



NEWSLETTER

of the European Society for Animal Cell Technology

November 2008

A Word from the Chairman

Florian Wurm

While we are approaching now with very rapid steps one of the major highlights of our society, the next meeting held in June 2009, I may be allowed to reflect on my now 3.5 years of chairmanship. I joined **ESACT** as a member when I was 33 years old and this is now 25 years ago. Anyway I never dreamt in my wildest dreams what happened eventually to me, and to become eventually a “chairman”. I am so proud to be a member of this society since it has been a stable and trusted “fixture” while my life with my “job” took many turns and twists, as some of you know. There were always our meetings where I could connect with professional and personal friends with whom I could share at least parts of my worries, anxieties and pressures we experience in our professional life. Many of those with whom I shared these thoughts had gone through similar experiences and thus could really give me support and comfort. To those who helped me I thank again very much.

A few weeks ago I came back from my first and very exciting trip to China that brought me to Beijing, Dalian, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong (all these cities are very impressive whose size in space and population goes beyond imagination). I am still not fully through with absorbing the diversity of experiences and sights I had. But clearly, with respect to cell culture technology in recombinant protein production there is a very great need and highest interest in what we do or have done in the past. The biotech industry that applies animal cells in culture is just emerging and, of course, some of the products that are of highest importance to us and our western societies are in their focus as well. I am not sure yet who will be the key players and how the readiness of the Chinese central and provincial governments to spend money and to help companies and academic institutions with strong links to industry (it is at times difficult to judge what is private and what is public effort) will mediate the expected growth. I personally feel that, while we are frequently a bit “scared” when we talk about this largest segment of our global

population, we should provide help and support with the same openness as we have done in the past. I remind you of the years about 2 decades ago when some countries in Europe were truly just starting with cell culture technology and whoever came was taken into our community with open arms. Also, beyond Europe, we established good friendships and established partnerships (I remind you of our continuing relationship with our Japanese friends). Out of this feeling I have accepted to be nominated an Invited Professor at Jinan university, an institution in Guangzhou (near Hong Kong) that has been founded in 1906 and that has 35000 students, a third of which come from foreign countries and thus prides itself as a very open-minded and open-door university. Most classes at the Master level and beyond are held in English and thus, over time, I believe that the still existing language barrier will be reduced dramatically.

During my visit to Dalian I participated at the IBS 2008 (International Biotechnology Symposium) that brought together some 3000 participants. My feeling about this meeting was not so great about this conference which, in spite of having some outstanding speakers, was split up into many (4-5) parallel sessions, even if they were addressing questions that were related to each other, and it was very difficult to meet people. This enforces my sense that we should try, as much as we can, to keep our **ESACT** conferences very compact and “force” participants to listen to most if not all presentations. I know that this is more difficult since we are (still) growing, but the need to share our knowledge and questions in casual conversations after the lectures, during coffee breaks and during our social events makes **our community** and **our conferences** special. I hope we can keep it this way for years to come.

With the best wishes and hoping to see you all in Dublin – I know that the team of Michael Comer will surprise us with something outstanding and special.

Florian

ESACT 2009 Cell Culture Technology Award

Bryan Griffiths

Call for Nominations

The ESACT Cell Culture Technology Award is a new award intended to recognize outstanding contributions and scientific excellence in the field of animal cell culture technology. It will be presented every two years during the General Scientific Meeting of ESACT and for the first time at the 21st General Meeting of ESACT to take place June 7-10, 2009 in Dublin, Ireland. The Award will consist of € 5000 together with a commemorative plaque. The Award recipient will be invited to present the ESACT Award Lecture at the ESACT Meeting immediately following his/her selection. The invitation to attend the ESACT Meeting will include all travel expenses, accommodation during the Meeting and the waiver of registration fees.

Nomination for the Award is open to all researchers and practitioners in the cell culture biotechnology field. It is expected that the Award recipient will fully attend the ESACT Meeting following his/her selection and will deliver personally the Award Lecture. Not eligible for the Award are ESACT Executive Committee members as well as Award Committee members during the term of their respective Committee membership and for a two-year period thereafter.

Nominees will be judged based on two criteria:

1. Originality, impact, quantity and quality of work in Animal Cell Culture Biotechnology and its applications, as judged by publications, citations, patents, presentations, books and related educational and/or research documents; involvement in student education and/or training will also be taken into consideration.

2. Significant contributions to the advancement of Animal Cell Culture Biotechnology by leadership in the development of novel and high impact educational and/or technological/business activities.

Candidates for the Award will be nominated by the scientific community and selection of the Award recipient will be carried out by an Award Committee under the direction and guidance of Dr. Bryan Griffiths (Award Chairman).

Awards Committee

The members of the ESACT Awards Committee are:

Bryan Griffiths, UK (Chairman)

Robert Adamson, Wyeth Biotech, USA

John Birch, Lonza UK

Hermann Katinger, Vienna, Austria

Sanetaka Shirahata, Kyushu University, Japan

Complete Guidelines for the 2009 ESACT Cell Culture Technology Award

Purpose

The ESACT Cell Culture Technology Award is intended to recognize an outstanding contributor to the field of Animal Cell Culture Biotechnology. The Award nominations will be judged according to the criteria described further below.

The Award

The ESACT Award is presented at the discretion of the ESACT Award Committee. The value of the Award will be a sum of € 5000 together with a commemorative plaque. The Award will be presented to the recipient at the ESACT bi-annual Scientific Meeting. The award recipient will be invited to present the ESACT Award Lecture at the ESACT Scientific Meeting immediately following his/her selection. The invitation to attend the ESACT Meeting will include all travel expenses, the accommodation during the Meeting and the waiver of the registration fees.

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Contributions should be sent to eletter@esact.org
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Eligibility

Nomination for the Award is open to all researchers and practitioners in the cell culture biotechnology field. It is expected that the Award recipient will fully attend the ESACT Meeting following his/her selection and will deliver personally the Award Lecture. Inability to participate in the specific ESACT Meeting for any reason other than medical reasons will automatically disqualify the selected individual. The Award will then be given to the runner-up who becomes subject to the same eligibility criteria as outlined above. Not eligible for the Award are ESACT Executive Committee members as well as Award Committee members during the term of their respective Committee membership and for a two-year period thereafter.

Criteria

Nominees will be judged based on two criteria:

1. Originality, impact, quantity and quality of work in Animal Cell Culture Biotechnology and its applications, as judged by publications, citations, patents, presentations, books and related educational and/or research documents, also the involvement in student education and/or training will be taken into consideration
2. Significant contributions to the advancement of Animal Cell Culture Biotechnology by leadership in the development of novel and high impact educational and/or technological/business activities

Evaluation

Nomination packages will be evaluated by an Award Committee to be established and presided by Dr. Bryan Griffiths who has been appointed Chairman of the Award Committee by the ESACT Executive Committee.

Nomination Package

The nomination package must consist of the following items:

1. A completed nomination cover sheet/form (see below);
2. A nomination letter/statement of no more than 3 single-spaced pages including a description of the nominee's contributions in animal cell culture biotechnology based on the criteria above, both of which must be explicitly addressed;
3. A biographical sketch/CV including the following:
 - Education (all academic qualifications starting with the first university degree) This should

include: The institutions' names & locations, the degrees or qualifications obtained, the year and the major or principle field). Where a dissertation was presented the title and reference should be included.

- Positions held (Company or institution, Position or title, Time period).
- Other Academic and professional honors and awards.
- Technical and professional society memberships and any offices held

4. Three supporting letters from well-respected individuals in the field.

The items in the nomination cover sheet/ form should contain the following information:

1. Name of nominee.
2. Present position & title.
3. Mailing address (including phone, FAX and email).
4. Names and affiliation of those writing the three supporting letters.
5. Nominator's name and address.
6. Nominator's signature.
7. Date.

How to submit & due date

Nomination packages are due on **December 15, 2008**. Sole recipient of the nomination packages should be **Dr. Bryan Griffiths**. Please do not forward nomination packages to the ESACT office or to any ESACT Executive Committee members as this will disqualify the nominee.

THE COMPLETE NOMINATION PACKAGE should be submitted in an electronic form AS A SINGLE PDF FILE WITH THE NAME OF THE NOMINEE, and should include the scanned, signed letters of support. PDF files can be sent on a CD together with the package OR BY EMAIL IF SMALLER THAN 10 MB. One copy of the package with original signatures should be also mailed to the address below:

Dr. Bryan Griffiths
5 Bourne Gardens
Porton, Salisbury
Wilts
SP4 0NU
UK
E-Mail Address: jbriff@tiscali.co.uk



"Cead Mile Failte" (pronounced 'Kaid-Mee-la-Fawl-teh')

"One Hundred Thousand Welcomes"

You will have already seen the above "Welcome" on the web-site at www.esact2009.org and it would be my pleasure to extend this to you personally. Yes, as our Chairman, Florian Wurm has indicated in this November Issue of the Newsletter in "Word from the Chairman" the next ESACT Meeting will be held in Dublin, Ireland and it is imminent. Indeed, as it will be the 21st Meeting we hope it will be something special to you and a worthy follow-on from all those memorable ones for the veterans and an exciting and valuable experience for those visiting an ESACT Meeting for the first time.



Here we would like to encourage you to inform and enlist as many new-comers as you can. This is your venue representing the best of your technology. The Scientific Committee under the Chairmanship of Nigel Jenkins will insure an invigorating and inspiring programme where we will endeavour to look at current achievements and their impact into the future. Whilst for the present our Conference Partners in conjunction with the Organising Committee will ensure an efficient organisation in the most pleasant of surroundings. We will also enjoy the "spirits" and ensuing warmth of Irish hospitality and the excitement of a party flavour in entertainment. We will soon finalise the scientific and social programmes. However, and in the days of economic limitations, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to take advantage of "Early Registration" and perhaps also avail of reduced air fares by booking them early too. We are very eager to welcome you, so see you in Dublin!

Volunteers Needed to judge the Poster Competition during the 21st ESACT Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, June 2009

The 21st ESACT Meeting planning is well under way. Now we are looking for volunteers to judge the Poster Competition.

Judges must have a Ph.D. or M.D. or equivalent degree, OR a B.A. B.S. or M.S. degree with at least 5 years technical experience, but no previous science fair judging experience is needed.

Judges will need to be available during the Poster Sessions 1 & 2 on Tuesday 9th June 1.00-5.30 pm and the final selection round on Wednesday 10th June at 12.30pm.

All information about the evaluation procedures will be provided to the judges before the ESACT Meeting and on Monday 8th June.

Please let us know if you want to be one of the Poster Committee members till the end of February, 2009. For further information about becoming a judge please contact Halina Swiderek (halina.swiderek@roche.com) or Enda Moran (emoran@wyeth.com).

Jinan University honors Florian Wurm

Hansjoerg Hauser



Jinan University in Guangzhou close to HongKong, a university with 35'000 students, has awarded Florian Wurm with a Visiting Professorship.

Florian, current ESACT chairman, is a professor at EPFL and founder of the company ExcellGene. Jinan University has honored Florian's activities in his double role as an academic researcher and entrepreneur for his continuous contributions to mammalian cell biotechnology.

As a German citizen, he studied Biology at the University of Gießen where he also received his PhD at the Institute of Genetics in 1969. Florian started his work in industry at the former Behringwerke in Marburg by developing a process for the production of interferons from Navalma cells. In 1985 he went to Harvard Medical School as a visiting scientist for one year and subsequently joined Genentech in San Francisco. 1995 he left Genentech and took the chair of Cellular Biotechnology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Since that time he became increasingly active in ESACT. ESACT members know Florian not only as the current chairman but also as a major organizer for the ESACT meeting 1999 in Lugano/Switzerland. Florian Wurm authors more than 150 peer reviewed papers and 20 patents. In 2001 he founded ExcellGene where he still acts as a CEO.

Congratulations to you, Florian – keep on kicking !

ESACT welcomes the following new members:

Ansorge Sven	Biotechnology Research Institute, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal
Bhavsar Gaurav	Cobra Biomanufacturing Plc
Boudreau Michael	Emerson Process Management
Chon John	Percivia, LLC
Fletcher Tom	Irvine Scientific
Florin Lore	Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co.KG
Fux Cornelia	Novartis Pharma AG
Garcia Lidia	Fort Dodge Veterinaria
Grosvenor Sally	Novozymes
Gulce Iz Sultan	Ege University
Henriques Ricardo	ITQB/IBET - MIT
Mabrouk Taoufik	GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals s.a.
Muecke Oliver	Foster Wheeler AG
Oerlemans Marco	Solvay Biologicals
Zhang Min	SAFC Biosciences

Reminder: In order to activate your membership, please do not forget to pay your subscription as described in the email you have received.



Executive Committee working hard for the preparation of the ESACT 2009 meeting in Dublin.

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Executive Committee

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