

## **Minutes, Business Meeting**

### **Microsporidia Division, Buenos Aires, August 6, 2012**

1. The Annual Business Meeting of the Microsporidia Division was called to order at 18:45 pm on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and 14 members were present (one of them student member):

Dörte Goertz, James Becnel, Andreas Linde, Wei-Fone Huang, Leellen F. Solter, Grant Stentiford, Susan Björnson, Carlos Lange, Victoria Micieli (all Division members) and Renate Radek, Elke Genersch, Bryony Williams, Yanping (Judy) Chen (non-members of the Division), Thomas Steele (student member)

2. The minutes of the 2011 business meeting were published online (see: [http://www.sipweb.org/microsporidia/index.cfm?page=minutes\\_2011](http://www.sipweb.org/microsporidia/index.cfm?page=minutes_2011) )

There were no questions, nor comments. James Becnel motioned to accept the 2011 minutes; the motion was seconded by Leellen Solter and unanimously accepted.

3. Members memorial:

Dörte Goertz reports that Jean Maniania (ICIPE, Kenya) has retired. She thanks him for his long going activities in the Division and the SIP in general.

In July 2012, Dr. Jaroslav Weiser (Prague) has passed away. Dr. Weiser was one of the founders of SIP and the Division, and had an enormous impact on invertebrate pathology and microsporidia research in particular. Many Division members knew him in person. He will be greatly missed, and the Division will prepare a symposium in his honor for the next SIP meeting in 2013.

4. Discussion of the Division Report to the Society:

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was reviewed:

Budget balance: \$ 2,628.76, (as by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011). The balance has increased \$ 316.67 from the last year, due to membership dues and interest, and because no money has been spent for student travel awards and speaker travel support in 2011. Budget balance is \$ 2,945.43 (as by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012).

In 2012, no student applications for the Division Travel Award were submitted and therefore no funds used for this purpose. Instead, the Division decided to sponsor the attendance of invited symposium speakers (Bryony Williams, Victoria Micieli, Santiago Plischuk).

Membership: 35 (6 student members), down from 38 in 2011, 42 in 2010 and 49 in 2009.

The audience discussed options to increase membership, in particular of students. The benefits of being a member of SIP and the Division should be communicated more clearly, and free Division's membership for students may be an option. This should be communicated during the opening session in 2013. This might be combined with the requirement to become Division member if you win the Division's travel award.

Grant Stentiford and Andreas Linde promoted the idea to change the name of the Microsporidia Division to increase attraction for invertebrate pathologists working with other

(protist) pathogens. The Division has always welcomed presentations covering other protists (e.g. gregarines,...) in the sessions (oral or poster presentation). Grant Stentiford believes that e.g. invertebrate pathologists from aquatic ecosystems will more likely join the Division if the Division's name is no longer restricted to the small group of microsporidia. The acceptance of other protist pathogens should be reflected in the Division's name.

James Becnel recognized the importance of other protists in invertebrate hosts and suggests to invite colleagues working on these groups to a symposium to elucidate their interest in our Division before deciding on a change of the Division's name. An overlap with general protistology should be avoided. Possible names of the Division were discussed, among them "Division of eukaryotic pathogens of invertebrates" and "Division of Protists and Microsporidia".

Dörte Goertz asks the secretary to send out a mailing to all Division members to ask for their opinion concerning a Division's name change. Results should be presented at the next business meeting.

Dörte Goertz reported that for the SIP meeting in Buenos Aires 2012, the Microsporidia Division (Dörte Goertz) has organized

- a workshop "Host range of microsporidia". Speaker is Susan Björnson.
- Furthermore, the Division organized a Divisional symposium "Microsporidia from South America", organized by Carlos Lange and Dörte Görtz with four invited speakers.
- The Division also participated in a cross-divisional symposium (with DBI) titled "New insights into host-pathogen interaction in the microsporidia", organized by Grant Stentiford and Dörte Görtz, with Bryony Williams and Judy Chen as speakers.
- Five oral presentations and four posters presentations were given in the contributed papers session on Monday.

The Division report was then unanimously approved for the Council meeting on Thursday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> 2012.

#### 5. Election of new officers:

An election of new officers was held. The Nomination Committee presented Susan Björnson as the candidate for the position of vice chair. Furthermore, Wei-Fone Huang was presented as candidate for secretary / treasurer, and Grant Stentiford as member-at-large. Thomas Steele is candidate for the student representative of our Division. The names of the candidates had already been posted 24 hours before the business meeting.

There were no further nominations from the floor. Leellen Solter motioned that the members accept the nominees and was seconded by James Becnel. All candidates were unanimously approved by the Division members.

Dörte Goertz suggested that the past Division chair and the two members-at-large should serve as the student awards committee of our Division. James Becnel motioned to accept this and was seconded by Andreas Linde.

#### 6. New business / informations:

- The editor of the SIP newsletter (Eric Haas-Stapleton) seeks support for the SIP newsletter. Volunteers from our Division are welcome.
  - The new web page of our Division (as for SIP) is not yet online. It will have a uniform design for all Divisions. Images of microsporidia for the web page are solicited and should be sent to Leellen Solter
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- For the 2013 SIP meeting in Pittsburg / USA, suggestions were solicited for topics for the symposium and the workshop.
    1. Andreas Linde suggested a symposium to honor the memory of Dr. Weiser. This could be a cross-divisional symposium, as Dr. Weiser has worked with all pathogen groups. This idea should be forwarded to the meeting organizers as soon as possible.
    2. A second option, proposed by James Becnel, is a symposium on microsporidia and protists in non-insect hosts (e.g. nematodes, snails) or microsporidia in extreme habitats.
    3. As for the microsporidia workshop, James Becnel suggested to focus on the EuPathDB project. This could be a half- or full day workshop and would be prepared by local colleagues in Pittsburg. It should be placed on Sunday (opening day) as a pre-meeting course and a course fee of approx. 50 \$ for non-Division members could apply.

Other suggestions can be mailed to the chair (doerte.goertz@boku.ac.at). Dörte Goertz pointed out that the division would probably be able to waive the registration fee for invited speakers.

8. Other new business: - nothing -

Andreas Linde moved to adjourn the meeting and Leellen Solter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 08:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dörte Goertz, Division Chair, and Andreas Linde, Secretary/Treasurer