



Dear Colleague,
 This issue of the FEMS Affiliates Letter will focus on the next FEMS Congress. How are the arrangements going? Let's hear it from Drs Jacques Schrenzel and Jean Claude Piffaretti, who are at the helm of the preparations.



Dr Jacques Schrenzel
 Chair, Organizing Board
 FEMS 2011

FEMS 2011: Good science guaranteed

About 2000 microbiologists from all over the world are expected to grace the [4th FEMS Congress](#) which will be held in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) and hosted by the [Swiss Society of Microbiology](#).

programme Committee to invite outstanding European and overseas scientists: good science will thus be guaranteed.

Drs Jacques Schrenzel (Chair, Organizing Board) and Jean-Claude Piffaretti (Chair, Programme Committee and FEMS Vice-President) are very positive about the progress in preparations and even gave some tips for microbiologists who would like to join but are in a tight budget:

Because of the [broad range of the selected topics](#), the congress will constitute an excellent opportunity to update knowledge not only in one's own field but also in others domains, which is fundamental to gain new ideas in the ongoing own research. The congress will be a great opportunity to meet colleagues and to make new collaborations. For individuals, particularly young scientists, the congress will constitute an opportunity to present and discuss own results.



Dr Jean-Claude Piffaretti
 Chair, Programme Cmte
 FEMS 2011

How far are you in the preparations?
 It is progressing satisfactorily. The main items of the scientific programme have been decided upon and nearly all the [invited speakers](#) have already accepted to participate. [Exhibition and sponsorship](#) are also progressing nicely.

Any encouraging words to those who are still undecided to come?

Aside from the meticulously planned programme and an excellent opportunity to update and exchange one's knowledge, it is also good to know that Switzerland and [Geneva](#) are very attractive places to spend a few days in late June.

How will this congress be different from the past ones?

The structure of the upcoming event is similar. We do not want to change a successful format. Each morning we will have parallel symposia on attractive current topics related to bacteria, viruses or fungi. The afternoons will be dedicated to [symposia](#), which will include two main talks by invited lecturers and about four short oral presentations selected from the abstracts submitted. During the lunch breaks, we will also have oral poster presentations and special events organized by microbiology societies and organisations, as well as industries.

In addition, [a high number of grants have been allowed by FEMS for young scientists](#) and we encourage them to make appropriate requests. We would also like to emphasize that low-cost flight companies are landing in Geneva. In addition, a special effort will be done to make [low-cost accommodation](#) available to participants.



GRANTS DEADLINES

[Visiting Scientist Grant](#)
[Research Fellowship](#)
 December 1, 2010

What can the participants expect from the 4th FEMS congress?

As with preceding congresses, continuous effort has been made by the Pro-

IMPORTANT DEADLINES
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FOR WORKSHOPS AND POSTER DISCUSSION GROUPS JANUARY 14, 2011
EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 14, 2011

FEMS Central Office
 Keverling Buismanweg 4
 NL- 2628CL Delft
 Tel: +31 15 269 3920
 Fax: +31 15 269 3921

affiliates@fems-microbiology.org
www.fems-microbiology.org

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