



S&T INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION NETWORK FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

The European Union Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

The “People” Programme

The following information about upcoming conferences is presented below. All these events are open to all interested researchers.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The annual agricultural biotechnology international conference (ABIC) will be held in Cork, Ireland, from **24 to 27 August**. The theme of ABIC 2008 is 'agricultural biotechnology for a competitive and sustainable future'.

Experts in agricultural biotechnology research will present their scientific advances and future directions, across 12 parallel and two plenary sessions. Session themes include:

- ag-biotech: the sustainability challenge facing society;
- biofuels and bioenergy biotechnology research;
- marine and algal biotechnology;
- crop breeding, genetics and genomics;
- domestic animal breeding, genomics and biotechnology;
- role of ag-biotech innovation for national and international competitiveness;
- seed, fruit and reproductive plant biotechnology;
- molecular pharming in plants and animals;
- the future of plant genetic engineering;
- ag-biotech regulations, rules and perceptions;
- functional foods, nutrition, nutraceuticals and bioactives;
- agricultural biotechnology and developing countries;
- food and dairy agricultural biotechnology.

At a time when global agricultural production (e.g. of food, feed, fibre and fuel) faces very significant challenges due to rising demand, rising prices and population increases, the ABIC 2008 meeting attempts to provide the details on how agricultural biotechnology research and development (R&D) could help sustainable social and economic development over the coming years.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.abic.ca/abic2008/>.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

The International Conference on Natural Language Processing (GoTAL 2008) will be held from **25 to 27 August** in Gothenburg, Sweden.

GoTAL is an international conference on all aspects of computational linguistics and natural language processing theory, methods and applications. In invited talks and other presentations, speakers will address topics such as 'Formal semantics in the real world', 'Speech processing for audio indexing', 'Sorting out dependency parsing' and more.

The conference is organised jointly by Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.cse.chalmers.se/gotal.html>.

ESF-EMBO SYMPOSIUM ON BACTERIAL NETWORKS

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) are organising a symposium on bacterial networks from **13 to 18 September** in Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain.

BACNET/08 will cover the mechanisms of information collection, integration and implementation in bacteria. Research in the past decades has unveiled the metabolic and regulatory circuitry of bacterial cells in unprecedented detail.

The meeting will bring together research from related but often non-intersecting fields to allow cross-fertilisation of ideas and concepts. It will involve molecular microbiologists, systems engineers, computational modellers, mathematicians, bioinformaticists and systems biologists.

BACNET/08 will present sessions on development, global regulators and second messengers, modelling and engineering networks, microbial cell biology and imaging, regulatory networks and switches, host-microbe interactions, and cell-cell communication.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=4565>.

EUCHEMS CHEMISTRY CONGRESS

The 2nd EuCheMS chemistry congress entitled “Chemistry: the global science” will take place in Torino, Italy, from **16 to 20 September**. It is jointly organised by the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and the Italian Chemistry Society (SCI)

The congress will be composed of common sessions, with plenary lectures given by outstanding scientists, and parallel sessions, focusing on important areas of chemistry and progress made in the following areas:

- advances in synthesis;
- advances in understanding;
- chemistry and life sciences;
- energy and industry
- environment;
- materials and devices.

Bringing together all branches of chemical and molecular sciences, the congress aims to promote chemistry and the chemical sciences; foster collaboration among scientists in research, industry and education in support of chemistry in Europe; and enhance the public image of chemistry.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.euchems-torino2008.it/>.

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