



European Society for Marine Biotechnology

NEWSLETTER

#06 – December 2022

President´s message

President´s welcome message




Dear members,

on behalf of the board of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology (ESMB), it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the ESMB's newsletter.

The ESMB society was set up to promote marine biotechnology in Europe. In the 25th year of our foundation, we continue to facilitate closer collaboration between marine biotechnologists, promoting research and education activities in the field of marine biotechnology.

The COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, the wars, are affecting our lives and our ecosystems and our society is no exception. We strongly believe that during this difficult time the scientific community must stay connected, continuing to educate the young researchers on the prominent role that the protection and the respect of the environment and, specifically, the sustainable utilization of the marine



resources, cover in ensure food security, decent works for a more peaceful life in our planet, according to the Sustainable development goals of the 2030 agenda.

Thanks to marine biotechnology we can win some of these societal challenges and ESMB offer possibilities for traineeship to young marine biotechnology researchers from Europe obtained first-hand training experience through placements provided by the ESMB society. In the future, ESMB aims to further continue promoting and creating educational initiatives for young scientists.

This newsletter has been set-up to communicate with the ESMB members, to facilitate the sharing of news, and to promote ESMB's activities. I hope that together will be more encouraged to come up with new solutions for some of the world's most challenging marine biotechnological problems. We hope that this newsletter can become a useful tool for all of you.

If you have any research ideas that you would like to share with the society, please let us know, and we will try to cover these in our upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, do stay in touch with us via our website or LinkedIn.

Yours Sincerely,
ESMB President
Concetta Messina

NEW BOARD ELECTED

With the elections that took place in the end of 2021, a new Board of the ESMB has been established, with 6 members being elected, joining to the other members holding fixed positions, namely the new President, Prof. Concetta Messina, who has acted as Vice-President in the previous term. The new members elected are Roberto T. Abdala Diaz, Renata Denaro, Sergey Dobretsov, Giovanna Romano and Tiago H. Silva, as well as Eleonora Curcuraci as students' representative.

In the first board meeting of 2022, Torger Børresen has been unanimously approved as new Honorary Member of the Board.

Later, in April's board meeting, a new Vice-President has been selected from among the members: Tiago H. Silva.

The complete composition of the Board can be seen in the last page of this newsletter.

ESMB BYLAWS HAVE BEEN UPDATED

ESMB bylaws have received a small amendment during 2022 regarding the role of the past president, who is now officially a member of the board. This change was made to assure a smooth transition between consecutive Boards, having always the President, the Vice-President and the Past President working together to push forward the activities of the Society.

ESMB CONFERENCE

Scientific conferences are moments of sharing, not only regarding previous results and their discussion, but also of new ideas and future plans, where many collaborations start. Recognizing this power, ESMB has organized the 2023 EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY. However, as the goal is to have a strong networking among participants, a face-to-face event is foreseen, which has been delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there are different national health situations worldwide, the situation in Europe seems to be under control and thus the event is now planned to November 2023, in Malaga. Please have a look at the official website of the conference to have updated information about deadlines details, information on the event:

<https://eventos.uma.es/44215/detail/european-congress-of-marine-biotechnology.html>

Stay tuned for further news, as we are looking forward to meet you all in Spain next year.

This event aims to trigger the regular organization of a congress of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology. Proposals for the organization of next editions are welcome.

ESMB MINI-SYMPOSIUM

With the impact of COVID-19 pandemic being felt in travelling and events, the European Society for Marine Biotechnology organized an online mini-symposium for students in marine biotechnology. The goal was to have young researchers sharing their work with other colleagues and discuss to discuss the progress on marine biotechnology within the community.

This on-line event took place on the 26th of November 2021, with a key-note presentation by Prof. Juan Luis Gómez



Pinchetti, from the Spanish Bank of Algae, on the use of Algae collections as a tool for conservation and research development. Then, four talks by young researchers followed, given by Jorge García Márquez (University of Malaga), Marte Jenssen (Arctic University of Norway), Shaima Hassan Bait-Maqbool (Sultan Qaboos University) and Hafidh Al Mahrouqi (University of Malaga).

OTHER CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

ESMB interacts with other organizations in the sector and, in this regard, the 13th International Marine Biotechnology Conference is being planned to take place in Brest, France, under the organization of Claire Hellio, ESMB Board Member. This event is organized by the International Marine Biotechnology Association (<http://theimba.org/>), with a history starting back in 1989, in Tokyo, Japan.

More details on the 13th IMBC will be delivered in new editions of the newsletter.

ESMB endorses other events organized by their associates or highly relevant for the field, upon analysis of the board. During 2022, the following events took place:

- The Ocean4biotech Summer School, in May, under the scope of the COST Action Ocean4Biotech (CA18238);
- International Summer School on Biotechnology, organized during 12-14th September by the European Federation of Biotechnology, in Innsbruck (Austria);
- International Summer School of Blue Biotechnology (ISSBB), being held in Naples (Italy), during 21-23rd September 2022.

A new event is planned for January 2023: a 3 days advanced training course on "Blue Bio-refinery technologies", supported by the ERA-NET Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy (<https://bluebioeconomy.eu/announcement/>).

DISSEMINATION OF ESMB

Aiming to disseminate the Society, its goals and main activities, the ESMB Board members have participated in other scientific events with presentations on the main outcomes of ESMB. The main participations during 2022 are listed below:

- Giovanna Romano presenting ESMB at the B-Blue final conference, in the 4th of May (an hybrid event of a strategic project funded by the European Union Transnational Programme Interreg Med 2014-2020, counting with the participation of about 50 people);
- Concetta Messina presenting ESMB at the 8th European Bioremediation Conference, held in Chania, Crete, during 12-17th June, with more than 100 participants;
- Giovanna Romano presenting ESMB at the Blue Innovation Forum, held in Cádiz, Spain, during 14-15th September, counting with 70 to 100 participants and marked by the launch of the Mediterranean Innovation Alliance for a Sustainable Blue Bioeconomy (MedIA-SBBE);
- Concetta Messina presenting ESMB at the annual congress of the Asian Federation of Biotechnology (AFOB), held in Bali as a hybrid event, between the 2nd and the 6th of October, counting with about 400 participants.

Webinars

ESMB WEBINARS

The ESMB have been promoting a series of webinars to disseminate different views and approaches in marine biotechnology. This action aims to contribute to the training of students and professionals operating in Marine Biotechnology sector, aligned with one of the main goals of the Society. Besides, it is also expected to trigger fruitful discussions, during Q&A or in follow-up contacts.


Given the wide range of topics encompassed in Marine Biotechnology, from marine biodiversity and derived natural products to technologies and applications, webinars can cover quite distinct subjects. Thus, you may find yourself hearing about microbe-deriving bioactive compounds, new aquaculture technology, pollution on aquatic ecosystems, health applications inspired in marine origin materials or anti-biofouling strategies, among others. At the end, you can be sure of one thing: you will be among enthusiastic people, sharing and learning about the different roles of marine biotechnology in our world.

The participation in the webinars is free, but require previous **registration [here](#)**.

During 2022, ESMB have promoted three webinars, with two being held together in the 24th of May and another one in the 28th of November, as follows.

The first one was entitled "*Biotechnological potential of marine diatoms*", with Giovanna Romano as guest speaker.

Giovanna Romano is senior researcher at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, in the Eco-sustainable Marine Biotechnology Department (www.szn.it), located in Naples, Italy. With a background in Biological Sciences, she has been developing research on the identification and exploitation of diatom-derived natural compounds, while addressing their effects and mechanisms of action. She is particularly interested in their potential use for the development of new



products for pharmaceutical, cosmeceutical and nutraceutical applications. In addition, Giovanna Romano is partner in the spin-off company BioSEArch srl, working on new pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical compounds from marine microalgae.

The second webinar of the day was delivered by Renata Denaro and was entitled "*Services and products from the marine oil-degrading bacterial community*".

Renata Denaro is a Researcher at the Water Research Institute of the National Research Council and Professor of Marine Microbial Biotechnology at the University of Tor Vergata (Rome). She has a background in Biochemical and Biomolecular Sciences, with research efforts addressing products from marine bacteria, namely regarding bioremediation and degradation of hydrocarbons and plastic in marine environment.

The third webinar was delivered by Eleonora Curcuraci and was entitled: "*From Universities to Industries: "NUTRAQUA" (Production of High Value-Added Nutraceuticals in a Multi-Trophic Aquaculture System within a Closed Circuit Marine Hatchery) Doctoral Programme in Industrial Innovation*".

Eleonora Curcuraci is a Marine Biologist and PhD on Earth and Marine Sciences at the University of Palermo. Her research mainly focuses on marine organisms cultivation for their use in Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems (IMTA) for biomass production, value added natural compounds production and bioremediation.

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend or want to recall something, you can check the recorded versions [here](#).

Training of Young Researchers

TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

One of the most relevant aims of ESMB is the contribution to the training of young researchers on this exciting field of marine biotechnology, with a training and exchange platform embedded at the ESMB website, with two main vectors:

- post-graduation and advanced courses on marine biotechnology and associated specific fields;
- opportunities for training periods, internships and fellowships at international labs, under the scope of research projects in which marine biotechnology plays a pivotal role.

Besides, there is also an opportunity to place a request for training not available among the listed proposals.

Please check the ESMB website for information:

<http://www.esmb.org/available-placements.html>

During 2022, there were five placements at the marine biochemistry laboratory, University of Palermo, with students traveling from University of Brest, University of Valencia and University of Dijon.

Recent publications

MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

Marine biotechnology (ISSN: 1436-2228 Print, 1436-2236 Online), edited by **Springer** (Editor-in-Chief: Zhanjiang (John) Liu), is the official journal of The European Society for Marine Biotechnology, published under a hybrid model (both subscription and open access), where high quality papers covering different aspects of the field can be explored. It is indexed in many different systems, with its impact factor receiving a value of **3.727**, belonging to Q2 in the category "*Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology*" and to **Q1** in the category "*Marine & Freshwater Biology*" (Clarivate Analytics 2021).

The latest issues of *Marine Biotechnology* can be browsed in the following links:

- [Volume 24, Issue 6 \(December 2022\)](#)
- [Volume 24, Issue 5 \(October 2022\)](#)
- [Volume 24, Issue 4 \(August 2022\)](#)

As ESMB member, you have full access to the contents of the journal. To experience it, go through the website of the Society and, click the tab "Journal". Alternatively, you can go through the link: <http://www.esmb.org/journal.html>
Clicking the "Login" button will bring you to the journal.

OPEN AND FORTHCOMING CALLS

HORIZON EUROPE

The Work Programmes for the period 2023 – 2024 on Horizon Europe have been published. Among them, there is one particularly relevant for marine biotechnology, the Cluster 6, addressing *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*.

The text for the Work Programme on Cluster 6 can be obtained [here](#).

The first calls open during December 2022. The complete information on the calls and their specific topics can be found at the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

Contact your national contact point (NCP) for further details.

COST Actions

COST Actions aim to foster the organization of research networks, in any science and technology field, to cooperate and push their topic further, for the strengthening of the European Research. They provide funds during a period of 4 years for networking, as meetings, training events or short term scientific missions (exchange of researchers).

Find information in the 2023 open call in:

<https://www.cost.eu/funding/open-call-a-simple-one-step-application-process/>

(deadline: 25 October 2023, 12:00 CET)

ERA-NET BlueBio COFUND

- 2nd Additional Call closed at 20th of September 2021 and details for the 3rd Additional Call has just been announced, giving support to some of the projects funded in previous calls to amplify their impact. Details [here](#).

General Information about the funding scheme can be obtained at the respective [website](#).

The Society

The European Society for Marine Biotechnology (ESMB) was established in France on 26th of April 1995, aiming to promote marine biotechnology in Europe and closer research collaboration between marine biotechnologists.

The ESMB is the European body for promoting marine biotechnology in Europe and functions as a marine biotech hub for dissemination of marine biotech activities and policies in Europe.

A particular vector of ESMB is the training platform, illustrating the educational oriented focus of the society, aiming to contribute to the formation of young researchers for this multidisciplinary demanding field. Besides, ESMB organizes and endorses conferences and workshops of relevant topics.

ESMB's official journal is Marine Biotechnology, edited by Springer.

To learn more about us, visit the [website](#) and follows us in [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

The current board (2022-2023) is:

President **Concetta Messina**

Past-President **Sergey Dobretsov**

Vice-President **Tiago H. Silva**

Secretary **Maria Salta**

Treasurer **Jean-Pascal Berge**

Elected board member **Renata Denaro**

Elected board member **Roberto T. Abdala Diaz**

Elected board member **Giovanna Romano**

Elected Student representative **Eleonora Curcuraci**

Industry representative **Jean-Paul Cadoret**

University of Brest representative **Claire Hellio**

Honorary member of the board **Torger Børresen**

Honorary member of the board **Grant Burgess**

Publisher's representative **Victoria Ferrara**