Graduating from Edinburgh University with a first in Botany, awarded the Vans Dunlop Scholarship for postgraduate research, Professor Mackenzie's PhD thesis 'Studies on the Biology of Pathogenic Fungi' was the start of a distinguished career in Mycology. Working his way 'up the ranks' from assistant lecturer in the Department of Mycology, Edinburgh University, to lecturer then senior lecturer in Medical Microbiology at Queen's University Belfast, Professor Mackenzie was at this early stage making his presence felt in the field of Mycology as editor of Sabouraudia 1962-66, originator and editor of Mycoses Newsletter 1961-65. There followed a trans-Atlantic phase (1967-72) as associate Professor in Microbiology at Cornell University, President of the Medical Mycological Society of New York and Secretary Designate American Society of Microbiology before returning to his present position, initially at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, now at Colindale. Apart from the routine commitment required of the country's reference laboratory in Mycology, Professor Mackenzie has been a regular contributor to teaching courses and has directed several PhD and other postgraduate research programmes. A past and present member of national and international committees and Mycological Societies, a member of 8 editorial boards, Professor Mackenzie has a long association with the BSM as convenor, member or chairman of several BSM working parties and as Secretary 1979-82. A guest speaker at over 30 international scientific meetings Professor Mackenzie is a prolific author with 130 scientific papers, 8 textbook chapters, 2 monographs, 10 review articles and 2 books to his credit. With his 3 year term of office as President of ISHAM now ending we welcome Professor Mackenzie as our President in safe knowledge that our Society is in capable and expert hands for the next 3 years.
ANNUAL MEETINGS

Bath 1991: The Annual Meeting was held at the University of Bath 8-10th April 1991 and included a one day symposium on 'Fungal Infections in the 1990's. We thank the speakers Professor J. Graybill, Dr. M.J. Wood, Dr. A.G. Prentice, and Professor R. Hay for their contributions.

It was felt that the success of the symposium points the way to future organisation of Annual Meetings and the 'theme' for the 1992 meeting symposium has been agreed. The number of registered delegates was 130, including 21 for the one-day symposium; 120 were resident.

The Executive Committee thanks Dr. Elizabeth Johnson and her colleagues for their endeavours in organising such a successful meeting.

1992 Annual Meeting

The meeting for 1992 will be held at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College near Egham in Surrey from 13th to 15th April, which is in the week preceding Easter. The local organiser is Dr. Gillian Midgley of St. John's Hospital, Eltham Park, London SE1 7EH.

The college, part of the University of London, occupies a 100 acre site on the summit of Edge Hill. It was founded by the philanthropist, Thomas Holloway, and opened by Queen Victoria in 1866. The distinctive, ornate original building was based on the Chateau of Chambord in the Loire and, although more modern developments have been added in recent years, the accommodation for delegates will be in the original Founders Building in recently updated single rooms provided with wash basins. The scientific meeting will nevertheless take place in a modern tiered lecture theatre a short walk from the main building. There will also be facilities for posters or trade displays.

The annual dinner on Tuesday 14th April will be held in the Picture Gallery of the College, an impressive hall which houses a notable collection of 19th century paintings.

The college, situated on a hill above Runnymede is four miles from the town of Windsor. The edge of Windsor Great Park is only 600 yards from the college gates. Windsor Safari Park, the Savill Garden and the historic buildings of Windsor Castle, St. George's Chapel and Eton Gate are some of the many attractions which may persuade delegates to stay a little longer in the area. Details of tourist accommodation will be given in later communications.

Travel to the college is very straightforward as it is on the A30 and two miles from the M25. There is a regular train service to Egham from Waterloo and a bus or taxi communication from Heathrow which is eight miles away.

We do hope you will be able to attend the 1992 meeting of the Society and very much look forward to welcoming you at the college next April.

The symposium for this meeting will be on 'Diagnosis of Opportunistic Fungal Infections'. Four speakers will be invited to participate, on the various aspects of diagnosis.

G.M.

1993 Annual Meeting, 4-7th April, Owen's Park, University of Manchester. Local organiser: Dr. M. Roberts, The Skin Hospital, Chapel St. Salford, M60 9EP.

1994 Annual Meeting, 28-30 March, Chester College, Chester. Local organiser: Dr. P. Hunter, Chester City Hospital, Hoole Lane, Chester CH2 3EG.

1995 Annual Meeting: volunteers to be approached.

Whilst 'old hands' at the BSM need no reassurance of the excellent company, piano playing, singing (and science) at the Annual Meeting, the following was subscribed after a first BSM.

Thoughts from a first BSM meeting

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the University of Bath, 8-10th April 1991. This occasion was tinged with a certain degree of apprehension and yet it was not only was it my first BSM meeting, I was also giving my first presentation. Any such thoughts however were immediately dispelled upon my arrival due to the friendly nature of the members of this Society.

The scientific programme covered a wide range of topics, with papers being both interesting and well-presented. A one-day Symposium on 'Fungal Infections in the 90's' was included as part of the Annual Meeting. The Ian Murray Memorial Lecture was given by Professor John Graybill from the University of Texas on the changing spectrum of fungal infections in the USA. His presentation proved to be extremely memorable due to both the scientific content and also the entertaining manner in which it was presented.

The social events of the Meeting were also to be remembered. A guided tour of the Roman Baths followed by an elegant buffet reception in the Pump Room were most enjoyable. The Annual Dinner was held in the splendid setting of the Senior Common Room of the University and it here that we learned of the retirement of Dr. Roland Davies as President. He was thanked for his years of valuable service and our new President, Professor Donald Mackenzie was welcomed.

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson and her colleagues are to be congratulated on the smooth running of such a superb meeting.

All that remains to be said is that after my first experience of a BSM meeting, I eagerly await the next!

C.M.
REPORTS FROM THE XI ISHAM CONGRESS MONTREAL JUNE 1991

It is very hard to select a 'highlight' from what was a very enjoyable meeting. I found the majority of the papers interesting, informative and well presented and there were more than 400 posters covering the whole spectrum of mycology.

However if I had to pin-point a lecture that I particularly enjoyed, it would be the IUMS Special Lectures on Mycotoxins given by Dr. R.A. Samson from the Netherlands. He gave an enlightening and entertaining account of these poisonous and carcinogenic metabolites of moulds and their economic and political ramifications throughout the world.

It appears that in Europe we are relatively well protected from primary mycotoxicosis, surprisingly European regulations stipulate lower permitted aflatoxins in imported foodstuffs than those of the USA, but there may still be a risk from secondary mycotoxicosis via animal products. Rejection of contaminated cargoes may however have devastating consequences for Third World countries the economics of which may be dependant on crop exports.

It seems that we should not underestimate the significance of moulds in indoor environments on wallpapers, carpets, window frames etc. and a possible link with headaches, red eyes and vomiting (over-indulgence at the banquet could have produced similar symptoms!). This echoed the sentiments of earlier speakers in a symposium on the Ecology of Fungi in Human Dwellings who had discussed types III allergies to fungi found in damp houses.

More sinister is the putative role of mycotoxins in chemical warfare. Was the agonizing 'yellow rain' experienced in Cambodia, Fusarium toxin? Such are the obscurring tactics of Superpower politics this is controversial.

Dr. Samson concluded by stressing the dangers for workers in this important area of applied mycology and dedicated the lecture to Professor Krogh who died from kidney cancer after years of working with ochratoxin, a nephrotic metabolite from Aspergillus ochraceus.

E.M.J.

This ISHAM congress was the largest (more than 800 delegates) and by common consensus one of the best of the eleven meetings held to date. The venue, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, was ideally suited to the size of the meeting, allowing all the sessions to take place in close proximity and the delegates to mingle and discuss the various presentations in comfortable and relaxed surroundings.

From an entirely personal perspective some of the most exiting developments were in the application of molecular technologies to the studies of medically important fungi. I have therefore selected two papers in this area to highlight how these techniques are leading to significant advances in both fundamental and applied aspects of the biology of Candida albicans. whose analysis by such methods has until recently been recalcitrant in the extreme.

Candida stellatoidea is thought to be a mutant variant of C. albicans that has lost the ability to assimilate sucrose. Rosemary Kelly showed that this trait is due to the lack of sucrose-inducible alpha-glucosidase. Kelly presented an elegant study of the cloning and analysis of a regulatory gene of C. albicans, CASUC1 that has a zinc-finger DNA binding motif and which regulates the expression of the alpha-glucosidase gene. This is the first such regulatory gene to be characterized in this organism. The gene was cloned by complementing a homologous mutation in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. The function of the gene was investigated further by knocking-out CASUC1 by gene disruption and characterising the resulting phenotype. The methodologies that have been pioneered by Dr. Kelly and others pave the way for the analysis of many other structural and regulatory genes of Candida. The analysis of sequences of DNA that are repeated many times in the genome of C. albicans are producing important new insights into the epidemiology of candidiasis. Such highly repetitive sequences have been described by David Stephens, David Soll, Tim Lott and others and several papers were presented in this area. The main interest in repetitive sequences such as CA2 (also called 274A), has been in using restriction enzymes to produce strain-specific DNA fingerprints. David Soll showed the power and potential of this type of of gene probing and presented data from an extensive analysis of strains isolated from different anatomical sites from women resident in the Iowa area. The results showed that an individual could harbour one, two or several strains of C. albicans and that certain strains had a propensity for certain carriage sites. For example vaginotropic and oral trophic strains were demonstrated most convincingly. The data depict a dynamic relationship between fungus and host with certain strains being selected at a given site or evolving at that site by a process of phenotypic switching. The overall picture emphasizes that candidiasis is the result of a complex interaction in which the host and the fungus co-evolve in response to one another's presence and according to the particular niche. We look forward to future studies of this kind that are certain to generate new interests into the nature of how carriage is affected by immunosuppression and on the aetiology of systemic candidiasis.

N.A.R.G.
The XI Congress of ISHAM offered a very varied programme which ranged from molecular genetics of Candida to the epidemiology of pathogenic fungi in indoor soils. The subject of special interest to me, and one on which a large number of presentations was made, was that of fungal proteinases, especially those data presented on Aspergillus.

A paper by Steele et al., was concerned with proteinase gene identification in A. flavus. Nucleotide sequence analysis of the A. flavus polymerase chain reaction product revealed 100% identity with the known sequence of A. oryzae alkaline proteinase. Partial identity of a secretory alkaline proteinase of A. fumigatus with that of A. oryzae has been noted elsewhere and emphasises the highly conserved regions which exist in this family of hydrolytic molecules.

In a separate study, Monod et al. analysed the alkaline proteinases of A. fumigatus and A. flavus obtained with collagen as inducible substrate. These authors also showed, using biochemical techniques, that the enzymes in these two species are closely-related, non-glycosylated serine proteinases.

In contrast, an intracellular proteinase which has been characterised as a metalloenzyme has been described by Ibrahim-Granet et al. The authors have used relatively novel methods for the purification of this enzyme including chromatography on immobilized cyclic antibiotics and immobilized polyethylene oxides.

V.H.

The meeting showed evidence of an increased awareness and interest in environmental mycology, with two symposia (of 29) devoted to this area.

The first, an ecology of fungi in human dwellings, dealt with the occurrence of moulds in relation to indoor plant culture, and showed a great difference between mycoflora of soils in plant pots, (where 60% of the species isolated had water-tolerated spores) and the air of the same room which contained 99.3% of species characterised by dry-spores (R. Summerwell).

Dr. R. Dales reported on a survey of the symptoms of people living in damp homes and warned of the correlation between anxiety levels due to other causes and the awareness of moulds.

Dr. Nolard then described a fascinating study of the correlation of mycological studies in damp houses with the immunological responses in the occupants. The second symposium was more general, and dealt on environmental mycology and its importance to Public Health. The subject of disease via food analysis seems to be undergoing a surprising return to prominence after years of being a relatively unpopular area.

C.K.C.

On the 24th June (Fete de St Jean Baptiste: Quebec's national day) 500,000 people marched through the Canadian city of Montreal in celebration of their French origins. Not known to the majority of these revellers was the fact that their city was being invaded by 800+ mycologists from around the world who were gathering to participate in the XI congress of ISHAM held in the Hotel Reine Elizabeth between 24th and 28th of June.

The scientific component of the meeting was opened by Professor D.W.R. Mackenzie who gave us an insight into how mycological research has changed over the last few decades. This was followed by 29 symposia on topics as diverse as fungal infections in man and animals, AIDS, molecular biology of fungi, antifungal therapy, epidemiology, taxonomy, host defences and pathogenicity, serological diagnosis and veterinary mycology. There were also four well supported poster sessions on related topics. In addition, Rob Samson gave the IUMS special lecture on mycotoxins; so we now know what we always assumed --- it's not safe to eat anything!

There was also a full social programme which started with a jazz evening and buffet at the University of Montreal where six mycologists (Libero Ajello, Edouard Drouhet, Julius Kane, Donald Mackenzie, Hideoki Ogawa and Angela Restrepo) were awarded medals by the Canadian Society for Medical Mycology. This was followed by a sunset cruise on the St. Lawrence river (surprisingly none of the BSM contingent got wet!) and a gala banquet under canvas at the circus where the whole act was upstaged by a German mycologist (Professor Sileger) wearing a sock on one toe and his hair (singular) in a bouffant. What a professional! none put him off his bell-ringing.

In brief this was an excellent meeting, very well organised by Louis de Repentigny and colleagues, in a beautiful city and afforded an excellent opportunity to renew friendships and start new ones with mycologists from all around the world. I am already looking forward to Adelaide in 1994.

K.A.M.

ISHAM Membership

ISHAM - International Society for Human and Animal Mycology is encouraging members of constituent national Societies, including the BSM to apply for membership. Reports of the last ISHAM meeting in Montreal, June 1991 show the value of membership to workers in the Medical Mycological sphere.

Membership is $30 p.a. and increases to $40 next year; this subscription includes issues of Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology - a must for all those involved in Medical Mycology.

Membership forms can be obtained from Dr. E.G.V. Evans, Editor J. Med. Vet. Mycol., Regional Mycological Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT; the BSM Secretary, Dr. J.H. Emmerson, or Dr. D. Richards, Vice President ISHAM, Medical Mycology Unit, 56 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G11 6NU.
SYMPOSIA AND COURSES

BSM one-day Symposium on:--
'Trends in the management of fungal infections'
Friday 25 October 1991 at
the Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue, London.
Booking forms are enclosed. Please send
to Mrs Frances Knight at CPHL.
Look forward to seeing you there!

The Biological Council's 7th Annual
Symposium on Biotechnology:--
'DNA fingerprinting/Profiling'
Thursday/Friday 12/13 December 1991 at
the University College and Middlesex
School of Medicine, Cleveland St. London.
The objective is to cover all aspects of DNA
Fingerprinting/Profiling, encompassing many different species of
organisms.
Registration fee £65, includes tea and
coffee only. Contact: - Mrs B.Cavilla,c/o
Institute of Biology, 20 Queensbury
Place, London SW7 2DZ.

BSM course on
'Diagnostic Mycology':--
A one week course commencing 30 March
1992 at Leeds. More details of the course
will appear in the Winter Newsletter,
otherwise contact the course organiser: -
Dr E.G.V.Evans, Regional Mycology
Laboratory, Department of Microbiology,
University of Leeds, LS2 9JT.

International Mycological Institute &
Mycological Reference Laboratory training
course
'Biology of Medically Important Fungi'
27 April to 22 May 1992.
Specialists from both organisations will
provide an intensive 4 week course on the
biology and systematics of filamentous
microfungi and their identification in
culture; lectures and practicals.
Course fee £1200 excluding accommodation,
meals and travel. Contact: - Miss J.Pryse,
International Mycological Institute,
Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey TW9 3AF.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

The Executive Committee expresses thanks
to Dr.R.R.Davies and Dr.M.D.Richardson,
(retiring President and Secretary
respectively) for their valuable service
to the Society over the last three years.
Congratulations also to Dr.Richardson in
his new role as Vice-President of ISHAM.

SOCIETY MEMBERS

New Members

MISS ARLENE BUCHAN
Dept.Molecular & Cellular Biology,
Marischal College, Uni. of Aberdeen.

DR.D.COLEMAN
Dept. Microbiology, Moyne Institute, Uni.
of Dublin

DR.EILEEN INGHAM
Dept. Immunology, General Infirmary Leeds

DR.WANDA ROBES
St.John's Dermatology Centre,
St.Thomas's Hospital, London

DR.J. RODRIGUEZ-TUDELA
Mycology Dept.,National Centre for
Microbiology, Madrid

Members resigned

DR.BRIDGET FOLEY
St. Finbar's Hospital, Cork, Eire.

DR.JANET SAY
Auckland Hospital, New Zealand.

Membership now:--
U.K. Residents 149
Overseas 51

The Secretary is indebted to the
following for their contributions:--
Dr.C.K.Campbell
Dr.N.A.R.Gow
Dr.K.A.Haynes
Dr.V.Hearn
Dr.E.M.Johnson
Dr.G.Midgley
Miss C.Moore
Dr.C.M.Philpot
Participants in the XI ISHAM congress in Montreal this June were saddened to learn on the first morning of the unexpected death of Professor Smith Shadomy two days earlier. Shad, as he was known to his countless friends around the world, had long established himself as one of the leading experts in antifungal chemotherapy particularly with regard to laboratory tests. Both he and Jean Shadomy, graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles, where they married while still in graduate school. Shad joined the army and eventually came to Washington to the Walter Reed Army Institute. Jean joined Professor John Utz as his research assistant, and when Professor Utz moved to the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond, she continued to work for him in the Department of Medicine. For the last 25 years the names of Shad and Jean Shadomy have become established and very well known in the Medical Mycology world. It is impossible to speak of Shad without mentioning Jean, as their long partnership was a lively entity and a pleasure to their many friends. Both became full professors in their respective departments, a distinction unique in Medical Mycology.

During their MCV years, papers poured out, not just on antifungals, but on many other subjects (Cryptococcosis, Sporotrichosis among others) for their interests were wide ranging. Many former students will testify to the excellent grounding they received from the Shadomys in research. Both contributed fully to the teaching and research programmes of their departments. Shad's death is a great loss to Medical Mycology, and a deep loss to Jean, and to their children Barbara and Sean. The BSM will remember Smith Shadomy with affection; Shad was proud to be a member of the Society although in recent years lack of funding made it impossible for him to participate as fully as he would have wished. Our sympathy goes out to Jean, Barbara and Sean in their great loss.