

# WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS Newsletter – JANUARY 2007



The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Culture Collections (ICCC-11) will be held at the Achtermann Conference Centre in Goslar, Germany from October 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, organized by the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) and the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH.

This conference will cover the increasingly important role of collections as a mediator between owner, depositor and user, the initiative to develop towards Biological Resource Centres and the development of new markets for the resources that they hold. Today, culture collections are faced with a diverse range of new challenges, including administrative and scientific issues. The scientific scope will include a broad range of collection-inherent issues, such as long-term preservation, identification and quality control, as well as the increasingly important role of DNA sequences in the elucidation of population structure, species concepts and species definition. Invited plenary lectures on “hot” scientific topics that may influence collection-related research will be in balance with more specialized symposia on various aspects of systematics, biodiversity, quality control and political issues. The Organizing Committees sincerely hope that you will find this unique offer of science and history most interesting, educational and enjoyable.



This invitation to professionals and students offers a unique opportunity to share experience and to broaden horizons.

Goslar, a [picturesque](#) medieval town, is located on the slopes of the Harz Mountains, only 50 km south of Braunschweig, the home of the DSMZ.



Training courses on management and quality control aspects will be organized at the DSMZ before the congress, giving you also an opportunity to visit the home town of Henry the Lion (1129 –1195). Goslar, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, has been one of the favourite sites of the German emperors between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries because of the wealth generated by the mining activities in the nearby mines in Rammelsberg.

Immediately following ICCC-11 there will be the opportunity to also attend the Annual Meeting of ECCO, the European Culture Collections' Organization, to be held in the same location.

## Program

### Special lectures

- Linking information to resources
- From strain to cure: the epothilone story
- The bacterial species: a paradigm shift?

### Symposia

Each symposium will consist of invited speakers and offered presentations.

- DNA assays and microchip identification
- Prokaryotic phages and viruses
- Quality control methods
- Algae and protozoa
- New prokaryotic phylogenetic lineages
- Novel yeast and fungi
- Certification and accreditation
- Intracellular prokaryotes

- Tropical fungi: exploration and industrial exploitation
- The future of bacterial systematics
- Biosafety and biosecurity
- New concepts for the taxon “species”
- Cell lines and plant virus collections
- Networking technologies

## Round Tables

These evening events with no parallel sessions will cover topics of broad interests

- Is the CBD workable?
- Property: who owns what?

## Call for papers

Conference participants are invited to submit papers. All presentations will be initially submitted as posters. Authors willing to present their work as oral presentations should indicate this when submitting their abstract online. The symposium conveners may select papers for oral presentations from this list. The deadline for abstract submission is 30. April 2007.

## Training courses

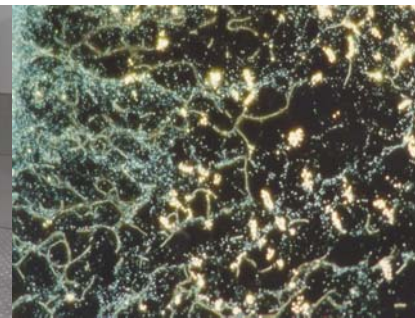
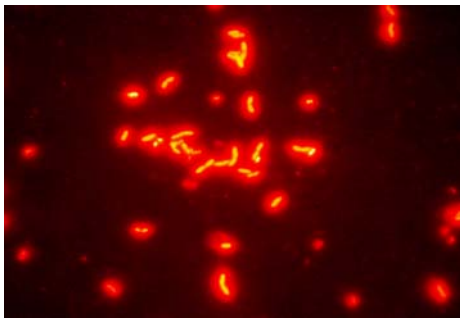
Four training courses are scheduled to take place at the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Braunschweig.

- Management and QM issues: lectures, discussions and examples. 20 persons
- Identification: lectures, hands-on. 10 persons
- Authentication of human cell lines: lectures, hands-on. 6 persons
- Detection of mycoplasmas in human/animal cell lines: lectures, hands-on. 6 persons

## Conference fees & support

### Conference fees

Early registration and payment (before 1 June 2007): 340 Euro  
 Late registration (later than 1 June 2007): 420 Euro  
 Student (before 1 June 2007): 170 Euro  
 Student (later than 1 June 2007): 210 Euro  
 Accompanying person: 200 Euro  
 One day attendance: 140 Euro  
 One day attendance, student: 70 Euro



The conference fee for full-term attendance includes the program, proceedings, admission to all symposia and poster sessions, all social events, coffee, tea and lunch during the conference, and the excursion on Wednesday afternoon.

#### Financial support

Financial support will be provided for a limited number of participants from developing countries. Applications should be sent to [iccc11@dsmz.de](mailto:iccc11@dsmz.de).

**Second circular:** is available on request from the Conference Secretariat and the web site (see below)

**Up-to-date information:** can be found at the ICC11 web site (see [www.ICCC11.de](http://www.ICCC11.de))

**Contact:** Conference Secretariat for ICC11 [iccc11@dsmz.de](mailto:iccc11@dsmz.de)

## Report on World Federation for Culture Collections Activities

David Smith, Christine Rohde and Philippe Desmets

Secretariat CABI Bioscience UK Centre, Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY UK

The World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) was founded in 1968 and is a federation of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) and a commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) with responsibility for the promotion and development of collections of cultures of micro-organisms and cultured cells (<http://www.wfcc.info>). Member collections of the WFCC register with the World Data Centre on Microorganisms (WDCM; [www.wdcm.org](http://www.wdcm.org)). There are currently 522 collections in 66 countries registered. The WFCC keeps members informed on matters relevant to collections in a regular Newsletter published electronically and available on the WFCC web site ([www.wfcc.info](http://www.wfcc.info)) and 2006 saw the publication of issue 42. The preparations for the federation's International Culture Collection Congress (ICCC 11) accelerated and the first circular for the meeting was distributed. 19 different topics of outstanding forefront scientific issues as well as quality management and legal aspects have been selected by the WFCC Executive Board to make ICC11 an important event for the federation's member collections, their successful development and their resources in order to fulfil their original but also extended tasks and meet the needs of these days. The activities of the WFCC work programmes focussed on:

- Postal, quarantine and biosafety regulations: biosecurity was the main focus during 2006. Realising value from

pathogenic microbial resources on the one hand and establishing biosecurity systems on the other hand, apart from biosafety management systems being already in place, required intensive experts discussions with the most difficult aim to take an internationally harmonised and agreed approach to biosecurity. Biosecurity issues attending meetings with the OECD special experts group on biosecurity and presenting at a joint workshop between the Russian Federation and the OECD held in September in Moscow: "Biosecurity of Microbial Biological Resources – Complementing Innovation". The OECD WPB initiative welcomed the Russian proposal as consistent with the view that bio-research and its future development and biosecurity should be mutually reinforcing. Several workshop participants and session chairs are OECD Biosecurity Task Force members as well as members of renowned WFCC collections. The output of the workshop has been regarded as very high as the four major objectives found a broad discussion: 1) Identify opportunities for realising value from pathogenic microbial resources, 2) Discuss the challenge of balancing the needs for controlled access to dangerous biological material and their availability for R & D, 3) Initiate discussions on mutually supportive policies, 4) Identify opportunities for international collaborative research and policy making.

- Quality matters: The WFCC continued to input to the OECD Biological Resource Centre Task Force who had their final meeting in December 2006 and who have issued OECD BRC Best Practice for the development and operations of culture collections.
- Capacity building: As part of the OECD BRC Initiative the WFCC have contributed towards the development of a capacity building programme for the enhancement of culture collections which will culminate in a submission for funding in 2007. Training courses are being organised to be held in conjunction with ICC11 in Goslar, Germany in October 2007.
- Intellectual property and ownership issues: Links with WIPO continued with WFCC in communication and attending meetings.
- World Data Centre for Microorganisms: The WDCM continues to expand now having data for 522 collections in 66 countries.
- Endangered Collections: The committee received a call from the *Phytophthora* Genetic Resource Collection (PGRC) of

the University of California (UCR) the Foundation there has set up a special fund designated "The World *Phytophthora* Collection Fund" to help rescue the collection.

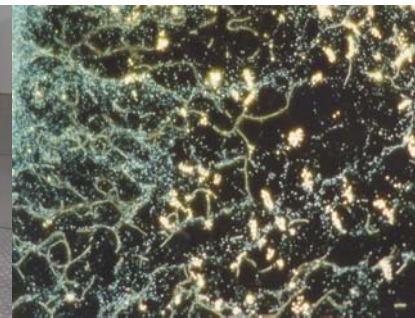
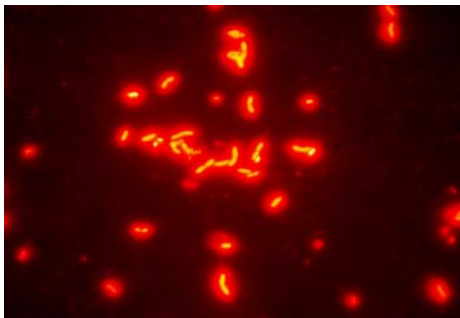
#### The WFCC priorities are:

- Providing an effective voice in international scientific and other initiatives and organisations including e.g. the United Nations and science policy development
- Enhance effective electronic communication and inter-linkages with other networks to meet the user's needs and to improve the collections' cooperative approaches as well as providing the international scientific community with bioresources and related data
- Improvement of the management of preserved biodiversity through the promotion of common quality and authenticity standards from the deposit to the despatch and education and capacity building
- Strengthening expertise and acknowledgement of the service collections and their taxonomic diversity through short-term and long-term objectives

#### Other key activities of 2006 were:

Invitations for applications from young microbial taxonomists for the WFCC Skerman Award for Taxonomy. The Award was established to honour the contribution made by Professor V. B. D. Skerman to bacterial taxonomy, to the establishment of the WFCC World Data Centre on Microorganisms, and to the development of the WFCC. The aim of the Award is to encourage taxonomic research by young microbiologists and to reward excellence in taxonomic research and significant contributions to the discipline. The successful recipient of the Award will receive a prize of \$2000 together with a return economy class airfare and registration costs to attend the tenth International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC 11) to be held in Goslar, Germany, during the period 7-11 October 2007, and will be invited to deliver the Skerman Award Lecture on their research.

A meeting of the available members of the Executive Board was held in Braunschweig in October 2006 where reports were received on the activities of the board members and the work programmes. An action list was drawn up for 2006-2007 but it was realised that the voluntary status of officers could not guarantee delivery of these actions. The WFCC would continue to seek an improved mechanism for operation and look for the opportunity for permanent staff to ensure delivery of agreed activities.



### **Financial position**

The WFCC remains solvent but with insufficient funds to meet all its objectives the strategic plan for the next three years will focus on improving income to enable key activities to be funded. The Executive Board has agreed to supplement the funding for ICC11 by providing US\$30000 to subsidise the travel of participants of ICC11 from the developing world. The WFCC Board is also looking to restructure membership fees, as many developing country collections cannot afford the flat rate membership fees.

### **Summary**

The WFCC continues to work hard for the benefit of its members and it is seeking input to help it form and develop, it will continue to seek to make a difference. The WFCC wishes to be proactive, be more involved in policy making in the areas of conservation and utilisation of genetic resources and work closely with legislators and policy makers to enable practical solutions to be put in place that can be implemented.

## **Endangered Culture Collection Grant report-2006: Philippine National Collection of Microorganisms (PNCM), National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), University of the Philippines Los Baños**

by

**Dr. ROSARIO G. MONSALUD**  
Head, PNCM & Chair, PNMCC

### **Background**

The Philippine National Collection of Microorganisms (PNCM) evolved from the Microbial Culture Collection (MCC) of the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), the center of excellence in biotechnology research and development of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The BIOTECH-MCC was established in 1981, a year after the establishment of the Institute, as an in-house culture collection with the primary function of preserving the microbial strains which have been isolated and acquired through the activities of the Institute. The Collection developed into a service laboratory in response to requests for cultures particularly from the academe, local communities and the industry, and became the BIOTECH-Microbial Culture Collection and Services Laboratory (MCCSL) in 1987.

In 1995, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD),

provided a three-year grant to upgrade the BIOTECH-MCCSL and assume the role of national repository for microorganisms. The BIOTECH-MCCSL was then renamed the Philippine National Collection of Microorganisms (PNCM) to reflect its national repository status. To date it has a collection of about 4,000 strains of various species of bacteria, molds, yeasts, and a few algae.

The PNCM organized the Philippine Network of Microbial Collections (PNMCC) in 1996 with the PNCM as the headquarters. At present there are seven members of the network, namely: PNCM, Museum of Natural History Culture Collection (MCC-MNH) also of UPLB, the U.P. Natural Science Research Institute Culture Collection (UPCC) of U.P. Diliman, The Industrial Technology Development Institute Microbial Culture Collection (ITDI-MCC) of the Department of Science and Technology, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) Endomycorrhizal Germplasm Bank of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the University of Sto. Tomas Research Center for Natural Sciences - Collection of Microbial Strains (UST-CMS) and very recently the United Laboratories (UNILAB) Clinical Culture Collection.

The PNCM is a member of the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) and is registered with the World Data Center for Microorganisms (WDCM), collection number 620. It has published 3 catalogs of strains, the most recent of which is the Directory of Culture Collections in the Philippines that contains the culture holdings of the members of the network.



### **The SfAM Grant**

The SfAM Grant will primarily go to the proper preservation of the recent marine bacterial collection of PNCM, which now totals 1,464 strains. Preservation method so far had been limited to freezing at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  in glycerol. However, due to frequent power failures and the lack of suitable and dependable alternative power source, the need to use other method of preservation, particularly L-drying is necessary.

A few isolates have been L-dried, but only at 3 ampoules per strain because of the scarcity of ampoules. Moreover, as our freeze dryers are already 9 years old, the ampoule adaptors have become brittle and a

considerable number have already cracked and can no longer be used. We also do not have filters to prevent cross contamination of cultures. These materials are not only difficult to import but in the case of PNCM with now very low budget because of the economic situation of the country, their costs have become very prohibitive. For instance, two years ago the cost of one imported ampoule from Singapore (the nearest source to the Philippines) was US \$2.00 and one ampoule adaptor for US\$ 12.50 while the PNCM only gets an equivalent of US\$ 160.00 in annual budget from the university.

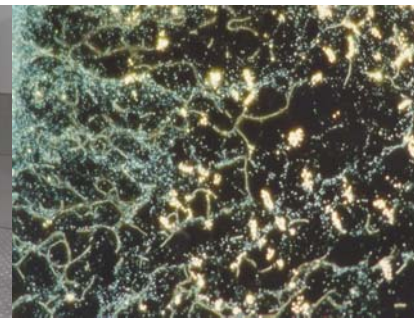
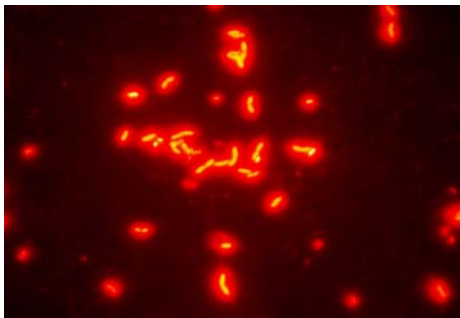
The grant will therefore be used to purchase ampoules, ampoule adaptors, filters and if still possible, some reference books on taxonomy. Part of the grant will also go to UPCC who also needs to buy ampoule adaptors for their rehabilitated freeze-dryer.

### **Dr. Peter Green's Visit to the PNCM**

Dr. Peter Green who is currently chair of the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) and Executive Board member visited the Philippines from May 7-13, 2006 to make an assessment of the PNCM and how he can help properly preserve its bacterial collection. Upon his arrival at the University, he briefed the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Rico Supangco, about the generosity of the SfAM grant for the rescue of the marine bacterial collection of PNCM and the seminar that he presented at BIOTECH where the PNCM is affiliated. Dr. Supangco was very thankful for the SfAM grant and Dr. Green's visit and help to the University.



In the seminar at BIOTECH, Dr. Green tackled two very important aspects about culture collection work, namely: "Culture Collection Management" and "Culture Preservation". He also presented a video from WFCC. The seminar was attended by all the PNCM staff, other BIOTECH personnel and the Executive Board members of the Philippine Network of Microbial Culture Collection (PNMCC) who came all the way from different parts of Metro Manila. The seminar was a success, not only in terms of attendance, but also because of the valuable information that were passed on to us by Dr. Green. Prior to the seminar, Dr. Green toured the PNCM laboratory and saw its



meager facilities. He gave us some important tips in doing the L-drying process. He was then briefed on the other research undertakings of the Institute by the BIOTECH Director, Dr. Teresita M. Espino.

**Dr David Smith, President of WFCC awarded Honorary Credential: Advisor to the Chinese Academy of Sciences Biological Resource Centre**

David Smith was invited to China by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to their International Day for Microbiology and receives the title "Advisor to the Chinese Academy of Sciences Biological Resource Centre" for his contribution to the further development of Chinese Collections. David made a keynote presentation *From Culture Collections to BRCs*. This was the second year the International Day for Microbiology had been arranged in China its aim is to demonstrate the output of microbiology for science and the community. Microbiologists from around the world are invited to make presentations in the field of microbiology. This year there were 12 presentations covering topics from the management of biological resources through drug discovery from natural products from microbes to interesting organisms with unusual properties found in deep-sea rock samples. The International Day for Microbiology was arranged along side *The Third Meeting of the Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Microbial Resources (ACM)*. CAS and the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (Japan) invited David to present papers at the meeting and participate in discussions on the future development of this Asian Network for Culture Collections.

**For further information on International Microbiology Day  
Professor George Gao, Director Institute of Microbiology, CAS, PO Box 2714, Beijing 100080**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Dr A.K. Sarbhoy, 1939-2006**

It is with great sadness that I sit down to write these few words on Dr A.K. Sarbhoy, a dedicated mycologist and a truly lovely man, who passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006, after a long struggle with liver disease. I first met him over 30 years ago through the WFCC, and I regard him as a mentor, colleague and friend. Ashok Kumar Sarbhoy was born on 15 June 1939 and was educated at Allahabad University, receiving a B.Sc. in 1956, his M.Sc. in 1959, and PhD. in 1963. He was appointed as Asst. Prof. of Botany, Allahabad University, 1962-65. He had a long career with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and was Emeritus Scientist there from 2000-03; he was former, Head of Division, Division of Plant Pathology and Mycology, IARI; he was Professor, 1997-99, Principal Scientist, 1986-97, Senior Mycologist, 1972-86, and Mycologist, 1969-72.

Sarbhoy was a member of the WFCC representing the Indian Type Culture Collection, a Fellow of the Linnean Society, London, UK, the Indian Phytopathological Society, the National Academy of Sciences, India. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Mycological Society of India for whom he was very proud to help organise and celebrate the centenary this year. His contribution to mycology can be summarised in the words of my colleague, Paul Kirk. "He was a kind and friendly man, very knowledgeable of his subject, and an inspiration to young Indian mycologists." Paul's lasting memory of him will be when he invited Paul and his wife out for dinner at the YMCS in London with another Indian Scientist lodging there, and introduced them to the delights of Indian sweets/desserts".

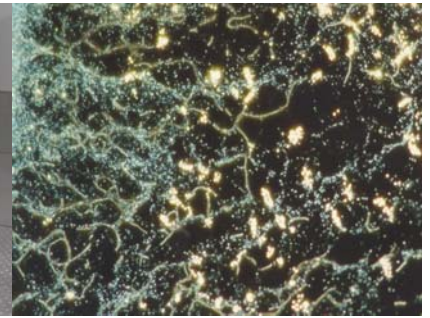
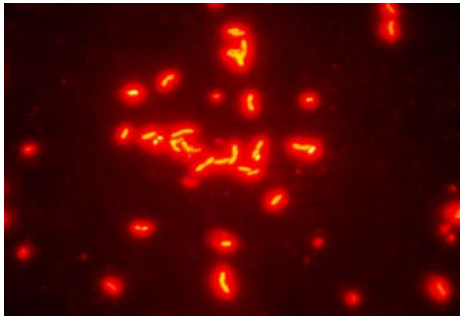
From 1965-1967 Sarbhoy worked at the then Commonwealth Mycological Institute of CABI. He worked as an overseas Mycologist with Dr Nan Onions in the culture collection, studying preservation techniques and examining specimens from the IMI collection. In later visits to CMI he offered me kind words and support, as a young man just beginning his career with CABI.

Sarbhoy visited us again in the 1980's to carry out further studies on the Mucorales. He made his mark studying, in particular, the Zygomycota. In 1986, with UNESCO support, CABI and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, ran the Indo-UK Training Course for Asian Countries, focusing on biodeterioration and culture collection management. Sarbhoy was very proud to show participants his collection, the Indian Type Culture Collection and he described his laboratory as the "Taj Mahal" of microbiology. It was tiled floor to ceiling and he showed us how the techniques he had seen and used at CMI had been implemented there. He presented my colleagues and I with the book, 6<sup>th</sup> Supplement of Fungi of India (1977-81), in which 650 fungal genera comprising 1805 species were incorporated. A table listed chronological data



Dr. Green's visit coincided with the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Biotechnology Congress and 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Philippine Society for Microbiology (PSM) so we also took this opportunity to invite him to be one of the plenary speakers, which he graciously accepted. He actually presented two papers, one was on bacterial vaccines for the plenary session and "CBD: Getting the Balance Right" for the Special Session for Bio-resource Centers. Aside from these paper presentations, he was also tapped to judge the Best Paper Competition.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños, and the PNCM in particular, together with the PNMCC and the PSM sincerely thank Dr. Peter Green for all his support. We are also very grateful to SfAM for making his visit possible, and most of all for the financial support to rescue the marine bacterial collection of PNCM and UPCC.



of the fungi published from 1931-81. In this period, Sarbhoy and colleagues documented over 5000 species. The book was compiled by Sarbhoy, D.K. Agarwal and J.L. Varshney, and in his introduction they thanked all the mycologists and plant pathologists that had contributed, but they go on to express their gratitude to include the typist of the manuscript. A testament to the man who was generous in his words, praise and actions. Sarbhoy was very productive over the years, publishing several books with colleagues, for example the *Compendium of Soil Borne Plant Pathogens, Perspectives in Mycology and Plant Pathology* the 7<sup>th</sup> Supplement of *Fungi of India* and *Advanced Mycology*, a text book on Fungi. He described many species over a period of over 40 years and his publications continue to recent times with papers in *Mycopathologia* and *Mycological Research* in 2001 and 2002.

He made a great impression on me, but more importantly, he made a great contribution to mycology in India. My condolences go to his family, he will be sorely missed.

**David Smith**  
President, WFCC

## IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Takezi Hasegawa, an internationally recognized person who devoted his life to the progress of culture collections and a yeast taxonomist, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2006 at the age of 92 after a brave struggle with idiopathic interstitial pneumonia. He was born in 1914 in Osaka, Japan.

He graduated with his Bachelor degree in Agriculture (agricultural chemistry) from Tokyo Imperial University (now the University of Tokyo) in 1939 in Tokyo. After graduation, he joined Chobei Takeda Co., Ltd. (now Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.) in Osaka. Shortly after working for the company, he served in the Japanese army, and returned back in 1946

after the end of World War II. Dr. Hasegawa began his career in the culture collection and yeast taxonomy by joining the Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (IFO) in 1946.

Soon after the war, Dr. Hasegawa recognized the importance of the culture collection, and took part in establishing the Japanese Federation of Culture Collections of Microorganisms (JFCC, now the Japan Society for Culture Collections, JSCC) in 1951. He served as President, Vice president, and Councilor on JFCC and JSCC, and contributed greatly to developing and modernizing Japanese culture collections. He played a role in establishing the First International Conference on Culture Collections (ICCC-I) in 1968 in Tokyo and publishing the Proceedings of ICCC-I. Later, success of ICCC-I brought about the establishment of the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) in 1970. Dr. Hasegawa served as Vice President on WFCC (1976-1981) when Dr. Stephen Lapage was President. He achieved ICCC-IV, as Chair Person instead of Dr. Lapage because of the failure of his health, in 1981 in Brno, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), and led it to success.

Dr. Hasegawa, as director of IFO (1961-1976), contributed to developing IFO to an internationally recognized culture collection, and IFO catalogues have been worldwide used among microbiologists and biotechnologists. He encouraged IFO personnel to study on taxonomy of a variety of microorganisms as well. He himself studied yeast taxonomy, particularly on *Rhodotorula* and related yeasts, and received his Ph.D. degree in Agriculture (applied microbiology) from the University of Tokyo in 1960. Under the guidance of Dr. Hasegawa, Dr. Isao Banno first described a basidiomycetous life cycle in *Rhodotorula toruloides* strains, and established the genus *Rhodosporidium*. Further, Dr. Teiji Iijima developed L-drying for preservation of a wide variety of microbial cultures.

Dr. Hasegawa educated and trained young microbiologists not only in Japan but also in South Asian countries as lecturer in the Institute of Applied Microbiology (now the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences), the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, and the International Post-Graduate University Course in Microbiology, Osaka University, Osaka. He became adviser of the Japan Collection of Microorganisms (JCM), the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN), in 1982 in Wako, Japan, and encouraged personnel there to develop the collection.

Dr. Hasegawa received the Suzuki Award in 1970, the highest honor by the Japan Society for Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Agrochemistry, and the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette by the Japanese Government in 1993.

Dr. Hasegawa contributed to scientific communities and governmental committees in Japan as board member, adviser, councilor, and committee member. He was life member of the Japan Society for Bioscience,

Biotechnology, and Agrochemistry, and honorary members of the Mycological Society of Japan and the Japan Society for Culture Collections.

Dr. Hasegawa authored many research papers, reviews, and book chapters, and edited several manuals and books in microbiology. He was an avid bibliophile, and loved the Latin language. He reviewed the history of Japanese culture collections and of Koji molds, which are the most useful molds in the Japanese fermentation. The reviews are still informative documents on the culture collections and microbiology in Japan. Dr. Hasegawa made great efforts with his colleagues at translating the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (1975 Revision and 1990 Revision) into the Japanese editions.

Dr. Hasegawa's spirit and passion for the culture collection and microbiology will remain with us for many years. We would like to express our cordial thanks to Dr. Takezi Hasegawa and promise him to work together for producing everlasting benefits with microorganisms and strengthening culture collections in the world.

**Dr. K. Komagata, Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo**

## NEWS FROM MEMBER COLLECTIONS

### The Venezuelan Center for Microbial Collections

(Centro Venezolano de Colecciones de Microorganismos "CVCM")

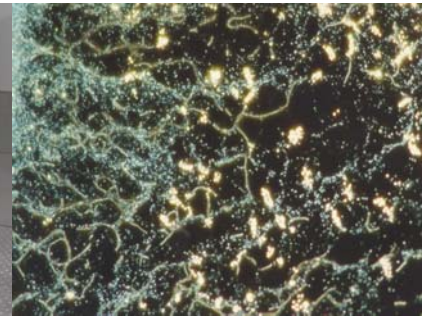
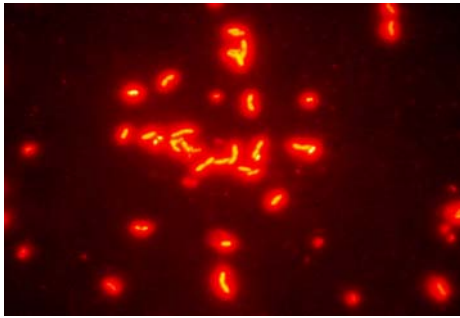
Recently launched its new web site containing its activities and database.

A new edition (2006) of an e-catalog in a shape card is now available.

You are kindly requested to visit <http://cvcm.ciens.ucv.ve>

For further information, please contact Dr. Vidal Rodriguez Lemoine: [vrodrique@cantv.net](mailto:vrodrique@cantv.net)





## LINKS

Australian Society for Microbiology

<http://www.theasm.com.au/>

Calendar of Events

<http://www.theasm.com.au/meetings>

The Australasian Plant Pathology Society Inc.

[www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au](http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au)

## NEW ADDRESS FOR THE DSMZ

As of August 15th 2006 the address for the DSMZ is:

**DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH**  
Inhoffenstr. 7B  
38124 Braunschweig  
Germany

The deadline for applications is **1st March 2007** and the applicant must be under 40 years old at the time of application.

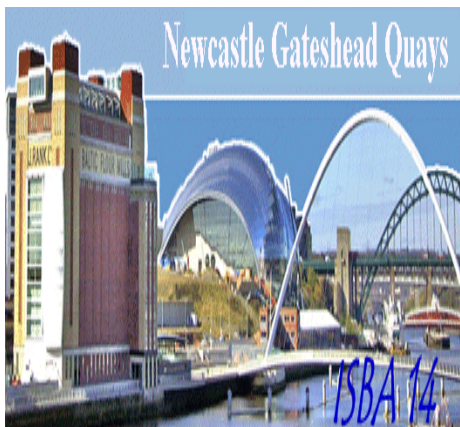
## FUTURES CONFERENCES

**14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Biology of Actinomycetes**

**26<sup>th</sup>30 August 2007**

**The Sage at Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK**

Contact: Dr Alan Ward  
[Alan.Ward@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Alan.Ward@ncl.ac.uk)



## XXII International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology

**1-6 July, 2007, Melbourne, Australia**



<http://www.yeast2007.org/>

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

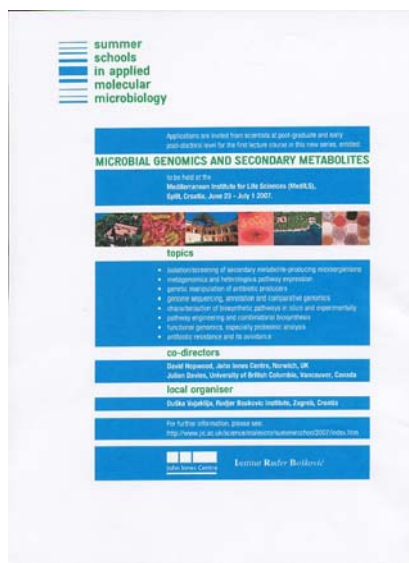
### SUMMER SCHOOL IN CROATIA

**Microbial Genomics and Secondary Metabolites**

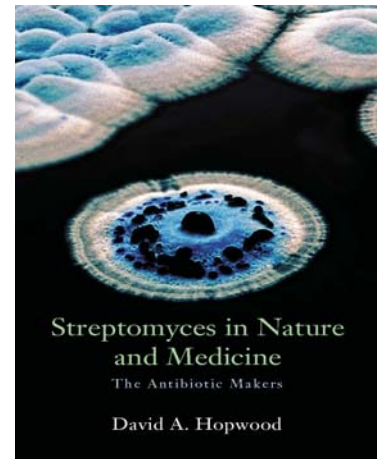
**to be held at the Mediterranean institute for life sciences (medILS) in Split, Croatia**

**June 23 to July 1, 2007**

<http://www.jic.ac.uk/science/molmicro/summerschool2007>

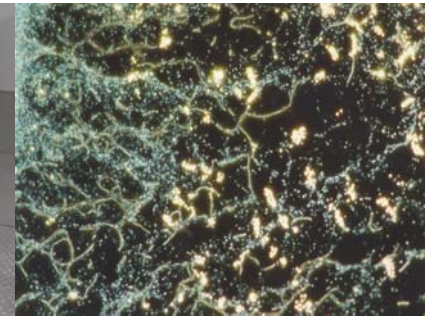
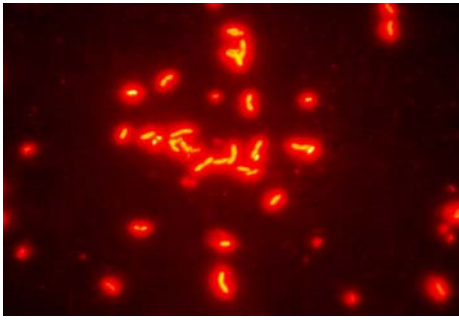


## NEW BOOKS



This is an insider's account of 50 years of genetic studies of the soil-inhabiting microbes that make most of the antibiotics used to treat infections, as well as anti-cancer, anti-parasitic and immunosuppressant drugs. We learn how the actinomycetes were discovered in the late nineteenth century, but shot to fame in the 1940s with the discovery of streptomycin, the first effective treatment for tuberculosis. A massive search for further treatments for infectious diseases and cancer was tempered by the rise of antibiotic resistance consequent on antibiotic misuse. Discovery of gene exchange in the actinomycetes led to determination of the complete DNA sequence of a model member of the group at the turn of the millennium. The book describes how the genome sequence reveals the intricate molecular machinery that adapts the organisms' metabolism and development to life in the soil, especially through antibiotic production, and how novel, hybrid antibiotics can be engineered. There is a topical description of techniques to learn the roles of all the organisms' genes, throwing a powerful light on their biology and how to increase antibiotic productivity. In the final chapter we return to the mycobacteria causing tuberculosis and leprosy, the first actinomycetes to be discovered, and how methodology, in part derived from study of the streptomycetes, is applied to control these still deadly pathogens.

**Oxford University Press Inc**  
**December 2006, \$49.95**  
**Hardback 15.5 x 23.5 cm 260 pp**  
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## WFCC SKERMAN AWARD FOR MICROBIAL TAXONOMY

The World Federation for Culture Collections invites applications from young microbial taxonomists for the WFCC Skerman Award for Taxonomy. The Award was established to honour the contribution made by Professor V. B. D. Skerman to bacterial taxonomy, to the establishment of the WFCC World Data Centre on Microorganisms, and to the development of the WFCC. The aim of the Award is to encourage taxonomic research by young microbiologists and to reward excellence in taxonomic research and significant contributions to the discipline. The successful recipient of the Award will receive a prize of \$2000 together with a return economy class airfare and registration costs to attend the tenth International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC 11) to be held in Goslar, Germany, during the period 7-11 October 2007, and will be invited to deliver the Skerman Award Lecture on their research. The recipient will also receive a certificate of the Award. Applicants should normally be less than 40 years of age at the time of application. Applicants should provide Curriculum Vitae, a list of research publications, the names and addresses of two referees familiar with their research who have agreed to act as referees, and copies of their three most significant research publications. Applications should be submitted to: [Dr. David Smith](#), WFCC President, CABI Europe, UK, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9TY Tel: +44 1491 829046; Fax: +44 1491 829100