Small Things Considered

July 30, 2009
The European Academy of Microbiology

We translate and offer a post from the Spanish blog *Esos Pequeños Bichitos* (Those Small Bugs).

by Miguel Vicente

On June 29,2009, the European Academy of Microbiology (EAM) was established in the Swedish city of Gothenburg. The objective of the academy is to provide a voice for European microbiology and to foster its quality and dissemination within Europe. Its goals include the expansion of scientific knowledge regarding key issues of microbiological relevance, fostering meetings and congresses, and establishing advanced courses.

The EAM will include microbiologists with a notable record of publication, patents or inventions, significant achievements in clinical work or teaching, and contributions to the microbiological community.

The Logo of the EAM. Microbiology began in Europe with the observations of Leeuwenhoek, and one of his drawings has been used for their logo. (redrawn by M. V.)

The founding members, about 100 in number, include professionals from various countries and scientific fields, including seven from Spain. Future fellows will be selected from suggestions by the current members. The objective is to maintain the high scientific standards of the EAM, to represent all branches of microbiology, and to include all of the countries represented in the Federation of European Microbiology Societies (FEMS), which helped launch the Academy.

The Color in the logo of the EAM. The chosen color blue represents not only the European Union but also countries outside the community, such as Israel and Turkey, which are members of the FEMS. It is also the distinctive color of Delft, the place where Leeuwenhoek saw his first microbes. Delft is famous for its blue and white porcelain that in the 17th

The current president of FEMS, Milton da Costa, presided over the inaugural ceremonies. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Rino Rappuoli, the director of the Novartis Vaccine Institute for Global Health, a non-profit institute founded in 2007. Rappuoli described advances at their institute. He pointed out that, whereas in the 20th century the goal of vaccines was to prevent childhood infections, the goal in the 21st century is to produce vaccines for both young and old, and which will help alleviate emergent infections. Their efforts are currently directed towards vaccines against diarrhea, the meningococcus (which causes other serious infections besides meningitis among children in underdeveloped countries), and against the Type A H1N1 influenza virus.

At present, important aspects of microbiology and infectious diseases do not receive their proper emphasis. The creation of the new academy combined with the founding of a non-profit institute by a pharmaceutical company give us hope for the future.

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century imitated the expensive and hard-to-get Chinese porcelain. This ceramic plate from Delft depicting Leeuwenhoek is in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.

Posted at 10:04 AM in Odds & Ends | Permalink

Comments

I recently came across your blog and have been reading along. I thought I would leave my first comment. I don't know what to say except that I have enjoyed reading. Nice blog. I will keep visiting this blog very often.

Alena

http://grantfoundation.net

Posted by: Alena | December 23, 2009 at 08:15 PM

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