



Dear effective member of BSM,

I thank you for your involvement in our Belgian Society for Microbiology and invite you to participate to the next General Assembly that will take place on October 18 at the Palace of Academies during the Symposium "Microbes without Frontiers". To simplify the procedure, we will try to organise the votes via our smartphones. So, please, come with your phone!

The agenda is the following:

1. News from the Society.
2. Approval of the new VZW/ASBL statutes complying with the new Belgian law from 29-03-2019. The updated statutes are available on the BSM Web under the tab "General Assembly" (<https://belsocmicrobio.be/general-assembly/>) Vote of the members.
3. Approval of the annual 2019 budget. Vote of the members.
4. Election of honorary members: The Board proposes the election of three new honorary members, namely Jozef Anné, Paul de Vos and Max Mergeay. Vote on the whole proposal.

Jozef Anné is Honorary Full Professor in the department of Microbiology and Immunology, Rega Institute, Faculty of Medicine of KU Leuven. He was Board member of the Rega Institute and headed the laboratory of Molecular Bacteriology, where he conducted research on protein secretion focused both on fundamental and biomedical/biotechnological aspects. He was chairman (1991-1996) of the FNRS/NFWO-sponsored contact group "General Microbiology", predecessor of the Belgian Society for Microbiology (BSM), established under his stimulus in 1996, and of which he became the first Secretary (1996-2009), and subsequently President (2009-2016). He also introduced BSM in the European Federation of Microbiological Societies (FEMS), represented BSM as delegate (1997-2014) until he was elected officer in the FEMS Board of Directors (2015-2021), responsible for Grants and Awards

Paul de Vos is Emeritus Professor of Microbiology at the University of Ghent and former director (2005-2015) of BCCM/LMG, the Belgian bacterial culture collection. His research interests are bacterial biodiversity, evolution, taxonomy, identification and detection. In this context he was involved in a broad panel of studies concerning beneficial and contaminating food bacteria, plant pathogenic bacteria and of bacterial drivers in mineralization processes as the nitrogen cycle and others. He is trustee of 'Bergey's Manual Trust', a group of editors responsible for Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria; the "Bible" of bacterial taxonomy. Since recent (2016), he is active as member of the Ghent university group on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS regulation. As a member of the National Committee for Microbiology, he was one of the founders of BSM in 1996. After serving in the Board, he became a very active member of the Advisory Board where he remained until 2018 when this Board was dissolved.

Max Mergeay made his career as a microbiologist in Mol from 1968 to 2008 at the Belgian Center for Nuclear Studies, (SCK•CEN) where he started the Laboratory of Genetics and Biotechnology in 1988. He studied different aspects of horizontal gene transfer in soil bacteria with accent on the adaptation of bacteria to heavy metals or organic xenobiotics in contaminated industrial environments, also in the perspective of environmental biotechnology. He then pioneered space microbiology with accent on Life Support during space travels and on waste recycling via microbial processes, in the frame of the MELISSA project. Since 2012 he is director of the MELISSA foundation supported by the European Space Agency. He taught Genetics at the Interfaculty Section of Agronomy in ULB (1993-2008). As a member of the National Committee of Microbiology (since 1989) and of the FNRS/NFWO-sponsored contact group "General Microbiology", he participated to the Foundation of the Belgian Society of Microbiology and acted for many years as a Board member and later as a member of the Advisory Board until 2018 when this Board was dissolved.

5. Election of New Members of the Board of Directors. The Board proposes the election of Jean-Claude Dujardin (ITM Antwerp & University of Antwerp), Anne Op de Beeck (ULB), Rob van Houdt (SCK/CEN, Mol). Vote on the whole proposal.

Prof. Guy R. Cornelis
President of BSM