

27th annual meeting of European Culture Collections' Organization

“HARMONISATION & VALIDATION OF METHODS THE WAY FORWARD FOR EUROPEAN CULTURE COLLECTIONS”

ECCO XXVII will take place on Tuesday 10th (from 1 pm) and Wednesday 11th of June (full day) 2008, in [Ghent](#), Belgium.

For registration: see [Registration](#)

PRELIMINAR PROGRAM

Tuesday 10th of June 2008

Start 13:00 Registration / Mounting of Posters

14:00 - 14:15 Introduction and Welcome

Session 1

Approaches and methods for verification, authentication, identification, characterisation of the biological material (setting the scene, **general aspects from a scientific point of view**; species descriptions; strain differentiation; ...)

14:15 - 14:45 Which methods for which purpose, which approach for which purpose, general decisions

14:45 - 15:45 Which methods for bacteria, archaea, fungi/yeasts, animal/human cells?

15:45 - 16:15 Posters / Coffee / Tea

16:15 - 17:30 Which methods for cyanobacteria, algae, viruses, isolated DNA, plasmids?

18:00 Tour / Dinner

Wednesday 11th of June 2008

Session 2: Approaches towards Harmonisation of Culture Collection Practices

Subsession 2.1: The role of Culture Collections between depositor and user

- 9:00 - 9:30 The need for 'authentication /identification' from the regulative point of view
- 9:30 - 10:00 The role of Culture Collections in 'control/verification', the value of species descriptions; non-taxonomic features; ...
- 10:00 - 10:30 The (dis-)advantages of traditional and modern methods, what is desirable, what is possible
- 10:30 - 11:00 Open discussion on potential approaches to agree and harmonise

11:00-11:45 Posters / Coffee / Tea

Subsession 2.2: Initiatives for Collaboration and Harmonisation

- 11:45 - 12:00 The MTA with the user (ECCO core MTA finalization)
- 12:00 - 12:10 The MTA with the depositor (Accession Forms adoption of concept?)
- 12:10 - 12:25 Implementing the OECD guidelines on biosecurity (how can we work together)
- 12:25 - 12:35 The EMBarC project proposal
- 12:35 - 12:45 The GBRCN secretariat proposal

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

Session 3 Long term Preservation, development of methods, fastidious organisms

- 14:00 - 14:20 Lecture on technology of freeze-drying
- 14:20 - 14:40 Problems encountered with specific groups of strains (marine bacteria, some groups of fungi, etc.)
- 14:40 - 15:00 Designing an optimal freeze-drying protocol
- 15:00 - 15:20 Alternatives to freeze-drying

15:30-15:45: Coffee / Tea

- 15:45 - 15:55 Poster price

16:00 – 16:45 AGM

Report from officers
New members

- 16:45 - 17:00 Wrap-up; Next venue