

Know Before You Go

Important Information for Microbial Engineering II

March 29, 2022

To: Participants – **Microbial Engineering II**
From: Barbara Hickernell, CAE, ECI Executive Director

This note conveys a number of items for your attention.

We are looking forward to your safe participation at the **MICROBIAL ENGINEERING II** conference. This note conveys a number of items for your attention. Please pay special attention to the highlighted information regarding our approach to precautions for your safety during the Covid-19 pandemic.

For those arriving from outside Portugal, we suggest that you visit both your airline's website and that of the Portuguese government for the latest Covid-19 testing requirements from the Portuguese government for those entering Portugal. This is important as the regulations are changing frequently and what I write today may not be in effect tomorrow. You may need a PCR test before you board your flight.

Our community thrives by engaging with each other face-to-face but we wish to be safe in doing so. Thus, safety is our first priority. We cannot make guarantees but we can assure you that ECI will strictly follow the health and safety guidance of health authorities, consult best practices in the meetings community, and try to provide as "normal" a conference as possible during these circumstances.

Prior to registering, all conference participants and their guests submitted proof of full vaccination and agreed to properly wear masks (except when giving a presentation or actively eating or drinking) and social distance. Please continue to wear your mask. Your conference material will include a KN95 mask and the ECI staff has access to additional ones should you need them.

Our room sets will be structured to allow for the physical separation of participants. Please employ social distancing in informal settings.

The hotel has assured us that cleaning and sanitation will be robust.

We suggest that you bring a home test kit with you. Should you feel unwell at any time during the conference, please call me (cell phone: +1-914-484-7349) or email me (barbara@engconfintl.org). If you test positive, please let us know immediately and stay in your room. We will notify the hotel.. If you test positive once you arrive home, please contact us so that we may inform fellow participants.

We require all participants to provide a working mobile phone number to ECI (you may email yours to Kathy@engconfintl.org) in case we need to notify participants that contact tracing is required.

As we respect your privacy, we will dispose of your vaccination information/official identification and mobile phone number after the meeting.

Hotel Information:

Grande Real Santa Eulalia Resort & Hotel
Praia de Santa Eulalia (secondary road from Albufeira town to Olhoa D'Agua village)
8200-916 Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal
Telephone: +351-289-598-000

www.granderealsantaeulalia.realhotelsgroup.com

Transfer Information from the Faro Airport:

The most complete information is found on the Faro Airport website:
<https://www.faroairporttransfersalgarve.com/en/albufeira>.

Conference check-in and Sunday schedule: Conference check-in is from 15:00 to 17:00 on Sunday, April 3 on the lower level of the hotel in the Executive Room. (From the lobby, go down the main staircase, turn left, and the office will be on your right after you've gone down the small set of steps.) The reception (17:00 – 18:00) will be outside on the deck overlooking the sea.

Please arrive at the Balaia Room (where the technical sessions will be held) by 18:00 for the Opening Plenaries. Immediately following the opening plenaries, dinner will begin at 8:00 pm at the Santa Eulalia Restaurant

On Monday the breakfast buffet (Restaurante do Real) opens at 07:30 and the technical session begins at 8:30 in the Balaia Room. Bring a sweater as the room may be cool at the beginning of sessions.

Poster presenters should hang their poster prior to 18:00.

Reminder: Please wear your conference badge throughout the conference as this identifies you to other conference participants, hotel staff, and will also admit you to meals.

Meals: The conference fee includes your hotel room for the nights of Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with meals from dinner Sunday through the lunch buffet on Thursday

Guests: Guests MUST wear their badges at meals. Any guest not wearing a badge will be stopped by the restaurant hostess and asked to pay for the meal. If you bring a guest at the last moment, you must first see the ECI staff at the conference office, pay for your guest, and then give the ECI proof of payment to the hotel. The guest will then be given a conference badge that will permit the guest to eat meals with the conference participants.

Speakers: Our standard equipment is a computer projector and a PC laptop for PowerPoint presentations. Please bring your presentation on a USB key/flash drive. **Alexander Van De Steen** will be the graduate students in charge of the AV. Please make certain that your presentation is loaded on the conference PC the day prior to your talk so that there is no interruption between speakers. If you plan to use a Mac (Apple) laptop for your presentation, please bring the appropriate adapter for the projector and test the connection the day prior to your talk. Be sure that you have provided your session chair with a *very brief* biography for introductions.

It is **essential** to the conference schedule that you keep to your given time, allowing enough time for questions/discussion. Keeping in the tradition of these conferences, please be available during the conference for discussion and questions. Meals and social hours are perfect for discussion and questions.

Poster Presenters: On Monday and Tuesday evening there will be poster sessions beginning after dinner. Posters should be placed on the boards on Monday (prior to the poster session). ECI will provide tack/tape to fasten the posters to the poster boards. The poster boards will be both numbered and labeled with the title of your presentation. The posters will be on view (in the coffee break area) until Thursday morning and should be removed after the morning coffee break. You are asked to remain by your poster for questions and discussion during the two "official" poster sessions (Monday and Tuesday evenings).

Internet: The hotel offers free wireless internet. (We suggest bringing your own laptop and bring a network cable if you plan to work in your room as the hotel has a limited supply.) Don't forget your electrical adapter if you don't normally use the EU configuration.

Weather: You can expect highs to be mid 60s F and lows between 50 ° and 54 ° F during the conference week with sunshine. Check www.weather.com for the latest forecast in Albufeira and don't forget to bring sun block even though rain is predicted for Monday, April 3..

Early Hotel Arrivals: ECI does not make pre/post conference hotel reservations - that is the responsibility of the participant. There is a pre/post conference hotel registration form on the conference web site under "Information."

Excursions: We have planned two excursions during the free time on Wednesday, April 6: A walking tour of the historic avillage of Silves and also a visit to a local pottery company. We will have a sign-up sheet available at check-in.

Miscellaneous:

- If you have any special dietary needs (e.g., vegetarian or allergies) that you didn't communicate to us when you registered, please send an email to Kathy Chan (Kathy@engconfintl.org) so she can notify the hotel.
- ECI conferences are informal, and we discourage suits and ties. Casual dress is preferred.
- An electronic conference evaluation/questionnaire will be distributed on Wednesday. Please complete and return it as your comments will be very useful to ECI and the chairs of future conferences in this series.
- Smoking is not allowed at any conference functions and we ask you to turn off (or turn to vibrate) your cell phone during technical sessions.
- Audio taping, videotaping and photography of presentations are strictly prohibited.

We thank the conference chairs, **Barry Buckland** (BiologicB, USA) and **Eli Keshavarz-Moore** (University College London, UK) for producing such an excellent program.

John Aunins will be the ECI Technical Liaison for the conference and both **Tressa D'Ottavio** and I (**Barbara Hickernell**) will be the site managers.

Should you have any last minute questions, please call us at +1-212-514-6760. If you experience travel difficulties and will arrive late, please either call or text me (+1-914-484-7349) or Tressa (1-516-965-4015) send me an email (Barbara@engconfintl.org) so we can notify the hotel.

I wish you all an intellectually stimulating, productive and enjoyable conference.

Barbara Hickernell

Addendum for those returning to the US:

When you return to the United States by air, you are required to show a negative COVID-19 test result before you board your flight. For complete details on requirements and FAQs please visit the [US State Department web site](#).

You can purchase tests authorized by the FDA for this purpose and bring them with you. We recommend the [eMed™ Enabled COVID-19 At-Home Test and Lab Report Bundle](#). The eMed test-and-service bundle includes a verified lab report in 15 minutes, and is available online 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. No appointment is needed and eMed's lab report is accepted by airlines for entry and reentry into the United States.

Alternatively, testing is available at both Faro Airport and Lisbon Airport. It is recommended to book these services online in advance and arrive at the airport at least four hours before your flight.

[Covid testing at Faro Airport](#)

[Covid testing at Lisbon Airport](#)