



**Federation of European
Microbiological Societies**

FEMS Board–Council Online Networking Session

20 March 2024



Welcome!

Agenda



Welcome



Update on FEMS activities



Call for Directors vacancies



Highlights of what is to come in 2024



Breakout discussion & networking

Welcome, new delegates!



Prof Ilario Ferrocino - Italian Society of Agro-Food and Environmental Microbiology

Prof Pilar Junier - Swiss Society for Microbiology

Dr Marko Kostovski - Macedonian Microbiological Society

Prof Cath Rees - Applied Microbiology International

Prof Ezio Ricca - Italian Society of General Microbiology and Microbial Biotechnologies

Dr Jonita Stankevičiūtė - Lithuanian Microbiological Society





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FEMS updates

Growing for the future



In order to continue its charitable work, FEMS, like its member societies, is investing in a sustainable future.

Sustainable priorities

Focus in 2024:

- Preparing for Congress in Milan in 2025
- Making our 6 Open Access Journals a success
- Developing a FEMS Strategy for 2025 and beyond
- Investing in the IT, communications and human resources FEMS needs to continue delivering its services
- Celebrating FEMS 50th anniversary

FEMS and Open Access: Embracing an Open Future

- Six of our seven journals (*FEMS Reviews*, *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, *FEMS Yeast Research*, *Pathogens and Disease*, *FEMS Microbes* and *μLife*) are now **fully Open Access** (OA).
- Microbiology research is increasingly being published as OA, where it is immediately available to anyone, anywhere in the world. Funders are increasingly mandating this.
- We have adopted a Gold OA model for our six journals. Instead of institutions paying to subscribe to our journals and the content only being accessible to subscribers, there are now 2 options:
 1. **Authors** pay an Article Processing Charge (APC)
 2. **Institution** pays if in a Read-and-Publish agreement with Oxford University Press (OUP).
- For those unable to pay an APC, FEMS is operating a generous **waiver and discount scheme**.
- For any authors unable to access funds for APCs, *FEMS Microbiology Letters* remains **free-to-publish**. It covers the full scope of microbiology research.

Supporting Our Journals

- The flip to OA means not only that research becomes accessible to anyone, anywhere, but also that less research funds are diverted from research to share-holders from for-profit publishing corporations. Conversely, it also means that FEMS journals will generate significantly less income for FEMS than they have previously.
- Both FEMS and our publisher partner (OUP) are **not-for-profit** organisations that use their revenues to support the microbiology community.
- The journals landscape is extremely competitive and changing fast and our journals need your support and advocacy if they are to thrive in this landscape.
- In contrast to for-profit journals, journals like FEMS' journals that are **run by the community, for the good of the community** need the **active support of the community**. Examples of support include:
 - Submit your research manuscripts to FEMS Journals.
 - Be willing to act as editors or peer reviewers (e.g., as member of editorial board).
 - Develop and submit ideas for **Thematic Issues, Perspectives, Webinars**, etc.
 - Encourage your colleagues and society members to do the same!

FEMS Webinars

Online events to help you take part in scientific discussion, wherever you are.

Upcoming Webinars in 2024 include:

FEMS Microbiology Ecology Webinar on Polar and Alpine Microbiology

Date: Thursday 21 March 2024

Time: 10:00 AM EST / 14:00 GMT / 15:00 CET / 22:00 CST



Director vacancies

At the end of 2024, 3 positions will become vacant on the FEMS Board of Directors.

To be nominated a candidate will need to:

- submit a letter of support from two Member Societies,
- a CV
- a brief cover letter highlighting why they are applying for the role.



Who is FEMS looking for?

- Passionate and committed individuals with interest in FEMS and serving the microbiology community.
- We actively encourage early career scientists to apply.
- FEMS is seeking someone with journal editorial experience.



How can you help spread the word?

Promote the call during the vacancy period via your social media channels.

Contact individuals you think would be good for the role within your network.

Be open about who interested parties can contact in your Society (should they seek a letter of support from your Society)

Encourage interested parties to contact FEMS to discuss the positions.



Nomination timeline

March - 14 June 2024

Deadline to submit nominations.

12/13 September 2024

Formal vote on selected candidates at FEMS Council.

November 2024

Successful candidates invited to attend Board of Directors meeting.

1 January 2025

New Directors begin term of office.





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Coming up in 2024....

Council 2024 and 50th anniversary

- 12/13 September at the Hague Conference Centre, The Hague, the Netherlands
- Council will mark the 50th anniversary of FEMS and will see a special anniversary dinner to mark the occasion
- Registration will shortly be open to attend this event



FEMS Grants

MEETING ORGANIZER GRANTS

Deadline: 1 May 23:59 CET

RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS

Deadline: 1 July 23:59 CET

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT GRANTS

Deadline: 1 July 23:59 CET

MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTS

Deadline: 1 September 23:59 CET



The fifth FEMS Summer school for postdocs, an ***eight-days*** summer school of close work with top scientists in field of Climate change and microbiology, will provide unparalleled opportunities for personal and professional growth to 20 most talented promising researchers from across the world, and enable and encourage research collaboration across all fields of microbiology.

Summer School for Postdocs 2024

Climate Change: Challenges and Influence
on Microbial Safety of Water and Food

02 to 10th September 2024



**Application deadline: 31st March
2024**

Final Program coming soon.



Split, Croatia

Mentors and Speakers

Lisa Stein, Summer School Co-director, Research Chair in Climate Change Microbiology; Faculty of Science Assoc. Dean, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Andreja Rajkovic, Summer School Co-director, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Department of Food Technology, Safety and Health, Ghent University, Belgium

Ana Allende, Spanish National Research Council | CSIC - Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura, Madrid, Spain

Christina Hazard, Research Leader, Bioengineering Department, Laboratoire Ampère, Université de Lyon, France

Jennifer Pett-Ridge, Group Leader, Physical & Life Sciences Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Livermore, California, USA

Mirjana Andjelkovic, Senior Research Scientist at Sciensano, Ghent, Flemish Region, Belgium

Liesbeth Jacxsens, Department of Food Safety and Food Quality, Ghent University, Belgium

Kostas Koutsomanis, Head of Laboratory of Food Microbiology and Hygiene, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, Thessaloniki, Greece

Evelyne Selberherr, Institute of Food Safety, Food Technology and Veterinary Public Health, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria

Nicole Webster, Executive Director, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Honorary Senior Principal Research Scientist, Australian Institute of Marine Science



**Save the
date for
FEMS2025!**

**Week 13 July 2025
Milan, Italy**



Breakout sessions for discussion

- You will be randomly split into a breakout group
- 20 minutes to discuss the questions on the next slide
- At the start take a few moments to introduce yourselves
- A 5-minute warning will message on the screen to notify you when the 20 minutes is almost up.
- After the time has passed, we will come back together to discuss as a group



A decorative arrangement of green pentagons. One is at the top center. A cluster of five is on the left. Two are on the right. At the bottom, there are two more clusters: one with four and one with three pentagons.

Break out discussion

1. What are 3 hot topics that should be covered at FEMS Congress 2025, Milan, where 1 of them is not science related?
2. What is your society currently struggling with?

The slide features several clusters of green pentagons of varying sizes. One cluster of five is in the top-left, one of three in the top-right, one of four in the bottom-left, and one of three in the bottom-right. A single pentagon is positioned at the top center.

Thank you