



With October comes the end of the summer bee season in most areas of Europe, and beekeepers and researchers alike are putting the final preparations on their colonies for over-wintering until next spring.



At the recent Apimondia congress in Buenos Aires, which drew in over 10,000 beekeepers and scientists, a number of COLOSS members presented their research, and Peter Neumann, chair of COLOSS, gave a well-received plenary lecture on the goals, accomplishments, and future directions of the network.

Immediately prior to Apimondia, the Action chair at meetings in Chile secured funding from various sources to conduct a workshop in that country in March 2012.

In addition, one Short-term Scientific Mission (STSM) was recently completed by COLOSS member Eva Forsgren.

STSM at the Institute for Bee Research, Hohen Neuendorf, Germany

This past summer, Eva travelled from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to the lab of Dr. Elke Genersch to develop a fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) technique for detection of the bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius*, the causative agent of European foulbrood. The technique uses fluorescent probes to bind to specific genetic markers of the target organism, thus allowing researchers to locate the bacteria within the honey bee host using microscopy. The image included shows *M. plutonius* bacteria in the gut of a three day old larva.

