IBBS World

Newsletter of the International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation Society

Editor’s Notes
Welcome to 2011, a year in which we can look forward to IBBS-15 in Vienna. The abstract deadline approaches, so make sure that you contribute to proceedings, as well as registering your attendance!

Our 2010 meeting on disinfection and decontamination was an unqualified success, with delegates from industry and academia networking extremely well within the excellent UCLAN facilities: see inside for our report.

Regarding our educational fliers, it gets increasingly difficult to identify subjects and authors to commission, so I would be pleased to receive any offers from members or their colleagues. This time we focus on paper, fuels and textiles, amongst other topics.

This newsletter also contains a call for entrants to our ‘Essay Prize’. Initiated and sponsored by Dennis Allsopp, arising from our 2009 meeting on fungal deteriogens, the essay on ‘Economics of Biodeterioration’ provides an opportunity for students - and anyone else! - to put pen to paper….or at least fingers to keyboard….. So please distribute the call widely - the more entrants the better!

The business of the Society is flourishing: the journal is thriving, the website has been a success, our meetings are well attended and rewarding. Thanks are due to member of Council, but also members of the Society and other individuals who support our activities.

I will retire from Council in September 2011, so the summer newsletter will be my last. I hope that a volunteer will come forward to take over this activity, if the Society think it is worth continuing.

Lastly, I am delighted to announce the arrival in December 2010 of Daisy, our Treasurer, Kath Whitehead’s daughter. Congratulations and love to Kath and Chris!

Best wishes, Jo
j.verran@mmu.ac.uk

IBBS-15 is almost here!
15th International Symposium on Biodeterioration and Biodegradation
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
Vienna, Austria
19th - 24th September 2011

September in Vienna! With IBBS! What more could anyone ask for?
These triennial symposia provide a fascinating update on aspects of biodeterioration, biodegradation and bioremediation in a truly international meeting. It is an unmissable meeting if you work in these areas (or even if you are just interested!), and, as with all IBBS meetings, gives opportunity for discussion and networking in a friendly environment. The previous meeting, in Sicily, was a fantastic success. The poster sessions were particularly busy - which is always a good sign of a dynamic meeting. FEMS grants are available to enable Young Scientists (<36 years old) to attend.

Abstract submission deadline is February 28th. To get further information about abstract submission, registration, accommodation and venue, go to http://ibbs-15.boku.ac.at.

We are pleased to announce the launch of the IBBS Dennis Allsopp Essay Prize
Entitled ‘THE ECONOMICS OF BIODETERIORATION’

The essay, of up to 5000 words, including graphics and tables, should be submitted by 31st May, 2011, to johng@thor.uk.com

The winning essay will be published in the IBBS Newsletter. The author will receive a certificate and £200 and will be invited to present the essay at the IBBS Symposium, to be held on 19 - 24 September 2011 in Vienna.

Get writing!

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Get writing!
IBBS held one of its successful short meetings at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, in September 2010. The meeting was initiated by Malcolm Greenhalgh and Jimmy Walker. John Gillatt provided his usual invaluable assistance, and Glyn Morton took on the onerous task of local host. The venue worked really well: our hotel was nearby, the meeting room was excellent, as were the refreshments.

The one-and-a-half day meeting format works well, with delegates arriving after lunch on the first day, proceedings beginning in the afternoon, followed by a dinner. The following full day comprises oral presentations, posters and displays from industry. The meeting was actually oversubscribed. Over seventy delegates, of whom 75% were from industry, along with regulators and academics, debated many aspects of applications and implementation of antimicrobials. Useful updates on aspects of regulation, descriptions of new technologies, and pertinent case studies provided variety in the nature of the presentations. I was particularly struck by the friendly atmosphere. I was also delighted to meet some of my ex-graduates - some from quite a few years back! The meeting provided wonderful opportunities to set up new collaborations as well, and I have heard of several examples where this has happened.

At the dinner, Glyn, the raconteur, gave a speech that had everyone united in laughter. His story of glowing canine excrement, was a highlight amongst many others!

We got some new members, re-launched our folders, which contained copies of conference abstracts, the newsletter and education fliers, and we contributed to knowledge as well as to Society coffers! Thanks again to the organisers, and to the delegates who helped make the meeting so valuable and enjoyable.

Daisy, Daisy!

More important business…
Kath Whitehead’s daughter, Daisy, day one!
FEMS News

FEMS Congress
The previous 3 FEMS Congresses (Slovenia, Madrid, Sweden) have been held at 3 year intervals, but they were so successful that now the event will be biennial. So this year, 26 - 30 June 2011, the 4th FEMS Congress takes place in Geneva. These meetings attract some hundreds of delegates, and the numerous sessions provide good opportunity to update on developments in a range of microbiological topics.

Abstract deadline February 7th 2011
www.kenes.com/fems-microbiology

FEMS Affiliates Letter
FEMS provides an electronic newsletter which is circulated to all affiliate Societies. You should have received your copy from the IBBS Secretary. The newsletter usually contains an interesting mix of scientific articles, news from member societies, FEMS initiatives and prize awardees. A nice read.

National/Regional Congresses - New Grants
FEMS Council, at its meeting last September in Prague, decided to award start-up grants to support National or Regional Microbiological Congresses in addition to the existing FEMS Meeting Grant.

Full details of the new grant scheme are available at the FEMS website, with only the essentials presented below.

A FEMS National / Regional Congresses Start-Up Grant can be used by the organizers in any respect that supports successful organization of the meetings.

The amount of a Start-up grant goes from 1.000 EUR minimum to 3.000 EUR maximum
The amount depends on the number of the society members and expected participants at the congress:
- 50 to 200 participants; 1.000 Euros.
- 200 to 500 participants; 2.000 Euros.
- 500 participants or more; 3.000 Euros.

Organisers of national or regional meetings should first be informed of the regulations governing this new FEMS grant: NationalRegionalCongressGrants_Regulations_20101029.pdf
Application forms are available for download on the website as doc and PDF-files: FEMS National & Regional Congresses Grants
The deadlines for FEMS National / Regional Congresses Start-Up Grants are:
- December 15th (for congresses between January 1st - June 30th)
- June 1st (for congresses between July 1st - December 30th).

Upon its receipt at FEMS Central Office, the application is checked for eligibility and completeness. Only complete applications are then submitted to the Grants Board. This Board formulates its recommendations to the Executive Committee, which makes the final decision.

FEMS is honoured to start this new grant and hopes that this support will contribute to the standing and visibility of its affiliate microbiology societies. This grant could certainly benefit IBBS activities.

Fungi on Film!
In a previous newsletter, Gavin Bingley, student member, described his work on fungal contamination of cine film. Now in his second year of study at MMU, Gavin presented a poster at the SGM (Society for General Microbiology) Autumn meeting. The SGM issues a press release on the work, which generated a lot of media interest, culminating in a forthcoming appearance on BBC’s The One Show later this year. This public interest in applied research that IBBS members tend to do, illustrates the potential for raising awareness of our subject (and Society). With funding increasingly relying on a demonstration of the ‘impact’ of the work, this type of outreach and dissemination activity is becoming increasingly important.

If any members receive any press or media attention about their work, we would be delighted to know about it.
Gavin hopes to update on his work at IBBS-15!

Educational Resources
More ‘Notes on...’ are in the pipeline: biodeterioration of paper (Russ Jerusik), textiles (Brian McCarthy), fuels (Glyn Morton) and general aspects of biofilms (HansCurt Flemming) to add to existing ‘Notes on... paint, plastic, artwork in paint, preservation, corrosion, wood, stone, bioremediation and biodeterioration’.
We are hoping to provide some hardcopies in Vienna, but would really appreciate some feedback, suggestions for topics, and offers of contributions.
Council Matters

Have you thought of being more involved with IBBS? Consider joining Council?

We are a group of individuals, all very friendly, who are interested in biodeterioration, biodegradation etc, and of course in the business of the Society. You can find out more about us on our profile pages on the website.

Council meets 4 or 5 times each year, usually at Manchester Metropolitan University, because the location is central in the UK, and convenient for the airport. However, ability to attend Council meetings is not essential for Council membership - we can have meetings via teleconferencing, which means that all you need is access to a phone, and a willingness to contribute to our work.

Our main business is planning and organising meetings and conferences, although at Council we also consider finance (we are trustees of the charity) and membership aspects. So you can come up with an idea and a location for a meeting, and if it is viable, help to plan and run it. You also get a great sense of achievement (and relief!) when it is all over. We are also keen to develop new ideas and activities to raise the profile of the subject and Society. As an International Society, the different interests of our members is diverse, and the opportunities to collaborate are especially rewarding.

In order to keep the Society in its healthy state, it is always important to attract new members. It is also essential that new members are recruited to Council. If you are interested in playing a more active role in the Society, then do get in touch with the Secretary John Gillatt, at johng@thor.uk.com

Other Meetings

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) All Division 5 (Forest Products), Estoril, Portugal, 3 - 13 July, 2012.

The conference is held every five years. Hosted by the Technical University of Lisbon and co-sponsored by the IAWS, IAWA, and IRG.

www.iufro2012.org

The First International Conference on Geomicrobial Ecotoxicology, Wuhan, China May 28-31, 2011

This conference will provide an international forum on advances in microbiology, molecular biology, molecular ecology, biogeochemistry and ecotoxicology of soil, sediment and groundwater systems.

www.gme2011.com


January 24 - 27 2011, Birla, Goa.

www.bits-goa.ac.in/mwt2011.

FEMS Congress


www.kenes.com/fems-microbiology

Abstract deadline February 7 2011.

Good news from the Journal

The number of submission to the journal has been growing rapidly, as our Impact Factor (1.375 to 2.252). The number of manuscripts received went from 350 to 517 from 2009 to 2010. Last January we had 30 submissions, so far this month we have had 43 (with several rejected before assigning) Phil Geis has agreed to become an editor. This will help keep the workload under control.

Many thanks to editors, authors and those who read and cite articles!

Robert Koestler