



Maastricht, The Netherlands, 07-11 June 2015

This year is remarkable for the Federation of European Microbiological Societies' (FEMS) history - 40 years have passed since its foundation. The Federation is a huge family which unites 52 European microbiological societies. President of the FEMS is Prof. Jean-Claude Piffaretti from Switzerland and its Vice-President is Prof. Bauke Odega from the Netherlands. The 40th Anniversary was celebrated during the VIth FEMS congress in Maastricht (NL) which was held on 7-11 June 2015. More information about the Congress is available on: <http://fems-microbiology.kenes.com/>. The Congress was an immense scientific event which was attended by approximately 2000 microbiologists gathered from 78 countries across Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Prof. Jean-Claude Piffaretti (FEMS President): The FEMS congresses are great opportunities to gather European scientists from all over Europe working on the many different fields of microbiology. Quality of science is the main driving force of the programme, which makes these events attended also by numerous scientists outside Europe, including South America, USA and Asia. A particular attention is given to young scientists through the awarding of a great number of grants. Young scientists have thus the opportunity to develop networking and interact with well-established researchers.

The delegates presented their research through intensive program of plenary lectures, symposia, workshops, poster discussions, poster presentations and special events in 58 research topics: Anaerobic physiology, Antibiotic resistance and environment, Antimicrobial resistance, Bacterial cell biology, Bacterial nanomachines, Bacterial pathogenicity, Bacterial spores, Biofilms, Biotechnology and industrial microbiology, Cell-cell communication / Quorum sensing, Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR), Computational microbiology, Emerging diseases, Environmental microbiology, Extreme environments, Food biotechnology, Food microbiology, Fungal bacterial interactions, Fungal development, Fungal pathogenicity in humans, Fungal pathogenicity in plants, General virology and bacteriophages, Global regulatory networks, High-throughput approaches, Host manipulation and bacterial survival, Imaging, Insect-microbes interactions, Intracellular survival, Metagenomics in humans / animals, Metagenomics in the environment, Metals and microbes, Microbes and alternative energy sources, Microbial cell biology and structure, Microbial communities, Microbial genomics, evolution, phylogeny,



Award ceremony for best presented poster of young scientists (left to right: Prof. Vaso Taleski, Ellio Rossi, Clement Masson, Tessa Quax, Maria di Martino, Ahmad Khodr, Arun Sharma and Prof. Jean-Claude Piffaretti)

Microbial persistence and chronic infections, Microbial population genetics, Microbial proteomics, Microbiology education, Microbiology of aquatic ecosystems, Mobile genetic elements, Mycobacteria, New antimicrobial mechanisms, New antimicrobials for resistant organisms, New approaches for typing, New diagnostic approaches, Plant/microbes interactions, Pollutant degradation, Secondary metabolites, metabolomics, Secretion, Signalling, Small regulatory RNAs, Toxin / antitoxin: activities and functions, Vector-borne pathogens, Veterinary microbiology, Viral infections and host, Virome, Free subjects.

It's a tradition for FEMS to support young microbiologists to participate in the FEMS congresses. Prof. Vaso Taleski, Macedonia (Grants Committee's Chairperson): During the last four FEMS congresses over 660 young microbiologists were supported with approximately 400 000 Euro lump sum, both from European and Non-European countries. This year, 157 out of 182 applicants FEMS grants to participate the VIth FEMS Congress. At the end of the Congress five European (Belgium, France, Germany, 2 x Italy) and one non-European (India) early career scientists were additionally awarded for best presented posters with a 500 EURO FEMS extra grant and 250 \$ voucher from Elsevier.

At FEMS-2015 Congress Closing ceremony with the Andre Lwoff Award were honored two eminent microbiologists - Prof. Fernando Baquero (Spain), for his research on virulence and antibiotic resistance and Prof. Rudolf Thauer (Germany) - for his work on anaerobic bacteria.

Four Bulgarian participants attended the congress and have presented their research on environmental, medical and veterinary microbiology. They belong to New Bulgarian University, MVR Hospital, The Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and Medical University of Pleven.

The next, VIIth Congress of European microbiologists will be held in Valencia, Spain, July 9-13, 2017.

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