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Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the 8th European Conference on Fungal Genetics. With the genome sequences of many of the main fungal species studied now being available, progress in the understanding of their life cycles, metabolic networks, their interaction with the living and non-living environment, and last not least their application in biotechnology is progressing with remarkable speed.

The conference has attracted more than 500 scientists from all over the world, about a third of them being young researchers in their PhD and early PostDoc age, and aims to provide a forum for discussion and interaction between academics, industrialists, students and experts alike. In the plenary sessions an overview of the most significant, current research will be provided within the following topics: transcriptional regulation, morphology and reproduction, cell biology and signal transduction, metabolism, cell factories and biotechnology, protein secretion, plant and human pathogenesis and speciation. A series of workshops in the same fields will focus on developing research and the work of younger scientists. A large number of works are presented in more than 400 posters and I encourage all participants to use the opportunity for discussions with fellow scientists during the poster sessions

ECFG8 is organised by a local committee of researchers from three Austrian Universities (in Vienna and Innsbruck). The administrative support for the conference has been provided by the Research Area Gene Technology and Applied Biochemistry (Institute of Chemical Engineering, Technical University of Vienna). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the preparation for this meeting for their time, efforts and efficiency. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Technical University of Vienna for enabling us to hold the conference in its buildings and to our sponsors whose financial support has greatly assisted the organisation of ECFG8.

As an international tourist city, Vienna offers holiday style accommodation, shops, restaurants, galleries, theatres and the Vienna opera. I hope that ECFG8 will be as successful as in previous years and that you will enjoy your time here.



Christian P. Kubicek
Chair of the local organizing committee



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