

## **A NEW JOURNAL IN 2008: *MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY***

### **The Need**

Microbial activities and products have been employed in the service of Humankind since the dawn of civilization. Though microbial biotechnologies increased in range over time, a quantum quantitative and qualitative increase was heralded in by the gene technology revolution in the 1970's. Over the coming decade, a further quantum increase will be catalysed by a combination of the accelerating accessing of new microbial diversity, particularly though (meta)genomics approaches, and increasing development and application of systems and synthetic biology.

The vast range of unexplored microbial diversity, and the pervasiveness of microbial activities influencing biosphere functioning and human endeavours and well-being, have recently precipitated a major research expansion in environmental microbiology. Despite this intensification of effort, more than 90% of microbial diversity still remains to be discovered. It is this new biodiversity that will become the treasure chest of new and improved biotechnological developments and applications in the sectors of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, energy, mining, materials, agriculture, food, environmental protection, etc.

Since exploration of new microbial diversity will reveal novel underlying catalytic reactions, metabolic activities and products, many of the applications resulting from these discoveries will be highly original and innovative. Such applications merit publication in high profile journals. Currently, there is only one high impact journal available, *Nature Biotechnology* (IF 22), which, however, covers all types of applications (microbial, plant, animal), and has a small page budget, so systematically rejects many outstanding papers. All journals focusing on microbial biotechnology have IFs of less than 4. There is thus an urgent need for a high impact journal and flagship for innovative research in microbial biotechnology.

### **The Journal: *Microbial Biotechnology***

*Microbial Biotechnology* has been created to publish papers of original research reporting significant advances (belonging to the upper 25% in the field) in any aspect of microbial applications. It has an Editorial Board composed of the leaders in microbial biotechnology and associated fields, and a core of experienced and dedicated Editors who, together, will assure the highest quality, originality and actuality of the published material. *Microbial Biotechnology* will be a sister of the premier microbiology journals *Molecular Microbiology*, *Environmental Microbiology* and *Cellular Microbiology*, and joins the extremely successful stable of microbiology journals of Blackwell Publishing that also includes the Society for Applied Microbiology and FEMS journals.

For more information about the journal, please consult:

[www.microbialbiotech.com](http://www.microbialbiotech.com)