

SSM Annual Report 2021

INFO 69



The Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) is a professional association with more than 550 members mainly from Switzerland but also from other countries, all working in the field of human and veterinary medical microbiology, molecular microbiology, environmental microbiology, virology and mycology.

www.swissmicrobiology.ch

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President 2019-2021



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Future President 2022-2024



Prof. Christof Holliger

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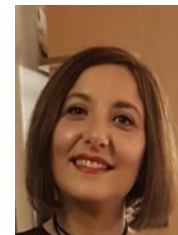
Treasurer



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General Secretary



Prof. Hubert Hilbi

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**Molecular Microbiology
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Virology Section



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**Environmental
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Mycology Section



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Lay Communication Section



Dr. Florian Tagini, MD-PhD

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Early Career





Dear Members,

The year 2021 marks my last year as president of the Swiss Society for Microbiology. This was not the way I was hoping to end my tenure as president, but as many times in life, you just have to go along with it. Nevertheless, I am so proud of the work accomplished by the SSM despite the difficult times. The value of a society like the SSM is heightened in the light of events such as the on-going global pandemic. After every meeting of the committee, listening to the hard work accomplished by the sections, including, for instance, the cross-collaborations for the evaluation of variants and the validation of antigen tests, highlights to me the importance of keeping the SSM alive. A significant part of this consists in offering spaces for exchange between our members. The annual SSM meeting is the prime opportunity for this, and although this year our meeting will have to be on-line, I am sure this will still be a great opportunity to share the latest work by our members and other actors of Microbiology in Switzerland.

Next year will bring a number of significant events for microbiology in Switzerland, one of which is the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the SSM. The SSM annual meeting 2021 will be an opportunity to celebrate this important landmark, but I hope will also provide an opportunity for further cross collaboration between SSM and the two new NCCRs and the NPRs related to microbiology in Switzerland. Hence, we saw fit to bring the Annual Meeting to Lausanne, the same place where everything started, which is today a hotspot for microbiology and the co-host of one of the NCCR programs.

Last year, our virtual Annual Assembly gave us the opportunity to introduce important changes in the statutes of the Society. The Annual Report is once more an opportunity for me to remind our readers about one of the most significant ones: the creation of a new “student member category”. Please spread the word and invite your colleagues and students to join us and to strengthen the society through their participation. This year’s Annual Assembly might prove less eventful, but all the same, we still want to share with you this INFO and extend our invitation for our virtual assembly on 3rd of September, 2021. As always, the Annual Assembly is an opportunity for the members to share with us your thoughts and ideas about the future of the SSM and we hope to see you all there.

With my best regards,

Pilar JUNIER

President SSM 2019 to 2021

Invitation to the General Assembly

All SSM members are cordially invited to attend the General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) that will take place

On Thursday 3rd of September 2021 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Agenda:

1. Review of the agenda
2. Approval of Annual Assembly Minutes
3. Approval of 2020 Accounts and report by auditors
4. Discussion of 2021 budget
5. Approval of 2022 budget
6. Approval of 2021 commission reports:
 - Molecular Microbiology
 - Clinical Microbiology
 - Virology
 - Mycology
 - Environmental Microbiology
 - Lay Communication
 - Early career
7. New members
8. Grants
9. Website
10. SSM Annual Meeting 2021
11. Other / varia / news

*** IMPORTANT: Kindly send your inquiries by mail to the president via our general secretary (secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch) before the 6th of August 2021.**



FINANCIAL NEWS

	2020	2021
REVENUE		
Participating Non-Resident	17,227.72	16,262.73
Participating Resident	17,488.84	16,274.00
Participating Resident	16,100.00	16,274.00
Operating Revenue	50,816.56	48,810.73
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Annual Meeting Organization	36,121.11	33,831.11
Annual Meeting Dinner	24,222.84	24,222.84
Annual Meeting Lodging	49,213.84	49,213.84
OPERATING EXPENSES	109,557.79	107,267.79
OPERATING INCOME	(58,741.23)	(58,457.06)
NON-OPERATING INCOME		
Interest Income	24,442.19	23,819.44
Dividend Income	8,035.82	8,199.30
Other Income	12,487.42	12,487.42
NON-OPERATING INCOME	44,965.43	44,506.16
NET INCOME	(13,775.80)	(13,950.90)
EXPENSES		
Administrative Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Professional Fees	1,000.00	1,000.00
Printing	500.00	500.00
Travel	500.00	500.00
Utilities	500.00	500.00
Other	500.00	500.00
EXPENSES	4,000.00	4,000.00
NET INCOME	(17,775.80)	(17,950.90)
PROFIT	17,775.80	17,950.90
LOSS	(17,775.80)	(17,950.90)

1. SSM Income statement 2020 vs. 2019

	2020	2019
INCOME (I)	52,497.12	76,095.71
Membership fees income	37,495.65	40,274.60
SCNAT Support	15,000.00	-
Sponsoring	-	-
Financial Incomes	1.47	-
Annual Meeting Benefit	-	35,821.11
EXPENSES (II)	99,181.19	74,366.52
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	54,223.94	-
Annual Meeting Organisation	54,223.94	-
Annual Meeting Deficit	-	-
Satellite Symposium	-	-
SCNAT Contribution	-	-
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	32,465.83	31,928.78
Net Salary	24,140.18	23,819.48
Social Charges	8,325.65	8,109.30
OTHERS EXPENSES	12,491.42	42,437.74
Course, Workshop, Symposium	-	21.00
Travel, Commissions expenses	1,129.30	4,661.61
Committee Member Fees	48.80	3,929.30
SSM communication	-	-
Support contribution and SSM award	-	3,000.00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	-	11,876.75
Travel grants	1,500.00	9,000.00
Subscription Fees to pay	6,883.07	7,239.80
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	89.45	295.55
Web Site Fees	1,747.70	1,166.30
Postal Charges	112.50	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	77.60	94.40
Others Expenses	253.00	298.10
Financial Expenses	-	11.13
Fiduciary Fees	650.00	600.00
Audit Fees	-	243.80
A - Operating result (I-II)	(46,684.07)	1,729.19
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	5,098.75	9,425.05
Exceptional income (V)	5,100.00	9,425.05
Exceptional Charge (VI)	1.25	-
Taxes	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	57,597.12	85,520.76
TOTAL EXPENSE	99,182.44	74,366.52
PROFIT	-	11,154.24
LOSS	(41,585.32)	-

2. Balance sheet at 31.12.2020



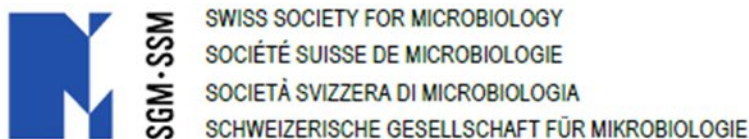
As of 31.12.2020

Fr.

Fr.

Assets	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Currents Assets	324,663.34	359,252.08
- Cash	-	1.25
- Postal Account Current	124,663.34	159,250.83
- Postal Account Saving	200,000.00	200,000.00
Prepaid Expenses	638.20	5,612.00
- Prepayments / Prepaid expenses	-	-
- Accrued Income	638.20	5,612.00
Total Assets	325,301.54	364,864.08
Liabilities and Stockholder's equity		
Debts	12,109.20	12,109.20
- Payable	-	-
- Dieter Haas Provision	12,109.20	12,109.20
Accrued Expenses	10,054.57	8,031.79
- Accrued Expenses	9,904.57	7,806.79
- Deferred revenue / Prepaid income	150.00	225.00
Capital	303,137.77	344,723.09
- Capital	344,723.09	333,568.85
- Period Profit/ Loss	(41,585.32)	11,154.24
Total Liabilities and Stockholder's equity	325,301.54	364,864.08

3. Report of the auditors



Rapport des réviseurs des comptes relatifs aux comptes annuels de la Société Suisse de Microbiologie (SSM) à l'attention de l'assemblée générale de la SSM

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En notre qualité de réviseurs des comptes, nous avons contrôlé la comptabilité et les comptes annuels constitués des comptes de bilan et de pertes et profits de la SSM pour l'exercice se terminant au 31 décembre 2020.

La tenue de la comptabilité incombe au comité alors que notre fonction est de contrôler et d'évaluer cette dernière.

Compte tenu des examens effectués par sondages, nous confirmons que

- les soldes des comptes du bilan sont justifiés,
- les justificatifs correspondent à la comptabilité,
- la comptabilité est tenue avec soin et précision.

Le rapport des révisions établi par la fiduciaire Fidurev S.A à Assens, daté du 22 avril 2021, ci-annexé, conclut que les comptes annuels sont conformes aux dispositions du droit suisse et des statuts.

Les comptes annuels clôturent avec une perte de CHF 41'585.32. Cela porte les actifs de la société de 344,723.09 CHF (2019) à 303,137.77 CHF (2020).

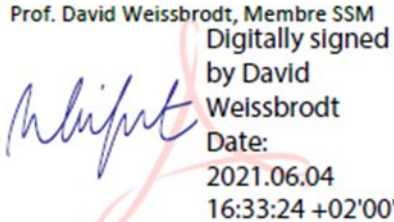
En conséquence, nous recommandons à l'assemblée d'accepter les comptes tels que présentés et d'en donner décharge au comité.

Dr. Robin Tecon, Membre SSM



Lausanne, 21 mai 2021

Prof. David Weissbrodt, Membre SSM
Digitally signed
by David
Weissbrodt
Date:
2021.06.04
16:33:24 +02'00'



Pièces jointes :

- *Rapport des révisions établi par la fiduciaire Fidurev*
- *Bilan avec comparaison de l'année précédente*
- *Compte de résultat par rapport à l'année précédente*

Nathalie Mermoud / General Secretary SGM SSM / (T) +41 (0) 78 842 18 07 secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch

4. Report of the fiduciary



Société Suisse de Microbiologie
Route d'Yverdon 3
1033 Cheseaux

Assens, le 22 avril 2021

Rapport de contrôle de la gestion des comptes de la Société Suisse de Microbiologie

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En notre qualité de vérificateurs des comptes de votre association et conformément au mandat que vous nous avez confié, ainsi qu'aux dispositions légales, nous avons vérifié les comptes annuels arrêtés au 31 décembre 2020.

Suite à nos contrôles, nous avons constaté les faits suivants :

1. Le bilan et le compte de pertes et profits établis concordent avec la comptabilité.
2. Les comptes pour l'année 2020 sont tenus de manière exacte.
3. L'état de la fortune sociale et des résultats répond aux règles établies par la loi et les statuts pour les évaluations en matière de bilan.
4. Les liquidités sont placées avec toute la prudence que la situation économique actuelle exige.


Selon notre appréciation, nous vous proposons d'approuver les comptes qui vous sont soumis.

Ceux-ci font ressortir une perte de **CHF 41'585.32**, que nous vous proposons de virer au compte de profits et pertes.

Dès lors, nous vous recommandons également d'approuver cette proposition et de donner décharge au Trésorier pour la comptabilité 2020.

Fidurev S.A.


Jean-Luc Bondénaz
Agent Fiduciaire Breveté



Nicolas Despont
Expert-comptable diplômé

Annexe : compte de profits et pertes 2020


Fidurev SA · Route St-Germain 17 · 1042 Assens · 021 886 31 20 · info@fidurev.ch · www.fidurev.ch · CHE-112.453.745 TVA

 Membre d'EXPERTSuisse


5. SSM Budget 2020

 SSM	2020
INCOME (I)	44,050.00
Membership fees income	41,000.00
SCNAT Support	
Sponsoring	3,000.00
Interest Incomes	50.00
Annual Meeting Benefit	
EXPENSES (II)	89,250.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	-
Annual Meeting Organisation	
Annual Meeting Deficit	
Satellite Symposium	
SCNAT Contribution	
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	35,000.00
Net Salary	27,000.00
Social Charges	8,000.00
OTHERS EXPENSES	54,250.00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	5,000.00
Travel, Commissions expenses	2,000.00
Committee Member Fees	3,500.00
SSM communication	5,000.00
Support contribution and SSM award	12,000.00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	6,000.00
Travel grants	9,000.00
Subscription Fees to pay	8,000.00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	250.00
Web Site Fees	1,500.00
Postal Charges	100.00
Postfinance and Bank Charges	150.00
Others Expenses	1,000.00
Financial Expenses	
Fiduciary Fees	600.00
Audit Fees	150.00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(45,200.00)
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	-
Exceptional income (V)	
Exceptional Charge (VI)	
Taxes	
TOTAL REVENUE	44,050.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	89,250.00
PROFIT	-
LOSS	(45,200.00)

6. SSM Budget 2021

 SSM	2021
INCOME (I)	37,000.00
Membership fees income	37,000.00
SCNAT Support	
Sponsoring	
Interest Incomes	
Annual Meeting Benefit	
EXPENSES (II)	88,600.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	-
Annual Meeting Organisation	
Annual Meeting Deficit	
Satellite Symposium	
SCNAT Contribution	
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	35,000.00
Net Salary	26,000.00
Social Charges	9,000.00
OTHERS EXPENSES	53,600.00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	
Travel, Commissions expenses	4,000.00
Committee Member Fees	3,800.00
SSM communication	5,000.00
Support contribution and SSM award	11,000.00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	10,000.00
Travel grants	9,000.00
Subscription Fees to pay	7,500.00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	300.00
Web Site Fees	1,500.00
Postal Charges	50.00
Postfinance and Bank Charges	100.00
Others Expenses	500.00
Financial Expenses	
Fiduciary Fees	600.00
Audit Fees	250.00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(51,600.00)
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	-
Exceptional income (V)	
Exceptional Charge (VI)	
Taxes	
TOTAL REVENUE	37,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	88,600.00
PROFIT	-
LOSS	(51,600.00)

7. SSM Budget 2022

 SSM-SSM	2022
INCOME (I)	35,000.00
Membership fees income	35,000.00
SCNAT Support	
Sponsoring	
Interest Incomes	
Annual Meeting Benefit	
EXPENSES (II)	85,650.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	-
Annual Meeting Organisation	
Annual Meeting Deficit	
Satellite Symposium	
SCNAT Contribution	
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	35,000.00
Net Salary	26,000.00
Social Charges	9,000.00
OTHERS EXPENSES	50,650.00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	
Travel, Commissions expenses	3,000.00
Committee Member Fees	2,500.00
SSM communication	5,000.00
Support contribution and SSM award	11,000.00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	10,000.00
Travel grants	9,000.00
Subscription Fees to pay	7,000.00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	150.00
Web Site Fees	1,500.00
Postal Charges	50.00
Postfinance and Bank Charges	100.00
Others Expenses	500.00
Financial Expenses	
Fiduciary Fees	600.00
Audit Fees	250.00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(50,650.00)
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	-
Exceptional income (V)	
Exceptional Charge (VI)	
Taxes	
TOTAL REVENUE	35,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	85,650.00
PROFIT	-
LOSS	(50,650.00)



SECTIONS REPORTS

Molecular Microbiology Section Report

By Prof. Hubert Hilbi



Commission members:

Hubert Hilbi (Zürich)
Jörg Jores (Bern)
Martin Pilhofer (Zürich)
Patrick Viollier (Geneva)
Jan-Willem Veening (Lausanne)

Rigi Workshop "Cell Biology of Infection"

Due to the critical and unpredictable Covid-19 situation, the Rigi Workshop "Cell Biology of Infection" had to be postponed to 2022. The new date of the workshop has been set to January 30th - February 1st, 2022. The program of the 3-days interdisciplinary workshop will remain the same, including national and international keynote speakers, short talks, poster presentations and a teamwork project. For further information, please visit <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/01/30/254/-/rigi-workshop-2021-cell-biology-of-infection-postponed-to-2022>

The applications of those who already registered will be kept, and everybody will be contacted again in summer 2021. At this point, there are still spots available. We will reopen registration in summer 2021 and hope that once the Covid-19 situation has eased additional PhD students and postdocs will apply. We are looking forward to an exciting workshop at a splendid location in January 2022!

Hubert Hilbi & Urs Greber: Zürich, May 2021

Clinical Microbiology Section Report

By Prof. Adrian Egli



Commission members:

André Burnens (Synlab)
Adrian Egli (Universitätsspital Basel)
Hans Fankhauser (Kantonsspital, Aarau)
Meri Gorgievski (Bern)
Eric Grüter (Swissmedic, Bern)
Katia Jatton-Ogay (CHUV, Lausanne)

Nadia Liassine (Dianalabs, Genève)
Gladys Martinetti (EOLAB, Bellinzona)
Martin Risch (Imz Dr Risch, Bern)
Jacques Schrenzel (coordinator; HUG, Genève)
Marie-Lise Tritten (ADMED, La Chaux-de-Fonds)
Reinhard Zbinden (IMM, Zürich)

During the past period, the committee met once in October 2020. The meeting in April 2020 was canceled due to COVID19.

The committee said **good-bye** to Katia Jatton-Ogay (CHUV, Lausanne) as she was retired at the CHUV. We thank her for her great services and valuable inputs and contributions during her active time at the CCCM. The committee **welcomed new members**: In replacement to Katia Jatton-Ogay, Prof. Gilbert Greub (CHUV, Lausanne) joined our committee. In addition, we also welcomed Reto Lienhard (ADMED, La Chaux-de-Fonds) as replacement for Dr. Siegrist. In addition, also PD Dr. Andrea Zbinden (Zurich) was asked to join the CCCM in order to strengthen our expertise in Virology.

The year was heavily influenced due to the **SARS-CoV-2 pandemic**, which affected all our lives. The meetings were held online – as a committee, we used the crisis also as an opportunity – we met in a smaller group from summer onwards almost every 2 weeks and discussed the diagnostic challenges around SARS-CoV-2. We established a very fruitful interaction with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and were able to provide our expertise in many of the testing strategies using rapid antigen and PCR testing. In addition, the FOPH gave a mandate to the CCCM in order to technically validate a series of antigen tests. This was successfully conducted in Winter 2020 – when we evaluated the technical performance of 35 rapid antigen tests against SARS-CoV-2. Tests which passed our validation (criteria published in Pipette 06/2020) were added on a white list on the FOPH website. This contribution was very well received by the FOPH. The website of the CCCM was used to also share important SARS-CoV-2 related documents¹. Large and important conferences for our community were canceled or postponed e.g. ECCMID and the annual SSM meeting.

Submission of various **scientific publications and recommendations from the CCCM**. One paper was spearheaded by Prof. Schrenzel and Prof. Egli on false positive H. influenzae using panel PCR assays. Then several recommendations were published e.g. in Pipette regarding SARS-CoV-2 antigen validation in late 2020.

TransAL II (the second part of the revision of laboratory testing) is now in phase 2, i.e. the review of the current analyses as well as their reimbursement. We have sent a statement of our position to the BAG in early 2020. This phase appears especially sensitive in the field of molecular diagnostics. We are also working on phase 3, to propose new analyses, including molecular panels and generic PCR positions, genomics and metagenomics analyses in microbiology, revised positions in serology as well as rapid phenotypic tests for AST and rapid phenotypic typing. This goal was achieved in early 2021.

Changes of reimbursement. Unfortunately, the FOPH has massively reduced the price for the reimbursement of molecular diagnostics during the peak of the second pandemic wave with a relative short notice – we have sent a formal letter to the FOPH to argue for a delay in the current situation. We are now very actively proposing new methods for re-imbursement and also coordinate these efforts e.g. with the Swiss Society of Parasitology.

QUALAB is currently being reformed, this should enable additional harmonization between MQ and CSCQ. There are ongoing, constructive discussions regarding the harmonization process between different institutions.

A follow-up meeting of **METAS** for the Septimet project was organized. In January 2020 the focus was on *Neisseria meningitidis*. Due to COVID19 some delays but the project is actively ongoing.

The **Swiss Antibigram Committee**: Due to COVID19 not all laboratories have introduced the EUCAST v10 on time and there were some delays. There was active communication between Infectious Diseases specialists and clinical microbiology laboratories during 2020. Information regarding the v10 was sent to all laboratories participating to the external quality control of MQ and CSCQ (NEQAS, distributed by Dagmar Kessler). Prof. Zbinden sent informations to all laboratories with the report of the external QC (due to the cancel ECCMID).

1) <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/sections/clinical-microbiology/downloads>

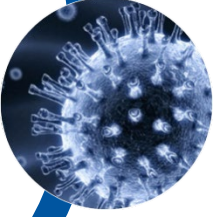
Adrian Egli, Basel, May 2021

Virology Section Report

By Prof. Volker Thiel



Commission members:



Angela Ciuffi (Lausanne)
Cornel Fraefel (Zürich)
Jerome Gouttenoire (Lausanne)
Urs Greber (Zürich)
Thomas Klimkait (Basel)

Karin Metzner (Zürich)
Matthias Schweizer (Bern)
Caroline Tapparel Vu (Geneva)
Volker Thiel (Bern)

The past year was certainly a very special and challenging year for all virologists and was heavily dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Swiss virologists were of course involved in many local, kantonal and national activities and many of them served as members of the Swiss National COVID-19 Science Task Force. In addition, many labs have been involved in scientific studies on SARS-CoV-2 and in establishing and maintaining SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics.

Notably, just before the lockdown in spring 2020 the Swiss Virology Meeting took place in Thun from February 4th- 5th. The meeting has been a great success and was excellently organized by the Organizing and Scientific Committee (Angela Ciuffi (University of Lausanne), Cornel Fraefel (University of Zurich), Jérôme Gouttenoire (University of Lausanne), Ben Hale (University of Zurich), Stefan Kunz (University of Lausanne), Karin Metzner (University Hospital of Zurich), Daniel Pinschewer (University of Basel), Philippe Plattet (University of Bern), Mirco Schmolke (University of Geneva), Matthias Schweizer (University of Bern), Caroline Tapparel Vu (University of Geneva), Volker Thiel (University of Bern), Stefan Wieland (University of Basel)). One highlight was again the session "SWISS VIROLOGIST ABROAD" with plenary talks from Amalio Telenti (Vir Biotechnology, USA) and Jason Mercer (University College London, UK).

The next SwissVirology meeting is scheduled for 2023 and will be continued bi-annually.

The main activities of the SSM Section Virology committee in the near future will be to coordinate the SSM Virology and the Swiss Virology meetings, to communicate important dates and events to the virology community via the SSM web page, and to continue to promote young researchers in the field of Virology.

Volker Thiel, Bern, June 2021

Mycology Section Report

By Dr. Alix Coste



Commission members:

Saskia Bindschedler (Neuchâtel)
Philipp Bosshard (Zürich)
Alix Coste (Lausanne)
Claudio De Virgilio (Fribourg)
Jurg Enkerli (Zürich)

Markus Künzler (Zürich)
Salome Leiboldgut-Landmann (Zürich)
Arnaud Riat (Geneva)
Dominique Sanglard (Lausanne).

During the past period, the committee of the section met once ... virtually of course!

We successfully renewed the webpage of the section to better reflect the three main areas of the Swiss mycology community. We apologize for those who are not formally represented but we hope that they will be able to find a niche in one of the sub-sections. We also continue to update our Swiss mycology database, always downloadable from the section webpage <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/sections/mycology>.

We hope to meet you soon physically, hopefully during the next General Meeting. And we will continue our effort to strengthen scientific emulation and exchange within our community.

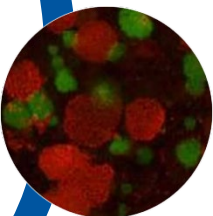
Alix Coste, Lausanne, March 2021

Environmental Microbiology Section Report

By Dr. David Johnson



Commission members:



Helmut Bürgmann (Kastanienbaum)
Leo Eberl (Zürich)
Christof Holliger (Lausanne)
David R. Johnson (Dübendorf)
Pilar Junier (Neuchâtel)
Sara Mitri (Lausanne)
Anita Narwani (Dübendorf)

Mauro Tonolla (Bellinzona)
Jan Roelof van der Meer (Lausanne)
Julia Vorholt (Zürich)
David Weissbrodt (Delft)
Franco Widmer (Zürich)
Jakob Zopfi (Basel)

The Environmental Microbiology section brings together experts interested in the functioning and behavior of microorganisms in natural and engineered environment. Our scope includes a wide variety of habitats, ranging from waters and soils to host surfaces to engineered systems. With regards to the latter habitats, members of our commission are now engaging with the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB) to create stronger bridges between scientists interested in natural and engineered systems. David Johnson is a board member of both societies (SSM and EFB) and will seek opportunities for cross-promotion of relevant activities. We encourage our members to identify other societies that could be useful for cross-promoting relevant activities and to inform our commission.

As an example, of particular interest to members of the Environmental Microbiology section is the 11th International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management, which is in part organized by members of the EFP. This conference will take place on 8-10, September in Muttensz, Switzerland and will bring together international experts on topics relevant to members of the SSM, including environmental biotechnology and water and wastewater treatment. We expect that this conference will include numerous members of the SSM discussing their research on applied aspects of microbiology in engineered systems and look forward to an exciting conference.

On behalf of the commission of Environmental Microbiology and the SSM, I would like to thank all members of the SSM community and the many individuals that contributed to our work.

David Johnson, Dübendorf, June 2021

Lay Communication Section Report

By Prof. Gilbert Greub



Commission members:

Massimo Caine (Geneva)
Alix Coste (Lausanne)
Gilbert Greub (Lausanne)
David R. JOHNSON (Dübendorf)
Pilar Junier (Neuchâtel)
Carole Kebbi-Beghdadi (Lausanne)
Hanna Marti (Zürich)

Shawna McCallin (Lausanne)
Karl Perron (Geneva)
Jacques Schrenzel (Geneva)
Florian Tagini (Lausanne)
Volker Thiel (Bern)
Philip V'kovski (Bern)

As mentioned on the SSM website (<https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/sections/lay-communication>), the main objectives of the „Lay communication“ Commission of the SSM (LCC-SSM) are:

- (i) to increase public awareness about microbes and microbiology
- (ii) to disseminate the research done by Swiss Labs in the field of Microbiology to lay people
- (iii) to foster a wider engagement of microbiologist in Switzerland in lay communication
- (iv) to strengthen the connections between Swiss microbiologists and other Lay communication organisations operating in the field of science communication

The lay communication commission did not have any in presence meeting in 2020 due to the fact that most members have been actively involved in 2020 in various tasks related to the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak and that most actions have been decided, either directly at the Committee level or within a dedicated “SARS-CoV-2 SSM representants, including both the chair of the diagnostic commission (Prof. Egli) and the chair of the lay communication commission (Prof Greub). However, they started to meet again on 6th January 2021 and pushed forward a number of projects during the last 18 months. They will meet again in August and members interested to join the lay communication commission are welcome and may send a mail to : gilbert.greub@chuv.ch

The main recent activities (from 1st January 2020) of the LCC-SSM or its members are listed below:

1. In close collaboration with the Coordinated Commission of Clinical Microbiology (CCCM-SSM), a web page on frequently asked questions (FAQ) has been prepared thank to the energy and guidance of Prof A Egli: <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/faqs>. This webpage dedicated to lay persons is today mainly focused on virology and SARS-COV-2, given the pandemic setting. However, it is planned to progressively extend this FAQ to other fields of microbiology.
2. A working group has been implemented to re-design the SSM website in order to have a part of the SSM website dedicated to lay communication and lay persons.

3. The CUSO course on “lay communication” co-organized by Pilar Junier (SSM president) and G Greub (chair of the LCC-SSM) has been postponed to autumn 2021, due to the 2nd wave of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak.

4. An article summarizing the key difficulties regarding lay communication on SARS-CoV-2 related aspects has been published in May 2020:

Schaad I. and Greub G.

Communiquer sur le coronavirus: pourquoi, quand, comment?

PIPETTE – Swiss Laboratory Medicine Journal 2020; 2: 17-19.

https://www.sulm.ch/pipette_magazin/files/pipette/2020-02/pipette_2-2020-017_Gilbert-Greub_Beatrice-Schaad_Communiqueur-sur-le-coronavirus-pourquoi-quand-comment.pdf

5. An article underlying the importance of the lay communication regarding the antigen self-tests has been prepared by 3 members of the LCC-SSM and was published in June 2021:

Coste AT, Egli A, Greub G.

Self-testing for SARS-CoV-2: importance of lay communication.

Swiss Med Wkly. 2021 Jun 5;151:w20526.

<https://smw.ch/article/doi/smw.2021.20526>

6. Florian Tagini, member of the LCC-SSM, is since 2020 in charge of developing the social media communication, and will do this both with interested members of the LCC-SSM and the members of the “Early career commission” chaired by Dr Tagini.

7. A website that will help teaching the microbiology to medical students is currently in preparation by two members of the LCC-SSM (A Coste & G Greub) in close collaboration with the University of Bruxelles, thanks to a dedicated grant.

8. A new game on microbes called “MyKrobs” has been prepared by the chair of the LCC-SSM in order to better communicate with the lay persons, but also to be used at secondary & tertiary-level schools in order to promote the future career in science and more specifically in microbiology of teenagers. This card game includes as many as 44 microbes, including the Coronavirus (www.mykrobs.ch).

9. Several stories for children are currently being prepared by several members of the SSM, that might get published at some point in a single book for children. This project is mainly led by Pilar Junier.

10. Pilar Junier and Saskia Bindschedler are leading a project using “students as teachers” that promotes microbiology both at school at the secondary and tertiary [level](#).

Gilbert Greub, Lausanne, June 2021

“Early Career” Report

By Dr. Florian Tagini



Last year was of course marked by the COVID-19 pandemics and the necessary hygiene rules of the federal office of health. However, with a successful – and still ongoing – vaccination campaign, we can now hope more firmly for a progressive normalization of the regulations. Live socialization is critical for young scientists to exchange ideas and thoughts as well as to stimulate collaborations. Let's hope for the best regarding the second semester of 2021!

Creation of an early career commission

We are glad to announce the creation of an early career commission, which aim at gathering young members who want to get involved in the society by suggesting new ideas or by helping the organization of activities related to the SSM. We will meet on a regular basis to move forward together. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to Florian Tagini (florian.tagini@chuv.ch). As part of the restructuration of the website, a web page dedicated to the new commission will soon be available.

Increasing the SSM presence on social media

Our presence on social media is thriving with currently more than 550 followers on Twitter. To see the latest news of the society, we kindly invite the members to follow our accounts @SwissMicrobe on Twitter and #SSM on LinkedIn.

Microbiologists of tomorrow session is planned for 2022 SSM annual meeting

Our new session of “Microbiologists of tomorrow”, which was initially planned for the 2021 SSM annual meeting, had be postponed to 2022 due to the online-only aspect of the 2021 annual meeting and to the tightness of the program. The 2022 program of the session will consist of five inspiring speakers, representing very different fields – academic, clinical, industrial (start-up and large company) and scientific communication – who will come to share their career stories, give specific advice, and discuss with young society members.

SSM online journal club

To increase the participation of members in the SSM network, we created a new page on the SSM website where article summaries and discussions can be published. As this new page was created during the COVID-19 epidemics, it was initially decided to select articles discussing latest COVID-19 news. However, the concept was extended to other topics and if anyone feels like discussing a microbiology paper through a one-page summary, please contact us.

Please also feel free to share any thoughts, ideas, or projects you may have for the society.

Florian Tagini, Lausanne, June 2021

The SSM offers a wide range of benefits to its members:



Scientific Information and Networking

- Annual meeting
- Newsletter, Social media
- Advantages of affiliated societies (see list page 41)



Financial Support

- Travel Grants

The SSM provides travel grants for young member scientists.

- Meeting Grants

The SSM supports the organisation of scientific meetings.

To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/society/grants>



Awards:

- **SSM Encouragement Award** is given to young investigators in the field of microbiology for achievements that are outstanding in terms of their originality and of particular scientific value. Achievements in the field of teaching as well as research and development are taken into consideration as well. The Award is given for a work that has been carried out in Switzerland or that is closely connected with our country.

- **Best Oral Presentation:** 5 Awards (one per section) in the context of the annual meeting presentations.

- **Poster Award:** 3 Awards selected during the annual meeting

To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/society/awards>



TRAVEL GRANTS REPORTS 2020

The Swiss Society for Microbiology SGM-SSM can provide funding for activities related to the dissemination of scientific results by its members. To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/society/grants>.

In 2020, the SSM provided one travel grant to **Shawna McCallin** to attend the Phages for Global Health's 2020 East African Phage Workshop in Dar es Salaam from January 12th to 25th January 2020. You can read her report in the coming page.

Due to COVID 19, no other requests were received as many events were cancelled, postponed or went virtual.

Phages for Global Health's 2020 East African Phage Workshop

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam January 12-25, 2020

Clinical Microbiology

Author of report	Shawna McCallin	Affiliation of author	University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG)
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The 2020 East Africa Phage training workshop was a great success, with 25 research participants from four countries and six teaching staff from Yale University, University of Leicester, University of Warwick, and myself from University Hospitals of Geneva.

Over two weeks, we isolated novel phages for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli* from local environmental samples. Practical courses covered topics from basic techniques, such as phage isolation & bacterial growth curves, to advanced methods, like mutant screening & on-site minion sequencing. I was largely responsible for the preparation of media, cultures, and reagents throughout the course, which was eye-opening to do in a resource-limited setting and with a steep language barrier (I now know how to say "match-box please" in Swahili). My presentation on clinical trials of phage therapy was a new addition to the workshop lectures, which led to a connection with the Muhimbili Clinical Trial Unit and opened a possible future collaboration of pursuing the use of phage therapy against cholera outbreaks.



Practical courses during the 2020 East Africa Phage Workshop in Dar es Salaam organized by Phages for Global Health.




This was the fourth workshop organized by Phages for Global Health, and the first that I was able to take part in. These workshops help to train local researchers in phage techniques, which has initiated and supported numerous subsequent scientific projects and grants. I sincerely thank the Swiss Society for Microbiology for supporting my participation in this workshop for it has had a profound impact on me, both personally and professionally, and I have been invited to teach at the next workshop thanks to this experience.



MEMBERS & AFFILIATIONS

Current List of Honorary Members

By alphabetical order

- 
- Prof. Dr. Michel ARAGNO
 - Prof. Dr. Werner ARBER
 - Prof. Dr. Reinhard BACHOFEN
 - Prof. Dr. Méd. Jacques BILLE
 - Prof. Dr. Gabriela PFYFFER VON ALTISHOFEN
 - Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude PIFFARETTI
 - Prof. Linda THOENY-MEYER
 - Prof. Dr. Méd. Alexander VON GRAEVENITZ

New ordinary members in 2020

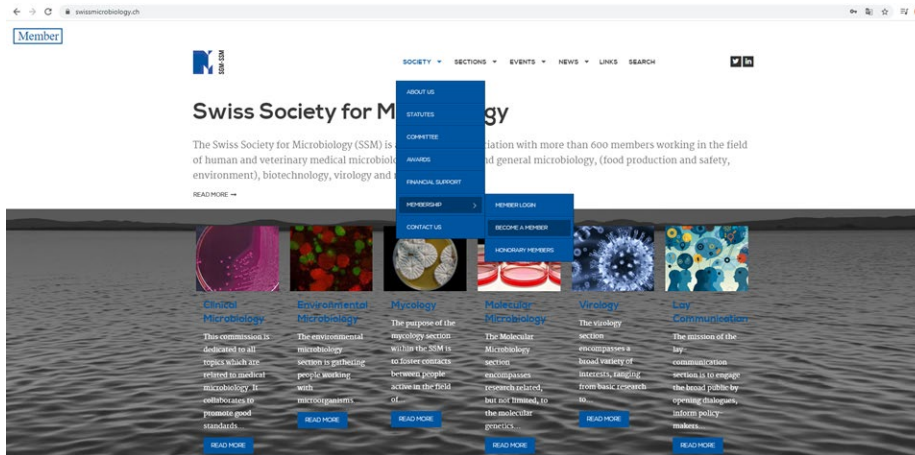
By alphabetical order



LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INSTITUT
ANDREI	Adrian-Stefan	University of Zurich
ANGST	Daniel	ETH Zürich
AVANZI	Charlotte	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
BAUMGARTNER	Isabelle	Labor Team
CARUANA	Giorgia	CHUV-Institute of Microbiology
CREUS	Marc	Juvabis AG
CUENOD	Aline	University of Basel
DI LORENZO	Valeria	Synlab Suisse
HAPFELMEIER	Siegfried	University of Bern
MALARD	Lucie	UNIL
MARTINEZ	Yolanda	EMPA
MEIER	Michael	Bioexam AG
NEWSON	Joshua	ETH Zürich
OYEWOLE	Oluwaseun	Institut für Infektionskrankheiten
PEAUDECERF	François	ETH Zürich
PLANCHAMP	Chantal	Federal Office for the Environment
SCHECKENBACH	Ludwig	Universitätsklinikum Marburg (UKGM)
SCHMITT	Kira	Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene
SLUTTER	Valérie	Synlab Suisse
TASARA	Taurai	University of Zurich

Membership Form

New members: become a member by filling the online form <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/society/membership/become-a-member>, make sure to fill all fields. A kind reminder, since 2021, there is a new category in the form: "Student".



Join us!
Application for membership

Membership Student member CHF 35 p.y. Ordinary member CHF 75 p.y. Collective member CHF 300 p.y.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Email

Second E-mail

Username

Password
Your password will be sent to the above e-mail address.
Once you have received your new password you can log in and change it.

Address

City

State/Region

Country

NPA

Department

Institution

Section Molecular Microbiology Environmental microbiology Clinical microbiology
 Mycology Virology Lay Communication

Academic qualifications / title

Obtained from:

Mobile

Business phone

Fax

Notes

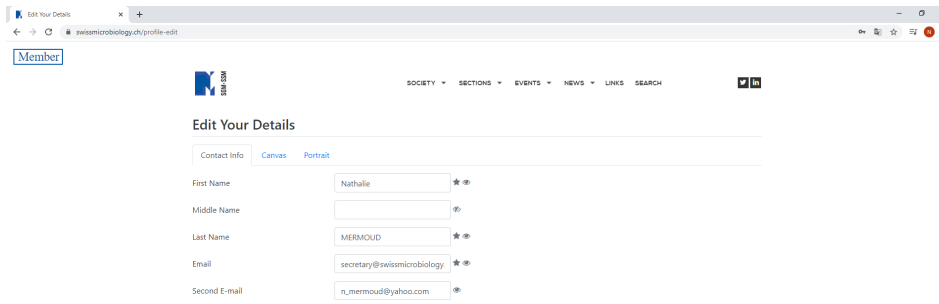
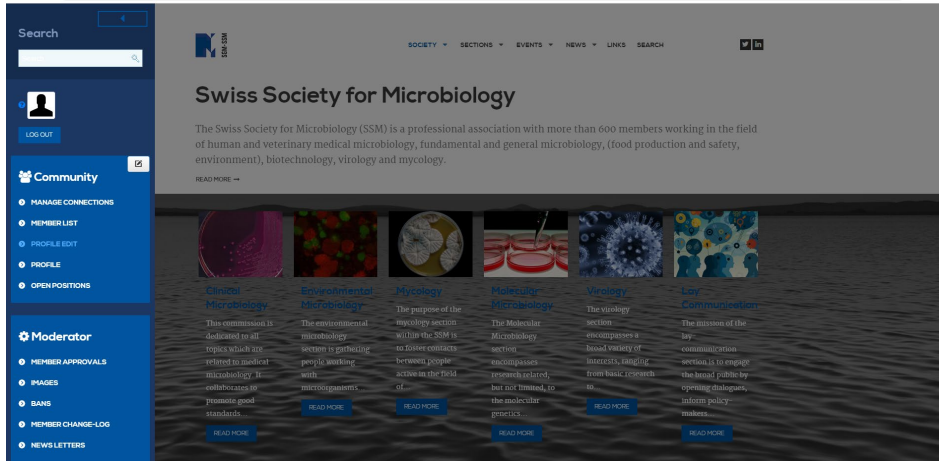
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[Sign up](#)

Instructions
According to Art. 6 of the Articles of Association the undersigned wishes to apply for membership to the SSM-SSM as:
 Student member CHF 35 p.y.
 Ordinary member CHF 75 p.y.
 Collective member CHF 300 p.y.

Members Profile page

Current members: update your profile by logging in, select edit profile and update your info. You can also send a mail to secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch



SSM Affiliations

The SSM is currently affiliated to the following societies (*by alphabetical order*). Our members can thus benefit of some advantages offered by these societies.



European Confederation of Medical Mycology

<https://www.ecmm.info>



European Federation of Biotechnology

<http://www.efbiotechnology.org>



European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

<https://www.escmid.org>



European Society for Virology

<http://www.eusv.eu>



Federation of European Microbiological Societies

<https://fems-microbiology.org>



International Society for Human and Animal Mycology

<https://www.isham.org>



European Union of Medical Specialists

<https://www.uems.eu>



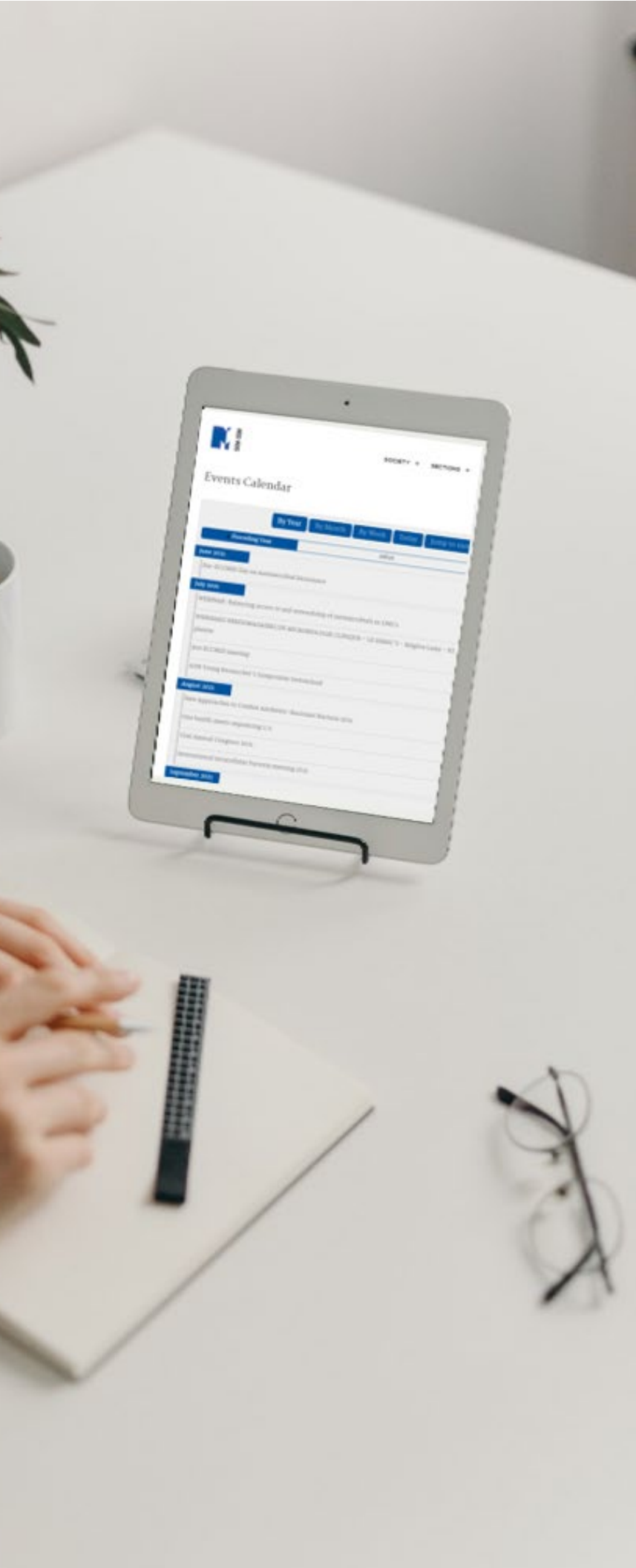
Swiss Academy of Sciences

<https://naturalsciences.ch>



Swiss Union of Laboratory Medicine

<https://www.sulm.ch>



CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The below events can be subject to change, so please check regularly our website event page and the related event page to view the latest updates. <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/events/year.listevents>

PLANNED 2021 EVENTS	
July 2021	
09 JUL - 12 JUL	31st ECCMID meeting
30 JUL	ASM Young Researcher's Symposium Switzerland
Aug 2021	
15 AUG - 19 AUG	New Approaches to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria 2021
17 AUG	One health meets sequencing 2.0
19 AUG – 20 AUG	SSAI Annual Congress 2021
14 AUG - 27 AUG	International intracellular bacteria meeting 2021
SEPT 2021	
02 SEPT – 03 SEPT	SSM Annual meeting 2021-Online
08 SEPT -10 SEPT	11 th International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management
15 SEPT -17 SEPT	23rd Annual Conference of the European Society for Clinical Virology
NOV 2021	
05 Nov	Federation of Infection Societies Conference 2021 - Manchester Central, UK (Limited places)
08 NOV-09 NOV	Federation of Infection Societies Conference 2021- ONLINE (Unlimited places)
PLANNED 2022 EVENTS	
30 JAN - 01 FEB	Rigi Workshop 2021 : Cell Biology of Infection POSTPONED TO 2022
08 MAR - 12 MAR	21st Congress of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology
23 APR - 26 APR	32nd ECCMID 2022
30 AUG – 01 SEPT	SSM Annual meeting 2021-Lausanne – 80th ANNIVERSARY



SGM-SSM

SWISS SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE MICROBIOLOGIE
SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI MICROBIOLOGIA
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MIKROBIOLOGIE

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The current SSM annual report « INFO 69 » has been prepared by:

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General Secretary

Swiss Society for Microbiology

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