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The **7th Congress of European Microbiologists (FEMS 2017)** is one of the leading meetings of its kind and will connect thousands of microbiologists from around the world.

The Congress, organized by FEMS, will feature symposia and workshops led by prominent scientists in their respective fields. The goal of this essential international gathering is to provide a comprehensive forum for the exploration and discussion of various topics in microbiology. Key disciplines including molecular approaches, biodiversity, bioremediation, eukaryotic microbes, virology and others will be examined in order to advance our understanding of current and future challenges.

**FEMS 2017 will be held July 9-13, 2017 in Valencia**, one of the liveliest and brightest cities in Spain.

### About FEMS

Established in 1974, FEMS is now an active and diverse federation of 53 European learned societies that includes around 30,000 professionals who are committed to advancing microbiology for the benefit of society. Located in 36 European countries, around half of these professionals are early career researchers, and the remainder include industry scientists, established academics, educators and campaigners.

We nurture this network through a variety of knowledge development and community-building activities: We publish 5 ISI-listed journals, distribute 250,000 to 500,000 Euros of grants each year, and make several awards for recognition of scientific excellence – including awards with the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) - and promote education and continuing professional development.

[www.fems-microbiology.org](http://www.fems-microbiology.org)

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES

## About SEM

The Spanish Society for Microbiology is a scientific society founded in 1946 at the Jaime Ferrán Institute, which belongs to the National Research Council (CSIC). It was originally called the Society of Spanish Microbiologists, the name by which it was known until 1970, when its members decided to change it to Sociedad Española de Microbiología (SEM). The main objectives of the society are to promote basic and applied microbiology both amongst interested parties and society as a whole, to encourage international relations and to bring together the many professionals who work in all its various fields. It is an interdisciplinary society with some 1,700 members.

[www.semicrobiologia.org](http://www.semicrobiologia.org)

## SEM General Meeting

A major goal of the Spanish Society of Microbiology (SEM) is the organization of congresses, meetings and training courses. Besides the simposia on particular topics organized by the eleven SEM specialized groups, our society organizes the SEM General meetings every two years. For the first time as a joint meeting, the 26th meeting of SEM will be organized together with the 7th FEMS congress in Valencia, from 9 to 13 July 2017. SEM congresses are focused on a broad range of Microbiology topics, according to the goals of the society. In the FEMS-SEM congress in Valencia we will prepare an excellent joint programme, covering topics of general interest for microbiologists from different disciplines.

## Valencia, the place to meet

It's not just Valencia's rich history that is so appealing. The perfect climate and welcoming local community forms a natural habitat for great networking.

Valencia has historically been a cultural crossroads and continues to serve as a meeting point between northern Europe and the Mediterranean countries. Its ongoing relationship with microbiology is demonstrated at a permanent exhibition in place at the University of Valencia and at the CeCT - Spain's public Microbial Biological Resource Centre.

Valencia's international airport is connected to 55 destinations by 38 international airlines and low cost carriers. It is situated 8 km from the city centre.

## About the History of Valencia

Founded by the Romans (in 138 BC), Valencia has been the home of many cultures over its history: Romans, Visigoths, Moors and the Aragonese all made the city an important cultural and financial centre.

In the year 1094, Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, called El Cid Campeador, conquered Valencia on behalf of the Christians, but the city later fell to the Almoravids in 1102. Following the Moorish domination, it

was in 1238 that James I of Aragon finally reconquered the city, and founded the Kingdom of Valencia, with its characteristic legislative privileges (Furs).

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Valencia became one of the major economic powers on the Mediterranean seaboard. It was the time of the Valencian siglo de oro (Golden Age), which was characterized by splendour in the arts at the hands of Joanot Martorell (author of *Tirant lo Blanc*, the first modern European novel), Ausias March, Roig de Corella, Isabel de Villena, Jordi de Sant Jordi and Jaume Roig, among others.

During the War of Spanish Succession, Valencia sided with archduke Charles of Austria, and after the victory of the Bourbons at the Battle of Almansa (April 1707), Phillip V abolished the local privileges, or fueros. In 1874, Alfonso XII was proclaimed constitutional king at Sagunto, north of Valencia.

When democracy was restored, the Land of Valencia was given its present Autonomous Statutes in 1982. The history of the city, now the capital of the Land of Valencia, is both rich and varied, providing a patrimony that has converted it into one of the major cities in Spain on both cultural and economic levels.

### **Info from the Tourist Foundation of Valencia**

Sun-kissed shores, a booming foodie scene and 2.000 years of history make Valencia one of the best cities to visit in Spain. Mix in the perfect climate, friendly locals and a smart urban planning and you might never want to leave!

Valencia has historically been a cultural crossroads and continues to be a meeting point between northern Europe and the Mediterranean countries. The city is easily accessible via its international airport, which is located just 8 km from the city centre. The airport is connected to 55 destinations around the globe through the 38 international airlines and low cost carriers.

Valencia is the place to meet!

- Why Valencia? 300 sunny days per year, Mediterranean cuisine, cultural offer, cutting-edge architecture, green spaces, amazing beach...
- Ten things you must see in Valencia: <http://www.visitvalencia.com/en/what-to-visit-valencia/must-sees>
- How to get there? <http://www.visitvalencia.com/en/plan-your-trip-to-valencia/getting-there/airport>
- Practical information: <http://www.visitvalencia.com/en/plan-your-trip-to-valencia/general-info/practical-information>

### **Historical and Medical Library and the Scientific and Medical Collection of the University of Valencia**

At the University of Valencia is the “López Piñero Institute for the History of Science and Medicine”, located at a restored palace of the 18th century in the centre of Valencia where it is hosted the Historical and Medical Library and the Scientific and Medical Collection of the University of Valencia

<http://www.uv.es/uvweb/university-institute-history-medicine-science/en/dissemination/permanent-exhibitions/science-society-1285896763236.html>

The medical-historic part of the exhibition includes a section of Microbiology in which one of the topics covered is the cholera epidemic of 1885 in Valencia and the vaccine that Jaime Ferrán (originary from Catalonia) tested here. In the histology section it is mentioned the presence of Ramón y Cajal for four years at the Faculty of Medicine of Valencia as a professor, moved from Zaragoza and before the took the chair of Barcelona. He opposed the Ferrán vaccine. In addition, some other remarkable Valencian Microbiologists are mentioned such as José Monserrat and Vicente Peset Cervera or Riutort

### **The Spanish Type Culture Collection**

The Spanish Type Culture Collection (CECT, <http://www.uv.es/cect>) is hosted at the University of Valencia and located very close to the Congress venue at the University of Valencia Science Park (<http://www.pcuu.es>). The CECT is the only public Microbial Biological Resource Centre (mBRC) in Spain, serving as a repository and provider of bacteria, archaea, yeast and filamentous fungi and has more than 50 years history.

### **Formula 1 Grand Prix of Europe and America's Cup (Sailing race)**

Valencia hosted the Formula One European Grand Prix for five years (2008–2012) and was the venue for the America's Cup 2007 and 2010. The Valencia Street Circuit used the roads skirting the city's harbour and America's Cup port area – including a section over a 140-metre-long (460 ft) swing bridge, and also included some roads designed exclusively for racing purposes by the German architect Hermann Tilke, who also designed the infrastructure buildings for the circuit. At the harbour, located right on the canal is Veles e Vents (<http://www.visitvalencia.com/en/what-to-visit-valencia/monuments/list-of-monuments/monument/8912>) a building designed by David Chipperfield and Fermín Vázquez to house the central base for all the America's Cup teams. It is the symbol of the Port America's Cup and a visual link between the Mediterranean Sea and the city of Valencia.

At present, this part of the harbour is a nice place with restaurants and terraces to enjoy at night in summer.