



NEWSLETTER

of the European Society for Animal Cell Technology

Special Issue: ESACT Elections

Election of the Executive Committee 2013-2015

Election Process

Opening and closing dates

The election of the next ESACT's Executive Committee for the period 2013-2015 will take place from 23 April, 9 AM (GMT) to 23 June 23:00 (GMT) 2013. The results will be announced during the 23rd ESACT meeting in Lille at the ESACT General Assembly on 25 June 2013.

Who can vote?

An ESACT member who fulfils the following criteria is eligible to vote:

1. **Have a membership valid for the year 2013**, i.e. have paid its membership fees before 23 April and covers the year 2013 (this also applies to honorary members)
2. **Have a valid e-mail address in our records** (please go to www.esact.org, login to members area and check your profile for incorrect information regarding the e-mail address)

Newly accepted ESACT members are encouraged to regularize their memberships by paying a 5-year membership as their first fee (100 euros) in order to be eligible for voting.

How can I vote?

The election process will be run entirely within the ESACT website (www.esact.org). The process of submitting your vote encloses the following steps:

1. Login to the members' area using your username and password. If you have forgotten your login password, please recover it using the "Lost Password?" function available in ESACT website (www.esact.org). If you have forgotten both login username and password, please contact the ESACT Office (rol dao@esact.org)

2. Click on the "Elections" button

(**IMPORTANT:** this button will be only visible once the election process is initiated)

3. In the next page, click on the active link "ESACT XC ELECTION PROCESS" and then follow the instructions in order to submit your vote

As you can see, this is a simple and fast process. Nevertheless, we would like to stress that you should read carefully the instruction given in each phase of the process before submitting your vote. Here are some extracts of that important information:

- You can vote in 4 persons from a list of 7 candidates
- Introduce your e-mail address to receive a confirmation e-mail with your selections
- Please, verify your selections in "Preview mode" before submitting your vote. Once submitted, your vote cannot be changed

Officers for the period 2013-2015

(Appointed by the current Executive Committee)

Chairman: Hansjörg Hauser
HZI, Germany

Vice-Chairman: Paula Alves
IBET/ITQB-UNL, Portugal

Treasurer: Nicole Borth
BOKU, Austria

Secretary: Hitto Kaufmann
Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany

Presentation of Candidates

(by Alphabetic Order)

Alan Dickson



Alan Dickson is currently Director of the Centre of Excellence in Biopharmaceuticals (CoEBP; <http://www.coebp.ls.manchester.ac.uk>) and is Professor of Biotechnology in the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester (<http://www.ls.manchester.ac.uk>). Alan undertook his BSc and PhD at the University of Edinburgh, before moving to a Research Fellowship at the University of Kent and, subsequently, to the University of Manchester. His research has focused on the regulation of cell function (in terms of metabolic, protein and gene targets) in cells used as hosts for recombinant gene expression. This covers technologies that span from nucleus to secretion apparatus and the relationship of the host cell to the pipeline for generation of functional biopharmaceuticals. In the early 1990's, Alan started off series of fruitful collaborations with commercial partners in relation to mammalian cell hosts for protein harvest and this continues today through the Bioprocessing Research Industry Club (BRIC; <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk>) and via individual collaborations. Alan is a frequent speaker at international conferences and publishes in/reviews for sector-specific journals.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

From an academic viewpoint, the industrial-academic interaction provides fascinating opportunities to pursue unique research activities which have the potential to generate real impact. This perception has strengthened

since my initial discussions with prospective industry partners in the early 90's and is arguably even more relevant now than then, with widening of interest in industrial/academic collaborations. I served in the last ESCAT Executive Committee (2011-2013) and in various posts with ESACT-UK (through to Chair; reflecting within the UK community the lead provided by ESACT) over the decade from 1992 before taking on senior management roles within the Faculty of Life Sciences, as Dean for Graduate Education and Dean for Communications. The CoEBP (set up 3 years ago) advises and co-ordinates the initiation and development of industrial-academic interactions for staff at the University of Manchester in the area of biopharmaceuticals and their production. This continues my interests in networking strong collaborations around the complementary strengths and visions of industry and academia, the introduction of new expertise to address the on-coming scientific challenges and the development of young researchers who will have the appropriate skills sets to secure the future. I believe that my vision for the sector is a reflection of that of ESACT and I hope to be able to continue serving the ESACT executive committee and keep using my experience to aid ESACT achieve its aims over the coming years.

Amine Kamen



Amine Kamen is Lead of Process Development and Principal Research Officer, for the Human Health Therapeutics Portfolio at the National Research Council (NRC), Canada.

His current research activities focus on developing enabling technologies for manufacturing biologics. He has been involved in scale-up of industrial processes; rational media design, metabolic engineering; process control and process analytical technologies of high yield productions of therapeutic recombinant proteins, viral vectors and vaccines. He published over one hundred and twenty papers in refereed international journals and acts as consultant for many national and international organizations. He trained and mentored more than 30 PhDs and post-Docs fellows.

In particular, he established one of the North America largest and most advanced governmental center for animal cell culture addressing process development and scale up of biologics. By leveraging resources from industry and government sources, the NRC center has been successfully exploited for the development of industrial products with partners from North America, Europe and Asia. Also, he developed with his team and licensed to industry multiple technology platforms for efficient manufacturing of recombinant proteins and viral vectors and vaccines and led technology transfer to manufacturing sites for clinical evaluation and commercialization.

Amine Kamen received a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from École des Mines de Paris and a Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering from École Polytechnique de Montréal. Before joining the NRC in 1991, he was a professor of mass-transport phenomena and reactor design.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

I have been involved in the European Society of Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) meetings at different occasions as participant, speaker and workshop organizer. I had then the opportunity to highly appreciate the critical contributions of ESACT to the animal cell technology field and enjoy the very friendly environment favoring the exchange of ideas and the cross fertilization between industry and academia. ESACT was for me “The Forum” where I met excellent friends from not only Europe but also South America and Asia. It was also, the place where I was able to build with academic and industrial partners long lasting alliances. In recent years, I have been extensively involved in organizing the sister conferences Cell Culture Engineering (CCE) and Protein Expression in Animal Cell (PEACe) which are not-for-profit conferences sharing the same goals and values as ESACT. In this time of acceleration and globalization of exchanges I decided to more actively share best practices and contribute by serving the specific needs in the animal cell technology field. For example, one area requires more attention than ever and that is the transitioning and training of graduate students in advanced animal cell engineering technologies. ESACT has already put forward an action plan to respond to these needs. Therefore, it is with the simple idea to give back and the strong motivation to actively contribute to our large community, largely beyond borders, that I am applying as a candidate for the ESACT executive committee in 2013.

Dethardt Müller



I look forward to providing my knowledge and expertise to ESACT on the executive level.

Dethardt Müller graduated in Technical Biology at the University of Stuttgart, Germany and, in 2000 received his PhD in biotechnology from BOKU University in Vienna, Austria for his work on the development and control of CHO-based perfusion and fed-batch processes for biopharmaceutical production. Subsequently, he was Head Upstream Development at Polymun Scientific in Vienna.

In 2002, Dethardt Müller became assistant professor of Bioprocess Engineering at BOKU University, where in 2008 he received the postdoctoral lecture qualification (“Habilitation”) for his work dealing with the advancement of CHO-based technology platforms. Up to date, he is lecturer for cell culture technology and bioprocess engineering at BOKU.

In 2009, Dethardt Müller joined Rentschler Biotechnologie GmbH in Laupheim, Germany. As Vice President Technology Development he is responsible for all technological assets along Rentschler’s value chain from cell line development to recombinant product formulation.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

I have experienced ESACT meetings from varying perspectives holding different positions in academia and industry. One impression never changed over the years, being among friends with a strong commitment to advancing cell culture technology towards application. And this is the great achievement of ESACT which is unequalled anywhere in an increasingly competitive environment for science and industry. I very much appreciated the invitation to participate in the organization of the Vienna ESACT meeting in 2011 and

Friedemann Hesse



future bringing in my work force and experience for the Executive Committee.

Friedemann Hesse was born in 1963 in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Studied Chemistry at the University of Tübingen, where he received his Diploma in 1992 and his doctoral degree in Biochemistry in 1996. Moved to GBF in Braunschweig, Germany, as a post-doc, where he joined the research group of Prof. Wagner, working on cell line and media development, as well as process optimisation topics. In 2002, moved to the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, Austria, where he joined the Institute of Applied Microbiology to work as coordinator of the competence centre ACBT (Austrian Center of Biopharmaceutical Technology). During this time also work on the investigation of gene expression patterns in CHO cells using microarray technologies. Member of the Organizing Committee of the 22nd ESACT meeting in Vienna, Austria (2011). Since 2010 professor for cell culture technology at the University of Applied Sciences in Biberach, Germany. Current research interests comprise the investigation of miRNAs in CHO cells and the investigation of protein aggregation phenomena in bioprocesses with mammalian cells.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

I have attended ESACT meetings since 1999. Since then, I have profited a lot from ESACT's activities, both from a scientific and a networking point of view. ESACT was always a strong and very vivid scientific society in my experience. This was only possible because a lot of members were willing to provide a lot of work for the activities and meetings. I felt that I also had to give something back and therefore joined the Organizing Committee of the last ESACT meeting in Vienna to help with the preparation and implementation of this event. I enjoyed this work a lot and would also like to contribute to the activities of our society in the

Jonathan Dempsey



Jonathan Dempsey is Process Science Fellow for Life Technologies where his role is to provide advice and assistance to commercial companies developing biopharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine products and vaccines. Jon's role is key to Life Technologies' strategy of providing innovative tools to accelerate innovation and enhance the human condition. Jon joined Life Technologies from Cambridge Antibody Technology where he initiated the Bioprocess Development function and led this team for almost ten years. Prior to joining Cambridge Antibody, Jon was a Senior Scientist at Lonza Biologics and Celltech where he developed several products currently marketed. Jon has a PhD from the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Edinburgh.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

As a scientist who has worked in the field of Animal Cell Technology for my entire career I have a strong belief that our community has the capability to make a significant impact in science, on our society and for our members. Having held senior positions within both the biotechnology industry in the UK and the commercial arena my aim has always been to capture the exceptional scientific innovation of our community and translate this to products and medicines that have real impact for humanity. From my early research into hybridoma cells, to the contributions I made to products now treating patients and my development of technologies to accelerate research and development of biopharmaceuticals I feel greatly fortunate in having experienced this incredible journey.

My current focus is to use my skills to foster a truly interactive and engaged community where best practice and knowledge is shared between all members– the academics asking and answering the big questions, the

companies developing the new medicines and those companies accelerating these developments through improved tools. I am also greatly excited by the focus several governments across Europe have brought to our industry as a reflection of our impact and success and I hope I can contribute with ESACT to the expansion of these relationships.

I am the current Chair of ESACT UK. In this role I lead an exceptional and qualified team of scientists who reflect the true diversity of our community. In the last two years as a team we have reenergized our society, bringing firstly stability, then growth and beginning this year our focus is to use social networking and our existing relationships to truly build an active, diverse and enthusiastic community. I have also personally reengaged our two societies and built a relationship within which both ESACT and ESACT UK can interact for years to come

It is for all of these diverse reasons that I wish to become an active ESACT committee member - to support our community, to engage our members, to interact externally and most of all to ensure our continuing success and development. I believe I have demonstrated the enthusiasm and skills for this role and I am excited by this challenge. I also believe we have a great opportunity to engage with our wider stakeholders for our mutual benefits.

Yves-Jacques Schneider



Yves-Jacques Schneider, after a M.Sc (1973) in biochemistry, gained his Ph.D. (1977) in cell biology supervised by Profs. C. de Duve & A. Trouet at the University of Louvain (Belgium) and then a *thèse d'Agrégation de l'Enseignement supérieur* (1983) in cell pharmacology. During this period, he was the first to provide experimental evidence that plasma membrane is recycled during endocytosis, was in the team demonstrating that transferrin releases iron inside the cell before being recycled back to cell surface. He was then associated with projects aiming at targeting and delivering selectively drugs in cancer cells.

He is currently full professor (metabolism, physiological biochemistry, cell biology, pharmacology and animal cell technology) at the University of Louvain. Since now 40 years, his research has continuously involved cultured mammalian cells as a tool to investigate cellular and molecular mechanisms implicated in transport and biotransformation of different substances, *i.e.* nutrients, xenobiotics, drugs, ... Currently, the research of his group is focused, on the one hand, on the human intestinal barrier and its interactions with fatty acids, phenolic compounds, nanoparticles, ... with the help of sophisticated cell culture systems and, on the other hand, on the development of new biomaterials for culture of human rare and stem cells.

In addition to mechanistic research, Yves-Jacques Schneider has been and is involved in collaborations with many companies and in the development of several spin off companies. In particular, he was one of the main developers of polymeric filters that are used to form bicameral inserts, widely used in research and for high throughput screening for intestinal absorption and is one

of the founders of it4ip, a Belgian spin off company that produces such filters and distribute them worldwide.

He is (co-)author of more than 170 full publications in international journals, and supervised or supervises more than 30 Ph.D. thesis.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

Being involved in the executive committee of BELACT (Belgian society for ACT), where we organize locally a meeting every other year, and participating passively to all the ESACT meetings since Tours, I became increasingly interested by the ESACT community.

After the ESACT meeting in Dublin, I decided to prepare a proposal to organize the 23rd ESACT meeting on a “French-Belgian” type of organization. After contacts with colleagues in both countries, starting in September 2009, we progressively arrived to the idea to propose Lille as a good location. This was submitted to the ESACT Executive Committee in July 2010 and accepted. Since that time, we have progressively constituted a team taking in charge the organization of the meeting. Then, we started, in close collaboration with the ESACT Executive Committee, to constitute the Scientific Committee and the scientific program of the meeting, as well as the social program with the Organization Committee. Progressively, this became clearly more and more time consuming ... and this will continue and even increase till June 23, but in anyway this will constitute for me an excellent memory through the contacts with colleagues and friends. Based on this succession of events, I would be glad to continue to be involved within ESACT Executive Committee and contribute to an optimal balance between basic and applied research, academia and industries, bioengineering and other aspects of animal cell technology.

Yvonne Genzel



Yvonne Genzel is senior scientist in the Bioprocess Engineering group at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems (Magdeburg, Germany) since 2001, and is leading the upstream processing team focusing on vaccine production with mammalian cells. In 2009 she received her habilitation (PD) in "Upstream processing issues in influenza vaccine production using animal cell technology" at the Otto-von-Guericke-University, Magdeburg, where she is also involved in teaching activities for the Biosystems Engineering course. With more than 30 peer-reviewed papers on influenza vaccine production experience in animal cell culture and analytics on this process has been demonstrated.

Before changing to red biotechnology she had her interests in white biotechnology, as she obtained her Ph.D. in biocatalysis and organic chemistry at the University of the Mediterranean, Marseille, France in 2000. Also during her studies of "Technical Biology" at the Technical University Stuttgart, Germany, she focused on biocatalysis.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

Since my first ESACT meeting in Ellös, Sweden 2001, the number of participants has increased enormously. Not only increased interest in animal cell technology but moreover the people, the networking, the ESACT concept and the ESACT community are responsible for this success. This growing ESACT community will need adapted ESACT concepts to keep the ESACT spirit and not just become another large conference to get lost in parallel sessions. For this, I would like to bring in my communication and organization skills in motivating people from different disciplines to see a common goal

to add new impulses but also to keep good traditions for the European Society of Animal Cell Culture Technology.

Newsletter Editor

António Roldão - roldao@esact.org