The conference was organized at Università Urbaniana, Rome, Italy. The conference consisted of lectures given by leading researchers in the fields of probiotics and prebiotics, as well as oral presentations and poster sessions. The topics of the conference covered probiotic bacteria and their health promoting effects, gut microbiota, functional foods, the use of probiotics in allergy and gastrointestinal diseases, prebiotics and their health benefits as well as some pediatric studies and clinical studies. There were several parallel sessions each day, so the choice of session was sometimes a bit difficult. The lectures and oral presentations were in general of very good quality. Especially of interest were the presentations related to new applications of probiotic bacteria and their health promoting effects. The Italian research work was well represented with several presentations each day.

I participated in the conference with an oral presentation (title: Removal of cyanobacterial toxins by specific strains of probiotic bacteria) and a poster.

I gratefully acknowledge the National Graduate School in Informational and Structural Biology, Systems Biology Research Program and the Academy of Finland, RC for Biosciences and Environment (decision numbers 210309 and 210310) for their financial support.

Sonja Nybom
Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacy
Åbo Akademi University