

2005 Remote mini-symposia

In 2005, the ISAPP Board of Directors decided to try to expand ISAPP's reach beyond the past presence in North America and Europe. Especially of interest was to expand scientific communication to regions of the world not easily able to participate in state-of-the-art conferences on probiotics and prebiotics. Toward this end, we are now pleased to report that we have helped set up or will be participating in conferences or mini-symposia in several locations:

Asia:

- 3rd Asian Conference for Lactic Acid Bacteria & 9th National Congress of Indonesian Society for Microbiology, Indonesia August 2005
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Eastern Europe:

- European Conference on Probiotics and their Applications, Poland October 2005
<http://confer.uj.edu.pl/euprobio>
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Africa:

- 18th International Nutrition Congress, Gastroenterology – Probiotics and beneficial impact on health, S. Africa, September 2005
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North America:

- American Academy of Microbiology Colloquium, Probiotic Microbes: The Scientific Basis, November 2-5, 2005, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
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- International Union of Microbiological Societies, symposium titled "Probiotic Functions of Microorganisms", July 27, 2005 San Francisco, California, USA
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In addition to these activities, we are exploring additional action items:

- Development of small working groups to explore 'best approaches' for evaluation of efficacy for probiotics and prebiotics in human studies. This activity is in the conception stage. Initially, the target of allergy was chosen as an endpoint. We would like to try to identify a time and location in the US in the fall to convene about 5 clinical researchers, 5 interested industry scientists, several ISAPP scientists (total maximum about 15 people) to meet for a day to discuss best clinical approaches. If this pilot goes well, we would hope to convene groups with different targets, such as intestinal microbiology, wellness, etc.
- Collaborating with WHO/FAO to develop a Codex 'standard of identity' for the use

of the term 'probiotic'. If adopted, products using this term on product labels would have to meet certain minimum criteria of safety, product composition and efficacy.