



# SOMED NEWSLETTER

## A word from our President

It has been a long time since we have not issued a newsletter. 2017 seems like a distant past. The COVID-19 crisis has slowed down our activities, but most of all, it unfortunately reminded us of the utmost importance to understand the microbiological world in all its diversity and complexity. It also revealed how challenging it can be during difficult times to share facts that are not interpreted as opinions. This is why scientific societies like SOMED play an essential role to spread the most up-to-date scientific knowledge. The SOMED has also a long history of nurturing talented scientists, and it remains one of its leading objectives. With this in mind, the board and its councillors have all worked hard over the last years to keep the society going. Indeed, the SOMED society has modernised:

**New bylaws** were approved in 2019 to finally get the society officially registered in France. As such, the SOMED remains true to its foundational purposes:

1. To promote scientific knowledge and encourage research and technology in the field of microbial ecology and its relation to diseases
2. To disseminate information relative to this field
3. To unify the efforts of those concerned with the field
4. To cooperate with national and international organizations concerned with the field of microbial ecology and disease and related biomedical and biological sciences
5. To hold and sponsor scientific meetings at frequent intervals to expedite the aforementioned objectives.

A **new website** was launched in 2020 to promote a modern society, share the latest news and ultimately attract new members.

And recently the **new board** was elected. Indeed, it is with great pleasure that we recently announced the results of the last election:

**President**

Nadiya Boyko (30 votes)

**Secretary**

Chrissa Voidarou (30 votes)

**Treasurer**

Sandrine Claus (30 votes)

**Councillors**

Andrew Onderdonk (29 votes)

Eugenia Bezirtzoglou (30 votes)

Yiannis Kourkoutas (27 votes)

Alojz Bomba (20 votes)

Christina Tsigalou (22 votes)

Congratulations to all and thank you for your commitment to serve our society!

Looking ahead, after a long absence, please make a note that our **41st SOMED annual congress** will be hosted by Professor Eugenia Bezirtzoglou from **14th to 16th June 2022** at **Alexandroupolis** (Greece). A congress account will be held locally at Greece by Associate Professor Ioannis Kourkoutas as Treasurer. Assistant Professor Christina Tsigalou will act as Congress Secretary. We are looking forward to finally reviving face to face meetings!

Wishing you all a fantastic new year!

Best wishes,

**Eugenia Bezirtzoglou, President**  
**Sadrine Claus, Secretary**



The newly elected board will be operational in March 2022. From left to right. Nadiya Boyko (President), Chrissa Voidarou (Secretary), Sadrine Claus (Treasurer), Andrew Onderdonk (Councillor), Eugenia Bezirtzoglou (Councillor), Yiannis Kourkoutas (Councillor), Alojz Bomba (Councillor) and Christina Tsigalou (Councillor).