



Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease

Executive Board: President: *Andrew B. Onderdonk*; **Past-President:** *Marika Mikelsaar*;

President-Elect: *Elisa Bertazzoni-Minelli*; **Secretary:** *Veronica Lazar*; **Treasurer:** *Eugenia Bezirtzoglou*;

Councillors: *Sandrine Claus, Reet Mändar, Leda Quercia Vieira, Alojz Bomba, Wendy Garrett, Athanasios Alexopoulos*

SOMED NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

Message from the President

Dear SOMED members,

We have just completed a successful meeting in Kosice and are looking forward to our next meeting to be held in collaboration with the Anaerobe Society of the Americas in Chicago, Illinois from June 28th to July 1st, 2014. Please note that the “Call for Abstracts” and topics for the joint meeting are available on both the ASA and SOMED websites. As our organizing committee chooses session chairs and invites speakers, the breadth and depth of this meeting will become evident to all. I am personally excited about the opportunities that the upcoming meeting provides. Not only do we have a chance to interact with our colleagues on a global basis, but we also have the opportunity to expand our own knowledge of the role that obligate anaerobes play in the ecology of the human microbiome. I encourage all of our members, as well as their colleagues to attend this

meeting and to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about the role of the human microbiome in health and disease.

One issue that came up during the executive board meeting for SOMED in Kosice is the use of our journal, *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease* (MEHD). SOMED purchased the rights for this journal a few years ago with the idea in mind that member submissions would cover the costs for the journal. This has not happened and as members of SOMED we really need to consider submission of our scientific work to MEHD as a first option in order to support our online journal. MEHD is now part of the citation services, so work published here is broadly available as part of the electronic publication network. If we want our journal to be successful, we must continue to use the journal as our scientific forum.

Andy Onderdonk, President

If you would like to see some selected photos from the SOMED Congress held in Kosice – Slovakia , 24th – 26th September 2013, please see below:



The SOMED Past President – Marika Mikelsaar and the Treasurer Eugenia Bezirtzoglou are offering the SOMED awards to two young researchers:

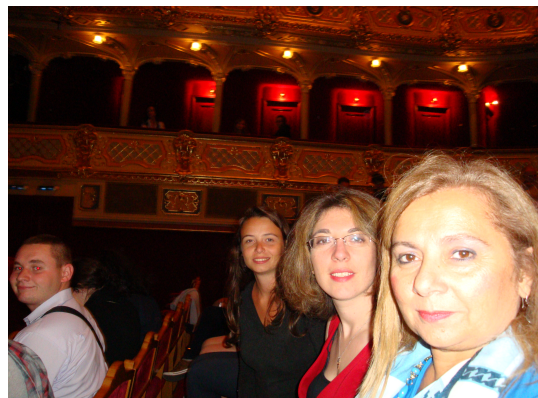
- 1) Drewnowska J.M. , Swiecicka I. University of Bialystok, Poland;
- 2) Le Roy C.I, Mappley L.J, La Ragione R.M., Woodward M.J., Claus S.P. University of Surrey, UK;



Together at the gala dinner...



Visiting the beautiful city of Kosice....



...and The Opera Theatre!

Executive council meeting and general assembly

The XXXVIth SOMED Congress in Kosice, Slovakia

Date: September 25th, 2013, 17.00 ~ 18.30

AGENDA

1. Current plans of SOMED (Board, M. Mikelsaar)

update of information and e-mail addresses;
information and addresses will be checked.

2. SOMED membership directory state by Secretary (V. Lazar) membership payment:

- Number of SOMED members during 2008 – 2013:

2008: 96 (x 60 Euro) + 11 stud. (x 25 E) + 2 corp. (x 500 Euro)
/ Stockholm, Sweden;

2009 : 25 (x 60 ,,) / St.Petersburg, Russia;

2010: 98 (x 40 ,,) / Athens (Cruise),Greece;

2011: 45 (x 40 ,,) / Yokohama, Japan

2012: 38 (x 40 ,,) / Valencia, Spain

2013: 25 (x 40 ,,) / Kosice, Slovakia

- the continuous decreasing number of active members – related to the economic crisis!

- in 2013, there are not yet edited NL (due to some objective reasons), but the most important information were disseminated to all SOMED members:

- the 1st announcement about the Joint meeting SOMED/ASA – Chicago 28th June – 1st July 2014;

- the Letter of President Elect – Prof. Elisa Bertazzon);

- information about the congress from Kosice – by organisers – Dr. Bomba and colab.

3. SOMED 2011-2013 financial report by Treasurer (presented by the treasurer Eugenia Bezirtzoglou): WEB site, MEHD and other costs; awards.

4. The XXXVIIth Congress - the future congress organization and their frequency:

I. A Joint Meeting ASA – SOMED – 28th June – 1st July 2014, in Chicago, U.S.A.

- voted in unanimity;

- Dr. Raina Fichorova – presented the actual situation:

- Assoc. Prof. Wendy Garrett – is preparing the list of topics; the funds raising – in progress;

II. The Assembly decided to advice SOMED members to attend the Gnotobiology Meeting in St. Petersburg, due to long lasting fruitful cooperation and discussions.

5. Information on the future of SOMED official journal MEHD (T.Midtvedt, Anne Bindslev):

- *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease* in now included in [PubMed Central](#) and thereby also in PubMed (as from the 2012 volume);

- next steps: inclusion in MEDLINE and Scopus;

- application for an Impact Factor with Thomson Reuter; only recently the bibliographic reference lists in all articles of *Microbial Ecology in Health & Disease* have been included in the [Open Citations Corpus](#).

6. Other SOMED issues (all members) - Proposals:

- SOMED Posters (posted in our labs/faculties) – for promotion of our society;

- Skype meetings of the Board members -

- the Board members – should sent papers;

- a competition between undergraduate and postgraduate students– for publication in MEHD;

- attract new members;

- attract some sponsors& corporate – by posting their LOGO on our web-page;

- free membership for young investigators who attended to SOMED Congress in Kosice – for 2013.

Presence to the meeting of the Board members:

- 6 members: - Past President & President of the

(from 11) Congress – Prof. Marika Mikelsaar

- Secretary – Prof. Veronica Lazar

- Treasurer – Prof. Eugenia Bezirtzoglou

- Councilors – Assoc. Prof. Reet Mandar

- Lect. Sandrine Klaus

- Dr. Alojz Bomba

- Editor-in-Chief of MEHD– Prof. Emeritus Tore Midtvedt

Other participants: Prof. Boris Shenderov;

Prof. Helena Tlaskalova – Hogenova; Dr. Raina Fichorova; Dr. Hidemi Yamamoto; Ann Bindslev.

(report recorded by the Secretary – Veronica Lazar)

'Raising Microbiologist' competition proposal

During the last general assembly of the SOMED society, it was proposed to launch an undergraduate competition opened to all 3rd year B.Sc. students performing a research project in microbiology. The award-winning student will be offered to publish his work in MEHD.

This competition has 4 objectives:

1. Reward best undergraduate microbiologists and encourage them to pursue an academic career in this field
2. Raise awareness of the MEHD journal and SOMED
3. Attract new SOMED members
4. Attract more publications in MEHD

Very kindly, CoAction Publishing has accepted to sponsor the event by offering free publication to the winner.

This is how I propose to organize the competition:

- October 2013: circulate competition announcement to universities offering degrees in microbiology (possibly through other society's networks)

- 30th April 2014: deadline for abstract submission
- 31st May 2014: notify 3 finalists that they are offered to send their final draft before 31st August 2014
- 15th September: notify award-winning student

Can we also offer to the 3 finalists free registration to the following SOMED meeting? (that would not cover for travel and accommodation costs). This would also potentially engage students' supervisors to register to the next SOMED meeting.

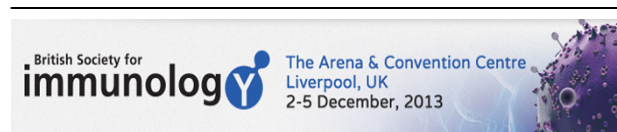
I am happy to deal with the administrative aspect of the competition that involves receiving all abstract submissions and communication with candidates but I need volunteers to take part in the jury. I am therefore calling for at least 5 volunteers to help judging abstracts and final papers.

Could you please let me know your thoughts about this? As soon as I am confident that we have reached a consensus regarding the organization of the competition, I will circulate the announcement.

Kind regards,

Sandrine Klaus, Councilor

Upcoming meetings 2013-2014:



The Joint Meeting SOMED – ASA, June 28th - July 1st, 2014, Chicago, U.S.A.

A Joint Meeting with the Society for Microbial Ecology and Disease & Anaerobe Society of the Americas, will be held at the Westin River North Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The XVIII International Symposium of Gnotobiology (ISG), St. Petersburg, September 2014, <http://gnotobiology.ru/en>

Biomarkers Summit 2014 in San Diego, CA

on March 19-21, 2014; <http://www.gtcbio.com/newsletter/bm14-w.htm>

169th OMICS Group Conference
3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Metabolomics & Systems Biology,
March 24-26, 2014 San Antonio, USA

SOMED MEMBERSHIP 2014 APPLICATION FORM

First name:

Surname:

Dept/Laboratory/Center:

Institution/Company: Street/P.O.Box:

Postal code:

City:

State:

Country:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

I authorize the inclusion of my data in the SOMED Membership Directory as above detailed.

Date

Signature

**Regular membership: EUR 40
(or USD 55)**

**Corporate membership: EUR 400
(or USD 550)**

**Student membership: EUR 20
(or USD 25) (Please add student status
certification)**

**Supporting membership: EUR 1000
(or USD 1350)**

Please send your payment to the **SOMED Treasurer, Professor Eugenia Bezirtzoglou**, by:

Bank transfer to: **EUGENIA BEZIRTZOGLOU
PIRAEUS BANK, Athens, Greece
IBAN: GR04 0172 3510 0053 5103 0344 567 - BIC:
PIRBGRAA**

By Cheque to: **EUGENIA BEZIRTZOGLOU**

Please send the cheque by registered mail to:

Prof. Eugenia Bezirtzoglou
Faculty of Agricultural Development
Dept. Food Science and Technology
Democritus University of Thrace
2 Fleming Street, 163 45
Ano Ilioupolis, Athens, Greece

Please fax (+30 25 52041191) or send by e-mail (empezirt@yahoo.gr) this form to Prof. Bezirtzoglou