DEATH OF DR PHYLLIS STOCKDALE

It is with great sadness that many members will have received news recently of the death of Dr Phyllis Stockdale on 9 November. Phyllis Stockdale was a founder and honorary member of our Society and the Society's first treasurer. Our Society will feel this loss deeply. An obituary will appear in the next issue of the "Newsletter".

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

The Society's address book is going to be reprinted at the end of the year. If your BSM correspondence is being forwarded from a previous address or you are planning to change your address in the next few weeks please notify the Secretary.

NEW BOOKS


JOINT SYMPOSIUM WITH PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ON ASPERGILLUS AND ASPERGILLOSIS

Details of a symposium on "Aspergillus and Aspergillosis" to be held jointly between the Pathological Society of Great Britain and the BSM at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 are enclosed with the Newsletter.

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

1-4 April 1990. Second Conference on Candida and Candidiasis: Biology, Pathogenesis and Management. Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Further information: Professor Helen Buckley, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Temple University School of Medicine, 3400 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

2-6 April 1990. Leeds. British Society for Mycopathology Course on Diagnostic Medical Mycology. Contact: Dr. E.G.V. Evans, Regional Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

On September 14th 1989, some 117 delegates including 20 BSM members met in Gothenburg, Sweden for the 2nd joint meeting of the BSM, the Danish Society for Mycopathology and the Swedish Society for Clinical Mycology. The meeting was held in the luxurious setting of the Sheraton Hotel and Towers where two conference rooms, brightly illuminated by crystal chandeliers, had been set aside for lectures.

After a warm welcome by Dr J. Faergemann, on behalf of the organising committee, the scientific session opened with invited lectures on host immune mechanisms and serology of fungal infections. A varied scientific programme followed with further invited presentations on the molecular biology of Candida albicans, and topical and systemic antifungal agents. 'Free' sessions had also been organised and covered subjects as diverse as environmental isolation of pathogenic fungi, diagnosis of mycoses, antifungal agents, oral yeast infections and lipophilic yeasts. Papers were well presented and were of general clinical interest. A variety of posters remained on display for the whole of the meeting.

Several social events had also been organised for delegates and commenced with an evening tour around the Palm House in the Trädgårdsforeningen (Horticultural Gardens), followed by a welcoming reception at the Dickson Villa. The Palm House, which houses a vast and varied collection of palms, ferns, orchids and other tropical plants, was built by a Scottish firm and shipped to Sweden in 1876. It was designated a listed building in 1976 and is currently one of Sweden's most interesting pieces of architecture.

A evening boat trip around the Gothenburg archipelago was also a welcome diversion from the busy scientific schedule. After a delicious sea-food buffet BSM members maintained their tradition of a lively sing-song to the novel accompaniment of two guitar and accordion playing 'sailors'.

The warm and friendly reception extended to us by our Swedish colleagues made us quickly feel welcome although their excellent use of English was mildly embarrassing. Several futile attempts were made by some British delegates to acquire a few Swedish phrases but, with the exception of 'tack' (thank you), the only phrase which seemed to get perfected was 'varsnall lamma flaskan har, tack' (please leave the bottle here!!).

Following a highly successful and enjoyable scientific meeting it was unanimously agreed that a similar joint conference be arranged in two or three years time. The Danish Society for Mycopathology have kindly agreed to host the meeting although a venue has still to be decided.

Val Hopwood, Leeds

ANNUAL MEETING - UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Full details of our next Annual Meeting, to be held in Wentworth College, University of York, 9-11 April, 1990 are enclosed with this newsletter. Just to remind you, Dr Judy Domer from Tulane University Medical Center, New Orleans is going to give the Ian Murray Memorial Lecture on cell mediated immune responses to pathogenic fungi. We also have a second guest lecturer, Dr Susan Kingsman from the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford who is going to talk on retrotransposons in yeast as part of our symposium on molecular mycology (see feature elsewhere in the Newsletter).
The 26th Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Wentworth College, University of York from Monday 9th April to Wednesday 11th April, 1990. The Scientific Meeting will begin at 9.00am on the 9th and end at 1.00pm on the 11th.

The historic City of York with its Minster, City Walls, stately homes and museums, including the National Railway Museum and Castle Museum, provides a splendid venue for our Annual Meeting. The University lies two miles south-east of the City walls set in a landscaped park around an attractive lake. Wentworth College is one of six Colleges on the campus and provides accommodation in single study bedrooms, each with its own washbasin; a limited number of double rooms is also available. The College has its own dining hall, bar and lounge areas. A provisional booking for 200 delegates has been made at the College. The scientific meetings will be held in the Physics Block, some 150 metres from Wentworth College, where we have the use of a large lecture theatre and an adjacent concourse area for trade exhibits and where tea and coffee will be served.

The University campus is easily reached from the city, either by taxi (15 min approx) or by bus from the railway station. For those arriving by car there are ample parking facilities near Wentworth College. There are shops, banks and a Post Office in nearby Heslington, within easy walking distance of the campus.

On Monday evening there will be a cheese and wine party at Wentworth College. On Tuesday evening the Annual Dinner will be held at Kings Manor in York and will be preceded by a sherry reception. Transport will be provided to and from Kings Manor. It is hoped that the normal schedule for our scientific meeting can be adjusted to allow some time for delegates to see something of the City of York.

Booking procedure

Two copies of the booking form are enclosed; please keep one as a reminder and send the other, with your cheque made payable to "British Society for Mycopathology", to the local organiser: Dr E.G.V. Evans, Regional Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT. Use a separate form for each member and guest attending, using photocopies if necessary.

Please do not forget to indicate on the reservation form any special dietary or other requirements. It is essential we have this information well in advance.
Please note that the following booking conditions now apply to this and all future BSM meetings: full pre-payment is required for all bookings; telephone bookings will not be accepted; alterations to bookings and cancellations will only be accepted in writing and will not be accepted over the telephone; no refunds will be allowed once final numbers have been agreed with the hall of residence; no refunds will be allowed for meals or accommodation that have been booked but not taken.

Receipts, confirmation of booking, travel information, AGM agenda and details of the Scientific Programme will be sent in early March 1990.

THE DEADLINE FOR BOOKINGS IS 1st FEBRUARY 1990

Financial assistance

Limited financial help towards the cost of the meeting is available for junior and retired members. Anyone interested should contact the Hon. Secretary, Dr. M.D. Richardson.

Scientific Papers

Anyone wishing to present a paper should complete the enclosed form and return it to Dr. M.D. Richardson, to arrive not later than 1st February, 1990.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held on the evening of Monday, 9th April, 1990 in the Lecture Theatre, Physics Building, University of York.

Election of Officers

Nominations are invited for two posts as members of the Executive Committee due to the retirement of Professor W C Noble and Dr D T Roberts at the next Annual General Meeting. Nominations should bear the signatures of a proposer and seconder, together with a signed note from the candidate indicating their willingness to stand for election. They should be sent to the Hon. Secretary to arrive not later than 1st February, 1990.

The other members (Officers) of the present Executive Committee are eligible for a further term of office, and in accordance with the Constitution, offer themselves for re-election.
Book Review

Medical Mycology: A Practical Approach
E.G.V. EVANS & M.D. RICHARDSON (Eds.)
(softbound), £37.50 (spiral hardbound)

Reviewing this splendid bench-book for the officinados of the BSM is easy. A list of the authors guarantees the quality. In addition to the Editors chapters on culture and approach, Milne contributes on microscopy, Clayton and Midgley on superficial mycoses, Buckley on yeast identification, De Vroey on subcutaneous mycoses, Rhodes and Kwon-Chung on systemic mycoses, Campbell on culture contaminants and with Stockdale and Smith on culture maintenance, Mackenzie on serology, Warnock on antifungal drugs, and Hay on histopathology. For a general microbiologist, who only gets shown the nasty problems by his technical staff, this book is a comfort and a help which I wish I had had a long time ago. It is cheap enough to recommend that every diagnostic microbiology laboratory in the UK should have a copy. Certainly all senior registrars and those studying for exams will find it useful. The quality of the black and white illustrations is superb, although I wish some of the culture plates were photographs in colour. Perhaps an enterprising company will support producing all these illustrations as slides for distribution! The text is full of information and common sense. There are not a lot of references and sometimes I wished that the more dogmatic (albeit reasonably established) statements had a starter reference from the older literature to permit further exploration. One or two diagnostic routines appear that I thought had seen honourable retirement including arterial blood culture, drill biopsy of the lung, and a recommendation of biphasic blood culture media, despite a passing reference to the Dupont Isolator. There are few omissions. A critical discussion of which kit to choose for yeast identification, some mention of quality assessment, discussion of the new triazoles and other antifungals and the requirements for identification and sensitivity testing of yeasts to these, a few world distribution maps and perhaps a little more help in the way of photos for Aspergillus identification would all have been welcome.

These are minor criticisms. This book should unreservedly be welcomed as a bench and help book for clinical microbiology and an expression of health and strength in British medical mycology. Perhaps the next edition will be full of probes and blots for practical use - but I doubt it.

Buy it for yourself and make sure the library has a copy.

R Warren, Cambridge

Annual Meeting Symposium

We are planning to hold a symposium on molecular biology of pathogenic fungi as part of the scientific programme of our Annual Meeting in York. To appeal to members with an interest in molecular aspects of fungi we are going to hear a guest lecture from Dr Susan Kingsman of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford, entitled "The analysis and exploitation of retrotransposons". In the early 1980s, Susan Kingsman, with her husband Alan, was working on the molecular biology of yeast - more precisely transposons - which are movable elements of genetic material. The movement of DNA was shown to go through an RNA intermediate which implied reverse transcriptase activity. In these early years the only biological systems thought to use reverse transcriptase were retroviruses and it was in 1983 that a human retrovirus was shown to be the cause of AIDS. The Kingsmans decided it would be an opportune time to take the yeast transposon apart. What they found was the amazing coincidence that a small part of the yeast bore more than a close resemblance to key genes of the human immunodeficiency virus.

The yeast transposons have been renamed retrotransposons and it has been discovered that the system can be used to help understand how the AIDS virus functions and with potential use in vaccine development and production as well as diagnostics.

We are looking forward to Dr Kingsman's talk and would welcome offers of original papers on any aspect of the molecular biology of fungi.

New Members

The following people were admitted to membership of the BSM by the Executive Committee at its October meeting:

Dr Susan Granger, Janssen Pharmaceutical Limited.

Mr Brendan McDermott, Sandoz Pharmaceuticals.

We welcome these individuals to the Society and hope they will find their membership enjoyable and constructive.