

First Announcement

EUROBIOFILMS 2009

First European Congress on Microbial Biofilms

Rome, 2 - 5 September 2009

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EUROBIOFILMS 2009

1st European Congress on Microbial Biofilms

Rome, September 2 – 5, 2009

Welcome Message



Dear Colleagues,

from September 2 to 5, 2009 Rome will be the fascinating venue of EUROBIOFILMS 2009, the First European Congress on Microbial Biofilms. This event aims to provide the large number of European scientists involved in the field of microbial biofilms with a valuable forum for a multidisciplinary scientific exchange of information with colleagues coming from all over the world. The already approved ESCMID and FEMS grants will offer financial support for the participation of a number of young scientists.

The congress will join together microbiologists and specialists in infectious diseases, hygiene and public health who are investigating different aspects of bacterial and fungal biofilms.

Further, the attendance of biotechnologists, chemists and engineers will update participants on the currently available methods to control biofilms in medical, environmental and industrial systems.

The congress will be also focused on the evaluation of health and environmental risks related to the sessile mode of microbial growth in order to provide innovative responses in terms of prevention and treatment.

EUROBIOFILMS 2009 program has been developed together with the ESCMID Study Group on Biofilms to combine state of the art lectures and sessions dealing with the major issues of this fast-growing scientific area.

I look forward to welcoming you to what promise to be an educational, enjoyable and exciting meeting in Rome !

*Gianfranco Donelli
Chair, EUROBIOFILMS 2009*

EUROBIOFILMS 2009

1st European Congress on Microbial Biofilms
Rome, September 2 – 5, 2009

General Information

EUROBIOFILMS 2009 will be held in the Congress Center of the Fondazione Santa Lucia, a large and modern research hospital located near to the most important archaeological area of Rome.

A 500 seats Auditorium (Hall A) will be available in the Congress Center for Plenary and Keynote Lectures. Every day, just after the first coffee break, this Auditorium will be split into 2 conference rooms of 250 seats each (Hall A1 and Hall A2) to run parallel sessions/symposia.

Suitable rooms for poster display, industrial exhibitions and technical workshops will be available in a building immediately close to the Auditorium.

A shuttle bus service to reach the congress venue in the morning and come back to the hotels in the afternoon will be provided to all participants that will book their accommodation in the congress hotels. The congress venue is also served by public buses.

Congress Topics

Antibiotic Resistance in Biofilm-Growing Bacteria

Biofilms in chronic wounds

Biofilm Control Strategies and Therapeutic Approaches

Biofilm-Based Medical Device-Related Infections

Biofilm-Growing Bacteria in Gastrointestinal and Urogenital Tracts

Biofilms in Industrial Systems

Biofilms in Natural Environments

Biofilms in orthopedic implants: from basic research to clinics

Cardiovascular medical devices: prevention and control of biofilms

C-di-GMP Regulation of Biofilm Phenotypes Relevant to Virulence

Fungal Biofilms

Host-Pathogen Interactions in Biofilm-Mediated Infections

Imaging tools for studying microbial biofilms

Oral Biofilms: Structure, Microbial Interactions and Development

The Biofilm Matrix

The Early Stages of Biofilm Development

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Important Dates to Remember

Preliminary Program	October 15, 2008
Registration and Abstract Submission Opening *	January 15, 2009
Abstract Submission Deadline **	April 15, 2009
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	May 30, 2009
Early Registration	June 15, 2009
Registration	July 20, 2009
Final Program	July 31, 2009

* Authors interested in the oral presentation of their contributions are invited to register and submit their abstracts as soon as possible in order to be considered by the Organizing Committee for their possible inclusion in the Sessions or Symposia.

** **Late breaking abstracts** will be accepted **until May 15, 2009** but will be considered **only for Poster presentations**.

Registration Fees (including VAT)

	Early Registration until June 15, 2009	Registration until July 20, 2009	Late/On site Registration
Standard Registrant*	€ 600	€ 650	€ 700
Young Registrant **	€ 400	€ 450	€ 500
Trainee Registrant ***	€ 300	€ 350	€ 400
Daily Registrant****	€ 200	€ 250	€ 250
Accompanying person*****	€ 200	€ 250	€ 250

*The **Standard , Young and Trainee Registrant** fee includes a congress bag containing the Final Program/ Abstract Book and the other congress documents as well as vouchers for the participation to the Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception, working lunches , coffee breaks and Farewell Lunch.

To register as **Young Attendee, the applicant must be under the age of 40 and is required to attach a copy of his/her identity card to the registration form.

***To register as a **Trainee**, the applicant must be under the age of 30 and a copy of his/her identity card must be attached to the registration form together with a letter of his/her supervisor certifying the student status.

******Daily registrants** are entitled to receive a copy of the Final Program/Abstract Book together with the vouchers for the working lunch and the coffee breaks of the day.

*****The **Accompanying Person** fee includes the participation to the Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception and Farewell Lunch as well as a full day tour of Rome. Admittance to Scientific Sessions, Symposia and Workshops is not permitted.

Grants available for young attendees which are members of ESCMID or members of a National Society of Microbiology belonging to FEMS

The following attendance grants offered by ESCMID and FEMS are available:

15 ESCMID grants (EUR 400) for young attendees under 40 years old (born in 1969 or later)

FEMS grants for young attendees under 36 years old that will be assigned as follow:

- a) 15 grants for European attendees (EUR 400)
- b) 5 grants for non European attendees (EUR 600)

Conditions to apply for a FEMS Young Scientists Meeting Grant (YSMG)

According to the FEMS Regulations, a young scientist wishing to apply for a Meeting Attendance Grant should fill in the YSMG application form (available on: www.fems-microbiology.org) and should be:

- 1) a member of a FEMS Member Society or – in special cases - recommended by such a member;
- 2) younger than 36 years of age at the closing date of the meeting (born after September 5th 1973);
- 3) a working microbiologist;
- 4) the presenting author of an abstract.

Applicants should send to the Congress Secretariat, within March 20th, 2009, the Congress registration form, the YSMG application form, a short CV with a cover letter indicating their motivation for attending the event and a copy of their abstract to be submitted.

Conditions to apply for an ESCMID attendance grant for young scientists

ESCMID provides attendance grants covering the registration fee but not travel or accommodation costs. Applicants (born in 1969 or later) should send to the Congress Secretariat, within March 20th, 2009, the Congress registration form, a short CV with a cover letter indicating their motivation for attending the event and a copy of their abstract to be submitted.

Preliminary Scientific Programme

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

14.00 – 14.30 Congress Opening and Welcome Addresses (Hall A)

14.30 – 15.30 Opening Lectures (Hall A)

30 years of research on microbial biofilms
William B. Costerton (USA)

Evolution in biofilms
Soren Molin (Denmark)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 18.00 Session 1 – The Early Stages of Biofilm Development (Hall A1)

Chairpersons: *Niels Hoiby (Denmark); Paolo Landini (Italy)*

Roles of pili, flagellum-mediated motility and extracellular DNA in the formation of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms
Tim Tolker-Nielsen (Denmark)

Structural and regulatory factors involved in surface attachment and cell aggregation in *E. coli*
Paolo Landini (Italy)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Session 2 – Biofilms in Natural Environments (Hall A2)

Chairpersons: *Rita R. Colwell (USA); Hans-Curt Flemming (Germany)*

Biofilms in water and their impact in human disease transmission
Rita R. Colwell (USA)

Legionella spp. biofilms in anthropogenic and natural aquatic environments
Priscilla Declerck (Belgium)

Microbial biofilms in the environmental transformation of metal(oid)s
Davide Zannoni (Italy)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

18.00 – 20.00 Welcome reception (Congress venue)

08.30 – 09.30 Keynote Lectures (Hall A)

Physiological heterogeneity of bacteria in biofilms
Phil Stewart (USA)

Bacterial biofilms in cystic fibrosis patients
Niels Hoiby (Denmark)

09.30 – 10.00 Coffee Break

10.00 – 11.00 Symposium 1 – Biofilms in chronic wounds and antimicrobial dressings (Hall A1)

Speakers to be announced

Symposium 2 – Biofilms in orthopedic implants: from basic research to clinics (Hall A2)

Speakers to be announced

11.00 – 13.00 Session 3 – Host-Pathogen Interactions in Biofilm-Mediated Infections (Hall A1)

Chairpersons: *Michael Givskov (Denmark); Mark E. Shirtliff, (USA)*

Host-immune response in chronic *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm infections
Mark E. Shirtliff (USA)

Host-bacterial interactions in cystic fibrosis *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms
Michael Givskov (Denmark)

Regulation of alginate export in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* under aerobic and anaerobic environmental growth conditions
Gerd Döring (Germany)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Session 4 – Fungal Biofilms (Hall A2)

Chairpersons: *M. A. Ghannoum (USA); Christine Imbert (France)*

Candida albicans biofilm inhibition
Christine Imbert (France)

A model to studying antifungal activity on *Aspergillus fumigatus* biofilm
Craig Williams (UK)

Candida biofilm: journey from the bench to the patients
Mahmoud A. Ghannoum (USA)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **Poster discussion**

15.00 – 17.30 **Session 5 – The Biofilm Matrix (Hall A1)**

Chairpersons: *S. Jabbouri (France); P. Stewart (USA)*

The EPS matrix: a functional network
Hans-Curt Flemming (Germany)

CdrA acts as EPS matrix cross-linker in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
Matt Parsek (USA)

Matrix of staphylococcal biofilms
Said Jabbouri (France)

Imaging the biofilm matrix
Thomas R. Neu (Germany)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Session 6 – Biofilm-Based Medical Device-Related Infections (Hall A2)

Chairpersons: *Gianfranco Donelli (Italy); David Stickler (UK)*

How do crystalline bacterial biofilms develop on antimicrobial urinary catheters
David Stickler (UK)

Biofilm-associated infections in orthopedic implants
Henny C. van der Mei (The Netherlands)

Device-related infections in neurosurgery
Roger Bayston (UK)

Novel strategies to prevent and control biofilm growth on central venous catheters
Iolanda Francolini (Italy)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Friday, September 4, 2009

08.30 – 09.30 Keynote Lectures (Hall A)

Advanced imaging techniques in biofilm research
Paul Stoodley (USA)

Oral microbial communities
David Spratt (UK)

09.30 – 10.00 Coffee Break

10.00 – 11.00 Symposium 3 – Cardiovascular medical devices: prevention and control of biofilm formation (Hall A1)

Speakers to be announced

Symposium 4 – Imaging tools for studying microbial biofilms (Hall A2)

Speakers to be announced

11.00 – 13.00 Session 7 – Biofilm-Growing Bacteria in Gastrointestinal and Urogenital Tracts (Hall A1)

Chairpersons: Paola Mastrantonio (Italy); Alexander Swidsinski (Germany)

Environmental and genetic factors on biofilm formation by the probiotic strain *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG
Sigrid C. J. De Keersmaecker (Belgium)

Microbial biofilms associated with biliary stents
Emilio Guaglianone (Italy)

Microbial biofilms in bacterial vaginosis
Alexander Swidsinski (Germany)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Session 8 – Antibiotic Resistance in Biofilm-Growing Bacteria (Hall A2)

Chairpersons: Carl Erik Nord (Sweden); Giancarlo Schito (Italy)

Antibiotics and biofilm
Giancarlo Schito (Italy)

Biofilm-related and traditional resistance mechanisms
Oana Ciofu (Denmark)

Antibiotic resistance in bacterial biofilms
Jordi Vila (Spain)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Friday, September 4, 2009

14.00 – 15.00 **Poster discussion**

15.00 – 17.30 **Session 9 – Oral Biofilms: Structure, Microbial Interactions and Development (Hall A1)**

Chairpersons: Howard K. Kuramitsu (USA); Michael Wilson (UK)

Microbiological diagnostics in oral diseases
Gunnar Dahlén (Sweden)

Interspecies Interactions within oral microbial communities
Howard K. Kuramitsu (USA)

Role of biofilms in periodontal disease
Rudolf Gmür (Switzerland)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Session 10 – C-di-GMP regulation of biofilm phenotypes relevant to virulence (Hall A2)

Chairpersons: Max Dow (Ireland); Ute Römling (Sweden)

C-di-GMP phenotype related to Salmonella virulence
Ute Römling (Sweden)

Dissection of c-di-GMP signalling in Salmonella
Inigo Lasa (Spain)

Is biofilm formation in staphylococci independent of c-di-GMP?
James P. O’Gara (Ireland)

C-di-GMP-related phenotypes in plant pathogenicity
Max Dow (Ireland)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

Saturday, September 5, 2009

09.00 – 09.30 Keynote Lecture (Hall A)

Quorum sensing and biofilm development on biotic and abiotic surfaces
Paul Williams (UK)

09.30 – 10.00 Coffee Break

10.00 – 12.00 Session 11 – Biofilm Control Strategies and Therapeutic Approaches (Hall A)

Chairpersons: *Jeffrey B. Kaplan (USA); Paul Williams (UK)*

Therapeutic approaches for the control of oral biofilms
Andrew McBain (UK)

Anti-staphylococcal activities of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* dispersin B
Jeffrey B. Kaplan (USA)

Control strategies of *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilm formation in food industry
Giovanni Di Bonaventura (Italy)

Speakers to be selected from submitted abstracts

12.00 – 13.00 Poster discussion

13.00 – 14.30 Farewell Lunch