

## **Danish Microbiological Society yearly report 2015**

Danish Microbiological Society has in 2015 – 2016 increased its growth in number of members and gross turnover and has been involved in several activities within the framework of Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS).

Danish Microbiological Society has had its first full year with close collaboration with CAP partners that are helping the board with development of the organization. DMS has increased its number of member from 232 at the end of 2014 to 411 at the end of 2015. The annual turnover increased from DKK -88.031 in 2014 to DKK 59.290 in 2015. (The negative result of 2014 was to a large degree the result of expenses from the 2013 congress being payed in 2014).

The general assembly was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Copenhagen in connection to a symposium themed: "Gut microbiome". Approximately 70 people participated in the meeting. Henrik Bjørn Nielsen gave a presentation: "Learning microbiology from the human microbiome", followed by Michael Poulsen taking on: "The central role of the gut microbiota in fungus-farming termites," and finally Iain Bahl, who presented the talk "Use of animal models to understand the role of the gut microbiota in humans.

The annual congress on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 was attended by 301 persons and a total of 16 companies did sponsor the event. Eigtveds Pakhus was still the choice for the DMS congress in 2015 but it was very full and a few empty spaces are now available during the symposium. A total of 73 posters were accepted and out of these 18 was selected for "poster-flash" presentations. Besides these all other speaks was based on invitation only. Two plenum sessions kick-started the congress: Niels Peter Revsbech spoke on " Microbial life in gradient environments" and Michael Givskov spoke on: "Blocking of bacterial signaling as antimicrobial treatment strategies." After these plenum presentation three parallel sessions before lunch and three after lunch was presented each consisting of three 20 min presentation and three 5 min poster flash presentations. The titles of the six sessions were: Use of whole genome sequencing data for investigation of bacterial spread, The environmental resistome, Plant-microbe interactions, Metabolic engineering, Device associated infections and Novel microbial metabolisms in natural systems.

The key note speech was given by Robert Gaynes from Emory University School of Medicine, USA. He spoke on the evolution of germ theory taking offset in those scientists, who dominated this early microbiological field.

After the presentations a reception was casted for all participants, allowing to wrap-up the day and after the reception 150 participants went to Spiseloppen at Christiania for dinner.

### **Other activities**

DMS has in 2015 held several other meetings with good success and has worked on improving the communication of microbiological subjects.

#### *Theme day on MRSA*

In January 2015 DMS invited to a theme day on MRSA at the Panum Institute. The intention of the day was to provide state of the art scientific background for the debate in media on MRSA. Luca Guardabassi talked on: "MRSA in Danish pig farming - is it a problem seen from a veterinary point of view and what have we done to solve it?" Henrik Westh on: "MRSA in Danish hospitals - how big is the problem and what are the sources?" Robert Skov on "MRSA in Denmark – a problem for the society, what can we do to control it?" the talks were followed by a panel debate with participation of the following experts:: Poul Bækbo, Danish Pig Research Centre, SEGES; Luca Guardabassi, Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, University of Copenhagen; Stig Mellergaard, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration; Robert Skov, Statens Serum Institut, Central units for Infection Control and Bacteriological Monitoring; Kristian Viekilde, Porcus; Henrik Westh, MRSA Knowledge Center, Hvidovre Hospital.

#### *Wine and Cheese networking afternoon*

In September DMS hosted an arrangement focusing on the role of microorganisms in the production of wine and cheese. Besides tasting of wine and cheese, several presentations were given including by Lars Hestbjerg Hansen (AU department of Environmental Sciences) and Gunnar Øregaard (Chr. Hansen). The idea of the networking afternoon was to increase networking among members of DMS and other Danish microbiologist.

#### *European collaboration*

DMS participated for the first time in many years in the FEMS annual summit in Linköping, Sweden and has since then been invited to share the experience from DMS with other microbiological societies in Europe within the framework of FEMS. FEMS is interested in redesigning the European microbiological congress and are actively searching partners including DMS to facilitate this.

In conclusion DMS is increasing its activity level both nationally and internationally and is increasing the number of members. The help from CAP Partner has been necessary in this growth strategy and it is intended that DMS in the coming years further will consolidate its status as the primary source of scientific and social networking activities for microbiologist studying or working in Denmark.

On behalf of The Danish Microbiological Society

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Chairman of DMS