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WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

Number 24

July 1996

An Interdisciplinary Commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences and the International Union of Microbiological Societies.

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ex officio: Mrs. Barbara Kirsop (UK)
(Past President)
Dr. Hideaki Sugawara (Japan)
(Director WDC)

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WFCC COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee on Biodiversity:

Chair: Mrs. B. Kirsop
Dr. V. Canhos
Dr. D. Hawksworth
Dr. R. Colwell
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Committee on Education:

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Dr. I. Sastramihardja
Dr. K.A. Malik
Dr. T.-S. Tao
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**Committee on Endangered Culture
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Chair: Dr. B. Tindall
Dr. R.G. Butenko
Dr. M.L. Suihko
Dr. R. Colwell
Dr. Z. Wang
Dr. G. Hennebert
Dr. K. Yamasato
Dr. S.C. Jong

Committee on Membership:

Chair: Dr. V. Canhos
Dr. D. Fritze
Dr. T. Nakase
Dr. D. v.d. Mei

Committee on Standards:

Chair: Dr. R. Stevenson
Dr. T. Chakrabarti
Dr. L. Kalakoutsii
Dr. T. Deak
Dr. A. Ventosa

Committee on Patents:

Chair: Mrs. B. Brandon
Members are all IDA representatives

**Committee on World Data
Centre:**

Chair: Dr. D. Fritze
Dr. V. Canhos
Mr. J. Ma
Dr. T. Hasegawa
ex officio: Dr. L. Sly
Dr. M. Krichevsky

**Committee on Postal,
Quarantine
and Safety Regulations:**

Chair: Dr. D. Smith
Mrs. ch. Bizet
Dr. L. Sigler
Dr. A. Hocking
Dr. J. Young
Dr. J. Hunter-Ceverra
Mr. F. Simione
Dr. C. Morris
Dr. T. Suzui
Dr. Ch. Rohde

Committee on Publications and Publicity:

Chair: Dr. K. Paknikar

Mr. P. Burke

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WFCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCING AN IMPORTANT WORKSHOP

ACCESS TO MICROBIAL GENETIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK

OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The *World Federation for Culture Collections* (WFCC), in collaboration with the *Forum for Industrial Microbiology* (FIM), is organising a workshop on access to ex-situ microorganisms within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This will be held on August 30/31st 1996 immediately following the International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC8) at Veldhoven, The Netherlands.

The implementation of the CBD by Parties to the Convention requires that a number of measures be taken

to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use and the fair sharing of any benefits arising. These measures are introduced through the Articles of the Convention and have implications for practising microbiologists.

The 2-day workshop will hear presentations by a number of authorities on issues arising from the need to implement the CBD with respect to microorganisms. It will also receive copies of a draft WFCC Information Document that has been prepared by a number of experts ahead of the workshop, and have the opportunity to endorse the document or make any amendments that are thought appropriate. The final document will be circulated widely to CBD-associated organisations and other interested parties and made available to governments to guide policy negotiations. It will also be made publicly available through the Internet.

WFCC/FIM hope that representatives from microbial resource centres and the users of microorganisms, together with policy makers, will participate in the workshop to learn about the issues involved and to ensure wide input to the development of the Information Document, leading to the production of an authoritative publication.

Invited speakers include: Lyle Glowka, TUCN Environmental Law Centre for Biodiversity; Kerry ten Kate, Environmental Strategies; Ruth McKenzie, Foundation for International Environmental Law and development; Lindsay Sly, President WFCC; Dagmar Fritze, DSMZ Patents Division; Carlo Bruschi, ICGB; plus a number of other contributors with expertise in various issues relating to access to microbial resources.

Numbers will be limited, so please let the organisers know if you wish to attend. For further information, please contact Barbara Kirsop, WFCC Biodiversity Committee (bio@biostrat.demon.co.uk) or Lisbeth Anker, Secretary FIM (KIRO@novo.dk).

Venue of ICC-IX, 2000

- REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS -

As the time for the next WFCC Executive Board meeting at ICC-8 at Veldhoven, The Netherlands, is drawing near, there are a number of issues to be considered which should be submitted for discussion and decision at the meeting.

All WFCC members are herewith invited to submit applications for hosting the next International Congress for Culture Collections in the year 2000. Applications should be sent to the secretary early enough so that they may be taken into consideration at the next EB meeting. Remember that WFCC tries to represent all regions of the world equally. As the coming ICC-8 will be held in Europe, applications from non-european members will be given preference.

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**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS
(ICCC-8)**

"Culture Collections to improve the quality of life"

August 25-29, 1996 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands

organized by the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC)

Netherlands Culture Collections (NCC)

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS)

Provisional Scientific Programme

Sponsored by



World Federation of Culture Collections

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures

Netherlands Biotechnological Foundation

Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

*Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and
the Environment*

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Gist Brocades

Novo Nordisk A/S

Visit also ICC8 home page in Internet

<http://wdcn.nig.ac.jp/wfcc/ICCC8/>

with details of the programme and registration !

ICCC-8 Provisional Scientific Programme

Sunday, August 25, 1996

15.00-17.00 WFCC Executive Board Meetings

18.00-19.30 Opening Ceremony (chair: D. van der Mei)

Opening address by the president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Opening address by the president of WFCC, L. Sly

Opening lecture by D.L. Hawksworth: *Microbial collections as a tool in biodiversity and biosystematic research*

20.00 Reception/Bufferet

Monday, August 26, 1996

Plenary morning symposium 1: The role of culture collections in relation to biodiversity (convener: E. Stackebrandt)

09.00-09.30 J. Tiedje (USA) - Federated Database

09.30-10.00 H. Gürtler (Denmark)

10.00-10.30 V. Canhos (Brasil) - Tropical Database Brasil

10.30-11.00 coffee/tea break

11.00-11.30 E. Stackebrandt (Germany)

11.30-12.00 G.A. Zarvazin (Russia) - Management

12.00-14.00 Lunch and postersessions

Special symposium 2: Quality control in culture collections (convener: R. Cypess)

14.00-14.30 R. Hay (USA) - Advances in methodologies for cell line authentication

14.30-15.00 D. Smith (UK) - Quality systems for management of microbial cultures in biotechnology

15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break

16.00-16.20 presentation oral contributed paper

16.20-16.40 presentation oral contributed paper

Special symposium 3: Fungal bioremediation (convener: J. Field)

- 14.00-14.30 H. Anke (Germany) - Biodegradation of PAH by non-ligninolytic basidiomycetes
14.30-15.00 R.T. Lamar (USA) - Bioremediation of PAH and PCP with the white rot fungus *Phanerochaete sordida*
15.00-15.30 S. Aust (USA) - Biochemistry of white rot fungal peroxidase relevant to the bioremediation of priority pollutants
15.30-16.00 J.A. Field (Netherlands) - Bioremediation of PAH polluted soils with the white rot fungus *Bjerkandera* sp. BOS55
16.00 - 16.30 Ming Tien (USA) - Strain improvement of white rot fungi for bioremediation applications

Special symposium 4: Legal aspects (convener: D. Fritze)

- 14.00-14.30 B. Kirsop (UK) - Laws, regulating the handling, shipping, or release of microorganisms, CEN-regulations, hazard groupings
14.30-15.00 A. Ilardi (Switzerland) - Patent deposits under the Budapest Treaty
15.00-15.30 L. Glowka (Germany) - The convention on Biological Diversity
15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break
16.00-16.30 H.R. Jaenichen (Germany) -
16.30-16.40 Status report on ECCO initiative; Questionnaire on IDA praxis
16.40-16.45 Short presentation of brochure: Shipping of perishable and non-perishable biological material

- 18.00 dinner
20.00-22.00 Workshop: Fungal bioremediation (chair: J. Field)
20.00-22.00 Minisymposium: The role of culture collections in environmental risk evaluation (chair: J.E. N. Bergmans)
20.00-22.00 Roundtable: The role of culture collections in developing countries with respect to biodiversity, the Rio-convention and property rights (sponsored by NOVO-Nordisk; convener: Lene Lange)

Tuesday, August 27, 1996

Plenary morning symposium 5: Evolution and biodiversity of prokaryotes and eukaryotes (convener: A. Stouthamer)

- 09.00-09.30 R.S. Gupta (Canada) - Evolution and biodiversity of prokaryotes and eukaryotes
09.30-10.00 R.T. Moore (Ireland) - Evolutionary trends in the higher fungi
10.00-10.30 J.H.P. Hackstein (Netherlands) - Eukaryotic molecular diversity
10.30-11.00 coffee/tea break
11.00-11.30 speaker to be invited
11.30-12.00 speaker to be invited

12.00-14.00 Lunch and postersessions

Special symposium 6: Biodiversity: molecular and microbial ecology (convener: J. Tiedje)

- 14.00-14.30 N. Palleroni (USA) - Microbial diversity and the importance of culturing
14.30-15.00 J. Staley (USA) - New microbes from distant lands
15.00-15.30 coffee/tea break
16.00-16.30 T. Hattori (Japan) - Advances of soil microbial ecology and diversity
16.30-17.00 speaker to be invited

Special symposium 7: Culture collections worldwide (convener: V. Canhos)

- 14.00-14.30 H. Sugawara (Japan) - WDC and worldwide information
14.30-15.00 C. Juma (Canada) - The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and capacity building in developing countries (tentative)

15.00-15.30 MIRCEN - speaker to be invited
15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break
16.00-16.20 presentation oral contributed paper
16.20-16.40 presentation oral contributed paper

Special symposium 8: The use of culture collections for breeding edible mushrooms (convener: L. van Griesven)

14.00-14.30 A.S.M. Sonnenberg (Netherlands) - The use of the ARP collection in breeding of *Agaricus bisporus*
14.30-15.00 R.W. Kerrigan (USA) - Characteristics of a large wild-type collection
15.00-15.30 J. Labarère (France) - Wild types of *Pleurotus* spp. and their use in breeding
15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break
16.00-16.20 presentation oral contributed paper
16.20-16.40 presentation oral contributed paper

18.00 dinner

20.00-22.00 Workshop: Handling pathogenic microorganisms (G. Koenig, Roche, USA)
20.00-22.00 Workshop: Culture collections and electronic communication (databanks, internet, www, Cdrom)
20.00-22.00 Workshop - Standardisation of biological indicators for use in efficiency tests of infections in waste treatment systems (tentative)

ICCC-8 Provisional Scientific Programme (continued)

Wednesday, August 28, 1996

Plenary morning symposium 9: The diversity of culture collections (convener: L. Sly)

08.00-08.30 J. Day (UK) - Culture collection of algae and protozoa
08.30-09.00 N. Hywell-Jones (Thailand) - Specialised collection of insectpathogenic fungi
09.00-09.30 K. Yamasato (Japan) - Marine microorganisms
09.30-10.00 coffee/tea break
10.00-10.30 R. Cypess (USA) - ATCC, a diverse culture collection
10.30-11.00 F. van Asma/M. Agterberg (Netherlands) - The Dutch Phabagen collection

11.00-13.00 GENERAL ASSEMBLY WFCC

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Special symposium 10: Quality of life: agricultural and environmental applications (convener: P. de Wit)

15.00-15.30 M.H.A.J. Joosten (Netherlands) - Host genotype- specific adaptation of the tomato pathogen *Cladosporium fulvum*
15.30-16.00 C.E. Caten (UK) - Biological variation with *Septoria* spp. pathogenic in cereals
16.00-16.30 K. Lindstrom (Finland) - Nitrogen fixation, rhizobia and agricultural applications
16.30-17.00 coffee/tea break
17.00-17.20 J. Jansen (Netherlands) - Biodiversity of plant pathogenic bacteria of the genus *Pseudomonas*
17.20-17.40 speaker to be invited

Special symposium 11: Databases (conveners: G Stegehuis/ L.Sigler)

15.00-15.30 C. Manfio, S. de Souza (Brasil) - Brazilian catalogue on Internet and many other services via WWW
15.30-16.00 M. Pullan (UK) - Design and implementation of culture collection databases
16.00-16.30 P. Schalk (Netherlands) - Biological databases etc.
16.30-17.00 coffee/tea break

17.00-17.20 presentation oral contributed paper

17.20-17.40 presentation oral contributed paper

Special symposium 12: Changing spectrum of fungal infectious diseases and significance of culture collections
(conveners: E. Gueho, G.S. de Hoog)

15.00-15.30 G.S. Kobayasi (USA) - *Histoplasma capsulatum*

15.30-16.00 E. Gueho (France) - *Trichosporon* and *Malassezia*

16.00-16.30 R. Summerbell (Canada) - Dermatophytes

16.30-17.00 coffee/tea break

17.00-17.30 L. Sigler (Canada) - Pathogenic Basidiomycetes

17.30-18.00 J. Uithof, S. de Hoog (Netherlands) - Black yeasts

19.00 BANQUET DINNER

Banquet speech by E. Stackebrandt: Culture collections, where do they go ?

Thursday, August 29, 1996

Plenary morning symposium 13: Quality of life: industrial applications (convener: L. Anker)

09.00-09.30 L. Huang et al. (USA) - Management of an industrial culture collection

09.30-10.00 F. Romero (Spain) - Rapid methods for characterization and identifying microorganisms: the difficulty of dealing with large numbers

10.00-10.30 J. van den Berg (Netherlands) - Strain identification and the need for modern approaches

10.30-11.00 coffee/tea break

11.00-11.30 H. Gürtler (Denmark) - Biodiversity reflects chemical diversity

11.30-12.00 L. Nisbet (UK) - New drug discovery (tentative title)

12.00-14.00 Lunch and postersessions

Special symposium 15: Modern culture collection management (convener: T. Nakase)

14.00-14.30 T. Liu (Taiwan) - The management of the FIRDI Culture Collection and Research Center

14.30-15.00 R. Roblin (USA) - From collection-oriented research to collection-derived new products

15.00-15.30 J. Stalpers (Netherlands) - Day to day management of a culture collection

15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break

16.00-16.20 presentation oral contributed paper

16.20-16.40 presentation oral contributed paper

Special symposium 16: Culture collections in developing countries (convener: I. Gandjar)

14.00-14.30 Ponsook Atthasampunna (Thailand) - Culture collections in South East Asia

14.30-15.00 African speaker to be invited

15.00-15.30 G.P. Manfio (Brasil) - Culture collections in South America

15.30-16.00 coffee/tea break

16.00-16.20 presentation oral contributed paper

16.20-16.40 presentation oral contributed paper

18.00 Dinner

20.00-22.00 Workshop: Methods of preservation. Degeneration of living cultures in culture collections (chair: S. Tan, J. Stalpers)

20.00-22.00 Workshop: Rapid and reliable identifications (chair: J. van den Berg,; sponsored by Gist Brocades)

20.00-22.00 Workshop: The Budapest Treaty: opportunity for a code of conduct for IDA's (chair: M. Bosschaerts)

End of the ICC8-congress

Friday, August 30, 1996: Satellite meetings

ECCO annual meeting

WFCC workshop on access to ex-situ microbial genetic resources within the frame of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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NEW WFCC MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES AND OTHER CHANGES

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NEW WFCC MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES AND OTHER CHANGES

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WFCC-MIRCEN World Data Centre for Microorganisms

The phone number has changed to

+81 48 467 9564 or 9565

The fax number +81 48 462 4618 remains as before

The fax number of Dr. Lindsay Sly has changed

from ++61-7-365 4620

to ++61-7-3365 4620

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WHO CAN HELP ?

From time to time it happens that letters sent to WFCC members are returned to the secretary for various postal reasons. This means that WFCC cannot reach these members any more. As, however, these people might still want to be WFCC members and receive respective mail we would like to seek the help of other WFCC members to enable us to contact them again.

Letters or Newsletters sent to the following members were returned for the indicated reason:

S. M. Martin, Dr.
Division of Biological Sciences
National Research Council of

F. Fernandes, Prof.
Jasmine Villa
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Canada
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Tehran 14137
Iran
gone away

L.G. Marquis, Dr.
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Abu Dhabi
United Arabian Emirates
address unknown

E.C. Setliff, Dr.
Forintek Canada Corp.
Western Laboratory Library
2665 East Mall
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Canada V6T 1W5
Canada
no longer at this address

KCTC, Gen Engr. Ctr.
Korea Advanced Institute
of Science & Technology
P.O. Box 131
Cheongryang

Byculla, Bombay 400008
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no reason indicated

Felix d'Herelle Reference Center
for Bacterial Viruses
Laval University
Sainte Foy
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Can you help with correct addresses, new addresses, name changes, etc.? The WFCC Secretary appreciates any support in this matter.

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NEWS FROM AND FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

A new MIRCEN

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recently established a new Microbiological Resources Centre at MACS Agharkar Research Institute in Pune, India.

The Pune MIRCEN will undertake activities in the collection, evaluation and conservation of microorganisms used in biohydrometallurgical processes such as bioleaching metals and metal biosorption, metal-microbe interactions. The centre has an established culture collection of over 300 specialized microorganisms. The culture collection is recognized by the WFCC and is listed in the catalogue published by the World Data Centre at RIKEN, Japan.

The contact address is: Pune MIRCEN, MACS Agharkar Research Institute, G.G. Argarkar Road, Pune - 411 004, India

Change of acronym

The acronym of the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures) has changed from DSM to DSMZ.

Industrial Platform for Microbiology

The Industrial Platform for Microbiology (IPM) is a grouping of industries established in Europe and dealing with research and development of microbial products or microbially derived products and/or industries developing equipment and services from them. It was created in 1994 by industrial microbiologists interested in microbial ecology, taxonomy, and diversity. Objectives of the IPM are to provide a forum for indentifying suitable areas to be covered by future projects sponsored by the European Union and to improve conditions for the exploitation of the results of such projects in the field of microbial ecology, taxonomy, and diversity. Membership of the IPM is open to any microbially based industry.

Further information is available from the IPM Secretariat, c/o Anne-Marie Prieels, Tech-Know Consultant, Brussels, Belgium, fax +32 2 215 1640.

The European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC) has been awarded a certificate of Good Laboratory Practice from the UK Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority.

Resolution No. 6 of the IUBS General Assembly 1994

Among the Resolutions of the 25th General Assembly of IUBS, the International Union of Biological Sciences, held in Paris, France, 5-9 September, 1994, *Resolution No. 6: The Maintenance of Biosystematic Reference Collections* is of special interest to culture collections. The text of this resolution is:

The 25th IUBS General Assembly

NOTES that the assembling of documentation and data concerning biodiversity is central to our understanding of ecosystems and a major factor in the formulation of future efforts to utilize sustainably the natural resources of this planet, and further that our current knowledge is based solely upon the materials preserved in biosystematic reference collections. It therefore

INSTRUCTS the IUBS Executive to bring to the attention of all governments the vital importance of the continuous curation of biosystematic collections as a component of their biodiversity action plans.

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NEWSLETTERS AND WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGES OF CULTURE COLLECTIONS

The following Newsletters of Culture Collections or Federations of Culture Collections are regularly published:

Belgian Coordinated Collections of Micro-organisms (BCCM)

BCCM NEWS (biannual)

Contact: Anne Depauw, BCCM Secretariat,
Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and
Cultural Affairs,

Rue de la Science 8,
B-1000 Brussel, Belgium

Fax: +32 2 230 5912

E-Mail: depa@smt.belspo.be

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC)

ATCC CONNECTION

Contact: American Type Culture Collection,
12301 Parklawn Drive,
Rockville, MD 20852, USA

Fax: +1 301 816-4367

E-Mail: request@attc.org

European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC)

CELL REPORT

United Kingdom Federation for Culture
Collections

UKFFC NEWSLETTER

Contact: Dr. J. Day

CCAP, Institute of Freshwater Ecology,
Windermere, Far Sawrey, Ambleside,
Cumbria LA22 0LP, UK

Fax: +44 15394 46914

E-Mail: jdj@wpo.nerc.ac.uk

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS)

CBS NEWSLETTER

Contact: Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcul-
tures,

P.O. Box 273,

NL-3740 AG Baarn, The Netherlands

Fax: +31 3554 16142

E-Mail: info@cbs.knaw.ne

International Mycological Institute (IMI)

IMI NEWS

Contact: European Collection of Cell Cultures
C.A.M.R.
Porton Down, Salisbury SP4 0JG, UK
Fax: +44 1980 611315

Contact: International Mycological Institute,
Bakeham Lane,
Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY, UK
Fax: +44 1784 470 909
E-Mail: imi@cabi.org

United States Federation for Culture
Collections (USFCC)
USFFC NEWSLETTER (quarterly)
Contact: Alma Dietz,
2929 Memory Lane,
Kalamazoo, MI 49006-5534, USA

WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGES

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC): <http://www.atcc.org>

Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms (BCCM): <http://www.belspo.be/bccm>

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS): <http://www.cbs.knaw.nl>

Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen (DSMZ): <http://www.gbf-braunschweig.de/DSMZ/dsmzhome.htm>

World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WDCM): <http://wdcm.nig.ac.jp/>

Microbial Strain Data Network (MSDN): <http://www.bdt.org.br/bdt/msdn>

[Lists to be continued]

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FOCUS ON CULTURE COLLECTIONS

Under this heading the WFCC Newsletter offers culture collections, federations or organizations of culture collections the opportunity to present short articles covering the nature and activities of their collection or federation/organization.

PASTEUR CULTURE COLLECTION OF CYANOBACTERIA (PCC)

The Pasteur Culture Collection of axenic cyanobacterial strains (PCC), maintained in the Unité de Physiologie Microbienne at the Institut Pasteur, Paris, France, is one of the specialized culture collections of the Institut Pasteur, administratively attached to the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM).

The collection has its roots in the Department of Bacteriology of the University of California at

Berkeley, California, U.S.A., where Roger Y. Stanier, having long recognized the prokaryotic nature of "blue-green algae", agreed that Mary Mennes Allen should study this group of organisms for her doctoral thesis. Thanks to her improvements of growth conditions on solid medium, the first small collection of axenic strains was established in 1968, their physiological and genetic properties being described several years later (Stanier et al., 1971).

After his move from Berkeley in 1971, Prof. Stanier integrated the Berkeley Collection in the Institut Pasteur in Paris, and encouraged his small team (Josette Deruelles, Rosmarie Rippka and John B. Waterbury), to isolate, purify and characterize many more strains of this group of photosynthetic prokaryotes, for which he (Stanier, 1974) proposed the name "cyanobacteria". A detailed description of about 170 cyanobacterial strains in axenic culture in the Pasteur Culture Collection of cyanobacteria was given by Rippka et al. in 1979.

After Roger Stanier's untimely departure, the collection was generously supported by Dr. Germaine Cohen-Bazire (Stanier), director of the Unité de Physiologie Microbienne from 1982 to 1988. Characterization of strains was continued during this period and a number of papers of taxonomic interest were published from the laboratory.

The present director of the Unité de Physiologie Microbienne, Dr. Nicole Tandeau de Marsac, not only continues to recognize the importance of the cyanobacterial collection but also encouraged both its further development and the preparation of the first edition of a catalogue in 1992, which was a major landmark for the PCC.

By the end of 1995, the number of axenic strains in the PCC had increased to about 600, and now represents a collection of a large number of genera and species isolated from a wide variety of habitats. This achievement only was possible in collaboration with numerous colleagues or trainees in the Unité de Physiologie Microbienne and investigators from other laboratories in all part of the world. The development of the Collection and the identification of isolates are conducted, since 1971, under the responsibility of Rosmarie Rippka. Help with the maintenance of living cultures and the conservation of strains in liquid nitrogen is provided by Thérèse Coursin, Magali Tichit and Thierry Laurent.

The catalogue of the Pasteur Cuöture Collection of cyanobacterial strains contains over 100 pages of information on the axenic strains (about 500) held in the PCC prior to publication of the first edition. The catalogue includes 12 parts (Taxonomy; Ordering of Strains; Notes on the strain descriptions; Strain list; Culture media and growth; Bibliography; PCC reference strains and their proposed assignments; Culture collection cross-reference list; Synonym index; Geographical index; Environmental index; Strain index). The price of the catalogue is 85 FF, plus postage. The current charges per culture is 300/150 F (HT) for private establishments/ educational or research institutions within France and 350/175 FF for other countries, but these prices will be subject to considerable increase in the near future..

The PCC is a member of the WFCC and is included in the World Directory of Collections under reference no. 481. It supported by the Institut Pasteur and by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (URA 1129). Contact: Rosmarie Rippka, Unité de Physiologie Microbienne, PCC, Institut Pasteur, 28 rue du Docteur Roux, F-75724 PARIS Cedex 15, France, Tel +33 1 4568 8416, Fax +33 1 4061 3042, Email rrippka@pasteur.fr.

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NEW CATALOGUES AND DATABASES OF CULTURE COLLECTIONS

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC)

12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852-1776, USA

ATCC Yeast Reference Guide, 1995

ATCC Animal Viruses Reference Guide, 1996

ATCC Cell Lines & Hybridomas Ordering Catalog 1996

Czech Collection of Microorganisms (CCM),

Masaryk University, Faculty of Science, Tvrdeho 14, CZ-60200 Brno, Czech Republic

Catalogue of Strains (1991): Supplement 1994.

DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen, Mascheroder Weg 1 b, D-38124 Braunschweig, Germany

Catalogue of Strains: Supplement 1996.

Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (IFO),

17-85, Juso-honmachi 2-chome, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka 532, Japan

List of Cultures: Microorganisms, 10th edition, 1996

National Collection of Dairy Cultures (NCDC), Dairy Microbiology Division, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal-132001, India

Catalogue of Strains 1996.

All-Russian Collection of Microorganisms (ARCM, VKM), Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms, Russian Academy of Sciences, Pushchino, Moscow oblast', 142292

The collection of mycelial fungi of the All-Russian Collection of Microorganisms (ARCM, VKM) has developed a database on strains in the ARCM. This database (in Russian and English language) was used in preparation of a published Catalog of the ARCM Cultures. The ARCM is currently engaged in accumulating, editing and formatting information relating to properties of mycelial fungi with biotechnological potential. Work was started on new databases on pathogenic and toxigenic species of mycelial fungi hazardous to humans, animals and plants. The ARCM is ready to provide information and consultation on fungal nomenclature and identification, on maintaining strains in laboratory conditions, and on the choice of promising cultures for specific research projects related to mycelial fungi. More information can be found in the publication of S. M. Ozerskaya, G. A. Kochkins, N. E. Ivanushkina, The ARCM database on strains of mycelial fungi, *Mikrobiologia* 64, 5-9, 1995.

The database of the E. coli Genetic Stock Centre (CGSC) at the Yale University is now available in the Internet: <http://cgsc.biology.yale.edu/cgsc.html>

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UNESCO / WFCC TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEETS

In 1994 and 1995, the WFCC Education Committee has published the following Technical Information Sheets:

Publication Author(s): Title

No. 12 C. Rohde: Plasmid isolation from bacteria: some fast procedures

No. 13 H.M. Schumacher, K.A. Malik, F. van Iren: Simple storage of plant cell cultures in liquid media

No. 14 C. Rohde, D. Claus, K.A. Malik: Packing and shipping of biological materials: some instructions, legal requirements and international regulations

The information sheets, which are also published in World Journal of Microbiology & Biotechnology, can be obtained from the editor Dr. K.A. Malik, DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig (fax +49 531 2616 418).

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CULTURE COLLECTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous | Commerce officials want tighter controls on microbe exports. ASM News 62, 124, 1996 |
| Biotechnology Strategic Forum | Strategic issues in biotechnology information. Report of a work- shop. CAB International, 1995. CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK |
| E.C. Böttger | Approaches for identification of microorganisms. ASM News 62, 247- 250, 1996 |
| R. Finn | Finding full-featured free software for biologists on the Internet. Scientist 9, 14, 1995 |
| P.S. Harbec, P. Turcotte | Preservation of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> at -20° C. J. Clinical Micro biol. 34, 1143-1146 (1996) |
| D.L. Hawksworth | Steps along the road to a harmonized bionomenclature. Taxon 44, 447-456, 1995 |
| D.L. Hawksworth | Stability in and harmonization of bionomenclature (Report of an IUBS/IUMS ad hoc meeting, Egham, UK, 6 to 12 May, 1995). Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 46, 619-621, 1996 |
| D.P. Nierlich | Future directions for biomolecular databases. ASM News 62, 251-254 1996 |
| K.A. Malik, E. Lang | Successful preservation of <i>Campylobacteraceae</i> and related bacteria by liquid-drying under anaerobic conditions. J. Microbiol. Methods 25, 37-42 (1996) |
| S.M. Ozerskaya et al. | The ARCM database on strains of mycelia fungi. Mikrobiologia 64, 5-9, 1995 |
| E.O. Puchkov, A.N. Melkozernov | Fluorimetric assessment of <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> viability after freeze-thawing using ethidium bromide. Letters in Applied Micro biology 21, 368-372, 1995 |
| A. Rybníká | Long-term maintenance of lyophilized fungal cultures of the genera <i>Epidermophyton</i> , <i>Microsporum</i> , <i>Paecilomyces</i> and <i>Trichophyton</i> . Mycoses 39, 145-147, 1995 |
| D. Satcher | Shipment of human pathogens. ASM News 62, 168, 1996 |
| V. Weihs, D. Fritze | Patent protection in biotechnology - Deposit of microorganisms and other kinds of biological material at the DSM. Microbiology Europe 3, No. 6, 18-23, 1995 |
| K. Wolf (ed) | Nonconventional Yeasts in Biotechnology. Springer, 1996, approx. 550 pp., US\$ 99.50. ISBN 3 540 59482 5 |

Public debate and regulation of biotechnology in Europe

Biotechnology and Development Monitor

No. 26, 1996

The public debate on regulation of biotechnology in Europe is both wide and intense. Interest groups at national and European levels have succeeded in getting ecological, ethical and social considerations on the agendas of the various legislative bodies involved. Because of the many concerns which are being taken into account, European regulation is developing slowly, in the meantime leaving an uncertain environment for the biotechnology industry. The outcome, however, will be an internationally unprecedented set of new regulations.

The *Biotechnology and Development Monitor* is a joint publication of the Department of Political Science of the University of Amsterdam and the Special Programme Biotechnology and Development Cooperation of the *Directorate General for International Cooperation, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. It is published quarterly and available free of charge. Enquiries about subscriptions should be addressed to Biotechnology and Development Monitor, University of Amsterdam, Department of Political Science, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 237, 1012 DL Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Tel. +31 20 525 2177, Fax +31 20 525 2086, E-mail Monitor@sara.nl)

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NEW BOOKS RELEVANT TO CULTURE COLLECTION WORK

- R. Atlas Handbook of Media for Clinical Microbiology. CRC Press, 1995, 350 pages, £ 77.00. ISBN 0 8493 9497 X
- R. Atlas Handbook of Microbiological Media for the Examination of Food. CRC Press, 1995, 320 pages, £ 79.00. ISBN 0 8493 2704 0
- R. Atlas Handbook of Media for Environmental Microbiology. CRC Press, 1995, 544 pages, £ 77.00. ISBN 0 8493 0603 5
- M.R.W. Brown, P. Gilbert Microbiological Quality Assurance: A guide to relevance reproducibility of inocula. CRC Press, 1995, 320 pages, £ 100. ISBN 0 8493 4752 1
- G.A. Codd, T.M. Jefferies, C.W. Keevil, E. Potter (ed) Detection Methods for Cyanobacterial Toxins. The Royal Society of Chemistry, 1994, £ 45.00 pp. 191. ISBN: 0-85186-961-0
- C.H. Collins, P.M. Lyne, J.M. Grange Collins and Lyne's Microbiological Methods, Seventh edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1995, £ 35.00. ISBN 0 7506 0653 3
- R.R. Colwell, U. Simidu, K. Ohwada Microbial Diversity in Time and Space. Plenum Publishing Corporation, 1996. ISBN 0 306 45194 8
- H.L. Ehrlich Geomicrobiology. Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1995. 744 pp. US\$ 195. ISBN 0-8247-9541-5

- O.L. Gomborg,
G.C. Phillips (ed) Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture: Fundamental Methods. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995. 300 pp. US\$ 89. ISBN 3-540-58068-9
This manual provides all relevant protocols for basic and applied plant cell and molecular technologies, such as histology, electron microscopy, cyto-logy, virus diagnosis, gene transfer and PCR. Also included are chapters on laboratory facilities, operation and management as well as a glossary and all the information needed to set up and carry out any of the procedures without having to use other resource books. It is especially designed for professionals and advanced students who wish to acquire practical skills and first-hand experience in plant biotechnology.
- G.L. Geison The Private Science of Louis Pasteur. Princeton University Press. , 378 p., US\$29.95
- D.L. Hawksworth et al. Ainsworth & Bisby's Dictionary of fungi, 8th edition. CAB International. 1995. 650 pp., £ 30.00. ISBN 0 85198 885 7
- G.S. de Hoog,
J. Guarro Atlas of Clinical Fungi. Centralbureau voor Schimmelcultures Baarn, Netherlands. ISBN 90-70351-26-9
- J. Howard,
D.M. Whitcombe Diagnostic Bacteriology Protocols. Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 46. Humana Press. 1995. US\$69.50. ISBN 0 89603 297 3
- J.C. Hunter-Cevera,
A. Belt Maintaining Cultures for Biotechnology and Industry. Academic Press, 1996. 263 pp. US\$ 39,95. ISBN 0-12-361946-7
Contents: The biological deposition requirement. History and evolution of culture maintenance and preservation techniques. Algae. Eubacteria. Actinomycetes. Fungi. Protozoa. Animal cells in culture. Human and animal viruses. Plant germplasm. Plant viruses and viroids. Characterization of cultures used by biotech and industry. References. Subject index.
- S. Isaac,
D. Jennings (ed) Microbial Cultures. Bios Scientific Publishers, Oxford, 1995. 133 pp, £ 17.95
- B. Lighthart Bioaerosols. Chapman & Hall, 1994. c. 400 pp., £ 72.00. ISBN 0 412 03181 7
- C.R Mahon,
G.Manuselis Jr (eds) Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology. W.B. Saunders Co., 1995, 1134 pp., £ 29.95. ISBN 0 7216 4216 0
- F.A. Murphy et al. (eds) Virus Taxonomy. Sixth report of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. Archives of Virology, Supplement 10, 1995. Springer-Verlag KG. ISBN 3 211 82594 0
- P.R. Murray ASM Pocket Guide to Clinical Microbiology. ASM Press, 1996. 300 pp. US\$ 26.95. ISBN 1-55581-109-4T
Contents: Taxonomic classification of medically important microbes. Indigenous and pathogenic microbes of humans. Specimen collection and transport. Specimen processing. Microbial identification. Antimicrobial agents and susceptibility testing. Immunodiagnostic tests.
- W. Olsen (ed) Automated Microbial Identification and Quantitation: Technologies for the 2000s. Interphar Press, Buffalo Grove, Ill., 1996, 397 pp., US\$ 189
- F.T. Robb et al. (eds) Archaea: A Laboratory Manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, N.Y., 1995, 264 pages. US\$ 65
- R. Rotem The Genus *Alternaria*. Biology, Epidemiology, and Pathogenicity, ASP Press, St. Paul, 1994, 326 pp, US\$ 99. ISBN 0 89054 152 3
- G. W. Tannock Normal Microflora. An introduction to microbes inhabiting the human body. Chapman & Hall, 1994. £ 19.95 pp. 115 pp. ISBN 0-412-55040-7
- K. Wolf (ed) Nonconventional Yeasts in Biotechnology. Springer, 1996, approx. 550 pp., US\$ 99.50. ISBN 3 540 59482 5
- R.A. Zilinskas (ed) The Microbiologist and Biological Defense Research. Ethics, Politics and International Security. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1992

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BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Biodiversity Information Network - Agenda 21 (BIN21)

BIN21 is an international collaborative network of agencies involved in the management and presentation of biodiversity information. As such, many of its aims are similar to those of the proposed Clearing-House Mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/6 Document on the "Establishment of the Clearing-House Mechanism to Promote and Facilitate Technical and Scientific Cooperation)". The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity could utilise many of the BIN21 experiences in its setting up of the Clearing-House Mechanism.

During a workshop "Clearing House Mechanism on Biological Diversity. The Role of Special Interest Networks" held in Campinas, Brazil, October 17-19, 1995, the development of the Clearing-House Mechanism under the Convention has prompted a reevaluation of the goals of the BIN21 vis a vis the Clearing-House Mechanism. It was agreed that BIN21 does have a continuing role to play in the furtherance of information exchange within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The participants at the meeting felt that BIN21 could best support the aims of its participating members and those of the Convention by functioning as an international collaborative test-bed to design and evaluate informatics tools and methodologies (new applications based on currently available tools as well as emerging technologies). Many of these are now being developed by participating nodes of BIN21 and the BIN21 network provides a unique opportunity to trial these in a cooperative environment. The results of much of this technology will feed directly into the Clearing-House Mechanism and be compatible with the aims of the Convention in providing a mechanism for technology transfer between nations.

Further information about BIN21 and its participating nodes can be found at the BIN21 Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.bdt.org.br/bin21/bin21.html>). It is proposed that as well as functioning as a prototype for the Clearing-House Mechanism, BIN21 would be linked as a Thematic Node for informatic tools and methodologies.

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WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING COURSES

ATCC Workshops 1996.

Contact: American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland, USA 20852 (Tel. +1 301 231 5566, E mail: workshop@atcc.org)

14th ANNUAL ATCC BIOTECHNOLOGY PATENT FORUM, September 16-17, 1996

The ATCC will again be hosting the annual ATCC Biotechnology Patent Forum for biotechnology and chemical patent attorneys, examiners and agents, biotechnology researchers, and bioscience teachers and professors, to name a few. The forum has a new format and will be an interactive symposium for discussion and debate of current biotechnology patent issues. An optional half day will be devoted to laboratory demonstrations and discussions to familiarize the participant with basic molecular genetics, recombinant DNA and hybridoma technologies, as well as a tour of the ATCC facility.

MICROSCOPY/PHOTOMICROGRAPHY, October 2-4, 1996

This three-day course will cover the principles and hands-on practices of light microscopy and photomicrography. The content will be applicable to instruments of all major microscope manufacturers. Limited to 22 participants. FEE: US\$875.00. Faculty: Mortimer Abramowitz, Consultant in Microscopy

Topics:

Image formations: geometric optics, wave optics, diffraction, contrast;

Koehler Illumination: principles, setting up, diaphragms, conjugate planes;

Clarification of Terms: adjustment distance, focal distance, working distance, mechanical tube length, optical tube length, depth of field, depth of focus;

Numerical Aperture: meaning and formula, relationship to resolution, relationship to total magnification, relationship to light intensity;

Selection of Equipment: aberrations and corrections, finite and infinity-corrected systems, condensers, visual and photo-eyepieces;

Contrast Techniques: darkfield, phase contrast, differential interference contrast, Hoffman modulation contrast, fluorescence microscopy;

Selection of Film: color, black/white, ASA and grain, Polaroid;

Filters for Photomicrography: Kelvin temperature and voltage of lamp, color conversion filters, color balancing filters, neutral density filters, didymium filters, filters for black and white photomicrography;

Esposure: metering, reciprocity, reciprocity failure, color compensating filters for lengthy exposures;

Focusing: focusing telescope, focusing magnifier;

Fluorescence Photomicrography: special considerations.

FREEZING AND FREEZEDRYING OF MICROORGANISMS, October 15-18, 1996

A four-day course for scientists and technical personnel in the fields of Bacteriology, Mycology, Protistology and Virology who need reliable methods of culture preservation. This course has been expanded to four days to allow for additional hands-on laboratory work. Limited to 24 participants. FEE: US\$1,095.00. Faculty: M.T. Alexander, B.S. (Workshop Director); Frank P. Simione, Jr., M.S., Director, ATCC Program in Professional Services; Ronald L. Jewett, B.A., Director, ATCC Program in Manufacturing.

Lecture topics include cellular responses to ice crystal formation, changes in isotonicity of the cellular environment, rates of cooling, latent heat of fusion, sublimation dynamics, collapse, melt-back factors affecting the viability of frozen and freeze-dried microorganisms, importance of residual moisture and methods for determining residual moisture, cryoprotectants and other additives, and shelf life prediction.

The benefits and drawbacks of each method are discussed, as well as optimum storage, rehydration and thawing conditions.

Laboratory sessions include several ATCC methods for freezing and freeze-drying; use of bench-top commercial sublimators, preparation of cells, cryopreservation and lyophilization; torch sealing, rehydration and subculturing. A copy of the "ATCC Preservation Methods Manual" will be included with the course manual.

The INTERNATIONAL MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE offers the following Training Courses (Contact: Mrs. Stephanie Groundwater, International Mycological Institute, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY, UK. Tel. +44 1784

470111, Fax +44 1784 470909, Email s.groundwater@cabi.org.

MYCOTOXINS - OCCURENCE, SIGNIFICANCE AND ANALYSIS, October 21-25,1996

A new 5 day course for those interested in mycotoxins on food or feed stuffs. Sessions will cover sampling, analysis by TLC, HPLC, ELISA, and commercially available kits, health implications for animals and humans, identification of relevant fungi, safety, economic consequences and regulatory issues. The course will be taught by Victor Medlock of Onsite Training together with IMI biochemists and mycologists. This team has a wide range of experience in the mycotoxin field. Lectures, practical laboratory sessions and seminar/demonstrations will be given. The course fee of £ 800 includes tuition and a course manual but excludes accommodation and meals.

ISOLATION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUNGI FROM NATURAL HABITATS

November 18-22, 1996

A new 5 day course designed to help those needing to isolate fungi from a range of different natural habitats and give a group or, in some cases, generic level preliminary identification to the isolations. It will be of use to those involved in natural product screening programmes, ecosystem and biodiversity surveys, environmental consultancy, ecology and soil biology. The course will cover a wide range of techniques for obtaining fungi and suggestions and ideas for maximising the diversity sampled. Habitats to be covered include soil, fresh water, leaf litter, living plant material, insects and air. The course will also include a session on how to go about identifying a fungus and the recognition of the main groups of fungi. If participants are interested, an optional session on the gathering and handling of data about fungal biodiversity in an ecosystem will be included. The course fee of £ 600 includes tuition and a course manual, coffee, tea and cold buffet lunches.

BASIC MYCOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

3-4 December, 1996

A popular course aimed at microbiology technicians or others needing help with traditional mycological techniques. It will be suitable for those working in plant pathology, industry, food or environmental mycology. It will be particularly useful for new technical staff or those unused to working with fungi. Isolation from plant material, soil and manufactured goods will be covered. Topics will include the preparation of a variety of material for microscopic examination, culturing and aseptic techniques, methods of inducing sporulation and the use and preparation of standard and specialised media. The course will consist of lectures and demonstrations but most time will be spent in experience building practical sessions. There will be ample opportunity for discussion of any particular mycological problems which participants may have encountered. The course fee of £ 325 includes tuition and a course manual, coffee/tea and cold buffet lunches.

ECACC Training Courses 1996. Contact: Mrs. Gina Hartwell, European Collection of Cell Cultures, C.A.M.R., Porton Down, Salisbury SP4 0JG, UK, Tel. +44 1980 612228, Fax +44 1980 611315.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CELL CULTURE METHODS, October 21 - 25, 1996

This course will provide a programme of lectures and practicals designed for people with limited cell culture experience. There will be a maximum of 12 participants. A bursary of £ 500 funded by the European Society of Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) is available to workers from non-profit making organisations within Europe.

ADVANCES IN ANIMAL CELL CULTURE, September 23 - 29, 1996

The course will be held in collaboration with the Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Technologica (IBET), Oeiras, Portugal, in Oeiras and will provide an update on current developments in animal cell technology with practical training. Bursaries for scientists from non-profit organisations within Europe are available,

kindly provided by the European Society of Animal Cell Technology ESACT.

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CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

10th International Congress of Virology, August 11-16, 1996, JERUSALEM, Israel. Contact: Prof. Y. Becker, Chairman, National Committee, Dept. of Virology, Faculty of Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, P.O. Box 12272 Jerusalem 91120, Israel (Fax +972-3-5175674, E-mail VIROLOGY@Kenes.comail.compuserve.com)

8th International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology and Mycology Division of the IUMS, August 18-23, 1996, JERUSALEM, Israel. Contact: Prof. I. Kahane, IUMS '96, P.O. Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel (Fax +972-3-510014)

6th International Fungal Spore Conference, 25-29 August, 1996, KONSTANZ, Germany. Contact Prof. K. Mendgen, Universität Konstanz, Lehrstuhl Phytopathologie, D-78464 Konstanz, Germany (Fax +49-7531-883035)

8th International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC-8), 25-29 August, 1996, Veldhoven, The Netherlands, Contact: Administrative secretariat ICCC-8 1996, c/o Congress Hotel and Meeting Centre Koningshof, P.O.Box140, NL-5500 AC Veldhoven, The Netherlands (Fax +31 40 545515, E-mail congress@koningshof.nl)

10th International Biotechnology Symposium and 9th International Symposium on Yeasts, 25-30 August, 1996, SYDNEY, Australia. Contact: IBS/ISY Secretariat, GPO Box 128, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia (Fax 61 2 262 2323, E-mail tourhosts@tourhosts.com.au)

1st International Conference on Fungi: Hopes and Challenges, 2-6 September, 1996, CAIRO, Egypt. Contact: Prof. A.A. Razak, PO Box 8104, Massaken Madinet NASR 11371, Madinet Nasr, Cairo, Egypt

International Symposium: Thermophiles '96: Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology of Thermophilic Microorganisms, 4-9 September, 1996, Athens, Ga., USA. Contact: Juergen Wiegel, Dept. of Microbiol., Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30601, USA (Fax +1 706 542 2651, E-mail jwiegel@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU)

Cellular and Molecular Biology 2nd World Congress, 1-7 September, 1996, Ottawa, Canada. Contact: Cellular and Molecular Biology 2nd World Congress Coordination Office, c/o Golden Planners Inc., Suite 401, 126 York Street, Ottawa, ON (Canada) K1N 5T5 (Fax +1 613 565 2173, E-mail 74117.370@compuserve.com)

5th Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria: Genetics, Metabolism and Applications, 8-12 September, 1996, Veldhoven, The Netherlands. Contact: Dr. A.M. Ledebøer, Unilever Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 114, NL-3130 AC Vlaardingen, The Netherlands (Fax +31 10 460 5383)

International Symposium on Subsurface Microbiology, 15-21 September, 1996, Davos, Switzerland. Contact: Prof. R. Bachofen, Institute of Plant Biology, Zollikerstr. 107, CH-8008 Zurich, Switzerland (Fax +41 1 385 4204, E-mail bachofen@botinst.unizh.ch)

International Conference on Microbial Diversity: the current situation, conservation strategy and ecological aspects (ICOMID '96), 8-11 October 1996, Perm, Russia. Contact: Institute of Ecology and Genetics of Microorganisms, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 13 Golev str., Perm 614081, Russia (Fax: +7 3422 64 67 11, E-mail mike@iegm.perm.su)

Biotechnology Information: Access, Storage, Validation and Security. Wallingford, UK, 10 October, 1996.
Contact: Rebecca Holderness, Development Projects Unit, CAB INTERNATIONAL, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE,
UK (Fax: +44 1491 833508, E-mail r.holdernes@cabi.org)

13th Congress of the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology, 8-13 June, 1997, Salsomaggiore
Terme, Parma, Italia. Contact: Institute of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of
Parma, viale A. Gramsci, I-14 43100 Parma, Italy (Fax +39 521 987139, E-mail ishamcom@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it)

Spore Conference Cambridge, 8-11 July, 1997, Contact: Will Waites, Applied Biochemistry & Food
Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonnington Campus, Loughborough, Leics LE12 5RD (Fax +44
115951 6162, E-mail sczwm@szni.nott.ac.uk)

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All material for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to the Secretary of WFCC

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