

Events/News

3rd annual meeting (UGent, May 2019)

The annual meeting was held in Ghent, Belgium on May 16th, 2019. The hosting venue was Hotel NH Gent Sint Pieters. Individual work packages were discussed in detail and progress of the project was assessed. Strategies were elaborated to overcome difficulties in dealing with planning and implementing experiments with living organisms such as plants and microbes. The new ESR representative was chosen to be ESR10 - Angélique Rat. As was the case with previous annual meetings the Supervisory Board met once again during the day.



The MICROMETABOLITE team after the midterm meeting, Ghent, Belgium

MICROMETABOLITE

Research Training Network Microbial
Enhancement of Bioactive Secondary Metabolite
Production in Plants

Midterm review meeting (Ghent, Belgium, May 2019)

After the annual meeting, the ESRs and their respective supervisors took part in the midterm review meeting, which was attended also by the representatives of the European Commission. Giuliana Donini, the project officer, and Fernando Sicbaldi, the external reviewer, participated in the meeting on the behalf of the European Commission. The project outlines were explained by the project coordinator and the overall progress of the action was presented by the ESRs in the form of short presentations of the individual research projects carried out by each ESR, with focus being put on the collaboration between different institutions within MICROMETABOLITE. The project officer and the external reviewer agreed that the action offers high-level ESR projects with results being in line with the grant agreements and of high industrial value due to the innovative elements present. MICROMETABOLITE was evaluated as well-managed, with special emphasis being put on the quality of outreach and dissemination activities being done by the partner institutions.

MICROMETABOLITE is now on Twitter! The ESRs will take turns moderating the page and posting their experiences as part of the ITN. Follow @micrometabolite for updates



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Newsletter #2

3rd annual meeting

Mid-term meeting

2nd MICROMETABOLITE summer school on *In vitro* cultivation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi

NWT on Isolation, identification and preservation of bacteria

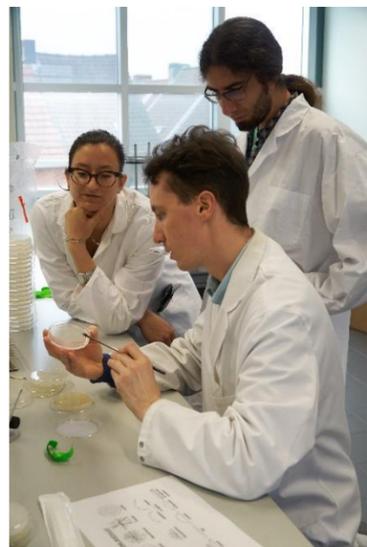
Bioinformatics workshop held at AIT
European Researchers' Night 2019

2nd summer school (UCL, May 2019)

The 2nd MICROMETABOLITE summer school on *In vitro* cultivation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi was held at the mycology laboratory of the Earth and Life Institute of Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. The summer school provided the ESRs with hands-on experience in a microbiological laboratory of an institution that offers regular international trainings to experts from around the world. ESRs were also given a tour of the laboratory facilities, as well as the BCCM/MUCL collection of living fungal strains, a part of the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms.

Network-wide training event on Isolation, identification and preservation of bacteria (UGent, May 2019)

The summer school was followed by a NWT event that took place at Ghent University, at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. The ESRs acquired practical experience on working with bacterial strains, following the full protocol from isolation to preservation of bacteria. In addition, they were given a tour of the facilities and shown the BCCM/LMG bacteria collection present at the Laboratory of Microbiology.

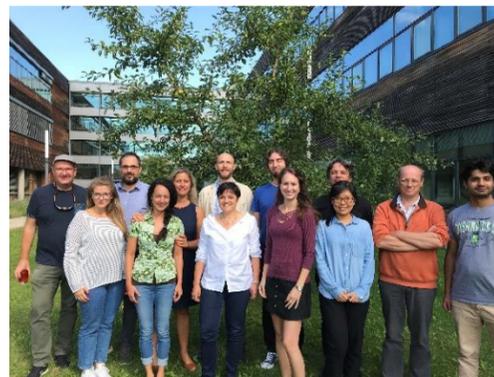


Hands-on training activities in Belgium

In MICROMETABOLITE, we extract from the roots of plants of the Boraginaceae family various naphthoquinone derivatives (e.g. alkannins and shikonins). These compounds possess strong tissue regenerative and wound-healing activities and have well established antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer activities. Boraginaceae-derived compounds are already used in various pharmaceutical and cosmetic preparations, and there is growing interest in expanding the range of pharmaceutical application. Factors affecting biosynthesis of the active pharmaceutical ingredients are currently explored in the frames of MICROMETABOLITE, so that to optimize their yield.

Bioinformatics workshop (AIT, September 2019)

In order to tackle the challenges brought upon by the vast quantities of data collected from the same plant samples by different institutions using different methods, it was decided to organize a workshop on bioinformatics. The workshop was held at the Austrian Institute of Technology, in Tulln, Austria on September 5-6. The attendees list included MICROMETABOLITE members from AIT, AUTH, UCL and UoA, as well as bioinformatics experts. Strategies were elaborated to perform correlation analyses of complex sets of data arising from experiments coming from various disciplines. Further workshops dealing with the issues of big data are planned for the beginning of 2020.



Bioinformatics workshop participants, Tulln

European Researchers' Night

The European Researchers' Night is a continent-wide event made to bring researchers closer to the general public. In September 2019, ESRs from our project participated in the event in two cities - Vienna, Austria and Thessaloniki, Greece. The evening event was a great opportunity to showcase interesting experiments to the general public, especially of a very young age, promote science, as well as MICROMETABOLITE with the banners and flyers made for dissemination purposes. Hundreds of people attended our stands in both Vienna and Thessaloniki and the event was a success, while also being fun for both the ESRs and the visitors.



European Researchers' Night, Vienna and Thessaloniki