

Annual Report 2008-2009 for the ESCMID Study Group for Biofilms

Past activities:

- ESGB organised an educational workshop and a symposium at the ECCMID congress in Barcelona 2008. The proposed educational workshop and symposium for the ECCMID Congress in Helsinki 2009 was unfortunately not approved.
- The local ESGB members (Niels Høiby, Thomas Bjarnsholt, Helle Krogh Johansen) have established a Danish Biofilm Working Group (chairman N. Høiby, secretary T. Bjarnsholt) under the umbrella of the Danish Society for Clinical Microbiology (president H. K. Johansen). Approximately 60 scientists from medical and technical research institutions participated in the founding meeting, February 23, 2009 at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen. The Danish Biofilm Working Party will organize one half- and one whole day scientific meeting every year with both medical and technical sessions. Next meeting will take place September 25. 2009 in Copenhagen. ESGB encourage members in other European countries to establish similar national scientific biofilm fora if this is not already the case.
- The ESGB has been busy organizing a postgraduate technical workshop (see below) which was approved by ESCMID.
- The ESGB has been busy organizing the first big European Biofilm Congress, chaired by Gianfranco Donelli (see below). It is of some concern, that the ASM General meeting and the ECCMID congress in Helsinki takes place at nearly the same time and that the next ASM Biofilm meeting has now been decided to be held in Mexico November 2009 only 2 ½ months after the ESGB congress in Rome. ESGB sincerely hopes, that future plans will not give rise to such problems.
- ESGB has again organised a pre-congress educational workshop on animal experiments on biofilm infection at the ASM biofilm conference in Mexico.

Planned activities:

- The ESGB business meeting during the ECCMID 2009 congress in Helsinki will take place May 17, 18, 15-19, 15 in a Lecture Hall, see the programme. Election to the EC will take place (3 new EC members).
- ESGB has organized an ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop on Medical Biofilm Techniques 2009, which will take place at the Danish Technical University (DTU) in Copenhagen, August 17-20, 2009. The organizers are Niels Høiby, Søren Molin and Claus Sternberg, information can be obtained from Niels Høiby (hoiby@hoibyniels.dk) or at the ESCMID website (www.escmid.org). Deadline for application is May 1st 2009.

- The next ESGB congress, 'EUROBIOFILMS 2009', which is the first big European biofilm congress, is organized in Rome September 2-5, 2009 and Gianfranco Donelli (Gianfranco.donelli@iss.it) is the president for the congress. The venue is the Congress Center of the Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care, Santa Lucia Foundation in Rome. The outline of the programme, the abstract submission and registration is now open and the congress website is: <http://www.ptsroma.it/eurobiofilms2009>
- ESGB will also suggest educational workshop and symposia for the 2010 ECCMID.

Number of the current members: 142.

Finances:

Awaiting the report of our treasurer Craig Williams. There is a surplus from the 43rd Postgraduate course on "Bacterial Adaptation Mechanisms: Biofilms, Hypermotility and Antibiotics Resistance" (BAMBHAR), November 7-9, 2007 in Palma, Mallorca, which should have been transferred from Antonio Oliver to ESGB/ESCMID.

Niels Høiby
Chairman of ESGB