out all the posters! Tons of research happening all over the world. Thanks for a great congress!!

OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS





1. Winners of the Engage your Audience! contest: Aline Potiron (France, 1st prize), Lavanya Vasudevan (India, 1st prize), Marcelle van der Waals (The Netherlands, 2nd prize) and J Pandeewari J (India, 3rd prize).
2. The Spanish Society for Microbiology organized 11 symposia at FEMS 2019, held its annual meeting at the congress and chaired 3 workshops. Booth, t-shirt sale, photo contest and award were the most prominent visible items of the hosting society SEM.



FUTURE CONGRESSES

Our next Congress will be held in 2019 in Glasgow, UK.



Hanne Kvalheim and Niels Fibaek Bertel from CAP were at FEMS 2017 to promote the upcoming Congress



The Kenes team and FEMS team at FEMS 2017

SPONSORED MEETINGS

Throughout 2017 a total of 24 conferences, congresses and workshops were held with support from FEMS grants, on topics ranging from Polar and Alpine microbiology to Microbe-assisted crop production. Together these events allowed more than 8,000 international scientists and many of our Member Societies to meet, discuss and develop their work across approximately 20 countries. In 2017, the following sponsored meetings took place:

MONTH	MEETING TITLE	COUNTRY	ATTENDEES
April	Recombinant Protein Production 9 – A Comparative View on Host Physiology	Croatia	251
April	The 6th International congenital CMV Conference/16th International CMV/ betaherpesvirus Workshop – CMV 2017	Netherlands	475
May	Molecular Mechanisms Of Host-Pathogen Interactions and Virulence In Human Fungal	France	177
May	12th International Meeting on Yeast Apoptosis (IMYA12)	Italy	101
May	13th Yeast Lipid Conference (YLC13)	France	111
June	BAGECO14: 14th Symposium on Bacterial Genetics and Ecology	United Kingdom	244
June	Symposium Novel Anaerobes 2017	Portugal	64
June	33rd International Specialized Symposium on Yeast (ISSY33) - Exploring and Engineering Yeasts for Industrial Application	Ireland	282
July	Breathless microbes: Techniques and Theory in Anaerobic Microbiology	Netherlands	24
August	10th European Workshop on the Molecular Biology of Cyanobacteria	Romania	150
August	12th Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria	Netherlands	450
August	28th International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology (ICYGMB/Yeast2017)		600
September	20th International Congress on Nitrogen Fixation	Spain	346
September	SAME15: Symposium on Aquatic Microbial Ecology	Croatia	244
September	XVII International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Society Triennial symposium meeting – Preservation and Protection of Materials	United Kingdom	190
September	Conference on Polar and Alpine Microbiology (PAM) 2017	Greenland	91
September	ProkaGENOMICS 2017 - 7th European Conference on Prokaryotic and Fungal Genomics	Germany	200
September	Diagnosis and Therapy of Fungal Diseases 5th; The training Course Focus on Newborn Fungal Diseases	Serbia	64
September	Antibiotherapy & the Gut - New Concepts	France	635
September	45° National Congress of the Italian Society of Microbiology	Italy	380
September	'Microbiology 2017', the 32nd National Meeting of the Italian Society of General Microbiology and Microbial Biotechnology (SIMGBM)	Italy	198
September	Science Conference 90 Years of Polish Society of Microbiologists (PSM) "PSM - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"	Poland	217
September	The 9th International Conference on Legionella	Italy	398
October	Second International Conference on Clinical Metagenomics (ICCMg2)	Switzerland	168
October	4th International Conference on Microbial Diversity - Drivers of Microbial Diversity		212
November	DMS Congress 2017		316
November	8th Workshop of the Nordic Environmental Nucleotide Network (NENUN)		50
November	10th Balkan Congress of Microbiology	Bulgaria	407
December	miCROPe 2017: Microbe-assisted Crop Production - Opportunities, Challenges and Needs		320
FEMS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONGRESS GRANTS			
April	7th Mikrobiokosmos Conference 2017	Greece	350

GRANTS

Our grants programme continues to enable excellence science to happen, to be shared and to be promoted and in 2017 we were able to award more than 300 grants to help microbiologists. It nurtures talent by allowing scientists to access techniques, expertise or equipment that are not available within their proximity and by offering early career scientists the infrastructure to build their networks and show their research.

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, among which additional congress attendance grants for members of the ALAM Latin American Microbiology Network.

In 2017, we migrated our Grants administration to the same system we use to process manuscripts for our journals. This helped reduce the amount of time and effort involved with overseeing the Grants administration. We have been working to form an alumni network of grantees to act as advocates and ambassadors for FEMS. Going forward, grant activity will also be more closely aligned with the journals.

Wenshi Wang, PhD student at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Erasmus University Medical Center (NL), about the FEMS Research and Training Grant:

***“Microbiota exert a marked influence on the host during homeostasis and disease. A better understanding of bacterial communities along the GI tract will interpret disease associated pathogenesis. The Koren Lab in the Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University is a state-of-the-art equipped research laboratory with long-standing research record in microbiota. With the support of the FEMS Research and Training Grant, I received the training in Dr. Koren’s lab specifically focused on characterization of the diversity of gut microbiota. This training took me into the research field of microbiome, which will greatly help me to extend my research field and further my career development.*”**

This grant also provided me with a great opportunity to work within an interactive research team that various techniques can be learned. Thanks to the FEMS support, we now have established strategic long-term collaboration between two institutions.”

Lotte Nielsen, FEMS Membership Officer:

“We think it is important to not only support lab visits, but also trainings as part of our grants programme, so we recently changed our grants to facilitate this. Wenshi Wang is one of the first grantees that received a grant to follow a training. Obviously, many trainings are situated in a lab, but the FEMS Research & Training Grant now also supports also trainings outside the lab, for instance those aimed at professional development or science communication skills.”

Wenshi’s main research interest: viral infection and gut microbiome

Grant: [Research and Training Grant](#)

Project proposal: [Mapping the dynamic influence of gut microbiome on enteric virus infection](#)

Hosting lab: [Dr. Omry Koren, Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Israel](#)

Member of: [KNVM](#)

2017 Grants summary³

Grant type	Number awarded	Value awarded (€)	Supporting
Meeting Grants	27	181,000	116 Invited speakers 480 Early Career Scientists
Meeting Attendance Grants	36	15,400	Early Career Scientists from 16 countries
Research and Training Grants ⁴	53	157,700	Early Career Scientists from 20 countries
FEMS Congress Attendance	197	106,100	Early Career Scientists from 52 countries
Total	318	474,200	

3. These numbers represent the grants that were awarded in 2016, as represented in the audited report. The actual events do not necessarily need to take place in 2016.

4. The former FEMS Research Grants have been renamed Research and Training Grants in the course of 2017.

“During my stay I was working in an excellent laboratory, where I learned a lot of new techniques and I could extend my knowledge about the yeast lipid metabolism. This grant made possible a collaboration, which helped me to move our research forward”

Zsófia Csáky, Slovakia (FRG)

“Thanks to the support of FEMS through the FEMS Research and Training Grant I was able to be part of the Sysbio Lab at Chalmers University in Sweden, a unique environment with world leading expertise in systems biology and modelling of metabolism.”

Priscilla Carrillo-Barragán, UK (FRG)

“The 2017 FEMS conference grant in Spain really assisted me to present the result of my 2016 FEMS research grant (April-June 2016) performed in Czech Republic Laboratory in collaboration with my German Laboratory.”

Catherine Esuola

“At the FEMS-sponsored meeting MiCROPe, also the FEMS Microbiology Ecology virtual issue ‘Microbe-assisted crop production’ was presented, which was the conference journal of the miCROPe 2015. The support by FEMS was highly appreciated. In addition to the FEMS sponsorship to students to support their travel costs, a FEMS Microbiology Ecology poster prize was awarded to Sandra Memela (Germany) for her poster Inoculation of Beauveria bassiana into sugarcane plantlets (Saccharum spp.) for endophytic control of Eldana saccharina.”

Angela Sessitch, meeting organizer

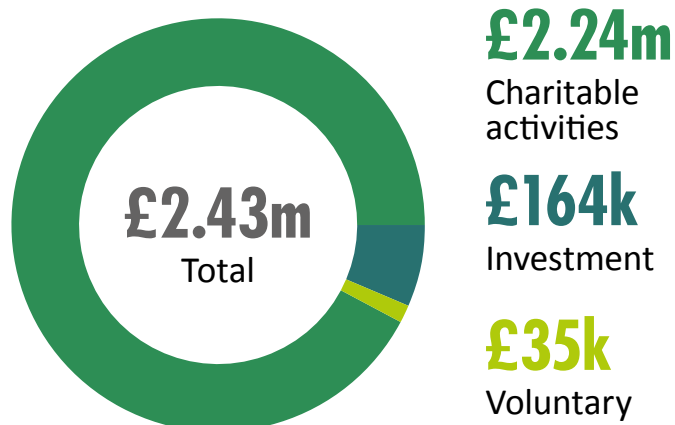
FINANCE AND FUNDING

This Annual Return has been completed for the following dates: Financial period start: 01 January 2017

• Financial period end: 31 December 2017 • Next financial period end: 31 December 2018.

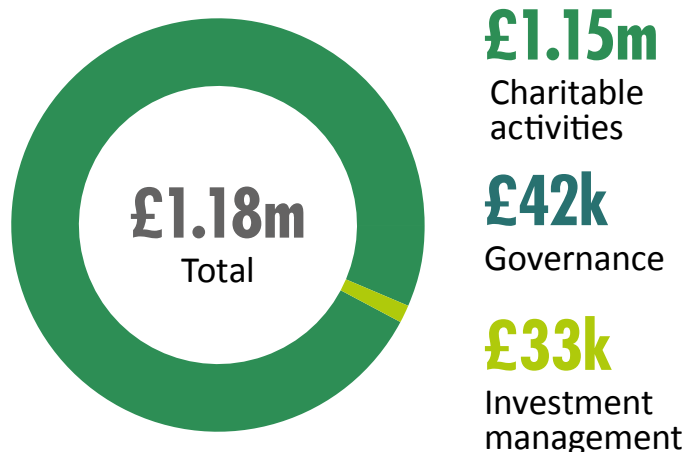
A full report has been registered with the UK Charity Commission and can be found via its webpage.

INCOME £2,439,557



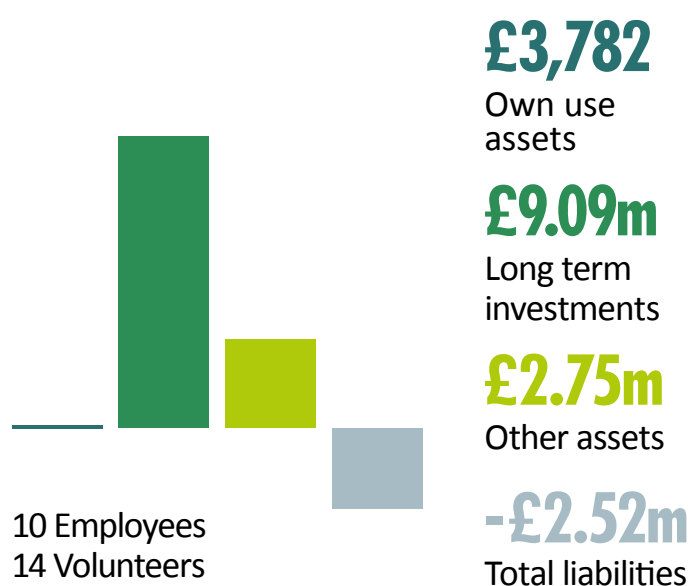
Trading to raise funds, Other: £0

SPENDING £1,189,136

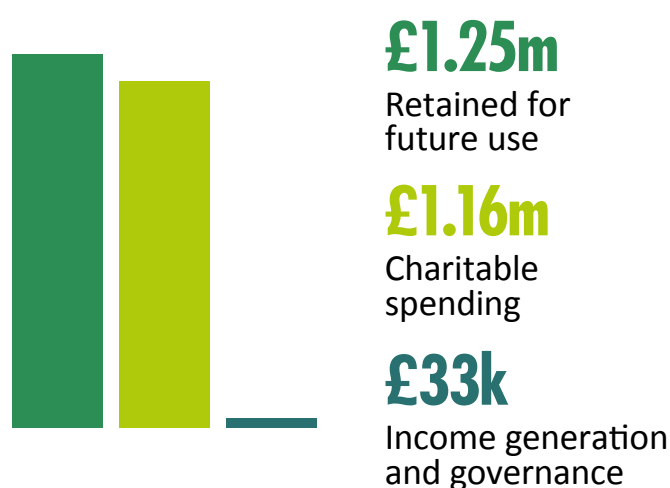


Generating voluntary income,
Trading to raise funds, Other: £0

ASSETS, LIABILITIES & PEOPLE



CHARITABLE SPENDING



AWARDS 2017

The FEMS-ASM Award supports the reciprocal exchange of one member from each organization to present his/her research at the other organization's main conference. It has been designed to benefit early career scientists from both organizations by giving them the opportunity to present their work overseas and experience the best of microbiology in the partner country. In 2017, ASM selected their member Kana Morinaga (Japan) to receive the Award and attend FEMS 2017. Dr Francesca Bottacini (United Kingdom) received the FEMS-ESCMID award at a value of € 1,000, and FEMS Research Grantee .. 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 winner of this year's FEMS-Lwoff Award is Prof. Jeff Errington, the Director of the Centre for Bacterial Cell Biology at Newcastle University. The FEMS-Lwoff Award is awarded biennially alongside our Congress to recognize the achievements of outstanding individuals or groups contributing to the field of microbiology in Europe. At FEMS 2017 he gave a very well received plenary talk, "Cell wall deficient (L-form) bacteria: from chronic infections to the origins of life".

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this award. Lwoff is one of my scientific heroes. My early career defining paper was based on the use of a lysogenic phage – an area pioneered by Lwoff. Of course, most of the research that led to the award was not done by me, but rather by a long list of tremendously talented PhD students and post-docs who chose to work in my lab. I'm also tremendously grateful to FEMS for enabling me to talk about some of our latest work in the opening session of what is proving to be a really great meeting."

Jeff Errington

In 2016 we launched the FEMS Microbiology Letters MiniReview Award with the FEMS Journals. We continued this award in 2017. Ronald S. Oremland, Chad W. Saltikov, John F. Stolz and James T. Hollibaugh won the 2017 Award with their review Autotrophic microbial arsenotrophy in arsenic-rich soda lakes. In addition, FEMS Journals awarded 8 FEMS Journal poster prizes to early career scientists Sandra Memela, Scott Klasek, Max Showalter, Sonali Singh, Vera Carniello, Raul Ortiz Merino, Carolin Stark and Melanie Polke.

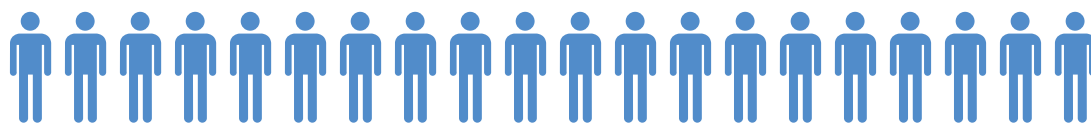


MICROBIOLOGY NETWORK



6673 ALUMNI
(historic grantees and awardees)

5321 AFFILIATES
(other individuals receiving our communications)



3239 AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS
(who contributed to our journals in 2017)



750 EXPERTS/EAM/EDITORS/INVITED SPEAKERS/AWARDEES
(including indirectly through meeting grants)



375 GRANT RECIPIENTS
(including indirectly through meeting grants)



85 SPECIALIST NETWORKS



31 PARTNERS
(FEMS2017 Sponsors 23 and Delivery Partners 8)



17 WIDER FEMS TEAM
(Staff and Executive Committee)

NETWORK SUMMARY 2017

Education

- The Education Network brings together people with an interest in encouraging microbiologists of the future. It comprises members from 12 countries. In 2017 the Network organized the Education sessions at the FEMS2017 Congress, bringing together 350 participants and launching the Engage your Audience! competition
- The Thematic Issue Keeping Education Fresh and the ongoing Professional Development section in FEMS Microbiology Letters bring educational research to the microbiological community.

Experts

We work to promote excellence in science and to maximize the impact of microbiology and microbiologists. As part of this, we work with a growing body of microbiology experts, some of whom are part of scientific academies and organizations worldwide to deliver our mission via projects such as the Letters Incubator, publishing expert statements on emerging topics in microbiology for International Awareness Days

We worked with the following volunteers on policy, education and One Health:

Killian O'Hara (policy)

Helen Brown (education)

Teja Sirec (OneHealth)

Tomasz Benedyk (OneHealth)

"The large interest in the campaign during the FEMS Congress 2017 was definitely the most rewarding moment, which also empowered our determination to continue the One Health campaign for the FEMS community"

Tomasz Benedyk

Interns

Our intern team (Roland Mulder, Sumant Malekar, Aisha Mientjes and Hafsa Akaouche) from Delft University explored a communication question, while David Walker and Katharina Kropshofer from Imperial College London submitted their work on Policy and Communication. Their placements have been beneficial in developing these strains of work.

"FEMS offered the opportunity to work on a fascinating project, to really sink my teeth into an area that combined so many of my interests and let me take a lot of esoteric academic thought and try to use it to help create a real practical guide and commentary on how scientific institutes could act. It was obvious at the beginning that it would be fun and full of incredibly valuable learning moments for me. The inspiration is automatic when an opportunity like that arises, you just grab it with as many hands as you have available."

David Walker, intern

Member Services: Network-Building

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.

WHO ARE WE?



Lotte Nielsen
MEMBERSHIP
OFFICER



**Dr Erwin
Ripmeester**
JOURNAL
DEVELOPMENT EDITOR



**Dr Frédérique
Belliard**
JOURNAL
DEVELOPMENT EDITOR



Vi Nguyen
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER



Matthew Harvey
PROJECT
MANAGER



Martijn van Veen
PROJECT AND
PROGRAMME
COORDINATOR



Dr Goda Sporn
PROJECT
COORDINATOR



**Carianne
Buurmeijer**
DIVISION
COORDINATOR



**Dr Catherine
Cotton**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



Alessio Maugeri
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

All of our colleagues at OUP, including our publisher Matt Pacey and our accountant Heather Lawrence



Matt Pacey



Heather Lawrence

Team changes

There were changes in the FEMS team, as Vi Nguyen and Matthew Harvey joined and Alessio Maugeri and Frédérique Belliard left.

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW

Meet volunteer Cláudia



Cláudia Godinho was one of the volunteers at our annual meeting. Through the FEMS Grants programme, she attended PYFF6, 6th Conference on Physiology of Yeasts and Filamentous Fungi.

Could you describe your professional journey in getting to where you are today (including where you are now, at what university/department and in what year/what's your research topic)?

My academic background is a bachelor in Biology and a Master's degree in Applied Microbiology. I am currently a 4th year PhD student in Biotechnology and Biosciences in Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon. I develop my research activity in Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences under the supervision of Professor Isabel Sá-Correia. My main research focus is the understanding of yeast response to industrially-related stresses in order to apply the knowledge gathered for improvement of yeast strains of industrial interest.

What attracted you to studying yeast?

Yeast is a very versatile microorganism, giving rise to a wide range of research topics from disease to the production of economically relevant compounds. Of course its ease of use and tools available to explore its genome are very appealing to a researcher but what really attracted me was the possibility to work with a microorganism that can be exploited to contribute to a more sustainable and viable production of energy resources.

What are your professional aspirations?

At the moment I am passionate about my research. Given that, what I aspire to is to see my research group's work impacting society and giving rise to new research topics.

You attended the FEMS-sponsored meeting PYFF6. Do you think attending meetings like this contributes to your professional goals and if so, why is that?

It was of great importance to me to attend PYFF6 as it was my first international meeting! I learned a lot with all the speakers' presentations and I was able to develop my networking and communication skills, discussing with scientists with research interests in common with me. It was also a great boost for my PhD work as I could get many valuable inputs in my poster presentation. All of this was possible due to the FEMS grant I received to attend this meeting, which I acknowledge.

Why did you volunteer at the FEMS Council Meetings?

I volunteered at FEMS Council Meetings as an opportunity to contribute to their mission to make microbiology count. It was of course also a great opportunity to expand my scientific networking and meet microbiology representatives from all around Europe.

What's your next challenge?

Right now my biggest challenge is to finish my PhD! (laughing is possible?) After that, I still have to find my next challenge, hopefully related to the microbiology field!