



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

On behalf of the Spanish Society for Microbiology (SEM), we cordially invite you to participate on the 13th Conference on Halophilic Microorganisms: Halophiles 2022, to be held in Alicante, Spain, from 26 to 29 June 2022. Research on extremophilic microorganisms, and in particular on halophiles, in Spain has a long tradition, especially from the early studies on the 70's, pioneered by Francisco Rodriguez-Valera and myself. The research at Santa Pola salterns, located not far from Alicante, has been the focus of many microbiological discoveries, including the isolation and description of many new prokaryotes, from bacteria to archaea, which have been widely used as models for many studies in different laboratories all over the world. The archaeal species *Haloferax mediterranei*, originally isolated from the pond R4 at Santa Pola saltern, was lately fundamental for the discovery of the CRISPR system in prokaryotes by Francis M. Mojica, from the University of Alicante.

The organization of the conference Halophiles 2022 by Josefa Antón and colleagues will be a return of this meeting to Alicante, after the early meeting in this city in 1989, and the third time this congress is organized in Spain, when Sevilla hosted it on 2001. The attractive scientific programme, as well as the touristic and gastronomic reputation of the city, are good reasons for participating in this meeting, devoted to most recent research advances in different areas of study of halophilic microorganisms.

Besides the contributions of the most relevant researchers in this field, the participation of early career scientists is very well welcome. The generous support of FEMS (Federation of European Microbiological Societies) and RedEx (the Spanish Network of Extremophiles) will permit to grant the attendance of young researchers.

We hope to meet you in Alicante next June 2022.

Cordially,

Antonio Ventosa
President of SEM

