

Press Release

8 January 2008

Bugs for alcohol

Society for Applied Microbiology annual winter meeting
Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London
9 January 2008

International scientists will gather in London tomorrow to discuss the latest research into the microbiology of alcoholic beverages.

This important and topical meeting will have sessions on:

- Belgian lambic **beers** – a mixture of yeasts is used to produce the complex flavour of these beers. Which microbes are used and what conditions of fermentation produce its distinctive flavour?
- The use of lactic acid bacteria to create a softer palate in the maturation of **wine** and **cider**
- Yeast and bacterial contributions to **scotch whiskey** production
- The genetics of **wine** yeast during alcoholic fermentation
- Systems approaches to optimising **lager** fermentation – getting the yeast back out of your beer
- The bugs on barley and how they influence the flavour (and profitability) of beer

There will be a Memorial Lecture to Denver Russell, given by Professor Sean Gorman of Queens University, Belfast. This topical lecture covers **medical device related infection** and how to prevent it.

Presentations are by eminent scientists in this important field and there will be a trade exhibition at the event.

Notes to Editors:

1. A full conference programme can be found at: http://www.sfam.org.uk/winter_meetings.php.
2. Additional information about the conference or speakers is available from Dr Lucy Harper, Communications Officer at the Society for Applied Microbiology [Office: +44(0)1234 326709; Mobile 07920 264596; email: lucy@sfam.org.uk].
3. SfAM is the voice of Applied Microbiology within the UK. We are the oldest UK microbiology society with members worldwide. In 2006 we celebrated our 75th anniversary and a number of special events were held during the year. The final celebration was the President's Dinner which was held in the Palace of Westminster on 23rd November 2006. SfAM works in partnership with sister organisations and microbiological bodies such as [FEMS \(The European Federation of Microbiological Societies\)](#) and the [Biosciences Federation](#) to ensure that microbiology and microbiologists are able to exert influence on policy-makers within the UK, in Europe and world-wide.