



newsletter

BIOTRACER Project

BIOTRACER Project Office
 Markhøj Bygade 19
 Building D
 DK-2860 Søborg
 DENMARK

Looking for a Smooth Landing

What does the end of a project look like?

In all honesty, I am not sure. However, we asked the EC if we could have a Final Meeting with our EC Scientific Officer to share the results of the project in person. The EC agreed and suggested that they invite some others who would be just as interested to hear the results. Representative from EFSA and DG SANCO have been invited to the meeting which has been slated for 20 March 2012. The Management Team, Chain leaders and a few other guests will go to Brussels and present how BIOTRACER has had and will have an impact on the feed and food chain.



How does one sum up 5 years of work?

There have been many tasks that seemed quite daunting in the history of BIOTRACER. I am sure Jeffrey Hoorfar at some point thought to himself, 'How will I ever get people interested in this project'? Well, it seems we have one last task that seems quite daunting: report the results of the past five years in a short, accessible report, and you may include photos.

How do we do that? Peoples' lives have changed dramatically over the last five years. Our participants have been published, become doctors, gotten married, had babies, and worked hard to develop a new discipline called 'biotracing'.

We are on our way

The Management Team developed an outline based on a planned review article and asked for the Chain leaders' help. Kieran, Martin, Solveig and I met in Vienna a few weeks ago to compile the material, identify gaps, write/edit, and plan next steps. So with your help, we are well on our way to a smooth landing.

jeesk@food.dtu.dk

Payments

At the writing of this newsletter, the pre-payment for BIOTRACER work planned in 2010 was just transferred to participant organizations. Better late than never.

The pre-payment for work to be done in 2011 has still not been transferred from the EC. However, we are very close. All the necessary documents have now received approval from the EC, and we just need a formal action by the EC.

In short, more money will be on its way soon.

Thank you,

Solveig

A Year of Dissemination

A wide assortment

Our year of dissemination activities has come to a close. Activities from each chain were approved, with some activities involving more than one chain, which demonstrated the cross-chain approach of biotracing. Activities included manuscripts, national stakeholder events, workshops, a demonstration, database, and video. See the graphic for an overview of chain and type of output.

We had several workshops and presentations across Europe this past year.

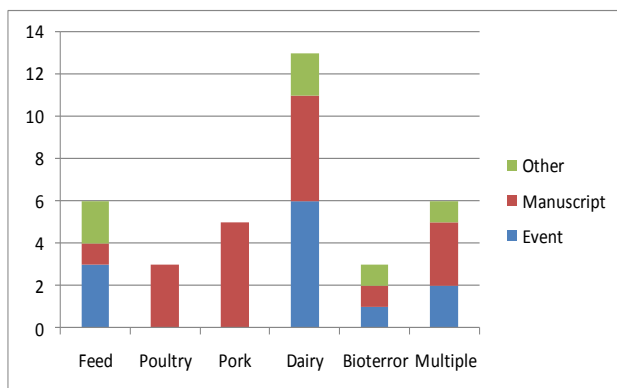
Lourens Heres (VION) headed up a workshop at the SafePork conference in June. Lotta Löfström and Mathilde Josefsen (DTU) held a workshop on molecular methods where participants had hands-on experience with a PCR method for Salmonella.

National stakeholder events were also very popular. Katerina Demnerova (ICTP) and her team held two events. Kieran Jordan (TEAGASC) held a national conference in Ireland in May where more than 80 representatives from industry, public

health, regulation and research gathered to hear about Listeria research results. The feed area was also very active as well. A seminar was held in Indonesia and a workshop for the feed industry was held in Germany. Jürgen Zentek (FUB) and Per Haggblom (SVA) organized this event that shared project results with 23 industry representatives and also premiered the video on feed sampling produced during this extension.

In addition, approximately 20 manuscripts were planned for this past year. However, we know even more are in the works. Some will only be submitted for review in 2012. That means that BIOTRACER's impact on research will continue well beyond the planned duration of the project.

Jeffrey 'skib' Skiby
jeesk@food.dtu.dk



Ali Agus (GMU) during the International Seminar on Feed Safety, 6-7 July, Padjadjaran University.



A workshop flyer/agenda for molecular methods for detection of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*.

Books and PhD Course

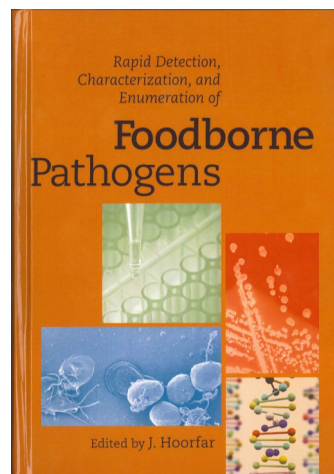
As was reported in the last newsletter, BIOTRACER and many of its participants have submitted chapters to a couple of books.

The first book is entitled 'Food chain integrity: A holistic approach to food traceability, safety, quality and authenticity'. The editors are Jeffrey Hoorfar, Kieran Jordan, Francis Butler and Raffaello Prugger. It is published by Woodhead Publishing.

A second book that has been published is entitled 'Rapid detection, characterization, and enumeration of foodborne pathogens'. It has been edited by Jeffrey Hoorfar and was published by American Society for Microbiology Press.

This second book inspired a PhD course through the Technical University of Denmark. Professor Hoorfar lead the online course for 13 students from 6 countries.

A third book, entitled 'Case studies in food safety and authenticity: Lessons from real-life situations', presents approximately 50 real-life cases that could be relevant to students, food safety and quality managers in the industry or food regulators, among others. Jeffrey Hoorfar is editor of this book for Woodhead Publishing, and it is scheduled for release in May 2012.



BIOTRACER Methods

The BIOTRACER project has produced a number of open-formula, non-commercial, research-based, and validated methods that would benefit food safety through simpler procedures and faster test results. Some of the methods do not have corresponding culture-based methods, and some surpass (in terms of efficiency and speed) the corresponding horizontal culture protocol.

The protocols developed include:

- A 12-h Salmonella PCR for meat samples and a 14-h PCR for *Salmonella* in carcass swab samples (Josefsen et al. 2007, App. Env. Micro.; Löfström et al. 2009, BMC Micro.; Löfström et al. *In press*, J. AOAC Int.).
- A quantitative PCR for fast and cost-effective enumeration of Salmonella in meat samples (Krämer et al. 2011, Int. J. Food Micro.).
- Rapid and validated purification of total DNA from bottled water for virus testing (Schultz et al. 2011A, Int. J. Food Micro.).
- A multiplex norovirus test (Schultz et al. 2011B, J. Clin. Viro.).
- A real-time PCR for enumeration of viable *Campylobacter* in poultry (Josefsen et al. 2010, App. Env. Micro.).
- A multiplex PCR test for *C. botulinum* toxin types (Fach et al. 2009, J. App. Micro.; Fencia et al. 2011, Int. J. Food Micro.).
- *Bacillus anthracis* detection (Wielinga et al. 2011A and B, Int. J. Food Micro.).
- A low-density, inter-laboratory validated microarray-based platform for characterization of *Salmonella* (Grønlund et al. 2011, Int. J. Food Micro.).



BIOTRACER and the International Association for Food Protection's Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA



Pictured: (1st row) Jeffrey Hoorfar and John Sofos; (2nd row) Kieran Jordan, Martin Wagner, Annemarie Pielat, Mansel Griffiths, Gary Barker and Panos Skandamis.

Yes, we really did 'jump the pond'! BIOTRACER held a half-day symposium at the IAFP's Annual Meeting in August. 'Biotracing—Food safety through a marriage of microbiology and modelling' was one of the 50 symposia held during the 5-day event.

How many publications?

It is a hard question to answer. Over the years, we have tried to keep track of BIOTRACER publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The Project Office has a list with approximately 100 publications. However, we know there are more. We also know that articles continue to be submitted and published every month.

We will soon post the list of articles on the website. If one of your BIOTRACER articles is not listed, please contact 'skib' (jeesk@food.dtu.dk).

What's for Lunch?



20 September 2011

The What's for Lunch conference was an event focused upon parliamentary decision makers and it was organised by 14 major European research projects which include some of the world's largest food safety research projects in the areas of microbiology, chemistry and food production technologies.

The event demonstrated what has been done in this

respect and what has still to be done to ensure proper food chain integrity and food security.

These research actions have now finished and generated a huge amount of data, results, and deliverables. The projects worked together in preparing this conference aimed at disseminating the true scale of these results,

the advancement that has been made in this area and the excellent possibilities for technology transfer, to an audience of invited stakeholders from different sectors such as policy makers, consumers, and industry.

[Check out the video.](#)

jeesk@food.dtu.dk



Time to say goodbye!

We all know the cliché "time flies", but in the case of BIOTRACER, it is really true. Five years have passed and one of the largest food microbiology projects has come to an end.

I still have fresh memories of our meetings in Gumpoldskirchen, Rust, Athens, Dublin and Berlin; what lively discussions among mathematicians and microbiologists, friendly interactions at the teambuilding activities, and so many busy and packed workshops (Not to mention our "bus meetings"!).

Besides the many publications, protocols and so on, the most important outcome for me personally is the management part; I learned about my strengths and weaknesses and how to accept my limits.

Another important bonus for me is the great network of colleagues and long-lasting friendships that I hope will stay the rest of my life.

It has been a great pleasure working with you all and I hope we keep working together on new publications, books, or even in another EU project. Actually, I would like to coordinate another EU project, so if you have any ideas, just let me know.

Yours faithfully,

Jeffrey Hoofar

Acknowledge BIOTRACER

Participants are reminded to acknowledge BIOTRACER in your submitted research papers.

The work was supported by the European Union-funded Integrated Project BIOTRACER (contract 036272) under the 6th RTD Framework.



What happens 1 January 2012?

Officially, the last day of BIOTRACER was 31 December 2011; however, BIOTRACER won't be going anywhere for a while. Access to the e-management tool will be available through March 2012. The public website (www.biotracer.org) will still be available as well.

Remember: The European Commission can request an audit up to five years after the closure of the project (2017!). So if you want to clean out your file cabinet, make sure you keep your essential BIOTRACER files (travel documents, meeting minutes, etc.).

> Coordinator
Solveig Bouquin, DTU
sibo@food.dtu.dk

> Acting Scientific Coord.
Kieran Jordan, TEAGASC
Kieran.Jordan@teagasc.ie

> Dissemination Coord.
Jeffrey 'skib' Skiby, DTU
jeesk@food.dtu.dk

> Reporting Secretary
Kristina Linke, VUW
kristina.linke@vetmeduni.ac.at

> Scientific Coordinator
Martin Wagner, VUW
martin.wagner@vetmeduni.ac.at

> Int'l Collaboration Leader
Panos Skandamis, AUA
pskan@aua.gr