Editorial

FEMS announces online submission starting in January 2002 via http://fems.manuscriptcentral.com

I am writing this editorial to share with you, readers of the FEMS group of journals, our plans for the introduction of a modern, easy to use online submission and peer review system from 1 January 2002. The introduction of this system is part of a series of measures that we, in FEMS, are taking to modernise and update our journals. Many of these measures are of course being taken in concert with our publishers Elsevier Science. This process of improvement started in 2000 with the introduction of new, modern covers for all our journals, which coincided with increasing page size to American A4. In 2000 we also started a Publications Office in our FEMS Central Office in Delft, which by 2003 is planned to employ 4 staff. This improvement continued with the introduction in 2001 with our new journal FEMS Yeast Research and now proceeds with the introduction of online submission in 2002/3.

We have chosen an online submission and peer review system from the wide range of products on the market today. We made our choice based on the efficiency and user friendliness of the products. Finally, we chose Manuscript Central by ScholarOne after extensive testing by our FEMS Publications Officer (Wilma van Wezenbeek), myself and all the FEMS Publications Board, which includes the Chief Editors of our journals and a delegate representative from the Norwegian Society for Microbiology.

We believe that our online submission interface at http://fems.manuscriptcentral.com is the easiest and most user friendly available today. All our authors should find it very straightforward to submit their papers online. We recommend that authors submit an MS Word file of their paper with embedded figures, our system will convert this quickly to a PDF file that can be viewed immediately and if it matches the original manuscript submission is confirmed. Straightforward, intuitive online forms guide you through the process after simple online registration for first time users. Full instructions and Notes to Authors are available through the submission interface or on the Journals page of our website at http://www.fems-microbiology.org/.

Online submission will make it much easier for authors from all over the world to submit papers to FEMS journals. It will reduce the necessity for postage to an absolute minimum and so lead to faster refereeing, faster editorial handling and consequently faster publication. Authors will also be able to see how their paper is progressing in the system by visiting the Submitting Author Center to which they submitted their manuscript or after acceptance to the OASIS database run by Elsevier Science. Every author will have an individual Submitting Author Center that will hold information on all the papers they submit to all FEMS journals. We will retain the personal interaction between authors and Editors, as our experienced and expert team of Editors will still make all decisions about choice of referees, acceptance and revision.

Why don’t you visit our new online submission site and read our new Notes to Authors today at http://fems.manuscriptcentral.com. Our Chief Editors look forward to receiving papers from you.

John C. Fry
FEMS Publications Manager