

*First Circular and Call for Abstracts*

**CEFORM**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Central European Forum  
for Microbiology  
in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Foundation of HSM**



*Organized by*

the Hungarian Society for Microbiology,  
the Croatian Microbiological Society, the Slovenian Microbiological Society,  
and the Foundation of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

*The conference is planned with fully personal attendance, however,  
depending on the pandemic situation, it might be held in a hybrid form.*

**13–15 October, 2021**

Hotel Aranyhomok, **Kecskemét**, Hungary

*Dear Colleagues,*

**On behalf** of the Presidium of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (HSM), the Croatian Microbiological Society (CMS) and the Slovenian Microbiological Society (SMS), we cordially invite you to attend the 6th Central European Forum for Microbiology, co-organized by the inviting societies, to be held October 13-15, 2021 at Hotel Aranyhomok, Kecskemét, in the heart of the Danube - Tisza interfluvium, 86 km south of Budapest, Hungary.

**The CEFORM meetings** traditionally attract participants from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia. The organizers welcome participants from all parts of Europe, and the World to get acquainted with the newest results of our colleagues in the broad field of microbiology. Moreover, to enjoy the wonderful autumn mood, the vine-harvest, the Hungarian cuisine.

**The program** will cover all major branches of microbiology. Though, the main scientific topic this year will naturally revolve around SARS-Cov-2 and Covid, presented by renowned experts of the field.

**The official language** of the Congress is English. Presentations will include invited plenary and semiplenary lectures (20+10 min), lectures (10 + 5 min), and poster sessions (3 + 2 min).

**We are looking forward** to seeing you at the Congress, and we hope that you will find it a stimulating scientific event and happy personal experience.

Dr. Károly **Márialigeti**  
President, HSM

Dr. Roberto **Antolović**  
President, CMS

Dr. Marjanca **Starčič-Erjavec**  
President, SMS

## *Organizing Committee*

Andrea K. Borsodi (Eötvös L. University, Budapest) \ Katalin Burián (University of Szeged) \ Márta Csire (National Public Health Center, Budapest) \ Levente Emődy (University of Pécs) \ Erzsébet Fekete (University of Debrecen) \ Levente Karaffa (University of Debrecen) \ József Kónya (University of Debrecen) \ Gábor Kovács (Budapest Capital Government Office) \ Gábor M. Kovács (Eötvös L. University, Budapest) \ Kálmán Könczöl (Gedeon Richter Co., Budapest) \ Oliver Kurzai (Hans Knöll Institute, Jena, Germany) \ János Minárovits (University of Szeged) \ Norbert Nowotny (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria) \ István Pócsi (University of Debrecen) \ Miklós Rusvai (Veterinary University, Budapest) \ Adrian Tsang (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada) \ John Ziebuhr (University of Giessen, Germany), and Orsolya Dobay Congress Secretary (e-mail: [dobay.orsolya@med.semmelweis-univ.hu](mailto:dobay.orsolya@med.semmelweis-univ.hu))

## PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

### *Accentuated topic*

European Vademecum of SARS-Cov-2

All aspects of coronavirus and COVID-19: isolation, culture, human and possible other infections, diagnostics, infection symptoms, tissue and organ tropism, molecular and cellular biology, clinical cases, infection control, defence measures, prevention strategies, epidemics, genome analysis and mutations, phylogenetics, treatment, plasma therapy, drug developments, vaccination strategies, and epidemiological facts and questions

### *Agricultural Microbiology*

The soil - plant holobiont system serving sustainable agriculture

Forest microbiology

Long-term experiments

Biotization, rhizosphere and phyllosphere technology

Simulation and modelling

Plant pathology and “one health”

### *Bacteriology*

Molecular biology, physiology and evolution of bacteria and their phages

Human and veterinary pathogens and pathogenesis

Traditional and molecular diagnostic methods, vaccination

Asymptomatic carriage of pathogenic bacteria

Genetic background and mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance

Bacteriophages

### *Clinical Microbiology*

Case reports

Possibilities and restrictions in gene therapy

Diagnostic methods

STD-STI (syphilis, HIV/AIDS, genital herpes, HPV, Chlamydia infections)

Microbial interactions

Beta-lactamase resistance in the clinical praxis

### *Environmental Microbiology*

- Microbial taxonomy in the genomic era
- Ecology, function and interactions of microbial communities
- Biodiversity and adaptation of extremophiles
- Metagenomics in the environmental microbiology
- Biogeochemical cycles and climate change
- Microbial ecology of artificial and polluted environments

### *Food Microbiology*

- Improvement of microbiological safety of foods
- Food safety and agricultural raw materials, microbiological risk assessment
- Rapid microbiological methods
- Pro- and prebiotics, biopreservation
- Microbial interactions
- Stress adaptation of food microbes, “new” spore formers in foods

### *Immunology and Parasitology*

- Infection and immunity
- Immunogenetics, immunodiagnostics
- Control of infectious diseases: vaccination
- Host-parasite interactions, new and emerging parasitic diseases
- Helminthology, and protozoal diseases, taxonomic questions of parasites

### *Industrial Microbiology – Fungal Industrial Biotechnology*

- Microbial and non-microbial fermentations and bioconversions
- Fungal platforms in industrial biotechnology
- Applied fungal genomics
- Molecular physiology of enzyme and metabolite production
- Biochemical engineering, bioreactor design, modelling
- Fermentation analytics, control and regulation

## *Mycology*

- Evolution and phylogenetics of fungi
- Fungal cell biology and physiology
- Genetics, genomics, proteomics and metabolomics of fungi
- New tools for fungal genome engineering
- Fungi as pathogens, host-fungal interactions, epidemiology
- Diagnostic methods and platforms in mycology
- Applied mycology

## *Virology*

- All aspects of human, animal and plant viruses
- Evolution of viruses, molecular virology, tumour inducing viruses
- Pathogenesis of virus diseases, virus-host interaction
- Diagnostics of viral diseases
- Novel endogenic and exogenic retroviruses in the pathogenesis of human diseases, aging and viruses
- Vaccination and therapy, bioterrorism
- Viral genomics, metagenomics, epigenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics; virome

## **CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

### *Language*

The official language of the Congress is English.

### *Call for Papers*

Papers related to any topic covered by the sessions of the congress will be considered. Please use the CEFORM homepage of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (<https://ceform2021.eventcloud.hu/>) for registration and abstract submission. Authors should express their preference for oral or poster presentation. There are limited possibilities for oral presentations, therefore some abstracts submitted as an oral presentation may be converted to poster presentations. Some oral presentations, however, will be selected for the semiplenary sessions. All authors concerned will be notified in due time. (If you are unwilling to make a poster presentation please indicate it on the registration sheet!) Speakers at lectures will have 15 minutes which includes

questions and discussion. The time limit will be strictly kept, whenever reasonable. **Deadline for the abstract submission is 15 August.**

Standard audio-visual equipment will be provided. Please indicate your special needs (e.g. two video-projectors) in the registration form.

Posters will be displayed for three full days, moreover, posters should be presented in 5 minutes which includes questions and discussion ("Poster Presentation Sessions"). During the Poster Session authors of posters are requested to be present at their posters at the time specified in the programme. This will give all congress delegates the opportunity for questions and discussion. Poster displays should be, however, self-explanatory even in the absence of authors. Posters should not exceed a size of 85 cm (width) x 120 cm (height) (standing A0 format). Adhesive, etc. for poster affixation will be provided.

The Abstract Book of the 6th Central European Forum for Microbiology will be published as a supplement issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica*. The abstract (including author/s/ + affiliation/s/ + address/es/ + text body) should not exceed 3500 characters. Please follow the instructions in the online abstract submission system.

### *Poster competition*

Participants under 35 years with poster presentation will be eligible for prizes.

To compete in the awards, a letter confirming the age must accompany the online submitted abstract to the Congress Secretariat (Orsolya Dobay; e-mail: [dobay.orsolya@med.semmelweis-univ.hu](mailto:dobay.orsolya@med.semmelweis-univ.hu))!

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

October 12, 2021 (Tuesday)	Afternoon from 5 - 8 p.m.	Arrival and registration
October 13, 2021 (Wednesday)	Morning from 8 a.m. From 10.30 a.m.	Arrival and registration Opening ceremony, Manninger Memorial Session Inaugural Lectures of Honorary Members of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology
	Afternoon	Plenary Session: SARS-Cov-2
	Evening	Facultative programme (Visit to Kecskemét city and dinner with wine tasting)
October 14, 2021 (Thursday)	Morning	Plenary Session: SARS-Cov-2
	Afternoon	Scientific sessions and poster presentations
	Evening	Congress banquet
October 15, 2021 (Friday)	Morning	Semiplenary scientific sessions
	Afternoon	Scientific sessions and poster presentations
	Late afternoon	Closing ceremony, Best Poster Award, Farewell drink

## PARTICIPATION AND FEES

### *Congress Participants*

Early registration fee            before August 15, 2021            150.- €

Registration fee                after August 15, 2021            170.- €

The registration fee includes participation at the scientific program, commercial exhibition and banquet (14 October), a congress bag, a supplementary issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica*, coffee/refreshment tickets, farewell drink.

## THE COUNTRY, KECSKEMÉT, THE CONGRESS VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

**Hungary** (<http://gotohungary.com/>)

Hungary is situated in Central Europe. The country covers an area of less than 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> and it has roughly 10 million inhabitants, who speak a unique language which is not used anywhere else in the world. Hungary has become a full member of the European Union from 1st May 2004.

In the year of 2000 the nation celebrated the thousandth anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian State. Since the time of the state founder King Saint Stephen, Hungary had to go through several repeated trials and tribulations besides its golden eras, but it could stay on its feet despite its stormy history. Today, Hungary is one of the most popular destinations of visitors who wish to encounter this beautiful country with its natural, historical, cultural and gastronomic attractions.

**Bács-Kiskun County** (<https://www.bacskiskun.hu/>)

The thousand-year-old past, the historical and cultural heritage, the lively and ever-evolving countryside makes the sights more colourful, and it attracts back those who had the chance to take a glimpse at the rich traditions of this diverse landscape. The warmth of the sun above the Great Plain, the endless dunes, the spas, the quality wines, the tasty fruits and the dishes made with folk traditions ensure that the visitors feel at home immediately.

Kecskemét, located 86 km south of Budapest, in the very centre of Hungary, is a middle size city with about 112,000 inhabitants, where the historical parts, traditions and modern developments live in harmony. The city celebrated its 650 years anniversary, as it was officially mentioned first in 1368, but was inhabited much before that time. Due to its location in the crossing point of important commercial pathways, the town suffered great losses in the storms of history. Furthermore, one third of the population died in the big plague in 1739-40. However, it experienced a prosperity period at the second half of 19th century and nowadays it is still and again the most important town in the county, being an economical, sacral and educational centre with much to offer for the tourists.

### *Congress Venue and Accommodation*

The Congress and the connected Exhibition will be held in Hotel Aranyhomok (H-6000, Kecskemét, Kossuth tér 3.) where we also provide accommodation for participants. The prices include halfboard (breakfast and lunch), taxes and the use of the hotel swimming pool.

Superior room with half board: single room	87 EUR/room/night
double room	113 EUR/room/night
Standard single room with half board:	69 EUR/room/night

Please make your reservation for accommodation in the online registration system at the homepage of the conference (<https://ceform2021.eventcloud.hu/>). Do not forget to tick the box if you do want to share your room, and please indicate the name of your room-mate.

### *Meals and Banquet*

The banquet will also take place in the restaurant of Hotel Aranyhomok (14 October). All meals are arranged on a buffet basis and include a broad selection of different types of main dishes (including vegetarian), soups, desserts, etc. Meals (lunch/dinner) can be ordered separately at a price of 16 EUR. Please indicate your choice in the online registration system.

### *Evening Programme (optional) on 13 October*

The presentations will be followed by a short walking tour to get acquainted with the city and afterwards you can enjoy a dinner accompanied with wine tasting.

Participation fee is 55 EUR.

## **DEADLINES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION**

*Deadline for Abstract Submission:* 15 August 2021

*Deadlines for Registration and Payment:*

*Early registration* payment before 15 August 2021

*Regular registration* payment after 15 August 2021

*Cancellation charge:*

*80% Refund* before 15 September 2021

*No Refund* after 15 September 2021

Please register at the CEFORM homepage of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (<https://ceform2021.eventcloud.hu/>). Please follow the instructions in the online registration system at submission of your registration/accommodation preferences.

Payments (registration fee, accommodation fee, optional meals, etc.) should be sent to Weco Travel Ltd. (Kossuth Lajos u. 7-9., Budapest, H-1053 Hungary; phone: +36-1-266-7032; fax: +36-1-266-7033; e-mail: [mmt@wecotravel.hu](mailto:mmt@wecotravel.hu)) by means of:

| bank transfer to Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. (Népfürdő utca 24-26. Budapest, H-1138 Hungary) account No. (EUR) 1160 0006 0000 0000 8361 5326 (IBAN: HU14 1160 0006 0000 0000 8361 5326; SWIFT: GIBAHUHB) with reference: CEFORM2021 + name of participant.

| credit card online payment

Please kindly note that all bank charges (if any) should be covered by the payee.

### *Cancellation*

Registration cancellations must be made in written form to the Congress Secretariat ([mmt@wecotravel.hu](mailto:mmt@wecotravel.hu)).

## **LETTER OF INVITATION**

If you require a letter of invitation, please notify the Congress Secretariat.

Invitation is only to assist participants to obtain travel grants, visa, etc. and does not imply any commitment of the Congress Administration to provide financial support.

## EXHIBITIONS/SPONSORS

A commercial exhibition related to microbial diagnostics, research and biotechnology for laboratory suppliers, publishers, and consultants will be organized during the meeting. A sponsorship program ensures contributing organizations receive maximum exposure during the meeting. For further information please contact the Congress Secretariat [mmt@wecotravel.hu](mailto:mmt@wecotravel.hu).

## TRAVELLING TO KECSKEMÉT

Participants arriving by plane, will arrive to Budapest. We recommend the “Airport Shuttle Service” or a taxi directly to Népliget bus station (Népliget Autóbusz-pályaudvar). There is a direct bus from the Népliget bus station to Kecskemét, which departs approx. every hour and the journey takes only 70 minutes. Alternatively, you can take the train from Nyugati railway station, which departs approx. every hour with a journey time of 77 minutes. Please note, however, that the hotel is located 12-15 minutes walking distance from both the bus station and railway station of Kecskemét. For actual departure dates, please consult: <https://menetrendek.hu/mobile/?lng=en#>

### *Parking in Kecskemét:*

There is a limited number of parking lots for hotel guests at Hotel Aranyhomok. Price is 2.000 HUF/day. Please indicate your request when making the room reservation.

Public parking around the hotel is available as well. Between 8:00 and 18:00 it costs 400 HUF/hour or 1.500 HUF/day. Between 18:00 and 8:00 it is free of charge.

Near to Hotel Aranyhomok you can find the Malom Shopping Mall which can provide a covered garage with the following prices: 350 HUF/hour OR 4.000 HUF/for 24 hours OR 6.500 HUF/for 48 hours OR 8.500 HUF/for 72 hours. You can buy your parking ticket for Malom garage in advance also at the reception desk of the hotel.

## CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

The climate in October is usually calm and can be very pleasant. The average daytime temperature is around 15°C degrees. Daily maximum values will reach 20-23°C. However, in the morning and late in the evening it can be cold and sometimes foggy. A season coat, pullover and some wet weather protection might be useful, as rain can also be expected. Please look up the weather forecast a few days before your trip.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Currency:** Hungarian Forint.

**Credit cards:** Visa, Eurocard, MasterCard, American Express, is accepted in Hotels and most restaurants and stores. Please ask before ordering! Shopping hours: usually 10.00 to 18.00. Most shops are closed on Sunday's.

**Power supply:** 220 V, AC 60 Hz.

**Value Added Tax:** VAT (in Hungarian ÁFA) is charged (except in duty-free shops), the rate is 27 % (in restaurants 18%).

**Tiping:** Tips in restaurants and for taxis – depending on the service – are optional but expected. Maximum rate is 10 %. There are some restaurants where a service charge is billed, in this case do not tip.

