



Meetings Update

STOP PRESS ! April 23 - 24 2007 Biofilms and Biofouling of Interest to Industry Manchester Metropolitan University

This short (1.5 day) meeting will bring together industry and academia to discuss current status in our understanding of biofilm formation and their diversity of form, their characterisation and control - particularly in the context of industrially-orientated case studies, from spas to statues, paper mills to food processing factories.

A more detailed programme and registration forms are available on our website, and also accompany this newsletter.

Register early for a reduced fee, and submit titles for offered papers/posters.

Biodeterioration of wood and wood products August 26 - 29 2007 Riga, Latvia

The meeting is organized to provide an overview of the current understanding of wood biodeterioration and biodegradation by microorganisms. Our aim is to bring together the academic and industrial communities as well as students, studying the field of research on wood biodeterioration.

Oral and poster presentations will cover the following topics:

- Biodeterioration of wood by fungi and bacteria
- Wood biodeterioration - cultural heritage
- Structure and micromorphology of decayed wood
- Biotechnological applications

Pre-registration, abstract and FEMS Young Scientist Grant Application deadlines, February 20th.

More information is on the IBBS website and at www.kki.lv/bwwp2007/

Meeting organiser: Ilze Irbe, Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry.



What is it? See back page for the answer.

Editor's Notes

I am honoured to have become the new President of IBBS. I will also continue to produce this newsletter, because it seems to be a good way of keeping in touch with the membership - I also hope this can be a two-way process! The newsletter should have been produced last month, but we decided to wait, so that we can give up to date information about a Spring 2007 meeting.

This will take place on April 23-24, at Manchester Metropolitan University, preceding the meeting of our sister organisation, the IBRG, in the Lake District. In addition, we can look forward to the Latvia meeting on wood biodeterioration, which will be held in August. We are grateful to FEMS for providing support for student delegates at this meeting. We are also beginning to plan for IBBS-14, which will take place in Taormina, Sicily in 2008!

A big thank you to the Organisers of the highly successful Chennai meeting, which also marked the initiation of an Asian IBBS group. Perhaps other regions across the globe might like to set up IBBS outposts too?

As past President HansCurt Flemming says in his farewell notes, we are a small but friendly Society, and our meetings are the mainstay of our activities, being successful and well attended. Indeed, the meetings also provide vital financial support for the Society. I do hope that some of our members will take a more active part in the Society: coming to meetings, joining Council, providing information for the website or newsletter, hosting a meeting - or just keep in touch by e-mail. Your views on the Society are very important.

With belated best wishes for the New Year, Jo
j.verran@mmu.ac.uk

IIBBS-14
TAORMINA, ME (ITALY) 6-11 October 2008
Advance Notice

AGM

Friday 13th might be regarded as being unlucky by some but in October it was date on which the very successful Society AGM was held. Actually it was more than just a meeting; it was "an event"! We started with a demonstration of confocal microscopy and maybe it was with this that the "curse of the 13th" was manifest - the demonstrators just couldn't get it to work. However, our then President Prof Hans-Curt Flemming's lecture "Biofilms, the Social Life of Microorganisms" certainly did work and his excellent and witty review was well received by a good sized audience.

Hans-Curt's lecture was followed by a rather good buffet lunch provided by Leica, the sponsors who unfortunately still couldn't get their confocal microscope to work.

We then moved to the "main business" of the day, the AGM. "The King is dead long live the Queen" is the traditional cry when the British monarchy changes and it's just the same in the IBBS as Hans-Curt stepped down as President and Prof Joanna Verran of Manchester Metropolitan University took over. After the crowning of President Jo, her Court the Council, was elected with the full line up and their retirement dates now being:

- Joanna Verran President/FEMS Representative/Newsletter Editor (2008)
- Hans-Curt Flemming Immediate Past President (2008)
- John Gillatt Hon Secretary (2008)
- Brian McCarthy Hon Treasurer (2007)
- Kathryn Whitehead Membership Secretary (2007)
- Lawrence Staniforth Membership Chaser (2007)
- Jimmy Walker Hon Scientific Programme Secretary (2008)
- Paul Airey Webmaster (2009)
- Malcolm Greenhalgh Elected Member/IBRG Representative and Elder Statesman (2009)
- Diego A. Moreno Elected Member (2009)
- Eric May Elected Member (2009)
- Bob Koestler IBBJ Representative (ex officio)

Some more good news from the meeting was the decision to freeze membership subscriptions at the same rate as for the last two years. The renewal notices have now been sent to all members; so please send your 2007 payment (unless you are a UK member paying by standing order) straightaway.

Finally, following his retirement as Editor-in-Chief of International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation, the Society's official journal, Brian Flannigan was made our first Honorary Fellow; very well deserved recognition of the immense contribution he has made to both the Society and the science of biodeterioration over many years. All our other former Life Members will also become Honorary Fellows as well.

John Gillatt, Hon. Secretary

The background image shows the crowd following HansCurt's lecture. On display were several works of art produced by undergraduates at MMU as part of their coursework. They had listened to a lecture on Microbiology and Art, and then were asked to produce something which linked the two subjects. A fascinating range of art, models, jewellery, customised labcoats, posters etc. was the result. Leica kindly awarded prizes to the best on display. A series of silk paintings entitled 'Aspergillus' won first prize.



Any old books?

Dear all,
This year we asked members of the IBBS Council and staff in the Faculty of science at Manchester Metropolitan University to donate scientific books. Many generous donations were given; text books including titles in Anatomy, Physiology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biology and Microbiology as well as some more specific titles arrived at my door. An e-mail was sent out to all the IBBS members asking who would like to be the recipient. As a result they are being donated to a new University the Novena University, in Nigeria which is in need of books. Our kindest thanks to Professor B. O. Ejechi for contacting us - we will endeavour to get them to the University soon. I would like to thank everyone for the help and kind donations, and also Thor chemicals who will be sending them out (via John Gillat our cherished IBBS Secretary). Many Thanks,

Kath Whitehead (Hon IBBS Membership Secretary)





INTERNATIONAL
BIODETERIORATION
RESEARCH
GROUP

The International Biodeterioration Research Group (IBRG) was originally founded under the auspices of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris in 1968. Its membership is made up predominantly of microbiologists from industrial users of biocides, biocide manufacturers, testing laboratories from both the private and government sector and academic institutions.

IBRG holds two meetings a year each usually organised by one of the member organisations. The main objectives of IBRG are in the field of test method development and work to investigate basic principles of biodeterioration. These objectives are met in a number of ways. Firstly by discussion at the meetings, secondly by carrying out and reporting on individual laboratory investigations and, most importantly, by organising, carrying out and reporting on collaborative experimental work or round-robin testing.

The work of IBRG in methodology development has been highlighted by the requirement in the recently enacted Biocidal Products Directive (BPD) for efficacy test data on biocides in each of the 23 application areas identified. At present, there are very few standard methods of test for biocides and each IBRG Working Group is charged with the task of working towards developing BPD efficacy test methods. The consensus view is that BPD efficacy tests should be quick, simple and should allow all currently used biocides to pass. Then the end user still has the widest possible choice of products to choose from.

The next meeting of IBRG will be held at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal, UK on the 25th - 27th of April 2007. There will be project group meetings / discussions on microbiological problems associated with paints, plastics, polymer dispersions and functional fluids. The new antimicrobial treated textiles group will also hold its second meeting.

All are welcome to attend and contribute.

Further details and registration will be posted on the IBRG website as and when they become available:

<http://www.ibrg.org>

Further information may be obtained from Malcolm Greenhalgh at:
E-mail: malcolm.greenhalgh@btinternet.com

Back to the Jungle

The last edition of the newsletter recounted the adventures of John Gillatt, our Secretary, when he was 'lost in the jungle'. Almost a year to the day, John recounts a return trip. He returned to Fraser Hill in Malaysia where he had previously spent five days 'cheap B&B' (er, actually without bed or breakfast - the jungle had to provide both) last year.

This time he walked with a guide, two compasses, handheld GPS, ball of string, mobile phone and a huge rucksack doing the same walk but without the directional malfunction (not allowed to say that he got lost) of 12 months ago. En route he found out where he'd gone wrong (simply blundering straight on when he should have turned left!). Five hours after starting he and his guide arrived back at the Old Smokehouse Hotel, safe and sound.

We are all glad to hear it!



Experts call for marine anti-fouling technology

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Academic institutions and industries should work together in developing marine anti-fouling technologies for industry use, suggest experts.

Their remarks came at a three-day international conference on Recent Advances in Marine Antifouling Technology, organised by the National Institute of Ocean Technology and the International Bio-deterioration and Bio-degradation Society. Two hundred delegates from around the world gathered.

The technology would find greater application with more power plants coming up to meet the demand, NIOT director S. Kathirolu said.

Power production losses not only reduced industrial production but also affected the economy, S.B. Agarwal, managing director, Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd., said.

A professional society, affiliated to the IBBS, U.K., would be set up, R. Venkatesan, organising secretary of the conference.

Mr. Venkatesan was appointed secretary to the IBBS-Asia chapter by Hans Curt Flemming, president, IBBS.

RAMAT 2006 Meeting

The International Conference on Recent Advances in Marine Antifouling Technology (RAMAT 2006) brought together 194 delegates from 24 countries to address the problem of marine biofouling in industrial cooling systems, shipping industry and oceanographic sensors. Biofouling and its control require careful evaluation both from the operational and environmental point of view. Dr. P.S. Goel, Secretary, Department of Earth Sciences, emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary network approach to combat the problems by industry, academia and research institutions. It was pointed out that the problem is assuming important economic dimensions in view of the expansion in electricity generation, setting up of desalination plants and the many new endeavours in the area of ocean technology.

The conference served as a platform for industry-academic interaction, and suggested man power capacity building through refresher courses, workshops / seminars, visiting scientists programme and student fellowships. Plenary lectures, technical workshops, a poster session and a young scientists colloquium provide a varied and stimulating format to the event. Proceedings will also be published. Thank you to Mr Venkat and his team for organising and hosting this successful event, which even received local press coverage (see above). Images and a more full report of the meeting and its outcomes can be found on the website.

Farewell address of the latest past-president

For the past three years I enjoyed the honour of being president of the IBBS. Now I am past-president, which is a good opportunity to look back and review events. In that time, the society has undergone some internal changes, improving the structure, establishing a functional website, re-defining the relationship to Elsevier, the company which publishes the official journal of the society, the International Journal of Biodeterioration and Biodegradation - and, last but not least, securing some financial foundations of the society.



Hans-Curt at RAMAT

Of course, all this activity was only possible with a really well working Council, mainly driven by the great and non-bureaucratic cooperation of the "Manchester Gang" which includes John Gillatt, Jo Verran, Malcolm Greenalgh, Kath Whitehead and our treasurer, Brian McCarthy - and Jimmy Walker, not too far away. The solid sense of responsibility and commitment of these people to IBBS has helped to transform us into a functional society which can look confidently into the future.

Major conferences were held, among them the 2003 Manchester meeting on Management and Control of Biofilms, the Conference on Conventional and Alternative Anti-Fouling Strategies

2004 in Mülheim and the triannual IBBS conference in Madrid, 2005. Another highlight was the very successful International Conference on Recent Advances in Marine Anti-Fouling Technologies (RAMAT) November 2006 in Chennai. This event was particularly remarkable because it gave rise to the initiation of the Asian Section of IBBS,



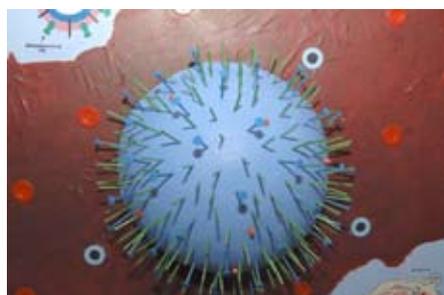
headed by R. Venkatesan who had organized RAMAT. Currently, a book on "Marine and Industrial Biofouling" is in preparation which will be edited by R. Venkatesan, S.P. Murthy and myself in a series on Biofilms (chief editor J.W. Costerton).

We had sad losses too, first of all, the death of Harold Rossmore, one of the founding fathers of IBBS. Brian Flannigan has retired from active participation in Council and Diane Band too. Both have been elected life members.

Small societies have a charm which is easily lost in larger ones. It was a real pleasure to participate in the work of Council, and I will continue to provide my resources in the future. Passing the wheel to Jo Verran as the new president feels particularly good, as she is a long-term board member and has taken over easily and with grace. I send her my warmhearted congratulations, and wish the Society all the best for a thriving future.

Hans-Curt Flemming

What was it? A 3-D model of influenza virus made by undergraduate students at MMU and displayed at our AGM event.



New Book:

Mycoremediation

Not fungi that spoil glass, but some This is the first encyclopedic examination of the application of fungi in bioremediation. It coincides with the rise of a new era in fungal technologies. The book provides a solid foundation in the theoretical underpinnings of mycoremediation, and features step-by-step guidance for a myriad of techniques to identify, select, and apply fungi towards the remediation of contaminated sites and wastewaters in the contaminated environments. The types of fungi used in these processes are: white-rot fungi; brown-rot fungi; soft-rot fungi; filamentous fungi; aquatic fungi; marine fungi; thermophilic fungi; alpine fungi; mushrooms; mycorrhizal fungi; yeasts; molds, and others. Some new terms have been introduced in the book that will eventually become part of the Dictionaries of Mycology, Microbiology, Environmental Science and Engineering, and Bioremediation. This will serve as a text book, design book, reference book, research book, book of applications, and book of future perspectives. The author, a member of IBBS says 'My honeymoon with fungi started at the age of 19 and after 30 years of seeking, knowledge and innovation, I am proud to have produced this book.

Mycoremediation:
Fungal Bioremediation
Harbhajan Singh
November 2006

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