



European Society for Marine Biotechnology

NEWSLETTER

#05 – October 2021

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 first ESMB's newsletter of 2021.

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.

The recent coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has affected everybody, and our society is no exception. We strongly believe that during this difficult time we need to stay connected, support each other, and educate young marine biotechnology researchers. Last year the ESMB society launched a series of webinars from leading researchers in the field of marine biotechnology. We continue these webinars during this year. The topics of webinars ranged from wood eaters, novel marine nutraceuticals and



bioprospecting to Nagoya protocol. The webinars are free to attend and their recording can be found on our society's website. We hope these webinars will act as a platform for promoting and further enhancing collaborations while offering a window to new developments and stimulate interesting scientific conversations.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a lot of restrictions and the ESMB placement service was temporarily suspended in 2020. It is our hope that most restrictions may be lifted later this year. Thus, we have opened the placement service again, and will encourage planning of placements for the academic year 2021-2022.

This newsletter has been set-up to communicate with the ESMB members, 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, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

In these difficult times, 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

Scientific conferences are important moments for discussion of results, both paramount and recent progresses in the field, but also for networking. The COVID-19 pandemic has been changing this panorama and different models have been implemented since its outbreak: initial postponing of all events has been progressively substituted by virtual and hybrid events.

Believing on the power of face-to-face networking, namely providing opportunity for students and young researchers to meet senior scientists, the ESMB continues the efforts for the organization of a physical international conference on marine biotechnology. However, given the different national situations regarding health and safety and the uncertainties for the future, despite the progress achieved so far, namely with vaccination, it was decided to postpone once more the event, to November 2022. Stay tuned for further news.

This event aims to trigger the regular organization of a congress of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology. Proposals for the organization of next editions are welcome.

ESMB MINI-SYMPOSIUM

While the contingency measures to stop COVID-19 are facing different developments across Europe and traveling is not yet stabilized, the European Society for Marine Biotechnology is organizing an online mini-symposium for students in marine biotechnology. The goal is to give an opportunity for young researchers to discuss their work and progress on marine biotechnology with other colleagues and start building their own relations within this community.

This on-line event will take place on Friday, 26th of November 2021.

The undergraduate and postgraduate students who would like to deliver a talk should fill the form and submit an abstract, following this [link](#).

The deadline for submission is 15/10/2021

OTHER CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

ESMB endorses other events organized by their associates or highly relevant for the field, upon analysis of the board. In the same line, it also interacts with other organizations in the sector and, in this regard, the 13th International Marine Biotechnology Conference (<http://theimba.org/>), to be held in July 2023, will take place in Brest, France, under the organization of Claire Hellio, ESMB Board Member.

The history of this conference starts back in 1989, in Tokyo, Japan, and since then has been joining together the world leaders in the field, with support from both the private and public sectors, with events occurring in different locations around the globe.


Further details can be found at <http://theimba.org/>.

Besides, other events are endorsed by ESMB. One of these events took place last summer:

LIPIDS IN THE OCEAN. Structure, function, ecological role and applications

5-7 July 2021, Aveiro, Portugal

This event was 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.

More information, namely the full programme, keynote speakers and the organizers contacts, is available at:

<http://lipids2021.web.ua.pt/>

Webinars

ESMB WEBINARS

The ESMB Webinar series has progressed, contributing to the training of students and professionals operating in Marine Biotechnology sector, being moments of fruitful discussion and knowledge consolidation.

Topics are quite diverse, given the broadness offered by marine biodiversity, technologies and applications, from microbe-deriving bioactive compounds and marine origin materials to new aquaculture technology or mitigation of pollution on aquatic ecosystems, among many more.

The **third webinar**, held in 19th of January 2021, brought us two speakers, Dr. Narcisa M. Bandarra and Ena Pritišanac. Dr. Narcisa M. Bandarra is Head of Aquaculture, Upgrading and Bioprospecting Division from Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA), with extensive experience in the upgrading of fishery and aquaculture products with special focus on biochemical and nutritional value, and talked about "Bioprospecting and nutritional approaches: marine bioactive compounds towards human health benefits".

Ena Pritišanac is a research assistant in the Laboratory of Marine Ecotoxicology at the Centre for Marine Research in Rovinj and doctoral student of Oceanology at the Faculty of Science in Zagreb, Croatia, working on laboratory cultivation and analytical assays of phytoplankton. She talked about "Biomass productivity and lipid accumulation of three marine microalgae grown in oil refinery wastewater".

The **fourth webinar**, held in 22nd of April 2021, was presented by Prof. Jeanette Hammer Andersen, taking on "From Sustainable Resources to novel marine nutraceuticals for the management of Metabolic Syndrome – The SuReMetS Project".

Prof. Jeanette Hammer Andersen is a professor in marine bioprospecting at University of Tromsø (UiT), in Norway,



head of the natural products platform Marbio at UiT and Board Member of ESMB. Marbio has expertise in screening of extract libraries of natural product, including both terrestrial and marine micro- and macroorganisms, and has successfully characterized several novel bioactive compounds.

Next webinar is coming soon!

The webinars are free, but require registration [here](#).
If you haven't had the opportunity to attend or want to recall something, you can check the recorded version [here](#).

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.

After a period of suspension given the limitations to mobility imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and respective contingency measures, the placement service is back, being an opportune moment to plan secondments for the academic year 2021/22.

Please check the ESMB website for information:

<https://www.esmb.org/available-placements.html>

Recent publications

MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

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, published under a hybrid model (both subscription and open access), where high quality papers covering different aspects of the field can be explored. It is indexed in many different systems, with its impact factor receiving a significant improvement to 3.619 (Clarivate Analytics 2020).

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

- [Volume 23, Issue 4 \(August 2021\)](#)
- [Volume 23, Issue 3 \(June 2021\)](#)
- [Volume 23, Issue 2 \(April 2021\)](#)
- [Volume 23, Issue 1 \(February 2021\)](#)

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.

**Collaborative
Projects
And
Calls for
Funding**

OPEN AND FORTHCOMING CALLS

HORIZON EUROPE

After a period of discussion, the Work Programmes for the period 2021 – 2022 on Horizon Europe have been published. Among them, there is one particularly relevant for marine biotechnology, the Cluster 6, addressing *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*.

The information on calls and specific topics can be found at the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

The text for the Work Programme on Cluster 6 can be obtained [here](#).

Contact your national contact point (NCP) for further details.

Cost Actions

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

(deadline: 29 October 2021, 12:00 CET; others will follow)

ERA-NET BlueBio COFUND

- 2nd Additional Call closed at 20th of September 2021. General Information about the funding scheme can be obtained at the respective [website](#).

THE LOSS OF A FOUNDING FATHER



Yves Le Gal, one of the founding fathers of ESMB, over the last years, an honorary member of the society, left us December last year. His achievements for marine biotechnology at the international stage were considerable, and he was one of the pioneers in his field of research. His passionate work and his leadership at the "*Station Marine de Concarneau*" as well as the launching of our society will be remembered for long times.

We, who worked closely with him, are feeling a particular responsibility to expand his legacy. The board of the ESMB send the deepest condolences to the family and friends.

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 **Maria Salta**

Treasurer **Jean-Pascal Berge**

Elected board member **Jeanette Hammer Andersen**

Elected board member **Michèle Barbier**

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 **Grant Burgess**

Publisher's representative **Victoria Ferrara**