Send your contribution to the next Newsletter!

You might like to write a short piece about yourself and your research (with photo), you might wish to try your hand at a poem on biodeterioration, or tell us about your most beautiful degrading organism. Maybe you’d like to tell us how you have kept going with your job or research during the COVID era. Contributions are not restricted to these suggestions, of course.
IBBS NEWSLETTER – PRESIDENT COLUMN

I’m delighted to announce that in January, BAM, DECHEMA and IBBS signed a memorandum of understanding for DECHEMA to organize IBBS19 scheduled for 09-12 September 2024. Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM), Berlin, Germany, will host the conference and Priv.-Doz. Dr. rer. nat. Hans-Jörg Kunte will act as the Symposium Organizing Committee Chair. Hans-Jörg has joined the IBBS Council as a co-opted member. The members of IBBS Council are all looking forward to our collaboration with DECHEMA and BAM as we plan IBBS19. Watch the IBBS website (www.IBBSonline.org) and future issues of IBBS World for additional information about IBBS19.

Since October, IBBS’ Outreach Secretary, Prof. Fatima Bento, has been developing support materials to give our Country Representatives tools to help them cultivate society engagement within their respective countries. We’ve discovered that we do not have country information for all of our members. Please send a short email to our Hon. Membership Secretary, Dr. Nuno Mequito (email: inunomesquita@gmail.com), to report the country in which you live. Your email will also allow Nuno to confirm that he has your correct email address.

While I am on the topic of email addresses, I have a special request for all of our graduate and undergraduate student members. This is the time of year when you complete your studies and leave your institution-associated email addresses behind. If you are graduating this year, please take a moment and send an email to Nuno to advise him of your new email address. Also, while you are writing, I encourage you to include a short paragraph about the work/studies you have completed and your plans for the future. Consider also including a photo of yourself. We will include these short biographies and photos in future issues of IBBS World.

Finally, I’ll take this opportunity to congratulate my ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides, Antimicrobials, and Alternative Control Agents and Subcommittee E35.15 on Antimicrobial Agents colleague and IBBS member Prof. Darla Geores for having received ASTM’s 2021 Professor of the Year award. Darla is a research professor of regulatory science at Montana State University. Darla and her team develop and publish quantitative methods for growing, treating, sampling, and analyzing biofilm bacteria. Darla has championed and remains the Technical Contact for several ASTM standards pertaining to biofilms. Again, congratulations, Darla!

Fred Passman

IBBS president
ASTM’s Professor of the Year Award (Prof. Darla Goeres)

A Montana State University researcher who played a leading role in developing the first standards referenced in regulatory guidelines for biofilm-related products has won an international award. Darla Goeres, research professor in the Center for Biofilm Engineering in MSU’s Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, recently received the Professor of the Year Award from ASTM International, the primary organization that develops technical standards for a wide range of materials and other goods. The award comes with a $4,000 honorarium, with $2,000 going to Goeres’ lab.

“I feel very honored to receive this award,” Goeres said. “It’s a wonderful recognition of all the work MSU has done to make biofilm research more relevant and accessible to industry and, in turn, to people’s lives.”

When the CBE started the Standardized Biofilm Methods Laboratory at MSU in the late 1990s, there were well established standards and regulatory pathways for typical cleaning products like bleach but none for specialized disinfectants targeting biofilms — slimy mats often containing multiple kinds of microbes. As work by other CBE researchers, notably MSU Regents Professor Phil Stewart, showed that biofilm protects bacteria from traditional chemical treatments, the need grew for standardized methods that could be used to develop and market products that are effective against those microbes. For instance, it has been shown that biofilm in urinary catheters accounts for an estimated 30% of all hospital-related infections in the U.S., resulting in as many as 13,000 deaths per year.

Work on the subject by Goeres and her team led to the development and licensing of specialized benchtop reactors used to consistently grow biofilms for testing, as well as ASTM International standards spelling out how the testing should be conducted. That work culminated in 2017, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — which governs the registration of antimicrobial products — formally adopted the ASTM standards. That has allowed companies to test products against biofilms and make biofilm-specific claims on their labels, similar to the “kills 99.9% of bacteria” typically seen on cleaning products.

“This isn't the flashiest field of science, but it's important because it has opened the door for new products while giving consumers confidence in what they're buying,” Goeres said.

“Standards development is also a great way to teach students about biofilms and introduce them to technical lab skills,” said Goeres, who estimates her work has involved more than 60 MSU undergraduates and graduate students over the years. “In the same way that breaking down and studying a recipe can teach someone about cooking, working on a testing standard can give students a fundamental understanding of a biofilm,” she said.

Goeres has been a member of ASTM International since 2000. In 2013, an ASTM committee presented Goeres with the Chip Collins Award in recognition of her innovative contributions to the development of antimicrobial biofilm standards.

Contact: Darla Goeres, darla_g@montana.edu

Article by Marshall Swearingen, MSU News Service, reproduced with permission.
IBBS International Representatives

IBBS Country Representatives have been appointed to help members and potential members in their geographic areas of responsibility, to promote the work of the Society and to be a contact point. So far, IBBS has appointed 29 Country Representatives, each one covering one country (two in the case of China and Austria) or region.

The newsletter provides the first in (hopefully) a series of highlights of representatives from various countries.

Mexico (Prof. Benjamín Otto Ortega-Morales)

Prof. Benjamín Otto Ortega-Morales from the Autonomous University of Campeche is the IBBS representative from Mexico. In the photos below he is showing his project on bioconservation of historic stone properties. The photos show a wall in Campeche city, Mexico, which is being tested with bacterial exopolymers as consolidation agents to increase the resistance of the limestone to weathering.

The name of the project is “Influence of Treatment with Nano and Biomaterials on the Microbial Colonization of Monumental Stone” (project no. 257449). The research is led by Dr. Otto Ortega-Morales in the Department of Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology of the Autonomous University of Campeche; the research team also includes members from the National Polytechnic Merida unit and the Autonomous Metropolitan University unit in Azcapotzalco. It is funded by SEP-CONACYT.

(Left) Limestone wall of the Seaside Puerta de Tierra, rebuilt as part of the restoration scheme of the UNESCO recognized city of San Francisco de Campeche, Campeche, Mexico. San Francisco de Campeche city retains many of the old colonial Spanish city walls and fortifications which protected the city from pirates and buccaneers during the XVIIth century. (Right) Weathered limestone blocks (sillares) showing exfoliation and recession being treated with a suspension of a biocarbonogenic bacterial isolate and a bacterial biopolymer to enhance surface properties by reducing surface disaggregation and increasing hardness.

....continued on page 5
Hungary (Dr. Judit Knisz)

I am a senior research scientist at the Faculty of Water Sciences, University of Public Service, Baja, Hungary. I have a PhD in biology and worked at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and University of Iowa (IA, USA) in the fields of immunology and molecular biology. After returning to Hungary, my research has been focusing on biodegradation and biodeterioration in the built environment.

Wastewater treatment systems take advantage of the biodegradation potential of microbes, but they are not designed to remove organic micropollutants, as a result, sewage sludge and wastewater effluents are considered to be hot spots for legacy and emerging pollutants. Where centralized wastewater treatment is not an option, small, on-site biological wastewater treatment systems (OWTSs) that serve a single household are gaining popularity. Although they are less diverse in terms of pollutants compared to municipal wastewater treatment systems, they can be the source of ground water pollution, so I have started to study the degradation of organic micropollutants (e.g. pharmaceutical compounds, antibiotic resistance genes, xenoestrogens, PAH, TPH, etc.) in OWTSs and post-treatment systems as well as the microbes involved in the degradation process. More information can be found via https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.144425

In other systems, where microbes colonize, their presence may result in biodeterioration, a phenomenon many industrial sectors struggle with. I started to study microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) in 2014 and experienced how little some material scientists, engineers, or chemists know, if at all, about the capability of microbes to influence corrosion. When MIC is proven, results are often misunderstood or ignored and some industrial sectors fail to share them in fear of public reaction. Another problem that slows development in the field is that results gained in academia may fail to offer solutions for real-life MIC problems, likely due to the lack of communication between industry and academia. Currently, I am working towards narrowing this gap in the framework of the COST Action CA20130 (European MIC Network - New paths for science, sustainability and standards) as a leader of Working Group 1 – Intersectoral bridging. The main goal of the Action is to encourage a fluent/synergistic collaboration/communication, closing the gap between material scientists, engineers, microbiologists, chemists and integrity managers to encourage sufficient interaction between academia and industry.

Apart from research, I also give lectures to environmental engineering students. My courses include but not limited to microbiology and environmental biotechnology and organic micropollutants in the environment. Also, I am planning a new course related to microbiologically influenced corrosion.

I am also a member of the Hungarian Corrosion Society (HUNKOR), the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) and the Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. You can find more information about my research and publications at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Judit-Knisz
Greece (Assoc. Prof. Dimitris Mossialos)

Dr Dimitris Mossialos is Associate Professor in Microbial Biotechnology and Head of Microbial Biotechnology-Molecular-Bacteriology-Virology Lab at Department of Biochemistry & Biotechnology of University of Thessaly, Greece. Department of Biochemistry & Biotechnology, located in Larissa the city of the Iliad hero Achilles. Larissa is situated in the center of Greece’s mainland (350 km from Athens).

Dimitris obtained his PhD (2000) from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, working on the molecular and biochemical characterization of high-affinity iron uptake systems in pseudomonads. He has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Imperial College (2000-2003) and Universite de Lausanne (2005-2006). His current research interests include the antimicrobial activity, mode of action and the microbiome of honey-bee products, molecular microbiology with emphasis in pseudomonad biology and biotechnological applications in agriculture and environment, the development of diagnostic molecular tools and the biodeterioration of cultural heritage.

Greece is renowned as a country of rich history and cultural heritage. As of July 2021, there are 18 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Greece. World famous sites such as the Acropolis in Athens and the orthodox spiritual centre of Mount Athos (Chalkidiki) are included in the list. While others, like the Minoan Palace of Knossos on the island of Crete are not included. Several years ago, Dimitris realized that the biodeterioration of cultural heritage in Greece was well underestimated. Therefore, he embarked upon the task to study this phenomenon on Greek cultural heritage. As a proof of concept, he studied the microbial communities in biodeteriorated wood coming from the Bükkábrány paleoforest (Nikolouli et al. Int. Biodeterior. Biodegradation 2016: 108: 181-190) and Greek historical documents dating back to the 19th and 20th century (Karakasidou et al. MicrobiologyOpen 2018 7(5):e00596). Unfortunately, biodeterioration research of cultural heritage is not well funded in Greece. As such, Dimitris is actively seeking funding opportunities to implement Meta-OMICS and to develop cutting-edge diagnostic tools of biodeteriogenic microorganisms. Dimitris is very interested in developing fruitful collaborations with colleagues around the globe.
Portugal (Assist. Prof. António Portugal)

António Portugal has a PhD in Molecular Biology, a MSc in Ecology and a degree in Biology. He is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, where he teaches Genetics, Genetic Resources, Applied Ecology and Bioremediation within several degrees and master programmes. He is a researcher of the Centre for Functional Ecology, University of Coimbra, where he is the head of the Mycology and Biodeterioration Lab. He has been the PI of several research projects dealing with Biodeterioration of Cultural Heritage.

In parallel, he is Director of FitoLab – Laboratory for Phytopathology of the Instituto Pedro Nunes. This laboratory is devoted to the detection and research of plant pests and diseases, with the aim of improving plant health in agriculture and forestry. FitoLab is recognized by the Portuguese Authorities for the detection of several quarantine organisms in the microbiology, virology, mycology and nematology areas. The required methods and EPPO standards to work with quarantine organisms are implemented in FitoLab.

António Portugal has published several dozens of papers as well as book chapters in the areas of mycology and biodeterioration. He has successfully supervised 37 Master theses and 3 PhD theses (all of these 3 PhD theses related to the role of fungi in the deterioration of several cultural heritage supports, like paper, parchment, wood and stone), with 2 more PhD theses still in progress, also investigating the role of microorganism in the deterioration of limestone. At this moment, António Portugal is particularly interested in the biodeterioration of stone monuments of the Central Region of Portugal, and also in the biodeterioration of the collections of the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra. A call for projects is now open in Portugal, by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (please see https://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/concursos/ICDT/index.phtml.pt).

Some examples of recent publications:
IBBS Country Representatives have been appointed to help members and potential members in their geographic areas of responsibility, to promote the work of the Society and to be a contact point.

Check on the IBBS website to locate the representative of your country:
https://ibbsonline.org/countryreps/
If you are interested in being one of our “ambassadors” please contact the IBBS Hon. Secretary – secretary@ibbsonline.org.
Bad Bugs Bookclub (https://www.mmu.ac.uk/engage/what-we-do/bad-bugs-bookclub/)
by Joanna Verran

Reading apocalyptic fiction in a post-apocalyptic world: part 6

The Bad Bugs Bookclub Strikes Back

We have held two online meetings since my last article for IBBS World. At the first, in January, we welcomed the author Christina Sweeney-Baird to our discussions about her first novel The End of Men (2021), which describes a pandemic that killed only males (chromosomally determined). The book uses multiple narratives to provide points of view describing women’s experiences. The author noted that the microbiology was not her main focus, but that the pathogen was a tool to enable her to explore a world without men, in a work of ‘speculative fiction’. It was interesting to consider what prevention strategies were available until a vaccine was produced, and what consequences there were in terms of employment, equality, diversity, healthcare and other aspects. Another novel with a recent setting is Afterlands by Lauren Beukes (2020), essentially a ‘chase thriller’ where males die after a flu-like illness, and those few who avoid infection are highly prized.

There are several novels where one sex (usually male) is decimated by some apocalyptic event, where a microbiological agent is often the cause. Bookclub members suggested several more such novels, which in turn led us to an extra meeting for those who were interested in this topic (that has been called ‘gendercide’: I found it fascinating that there is some academic literature describing the trope). Darwin’s Radio by Greg Bear (1999) is a ‘technothriller’ that explores in some detail how endogenous retroviruses and ‘junk DNA’ might trigger some evolutionary jump during pregnancy. Ammonite by Nicola Griffith (1992) is a science fiction story about a planet inhabited only by women, who have become able to produce children (again with some scientific rationale) after men were wiped out by a (retrovirus-like) pathogen. There are many more examples, which I intend to collate!
However, these books are departing somewhat from the original aims of the Bad Bugs Bookclub, which is to engage scientists and non-scientists in discussion where infectious disease forms part of the plot. We also spend some time during our meetings considering how useful the books might be in an educational setting: for example the complexities of retroviruses might be best addressed by focusing on HIV/AIDS.

Nevertheless our book for March 2022 was Off Target by Eve Smith (2022) – literally off the target of bad bugs! The novel – again speculative fiction – focuses on gene editing, and develops the possibilities into significant moral and ethical aspects related to conception and pregnancy. Of course, it all boils down to CRISPR (and thence ‘good bugs’ you might say), so we had a brief overview of the topic before we got talking, again in the company of the author. Eve had joined us before, to discuss her first novel The Waiting Rooms (2020) that is an excellent dystopian thriller about a near-future world without antibiotics. Off Target is again set in a near future/parallel present, which makes the narrative more credible and less ‘science fiction’. We felt that the book provides a lot of points for discussion amongst any readers, whatever their age or experience. It was great during these latter meetings that we didn’t mention coronavirus in our discussion, for the first time in two years!

Indeed, it has been two years since our group last met face to face, and the Manchester membership of the group were happy to meet up in March. We talked about books we have enjoyed, books we might like to suggest – and even better than that, we just chatted! Despite the continued presence of Omicron and the worrying likely future lack of appropriate surveillance and safety measures, it was good to get together.

Our next meeting is in May: we are maintaining the online format to enable attendance of our national and international members, but we may also include some more face to face meetings.

Please email me (j.verran@mmu.ac.uk) if you have any questions, suggestions, or you want to know more about ‘gendercide’ novels!

“The aim of the Bad Bugs Book Club is to get people interested in science, specifically microbiology, by reading books (novels) in which infectious disease forms some part of the story.”

Joanna Verran
The First Symposium on Pest and Mold Control in Chinese Heritage Collections

Huan Tang

1Key Scientific Research Base of Pest and Mold Control of Heritage Collection, Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum, Chongqing 400015, China

On the 27th of November, 2021, the first symposium on the control of pests and molds in Chinese heritage collections was held by the Key Scientific Research Center of Pest and Mold Control of Heritage Collection, Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum. The conference was a hybrid of online and offline format. Fourteen experts and scholars from different colleges and institutes gave presentations with nearly 200 attendees joining the meeting online.

This conference is the first large-scale academic seminar to discuss pest and mold control in heritage collections of Chinese cultural relics and museums, aimed at providing an exchange platform for experts, scholars and students in this area in China. Cutting-edge trends and opinions were presented, offering comprehensive ideas for scholars, operational guidance for cultural relics protection workers, and effective protection schemes for heritage collections.

Topics discussed included:

- study of biodeterioration and protection of ancient wall paintings and earthen sites
- characteristics of soil microbial community structures in Jinsha Site with different deterioration levels
- study on the prevention and control of microbial deterioration in the protection of water-saturated wooden cultural relics—"Taking Nanhai No. 1 shipwreck as an example"
- integrated pest management of cultural heritage (IPM) and its best practices
- intelligent controlled atmosphere protection technology and its application in the control of insects and mildew in heritage collections
- the common pests of heritage collections and the use of essential oil fumigation to control pests
- investigation on entomogenous deterioration of heritage collections in collections-field investigation of 17 cultural institutions
- microbial monitoring in museums and their potential threat to heritage collections
- investigation and analysis of microbes on paper heritage collections
- research and application of green biological lywallzyme in key technology of removing mold spots of ancient heritage collections
- microbial diversities and related thinking of excavated water-saturated bamboo slips during water immersion preservation
- online non-destructive intelligent optical fiber sensing technology for microbial deterioration of organic cultural relics
- research on prevention and control of moss deterioration in cave-temples heritage
- research on the application of composite materials based on the antibacterial properties of nano-ZnO in the protection of grottoes heritage

Photo of First Symposium on Pest and Mold Control in Chinese Heritage Collections attendees at the main meeting venue.
MicroScience Photo Gallery
(New deadline: 31st of May)

The IBBS is preparing a Photo Exhibition in the Exploratório (Centro de Ciência Viva de Coimbra, Portugal), with the collaboration of the biodeterioration research group from the University of Coimbra (CFE, Coimbra, Portugal), and all IBBS members are invited to send their submissions! This exhibition will be a part of the Micro Science Photo Gallery series, and will be focused on the beautiful, surprising and sometimes artsy micro world of biodeterioration. These exhibitions are usually directed to the general audience. The top three contestants will be awarded with a yearly IBBS membership (to be added to their current subscription)! Participation is free!

Rules for participating:

• Participants should be IBBS members.
• Images can come from camera photos, SEM images, optical microscope images, etc.
• Each participant should send the links via email to membership@ibbsonline.org (we recommend hosting the files in dropbox, mega, or other cloud services, since file size might be too large) of up to 5 images, with a square format, to be printed in 15x15cm (therefore, a minimum image size of 1772x1772 pixels is recommended, however, a higher resolution is advised).
• In case you have any questions regarding your submission, image specifications, etc., please send an email to membership@ibbsonline.org.

Each image should have:

• A title (if possible artistic / appealing)
• The author(s) names and affiliation(s)
• Scale (approximate if possible)
• Brief description in “common language” terms, of the image origin (e.g., “fungal organisms growing on a 16th century parchment”)
• This information can be submitted via an attached text document.
Other information:

- About 30 images will be selected to take part in the exhibition.
- Selected images will be displayed in the Exploratório, but also be made available online.
- Judging criteria for the selection will be based on artistic and/or visual impact of the images, image quality and originality.
- Scoring will be attributed by the IBBS council and the team from the Exploratório.
- The deadline for image submission is the 31st of May of 2022.
- The exhibition preparation will start as soon as this contest has ended and all images are selected.

Links:

www.exploratorio.pt
https://exploratorio.pt/index.php?page=03.09.microscience

Copyright:

If contestants agree their image(s) can be used in International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Society promotional materials with the creator retaining full ownership and the copyright of the image(s). The International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Society will aim to acknowledge the author in any promotional material, unless circumstances do not allow.

A couple of examples of “artistic” images (by Silvia Sequeira - LAQV-REQUIMTE, Department of Conservation and Restoration, NOVA School of Science and Technology, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal)
Other upcoming meetings/events on Microbially Influenced Corrosion

- **Nordic Corrosion Congress**
  31st May – 2nd June 2022
  Turku, Finland
  [https://blogs2.abo.fi/ncc/](https://blogs2.abo.fi/ncc/)

- **Australasian Corrosion Association Annual Conference**
  5th – 8th June 2022
  Newcastle, Australia

- **2nd Corrosion and Materials Degradation Web Conference**
  5th – 7th July 2022
  Abstract submissions close 1st April 2022
  [https://sciforum.net/event/CMDWC2022](https://sciforum.net/event/CMDWC2022)

- **European MIC Network Conference and PhD Course on Corrosion/MIC**
  26th August 2022.
  Berlin, Germany
  Abstract submissions close 1st May 2022
  Contact: Dr. Andrea Koerdt (andrea.koerdt@bam.de)

- **EuroCorr 2022**
  28th August – 1st September 2022
  Berlin, Germany
  [https://eurocorr.org/2022.html](https://eurocorr.org/2022.html)

- **Training Course on Corrosion Management and Failure Analysis (MIC)**
  27th – 28th October 2022
  Odense, Denmark

A lichen growing on a corroded iron fence, Rome, Italy (by F.Pinzari)
Save the date....
Next FEMS Conference on Microbiology in Belgrade

FEMS and the Serbian Society for Microbiology are happy to announce the next FEMS Conference on Microbiology, which will take place from 30 June to 2 July 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.
You can find up-to-date information on the conference at www.femsbelgrade2022.org.

Abstract Topics
- Advanced Microbiology Techniques
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Biotechnology and Industrial Microbiology
- Emerging and Re-Emerging Infections
- Environmental Microbiology
- Food Microbiology
- Miscellaneous
- Plant Microbiology

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 28 January 2022
- information on acceptance or rejection of all abstracts will be sent out in March 2022
- the abstract word limit is max. 250 words per abstract

IBBS is a member of FEMS
FEMS is the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS), an international organization formed by the union of a number of European scientific organizations.

Read the latest news: https://fems-microbiology.org/news/
Here is your link for the latest FEMS newsletter.
https://crm.fems-microbiology.org/civicrm/mailing/view?id=452&reset=1
Members of FEMS Member Societies can apply for grants for research and training, or for support when organizing or attending a meeting – including our Member Societies’ national and regional congresses. Every year FEMS supports meeting organizers and early career researchers and enables experts to share ideas and promote excellence in science.
Save the date....

XXIX NATIONAL CONGRESS OF POLISH SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGISTS
The XXIX National Congress of Polish Society of Microbiologists is scheduled to take place between 15-17 September 2022 in Warsaw. https://zjazdptm2022.pl/

XIII INTERNATIONAL FUNGAL BIOLOGY CONFERENCE (IFBC) & IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FUNGAL STRESS (ISFUS)
September 25 – 29, 2022
São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil
HTTPS://ISFUS2022.WORDPRESS.COM/

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MICROBIAL ECOTOXICOLOGY - ECOTOXICOMIC 2022
15-19 November 2022 in Montpellier, France.
https://ecotoxicomic22.sciencesconf.org/

13TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EXTREMOPHILES
September 18/22, 2022 - Loutraki - GREECE
April 30th, 2022: Abstract submission
May 14th, 2022: Notification of abstract acceptance
May 24th, 2022: Early bird registration and booking
https://www.extremophiles2022.org/index.php/home
Biofilm Standards – Recording of IBBS18 Panel Session

During the 18th International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium a panel session was held with leading research and industry experts to discuss industrial and academic perspectives on the importance of standard biofilm test methods.

Discussions included the need for biofilm methods in the oil and gas industry, the advantages and disadvantages of a standard test method versus best practices guidelines, and how regulatory hurdles are placing constraints on biofilm technology development and innovation. A recording of the panel session on this evolving topic can be found at: https://ibbsonline.org/biofilm-standards/

The IBBS journal International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation has an impact factor of 4.320.

Elsevier, publisher of International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation (IBB) journal, has approved a virtual special issue (VSI) to celebrate the 50th year of the Society.

Check IBB Journal Home Page for updated Call for Papers
Please submit your manuscript via Elsevier Editorial System at: https://www.editorialmanager.com/ibb/Default.aspx

... and select “VSI:IBBS at 50 years” when asked to indicate “Article Type.” Submission date 30 June 2022

The International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation Editor-in-Chief is Prof. Ji-Dong Gu, Guangdong Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
e-mail: jidong.gu@gtiit.edu.cn

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-biodeterioration-and-biodegradation
The IBBS Council offers bursaries, up to £1,000 each, in support of both undergraduate student projects and postgraduate student research.

Postgraduate applicants must be members of the Society, in good standing (dues paid), working in higher education or research institutes.
Undergraduate applicants must be sponsored by a faculty member who will supervise the applicant. Projects must be related to biodeterioration or biodegradation.
Research must be completed either in the applicant’s (i.e., supervisor’s) laboratory, or another laboratory that has agreed to accept the candidate without fees.

Deadlines for bursary applications:
Bursary applications will be considered two times per year.
• For proposed start dates between 1 July and 1 December, **deadline: 1 March**
• For proposed start dates between 2 December and 30 June, **deadline: 1 October**

https://ibbsonline.org/bursaries/

Solutions to the crossword of the past IBBS Newsletter (December 2021)

PAHs, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
SRB, Sulfate-Reducing Bacteria
Desulfovibrio, The genus of the bacterium species “alaskensis”
bayyi, The Acinetobacter species that can biotransform fufural
bipyramidal, The shape of magnetite microcrystals
oneidensis, The Shewanella species that extract electrons from carbon steel
methane, The primary greenhouse gas that oil sands tailings generate
Camonica, The “Valle” where Rock Engravings National Park of Naquane are
Isotope, The “I” in DNA-SIP
Eurotium, The genus of the perfect form of the Aspergillus halophilicus
moonmilk, Nanofibers of calcium carbonate with a lunar name
moolooite, A secondary copper oxalate biomineral crust
Stegobium, The genus of the biscuit beetle
Dermentidae, The family of material pests Attagenus, Anthrenus, Trogoderma
Silverfish, The fish that was popular in Austrian museums during the first COVID-19 lockdown
tsuruhatensis, The Delftia species, strain D9, found to contain alkane monooxygenase genes
petricola, The species of the rock-inhabiting fungus Knufia that can sequester iron
Beishiku, The Chinese Temple where Sandstone Stelae is
IBBS Membership Renewal

In case you still haven’t renewed your annual subscription to the International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation Society (IBBS), please do so by January.

Our current membership rates (mostly unchanged) are as follows:

- Ordinary Membership - £47.50
- Student Membership - £12.50
- Retired Membership - £12.50
- Online Journal Subscription * - £40.00
- Hard Copy Journal Subscription * (delivered by post) - £60.00
- Lifetime Standard Membership - £475
- Lifetime Retired Membership - £125

* Includes all member benefits and access to 10 copies per year of International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation.

To renew, visit www.ibbsonline.org/membership, log in using your email address and password and click on “renew membership”.

If you have forgotten your password, click on the big green JOIN IBBS button, or use this link, www.ibbsonline.org/ibbsmember/signup, and follow the instructions.

Payment is by credit/debit card or PayPal.

If you experience problems, please email: membership@ibbsonline.org

IBBS is the only scientific society for scientists working in the fields of biodeterioration, biodegradation, bioremediation and associated disciplines!

What we offer:

- Reduced registration rates at Society meetings and the joint meetings that we hold with other organisations and societies.
- Eligibility for awards and bursaries, to support small research projects and meetings, including student bursaries. (More info here: https://ibbsonline.org/bursaries/)
- As an affiliated society of FEMS (Federation of European Microbiological Societies), members can receive FEMS research grants and funding to attend conferences.
- An extensive and informative website (www.ibbsonline.org) with details of forthcoming meetings, the ability of members to publicise meetings and conferences that they are organising or involved with.
- Special rates for Society publications and resources.
- Regular member contact via our newsletter “IBBS World”, and frequent updates through our website and email network.
- Regular Society meetings and conferences - e.g. our triennial symposia - IBBS 18 online in 2021, is a three to four-day showcase event of the Society, although we usually have at least one shorter meeting each year, normally on a specific topic. (More info here: https://ibbsonline.org/meetings/)