



# AETE

Association Européenne des Technologies de l'Embryon

Association of Embryo Technology in Europe

## **34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF AETE 7<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 IN NANTES (FRANCE):**

Invitation and information about the city, congress center, and AETE evenings

***Welcome to Nantes, France!*** On behalf of the Association of Embryo Technology in Europe, the local organizing committee, chaired by M. Daniel Le Bourhis, is pleased to invite you to the 34<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting in the city of Nantes, West France, from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.



The French map with Nantes's localisation

### **Some reasons to come to Nantes**

Nantes, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> of the largest cities from France, is located at the mouth of the longest river in France, La Loire, which is the last wild river in Europe.



Panoramic view of Nantes and its island.

***For more details on Nantes city, click here:*** <https://en.nantes.fr/home.html> (tourism office) and <https://www.nantesmetropole.fr/> (Nantes Metropole).

Nantes strikes a remarkable balance between its historical heritage, innovation, economy and culture. Nantes is, by nature, a welcoming, creative and forward-looking city.

## *Historical heritage*

Nantes was a port city, near the Atlantic Ocean, which has developed thanks to its river La Loire. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Nantes became the capital of the Bretagne, a crucial place for political power and the life of the Court. This period was marked by the construction of the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, the cathedral Saint-Pierre and Saint-Paul, that you can visit during your free time.



View of the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany downtown of Nantes. *For more details, click here:* <http://www.chateaunantes.fr/fr>

Thanks to its waterways and maritime routes, Nantes has developed its commerce (essentially salt, fishes and wines) to Portugal, Holland and Spain until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a traumatic period of the Nantes history has unfolded, because the city has become the first French slave port. This part of history, for a long time denied, is now presented in the memorial for the abolition of slavery, unique in France (*For more details, click here:* <http://memorial.nantes.fr/en/>).

In 1843 under the last king Louis-Philippe's reign, "le passage Pommeraye" was inaugurated. The name of this commercial passage (with 66 shops) derives from a young notary called Louis Pommeraye, who wanted to transform an unsafe and bad neighbourhood to a passage with luxurious shops as in Paris. Classified as historic monument since 1976, this commercial passage is an amazing place to stroll with an exuberant decoration from a mix between neo-classicism and Louis Philippe's eclecticism.



View of the "passage Pommeraye". *For more details, click here:* <http://www.passagepommeraye.fr/>

## *“Green and Blue city”*

In 2013, Nantes was labelled Green Capital of Europe, to reward its avant-garde environmental politics for sustainable development, which allowed a high quality of life in the metropolis. With more than 100 parks and gardens, 13,000 hectares of protected spaces and 3,000 hectares of accessible green spaces in greater Nantes, there is no lack of breathing space!



View of botanic garden (left) and the banks of Erdre (right)

## *Culture, gastronomy, art and creativity*

There is so much to discover in Nantes... Culture abounds in the city with 34 theatres and auditoriums, 15 museums, historic areas (as “le Quartier Bouffay” from the old Nantes) and numerous events demonstrating the Nantes’ creativity “Les Machines de l’île de Nantes”, “Estuaire”, “la Folle journée”... For more details, click on <https://en.nantes.fr/home/exploring-nantes.html>

In Nantes, you can taste local specialities: seafood, Loire valley wines (Muscadet...), Nantes cakes, boiled sweets and the famous Petit Beurre Lu biscuits!

## **The conference location**

In 2018, the meeting will take place in “La Cité, Nantes events Center”, located in the heart of Nantes on the banks of the canal Saint-Felix, facing the train station (south exit) and at 20 min from airport. This conference centre, bathed in natural daylight thanks to its glass and wood structures, is a suitable warm place to exchanges. It is situated very close to several historical monuments, as the



Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, the cathedral Saint-Pierre et Saint-Paul...

View of La Cité, Nantes events Center (<https://lacite-nantes.fr/>). **Address: 5 rue de Valmy, 44000 Nantes.**

## Evenings of AETE congress in Nantes

Before the Gala Dinner at “les salons du Nantilus” (floating restaurant on La Loire), you can discover the Great Elefant from “les Machines de l’île”, born from the François Delarozzière and Pierre Orefice’s imagination. You will immersed in the worlds of Jules Verne, of Leonardo da Vinci, and of Nantes’ industrial history, on the exceptional site of the former shipyards.



Views of “les salons du Nantilus”



The Great Elefant from “les Machines de l’île”.

The farewell party will take place at “Les Salons des Floralies”, where you can taste the regional speciality “les crêpes” in its salty and sweet forms!



**Please click here for more details on location of AETE evenings in Nantes: [MAP of AETE evenings.pdf](#)**

*André Breton*, French poet, writer and surrealism theorist said of Nantes: “*Nantes, alongside Paris, is perhaps the only town in France where I got the feeling that something worthwhile might happen to me*”.

**Therefore, we look forward to welcome you in Nantes in 2018 for the 34<sup>th</sup> AETE meeting. We hope that you will have a successful meeting and will enjoy your stay in the beautiful city of Nantes.**

*The local organizing committee*

LOC representatives (in alphabetic order):

L. Amirat-Briand, J-F. Bruyas, O. Desnoé, S. Elis, F. Fieni, D. Le Bourhis (chair), V. Maillard, P. Mermillod, M. Saint-Dizier, P. Salvetti and H. Quinton.