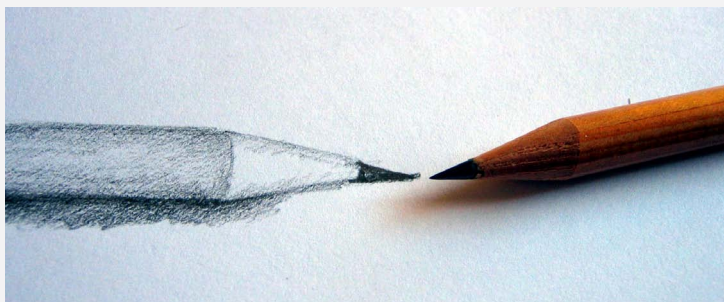


# AFFILIATES LETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR FEMS AFFILIATES

## The art of communicating science: An interview with Jon Turney

With FEMS Congress 2017 on the horizon, we have an exciting programme lined up for you involving talks and workshops from thought leaders spanning all areas of microbiology. The Congress is a great event to pitch and communicate your research to the microbiology community, and to engage your audience in your work. It's only fitting that we are joined by Jon Turney in this month's newsletter, who is one of our key speakers at the Congress this July. A British science writer, editor and reviewer, we asked Jon to shed some light on the art of communicating science.



### What inspired you to first become involved in communicating science to the public?

"I've been fascinated by science for as long as I can remember. That developed into an interest in how it works, as much as the particular results of any investigation. I also have pretty broad interests, so am probably insufficiently obsessive to ever be a successful scientist - less flatteringly, I may have what the English call a butterfly mind. Combine that with a liking for writing, and you have the makings of a science journalist."

### Do you think that science communication has an impact on our society?

"Yes, although it is hard to measure. I think the ensemble of popular science writing, mainly in books, is significant. The mass of new science in the last century, and mass higher education, helped produce a readership, and willing authors, for a large outpouring of popular science writing. The boom has faded out a bit now, but the books remain. I would say that there's never been a time when so much science has been explained so well to so many people."

## Meet Jon Turney

Jon Turney is a British science writer, editor and reviewer. He holds a fascination with research related to science and technology, and in the way it informs the wider dialogue in science.



## Get involved!

If you are interested in joining our campaign to make microbiology count, we would love to hear from you! Please contact our Project Officer, Martijn van Veen, for more information on our activities and opportunities that you can get involved in.

# GRANTS CORNER

## Lenka Tisakova, PhD

Grant: FEMS Research Grant  
Host lab: Dr. Habil. Lukasz Dziewit, University of Warsaw, Poland

Lenka Tisakova is a postdoc researcher at the University of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia. Her main research interests are bacteriophage lytic enzymes and extremophilic bacteria. She is a member of the Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology, which is one of our Member Societies.



“After earning my PhD degree at Slovak Academy of Sciences, I started a brand new chapter of my scientific life – working at the University. As I had always been interested in environmental microbiology, I really dreamt of pursuing my career in this field. Importantly, I have been a proud member of Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology and successfully been awarded with several other types of small grants under the auspices of FEMS.

Having been awarded with a FEMS Research Grant, the doors to one of my key postdoc goals were open: I could take part in an amazing three months research stay on plasmidome of polar bacteria in Drewniak & Dziewit group. Specifically, at the Department of Bacterial Genetics, Institute of Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Warsaw in Poland.

The stay in Warsaw not only enabled me to establish an initial basis for my ongoing postdoctoral research with the promising results, it has also launched a kind of

cooperation between our institutions with the result of a co-authored publication to be prepared and, hopefully, published.

Although all the new lab skills and knowledge I have gained mean a world to me, I must emphasize how beneficial the stay has been for my self-development and future career steps. Being given a chance to become a vivid member of such a young, powerful and hospitable research group has taken my self-motivation and social skills to another level.

Apart from being thankful to the D&D group for accepting me, I am pleased to thank FEMS for awarding me with the Research Grant. I am confident enough to say that I will be not only evolving my research focus after the stay in Warsaw, but now I am able to spread knowledge about FEMS and its activities and carry on building my connection with FEMS, and for FEMS.”



# OPPORTUNITIES

## Post on our Opportunities Board!

**Do you want to promote your event, job, funding or interesting projects on our website to the wider microbiology community?**

You can do this on our Opportunities Board!

Here you can find FEMS-sponsored events and funding, as well as many other exciting jobs, events, courses, resources and funding opportunities from the microbiology community.

Adding your opportunity on our Opportunities Board is easy! All you have to do is register for a free FEMS account and follow the 5 simple steps in our Contributor Guide to create and share your opportunity to the wider microbiology community on our website.

