



European Society for Marine Biotechnology

NEWSLETTER

03 – June 2020

President´s message

President´s welcome message




Dear members,

As the President of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology (ESMB), it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 ESMB's newsletter.

The ESMB society was set up to promote marine biotechnology in Europe. In the 25th year of our foundation, we continue to facilitate close research collaboration between marine biotechnologists as well as training and education of young marine biotechnologists.

Several important things had happened since our previous newsletter was published. In December 2019, we had the ESMB Board elections. You can find the names of our board members on the last page of the newsletter. For the first time in the history of the Society, a student representative was elected. This highlights the fact we are attracting more young marine biotechnology researchers to join our society. Additionally, the board has an industrial representative. Since Marine Biotechnology is our official society journal, the



board has a publisher representative. We have a representative from the University of Brest because the official address of the society is in France. This new board will function throughout 2020-2021.

The recent coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has affected everybody. Our society is not an exception. The European Congress of Marine Biotechnology organized by ESMB was postponed until September 22-24, 2021. We strongly believe that during this difficult time we need to stay connected, support each other, and educate young marine biotechnology researchers. Thus, the society came up with several initiatives that will take place in the nearest future. Since training young marine biotechnology researchers at international laboratories was not possible, we came with ideas of distance learning and training. These will include webinars, short online lectures, and interviews with the leading marine biotechnology scientists and company representatives. Moreover, we are developing tools for online marine biotechnology training, which is currently taking place at the University of Palermo, Italy.

This newsletter has been set-up to communicate with the ESMB members, to facilitate the sharing of news, and to promote ESMB's activities. If you have any research ideas that you would like to share with the society, please let us know, and we will try to cover these in our upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, do stay in touch with us via our website or LinkedIn.

In this difficult situation around the world, ESMB hopes that you and your relatives stay safe and in good health.

Yours Sincerely,
ESMB President
UNESCO Chair in Marine Biotechnology
Dr. Sergey Dobretsov

ESMB CONFERENCE

The ESMB is organizing an international conference on marine biotechnology. This conference was planned for November 2020, in Malaga, Spain. However, due to the emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic and its dramatic impact on health and economy, the conference needed to be postponed to 2021. It is now planned to 22-24 September 2021. Stay tuned for further information.

ESMB is aiming to launch the basis for the organization of a congress of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology in a regular basis. Proposals for the organization of this congress are welcomed.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS


ESMB endorses other events organized by their associates or highly relevant for the field, upon analysis of the board.

The following are highlighted.

Marine biobased products: challenge for a sustainable innovation based on the three P's (Planet, People, Profit), Virtual Meeting (12th June) 2020 – 11.00 – 13.00 AM.

The workshop, organized by BIOVOICES project, APRE (Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea) and SIBS (Società italiana di Biologia Sperimentale), with the patronage of ESMB, will be an opportunity to present solutions, innovative ideas and challenges within the context of Marine bioeconomy.

Within the workshop will be also presented solutions to exploit, in sustainable way, fishery and aquaculture by-



products from Mediterranean marine resources, to realize marine biobased products and to promote the circular economy.

In the light of the current COVID-19 emergency, representatives of the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors, will refer about the side effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing on the supplies and value-chains, giving suggestions, useful to promote new research strategies aimed to support them.

<https://www.biovoicesplatform.eu/registeredarea/mmls/viewMml/7031>

LIPIDS IN THE OCEAN. Structure, function, ecological role and applications, 17-19 November 2020, Aveiro, Portugal

This event will be a great opportunity for researchers, students and stakeholders to share their knowledge, expertise and new ideas on marine lipids and advance our knowledge on the study and potential applications of these biomolecules. Lipids play a key role when aiming to understand complex trophic-interactions in the marine realm, as they allow to shed light over the recurrent question of “who is eating what”. Marine lipids can also reveal local to regional adaptations of marine organisms to shifting biotic and abiotic conditions, a feature of extreme relevance if one considers the ongoing changes on the oceans of today and tomorrow. These molecules allow researchers to work at multiple organizational levels, from unicellular marine organisms to the functioning of whole ecosystem.

<http://lipids2020.web.ua.pt/>

Training of Young Researchers

Training and placement opportunities

One of the most relevant aims of ESMB is the contribution to the training of young researchers on this exciting field of marine biotechnology, with a training and exchange platform embedded at the ESMB website, with two main vectors:

- post-graduation and advanced courses on marine biotechnology and associated specific fields;
- opportunities for training periods, internships and fellowships at international labs, under the scope of research projects in which marine biotechnology plays a pivotal role.

Besides, there is also an opportunity to place a request for training not available among the listed proposals.

This placement service is currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on mobility, but will be recovered as soon as it is safe and allowed by national authorities. Information can be obtained in:

[available placements](#)

Experience of a student as ESMB board member

The new board of ESMB for the term 2020-2021 has a student representative, Eleonora Curcuraci, aiming to clearly show the focus of the society on the young researchers and their role on the future of Marine Biotechnology in Europe.



"As student representative, I hope to make a contribution on bringing young researchers and/or enthusiasts in the marine biotechnology sector closer to the society."

Eleonora Curcuraci



Eleonora is a marine biologist with a strong national and international background with extensive experience in the marine biology field: laboratory techniques, biochemical analysis, chemical analysis, ecological studies, sampling techniques and statistical analysis.

She is currently enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Palermo (Department of Earth and Marine Sciences, DISTEM), in the Laboratory of Marine Biochemistry and Ecotoxicology of Trapani (Italy), in collaboration with the Laboratoire des Sciences de l'Environnement Marin (LEMAR, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France) working on a project named "NUTRAQUA" that is focused on the extraction and the characterisation of bioactive compounds, obtained from extractives species associated to fish, and their potential utilisation in nutraceutical field.

Recent publications

Marine biotechnology (ISSN: 1436-2228 Print, 1436-2236 Online), edited by Springer (Editor-in-Chief: Zhanjiang Liu), is the official journal of The European Society for Marine Biotechnology, where high quality papers covering different aspects of the field can be explored. It is indexed in many different systems and currently has an impact factor of 2.798 (Clarivate Analytics 2018).

The latest issues of *Marine Biotechnology* can be browsed in the following links:

- [Volume 22, Issue 3 \(June 2020\)](#)
- [Volume 22, Issue 2 \(April 2020\)](#)
- [Volume 22, Issue 1 \(February 2020\)](#)

As ESMB member, you have full access to the contents of the journal. To experience it, go through the website of the Society and, within the tab "Membership", you will find the option "journal". Alternatively, you can go through the link:

<https://www.esmb.org/journal.html>

Your membership login details will be needed.

Key documents

A new Research and Innovation Framework Programme is being prepared at the European Union for the period 2021-2027, called Horizon Europe. As this will set the basis for research in Europe in the coming years, you may know more about it in:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en



In June 2019 it took place the conference [EuroOCEAN2019](#), a collaborative venture of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation from the European Commission, the European Marine Board and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). This conference addressed the potential contribution of European marine science to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). You can learn about the conclusions of the conference in its report, available [here](#).

**Collaborative
Projects
And
Calls for
Funding**

Open and forthcoming calls for funding

Horizon 2020

[SC1-BHC-36-2020: Micro- and nano-plastics in our environment: Understanding exposures and impacts on human health](#)

(deadline: 04 June 2020, 17:00 Brussels time)

European Green Deal

Call is under development and it is expected to be launched on mid-September 2020. Details [here](#).

Bio-Based Industries Public-Private Partnership

- [Work Programme 2020](#)
- [Call details](#)

(deadline: 03 September 2020, 17:00 CET)

Cost Actions

<https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/>

(deadline: 29 October 2020, 12:00 CET)

LIFE programme

Call for proposals is open on Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes.

- [Call details](#)

(deadlines: from mid-July on, for submission of concept notes)

ERA-NET BlueBio COFUND

- 1st call closed. No news about a 2nd call.

General Information is available [here](#).

The Society

The European Society for Marine Biotechnology (ESMB) was established in France on 26th of April 1995, aiming to promote marine biotechnology in Europe and closer research collaboration between marine biotechnologists.

The ESMB is the European body for promoting marine biotechnology in Europe and functions as a marine biotech hub for dissemination of marine biotech activities and policies in Europe.

A particular vector of ESMB is the training platform, illustrating the educational oriented focus of the society, aiming to contribute to the formation of young researchers for this multidisciplinary demanding field. Besides, ESMB organizes and endorses conferences and workshops of relevant topics.

ESMB's official journal is [Marine Biotechnology](#), edited by Springer.

To learn more about us, visit the [website](#) and follows us in [LinkedIn](#).

The current board (2020-2021) is:

President **Sergey Dobretsov**

Vice-President **Concetta Messina**

Secretary **Michèle Barbier**

Treasurer **Jean-Pascal Berge**

Elected board member **Jeanette Hammer Andersen**

Elected board member **Maria Salta**

Elected board member **Roberto T. Abdala Diaz**

Elected board member **Tiago H. Silva**

Elected board member **Torger Børresen**

Industry representative **Jean-Paul Cadoret**

University of Brest representative **Claire Hellio**

Elected Student representative **Eleonora Curcuraci**

Honorary member of the board **Yves Le Gal**

Honorary member of the board **Grant Burgess**

Publisher's representative **Alexandrine Cheronet**