In this issue:

- Election Process for the XC 2015-2017
  Page 3
- Officers for the period 2015-2017
  Page 3
- Candidates to the XC 2015-2017
  Page 4
- ESACT Office Matters
  Page 11

Vote for the candidates for the next ESACT Executive Committee 2015-2017
## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELECTION PROCESS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPENING AND CLOSING DATES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO CAN VOTE?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW CAN I VOTE?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICERS FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2017</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIALL BARRON</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL BETENBAUGH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VÉRONIQUE CHOTEAU</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HITTO KAUFMANN</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISABELLE KNOTT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICARDO KRATJE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETHARDT MÜLLER</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESACT OFFICE MATTERS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Election Process**

**Opening and closing dates**

The election of the next ESACT Executive Committee for the period 2015-2017 will take place from:

**APRIL 10th** (9am GMT) 2015  
**to**  
**JUNE 1st** (11pm GMT) 2015

The results will be announced during the 24th ESACT meeting in Barcelona at the ESACT General Assembly on June 2nd 2015.

**Who can vote?**

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

1. **Have a membership valid for the year 2015**, i.e. have paid its membership fees before **April 10th** and covers the year 2015
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 activate 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 (roldao@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 “Election of ESACT Executive Committee 2015-2017”
4. Follow the instructions in order to:
   a. Vote for the candidates you wish to support for the next ESACT Executive Committee 2015-2017
   b. Support (Yes/No) the nominations of Otto Merten and Florian Wurm for ESACT Honorary members as proposed by the current ESACT Executive Committee

This is a simple and fast process but you should read carefully the instructions given for each phase of the process before submitting your vote. Key points to note are:

- You can vote for a maximum of **4 candidates** from the list of 7
- Add your e-mail address to receive a confirmation e-mail with your selections (please note that a valid e-mail address is needed in our records before you are able to vote)
- Please, verify your selections in “Preview mode” before submitting your vote. Once submitted, your vote cannot be changed

**Officers for the period 2015-2017**

(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:** Yvonne Genzel  
**MPI, Germany**
Presentation of Candidates
(by Alphabetical Order of Last Name)

Niall Barron

Niall Barron is Deputy Director of the National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology and Lecturer in Biotechnology at Dublin City University, Ireland. He received his PhD in Applied Microbiology and Biochemistry in 1997 from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. He has extensive research experience in areas of basic and applied cell biology ranging from the degradation of lignocellulosic substrates by fungal enzymes and ethanol production by microorganisms to genomic manipulation of embryonic stem cells and the use of various '-omics technologies to study the genetic basis of phenotypic variation in CHO cells. For more than a decade his research has focused on profiling of miRNA, mRNA and protein expression and subsequent analysis and integration of these large datasets with a view to identifying engineering targets to improve CHO cell phenotypes relevant to the Biopharmaceutical industry. He has a particular interest not only in the use of miRNAs as genetic tools to improve Biopharmaceutical production but also in studying the manner in which these critical regulatory molecules function to modulate various cellular pathways. He has published extensively in this area and works closely with both academic and industrial collaborators to continue to advance our understanding of and ability to manipulate the CHO cell production platform.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

I first attended an ESACT meeting in Dresden in 2007 and was immediately impressed with the quality and breadth of research presented but, more importantly, with the strong sense of solidarity amongst the members of the European cell culture community. Subsequently I was fortunate to have an opportunity to work closely with Dr. Michael Comer and others organizing the 2009 meeting hosted in Dublin – an event that proved to be equally enjoyable, informative and inspiring. I believe this sense of togetherness combined with, or perhaps partly because of, the not-for-profit nature of the ESACT model is quite a unique achievement and I would be very keen that this ethos is maintained and nurtured.

As an academic who routinely collaborates with industry-based researchers I think ESACT has an ongoing and critical role in promoting the close relationship between University-based researchers and those involved in producing Biopharmaceuticals, vaccines and more recently, cell and nucleic acid therapies. This is the core strength of the organization. Furthermore I believe that the involvement of ESACT in providing training courses for young talent in the theories and techniques relating to the endeavors of our members is a vital function and could be developed further. I am currently involved in a Horizon 2020-funded Marie-S-Curie ITN that aims to train 15 new PhD students in applying systems biology approaches to animal cell manipulation and would bring this experience to the ESACT committee. Indeed I believe ESACT has a role to play in influencing the content and theme of future Horizon2020 funding calls to ensure that such an important and high-value sector of the European economy is properly recognized and supported in Brussels. With these values and objectives in mind I would relish the opportunity to contribute to the work of the executive committee over the next 2 years on behalf of the entire ESACT community.
Michael Betenbaugh

Michael Betenbaugh is currently Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland (USA). His research has focused on systems biotechnology applications in mammalian and insect cells. Early work included presentations at ESACT and elsewhere exploring strategies to overcome folding and secretory processing bottlenecks in insect cells and manipulation of the apoptosis pathways in mammalian cell lines. More recently, his group has studied glycosylation processing using systems biology approaches and applied ‘omics tools to understand and manipulate metabolic pathways in CHO and HEK cells. Many of these projects have been in collaborations with industrial and academic partners across America and Europe and he has placed numerous MS, PhD, and Postdoctoral students in the biopharmaceutical industries and research institutes around the globe. His group was part of the international team that sequenced, analyzed and published both the CHO genome and the Chinese hamster genomes. In addition, Michael together with Kelvin Lee, and Nicole Borth helped establish the Chogenome.org community website as a public repository for ‘omics and other data sets and a focal point for community based efforts dedicated to improving understanding of this commercial cell line. Based on his research and service the biotechnology community Michael has received the Cell Culture Engineering Award from ECI and the Marvin Johnson Award from American Chemical Society. He also serves as an editor for Biotechnology and Bioengineering and is an advisor or on the editorial board of numerous other journals including the Cell Engineering series.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

My first ESACT meeting was approximately 15 years ago and it was an association that I have cherished since this first interaction. ESACT represents to me the single most important international organization dedicated to addressing the core issues encountered by cell culture specialists in both academia and industry. What is especially appealing about ESACT is the true integration of academia and industry in the organization from top to bottom and even more importantly is the international mix of participants representing different viewpoints across many continents. No other organization offers such an eclectic mix of activists sharing a common vision for promoting cell culture processing around the globe. My current and former students and I have enjoyed the chance to participate in ESACT meetings at various levels through the years and I am now honored that the ESACT membership would consider me for a position within the organization.

In addition to oral and poster presentations, I have served ESACT as an organizer for multiple workshops over the past several conferences. Our pre-conference workshop on the CHO genome in Vienna was a watershed event in the CHO genomics community in that it brought together multiple groups from Europe, US, and Asia to share findings about this endeavor. Indeed, I believe this initial meeting helped to shape the community atmosphere that has been a hallmark of this effort in subsequent years. I see my role in ESACT as serving primarily on two fronts: 1) I would like to continue to assist in programming (especially workshops) around systems biology and biotechnology for all aspects of culture processing over the coming years. 2) Another goal of mine is to continue to expand and enhance interactions and collaborations possible between the European and America in the cell culture arena. As the Chair of the US based Cell Culture Engineering (CCE) Steering Committee, my position will enable ESACT and CCE and their communities to offer increased opportunities to explore synergies going forward in future years. Unlike ESACT, CCE is and will continue to serve solely as a programming entity, which provides ample opportunities for participant involvement and interactions with ESACT. Martin Fussenegger and I have had extensive discussions for many years around the possible opportunities available for a more collaborative and interactive worldwide cell culture community and I would like to continue those endeavors on the ESACT committee-while recognizing what is possible and what is not possible within the ESACT framework. The overall goal of my term will be to continue to help connect and engage fellow cell culture community tribesmen around the world about the potential benefits and opportunities available from ESACT activities going forward in coming years and decades.
Combining her interest for technology and life science, Véronique Chotteau took a M. Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium (1985) and a M. Sc. in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from the same university (1988). During her second master, she began to work with mammalian cell cultures, which became her core expertise. She took her PhD in Biotechnology/Automatic Control in 1995 at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, studying mathematical models of VERO cell system in collaboration with Smith-Kline/Beecham, Belgium.

In 1996 she started her career in industry by joining the Big Pharma company Pharmacia Upjohn in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2001, this site was spin out into Biovitrum (nowadays Swedish Orphan Biovitrum). Véronique Chotteau have had different responsibilities: senior project manager for process development (e.g. recombinant factor VIII ReFacto, monoclonal antibody), CDMO business development support for the evaluation of new projects, head of pilot plant, expert in animal cell culture development in small and pilot scales, expert support for commercial GMP manufacturing of Refacto. In 2008 Véronique Chotteau was asked to take over the responsibilities of the animal cell culture group at KTH Royal Institute of Technology after retiring Prof. Lena Häggström.

With financial support from the Swedish innovation agency VINNOVA and KTH, she left Biovitrum to join academia in 2008. Her group's research activities are focusing on cell-based processes for biopharmaceutical production (high cell density perfusion, modeling by metabolic flux analysis) and on bioprocessing of human stem cells. Véronique Chotteau is currently coordinating a European EU-FP7 project, HESUB, aiming at developing a new perfusion bioreactor for human stem cell culture in controlled environment. Her group is also performing development of fed-batch processes for biopharmaceutical production (today, two of these processes have been transferred to CMO for GMP production, of which one is in clinical phase III).

**Motivation to Join ESACT Committee**

I attended my first ESACT meeting in 1988 in Knokke (Belgium) and I have missed only a few of these unique meetings since then. With time, the ESACT meetings have enormously grown in terms of importance and number attendees, and are important events to grasp the latest trends of the field, meeting old and new friends, discovering new equipment, etc. In 2013, I had the pleasure to belong to the local organizing committee for the ESACT meeting in Lille, France (of course as Belgian citizen and ex-trainee, and not as Swedish partner!) and I really enjoyed being part of the preparation of this big event. I think that it is important to keep the high quality level that ESACT meetings are holding and, at the same time, to preserve the forum that ESACT is for more technical interchanges. Other activities of ESACT are also important for the cell technology community such as the annual course and the Job network. Coming from the worlds of academia and of industry, I believe that I can be an added value for ESACT.
Hitto Kaufmann

Hitto Kaufmann is currently Vice President Technology and Development Sanofi Biologics. The corporate division Technology and Development spans across all Sanofi Biologics businesses including vaccines, antibodies, antibody derivatives, glycosylated enzymes, insulins and gene therapeutics. Previously Hitto Kaufmann was heading the Process Sciences at Boehringer Ingelheim in Biberach responsible for drug substance and drug product process development from the interface with discovery to commercial and post-launch process development and characterization. The department also operated clinical supply facilities for GMP drug substance and drug product manufacturing. In various positions Hitto worked with new biological entities as well as biosimilars. Prior to joining Boehringer Ingelheim he worked in research focusing on drug target-discovery in the field of apoptosis. Hitto holds a PhD from the ETH Zurich working with Martin Fussenegger and Jay Bailey and a master degree in biotechnology from the TU Braunschweig and The Scripps Research Institute in San Diego.

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

I have previously served as a member of the ESACT Committee, for the last two years as the XC secretary. Over four years we have focused on shaping ESACT for the next decade particularly to enhance the impact of ESACT way beyond the bi-annual meeting that is still the core event for ESACT. Two elements stand out from these activities, the growing offering of ESACT courses on topics that cover the field of animal cell culture applications and more recently the launch of ESACT Frontiers. ESACT Frontiers offers a platform for the emerging talents in the field of applied animal cell culture in academia and industry and empowers the participants of the program to shape the society of the future.

Throughout my whole career I have aimed to foster translational process research across the academia to industry interface. I have initiated and managed numerous collaborations between large pharma organizations and either an emerging biotech company or a top academic group and I fundamentally believe this is the core engine of innovation in animal cell culture.

Although my current appointment with Sanofi does not permit to contribute as a XC secretary I would like to continue to actively contribute to the future of ESACT as a member of the executive committee.
Isabelle Knott

Isabelle Knott is Director of Biology and Raw Materials Quality Control at GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines where her role is to release commercial vaccines and raw materials, to support release of clinical batches and to develop new approaches for testing.

Isabelle joined GSK in 1997. She managed different teams and led the Cell Culture Process Development group in R&D from 2005 to 2012. She was involved in viral development within the R&D network where she developed several vaccines currently marketed.

Isabelle has a PhD from the Department of Biology, University of Namur (Belgium).

Motivation to Join ESACT Committee

Since 2000, I am the Secretary of BELACT (Belgian society for ACT) participating actively to set up conferences in Belgium to gather junior and senior scientists of academic and industry fields. As Secretary, I collaborated with Pr Yves-Jacques Schneider to set-up 23rd ESACT conference in Lille.

During several years, I represented GSK Biologicals within ACTIP (Animal Cell Technology Industrial Platform). I also keep contacts with different universities to maintain strong links between academia and industry. My roles in R&D and now in Quality control give me a broad view about the potential and the need of animal cell technology.

The connection between different areas is critical to foster scientific development leading to innovation. My deep belief is that innovation leads to new products improving public health and economic development. Animal cell technology has a strong history and a great future in vaccines, gene and cell therapy and biologicals.

I would be glad to be involved in the ESACT Executive Committee to continue to support animal cell technology in different fields as well as the community of scientists.
Ricardo Kratje is currently Main Researcher of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) in Argentina and Professor of Cell Culture Technology in the Faculty of Biochemistry and Biological Sciences at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (Santa Fe City, Argentina). He graduated in Biochemistry (1980) and Pharmacy (1988) at the Universidad de Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires City, Argentina), and received in 1985 his PhD in Biochemistry from the same University for his work on the effects of Ca$^{2+}$ and alkali metal ions on active Ca$^{2+}$ transport in human red cells. Subsequently, he was Head of Section of Injections and Pomades at the Production Department of Schering Argentina (1986-1988).

In 1989, Ricardo Kratje worked as a Post-doctorate at the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (called at that time Gesellschaft für Biotechnologische Forschung) in Braunschweig, Germany, where he joined the research group of Prof. Roland Wagner, working on the expertise area of high cell density cultivation of animal cells.

In 1992, Ricardo Kratje moved to his current workplace in the Faculty of Biochemistry and Biological Sciences at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, where he created the Cell Culture Laboratory, and in 1996 received the Habilitation for Biotechnology at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral on the subject referred to production of recombinant proteins in animal cell culture. In addition, in 1992 he co-founded the biotechnological company Zelltek, that is currently part of the Amega Biotech Group, a business dedicated to the development and production of biosimilars (http://www.amegabiotech.com). He is (co-)author of 40 full publications in international journals, and has supervised more than 10 Ph.D. thesis.

Motivation to join ESACT Committee

I have attended ESACT meetings since the 1990 edition in Avignon. At that time, I had the chance of meeting excellent professionals and researchers from all over the world, including Latin America. It was a special occasion to share inputs on animal cell technology and see the interaction between industrial and academic sectors.

In 2012 we held in Santa Fe City (Argentina) the 5th Edition of the Latin American Symposium on Cell Culture Technology. It is with great success that this event has been held every two years since 2004 with the aim of bringing together the Latin American community, and partially supported by ESACT. These non-profit conferences have interests, objectives and values in common with ESACT, which has always looked in this same direction and has watched for advanced animal cell technologies. Therefore, my motivation to apply for the executive committee is to provide the connection of fields of expertise and the interests that we have in Latin America, that will be inputs for the growth and further development of ESACT.
Dethardt Müller

Dethardt Müller joined Rentschler (Laupheim, Germany) in 2009. As Vice President Technology Development he takes responsibility for all technological assets regarding Rentschler’s value chain from cell line development to recombinant product formulation.

Dethardt graduated in Technical Biology at the University of Stuttgart, Germany and he received his PhD in Biotechnology from BOKU University in Vienna in 2000, working 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 became Assistant Professor of Bioprocess Engineering at BOKU University and in 2008 he received the postdoctoral lecture qualification (Habilitation) strongly focusing on the advancement of CHO-based technology platforms. To date, he is senior lecturer in Cell Culture Technology and Bioprocess Engineering at BOKU.

Motivation Statement

I have strongly appreciated to support ESACT as an XC Member over the past two years, actively taking part in a change process ESACT is undergoing, which is called “Progress”. And thus, I have experienced ESACT now from different perspectives, not only as a member from academia and industry attending the ESACT meetings during the last 20 years, but also as a member of the 2011 Organizing Committee of the Vienna Meeting and now as a member of the XC. My impression never changed over the years, being among friends with a strong commitment to advancing cell culture technology towards application. This still is ESACT’s great achievement which is unequalled anywhere in this competitive environment for both industry and academic research community. Therefore, I am looking forward to further advancing ESACT with my commitment, my knowledge and expertise on the executive level.
ESACT Office Matters

Important Reminder

I would like to stress once again that the official ESACT e.V. bank account to which you should transfer the membership fees, if you which to use this method, is the following:

Bank name: Deutsche Bank Privat-Und Geschaeftskunden Ag
Account Nr: 01891911
BLZ: 27070024
IBAN: DE55 2707 0024 0018 9191 00
SWIFT Code: DEUTDEDB270
ESACT e.V. Address: SK Frankfurt, Zeilweg 42, 60430 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Please note that for transfers in Euros within Germany the Account Nr and BLZ are needed while for transfers outside Germany IBAN and SWIFT Code are needed. All bank transfers should be in Euro. Membership fees are 20€/year and all costs associated with the transfers are your responsibility.

We encourage all ESACT members to use the bank transfer method rather than the PayPal system for the payment of membership fees due to economic reasons related with the transaction cost of PayPal for ESACT. In the era of online banking, transferring into the ESACT account should be as easy as PayPal.

All ESACT accounts in Belgium, Switzerland and the UK to which ESACT members may have previously used for payment of membership fees have been closed. Therefore, future payments of membership fees must be made through the ESACT e.V. bank account identified above.

António Roldão