

BSMM News

January 2011



Welcome

Happy New Year!

Anyone in the UK will have been taken aback by the early onset of extremely cold weather and an unusually early dumping of lots of snow in December! All the more reason to plan something enjoyable for the coming months, and what could be more fun than the Annual Meeting! This year the meeting is in Glasgow and the programme is listed inside to tempt you.

Sue Howell

Contents

The President's Column.....	1
BSMM Travel Grant Applications.....	2
Glyn Evans Awards.....	2
Vacancies on the BSMM Executive Committee.....	2
BSMM Annual Meeting, Glasgow 2011.....	3
Gilead Fellowship Programme 2010 Awards.....	5
Gilead Fellowship Programme 2011 applications.....	5
Notices.....	6
BSMM/UCL MSc/Diploma Course.....	7
Society of Biology news.....	7
Forthcoming meetings.....	7
Items for the next Newsletter.....	8
BSMM Membership.....	8

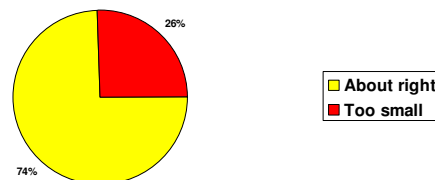
The President's Column

I am writing this as Christmas approaches and most of the UK is covered with snow. There is plenty to think about and plenty to wish for and the New Year is conducive to much reflection.

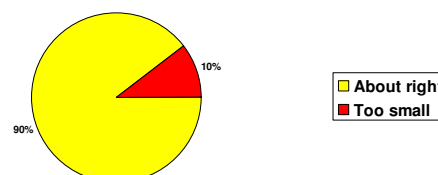
At the Society level, we have been contemplating the future direction of the BSMM and the membership questionnaire was conducted to gather the views of members as to whether any change is necessary. Thanks to everyone who returned their form. Unfortunately, despite Sue Howell's best efforts to remind people, the response has been disappointing. Forty completed forms represent just 12% of the membership. However, the results are fairly clear cut and, even though they may not be fully representative, it is possible that many did not participate because they are happy with the status quo and do not feel the need to change things.

I only want to highlight two types of responses – ones where members feel comfortable with the current state of the Society and ones where there is majority opinion for increased activity or new initiatives. The full analysis will be available for discussion at the AGM in April.

The Size Of The BSMM Membership Is:

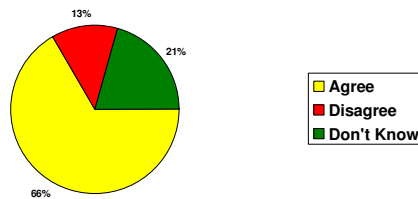


The Number Of Meetings Organised By The BSMM Is:

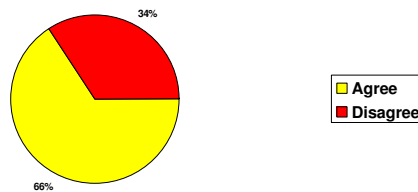


Participants felt that the Society is the right size and holds an appropriate number of meetings a year. This fits with my perception of the views of members over the years and with those of outside speakers who feel that its size and closeness are the reasons for its unique nature. One of the anonymous comments received in the questionnaire was pretty emphatic about this: "The BSMM is great! If it ain't broke don't fix it!"

The BSMM Should Publish More Guidelines



The BSMM Should Have An Academic Publication



However, the questionnaire reveals an enthusiasm for more guidelines. The BSMM has a good track record for these and remains responsive to the need for new ones (for example, the recently convened working party chaired by William Hope will provide guidance on therapeutic drug monitoring, of increasing relevance in our clinical practice). I think that the membership is in the best position to suggest new guideline initiatives – the BSMM should be able to provide resources for whichever worthy ones are proposed – so, please make your proposals at the AGM or in writing to any of us on the Executive Committee.

Two-thirds of the participants also felt that the BSMM should have an academic publication. There was a fair spread of opinion between a publication of the proceedings of the annual meeting, the “Mycology Year” and an academic journal.

Coincidentally, the ECMM has been offered the opportunity to take on “Mycoses” as its journal. This means that the affiliated societies of the ECMM (of which we are one), will be offered electronic access

subscription at a rate of €5 per member, to be collected by the individual societies. There is the facility to produce supplements, and so, if there is sufficient demand, we could conceivably publish abstracts, reports and commentaries from the annual meeting, if we wished. Hence this might be the most cost-effective way of having our own journal and there is enthusiasm from the other affiliated societies for this. We shall discuss this further at the AGM.

By the time this is published, Christmas will have gone and we may even have recovered from our New Year’s celebrations, but I would still like to send you my best wishes for next year and hope that, despite the many uncertainties in academia and the health service, it will be a good one.

Chris Kibbler

BSMM Travel Grant Applications

In order to make the application process and notification of results more efficient the Executive Committee will review Travel Grant applications every two months for the coming year. The deadlines for receipt of applications are: 31/01/11, 30/03/11, 30/05/11, 30/07/11, 30/09/11, 30/11/11. The criteria for eligibility and purpose of the award can be found on the BSMM website along with the application form. If you are planning to attend a meeting why not apply for some travel funds.

Glyn Evans Award

The Society recognized the huge contribution Prof Glyn Evans made to the BSMM and mycology by providing an award to members to provide financial support to visit another laboratory for a period of training, usually to learn a specific technique. The Award contributes towards the costs of travel, accommodation and directly related expenses.

There are no set application deadlines for this award. And applications may be submitted for consideration at any time. An award will not usually be made if the applicant has received a previous award (Travel Grant or Glyn Evans Award) less than three years before the application date.

Vacancies on the BSMM Executive Committee

At the AGM in Glasgow this year three committee places will become available for re-election. The positions up for election are currently held by Drs. Carol Munro, Richard Barton and Brian Jones. The term of



office is 3 years and the responsibilities and duties of elected committee members are:

- To attend the two executive committee meetings each year and be fully prepared to offer frank opinions on the matters under discussion
- To consider nominations for Society membership
- To consider nominations for Travel Grants and other awards
- To supply information to the Secretary and other members as requested
- To represent the Society and its interests

Dr Carol Munro will be stepping down from the Executive Committee but will remain as a non-voting member in her role as webmaster for the BSMM website. Carol has put an immense amount of hard work into developing the website which is the shop window to our members and to the rest of the world. At its last meeting the Executive Committee felt it was important to have direct discussion and feedback from the person that maintains the site, and invited Carol to remain as a non-voting member for this purpose.

Dr Richard Barton has volunteered to stand for a second term to continue leading the serology working party. Dr Brian Jones has been an executive committee member for two terms and will not be standing for re-election.

Anyone interested in standing for election please send in a nomination from two members of the Society, this may be by letter or email, with a brief outline from the person nominated about themselves and why they would like to be on the Executive Committee of the BSMM. Nominations should be received no later than 25th February 2011. One month before the AGM voting forms and details of the members standing for election will be sent to all members, and the result will be announced at the AGM.

BSMM Annual Meeting Glasgow 2011

BSMM 2010 PROGRAMME (APRIL 17th – 19th, 2011)

All sessions will take place in the Botanic Suite of the Hilton Grosvenor, Glasgow

SUNDAY 17th April 2011

13:00 – 16:00 Executive committee meeting

14:00 – 18:00 Registration

18:00 – 19:00 Food and Refreshments

19:00 – 20:30 TBC

20:30 – 22:00 POSTER session

MONDAY 18th April 2011

Session 1: Clinical mycology (Chair: Rosemary Barnes)

08:45 Footprinting about with *T. rubrum* PCR: have we nailed it?

Gillian Shankland (Specialist Mycology Laboratory, Glasgow, UK)

09:15 *Aspergillus* infections: clinical aspects and recent research discoveries *David Denning (University of Manchester, UK)*

09:45 Offered paper

10:00 Offered paper

10:15 Offered paper

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

Session 2: Fungal cell wall, morphogenesis and pathogenicity (Chair: Gary Moran)

11:00 Fungal cell wall structure and surface moieties involved in adhesion

Piet De Groot (University of Castilla, Spain)

11:30 Yeast vs hyphae: roles in *Candida* virulence
Bernhard Hube (Hans Knoell Institute Jena, Germany)

12:00 Offered paper

12:15 Offered paper

12:30 Offered paper

12:45 – 14:00 LUNCH and poster viewing

Session 3: Host responses to fungal pathogens (Chair: David Moyes)

14:00 *Pneumocystis* respiratory infection and innate responses

Andrew Limper (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, USA)

14:25 Predisposition to chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis and APECED

Desa Lilic (Newcastle University, UK)

14:50 Role of the inflammasome in fungal infections
Jurgen Ruland (German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany)

15:15 Offered paper

15:30 Offered paper

15:45 – 16:15 Coffee

Session 4: Foundation Lecture and Civic Reception

16:15 Mycological stealth - the fungus strikes back *Rod Hay (International Foundation for Dermatology, London)*

17:15 BSMM AGM or POSTER viewing

18:30 Civic reception

20:00 BSMM Annual Dinner and Sing Song!

TUESDAY 19th April 2011

Session 5: Experimental models and translational medicine (Chair: Donna MacCallum)

08:45 Pros and cons of using experimental models to study *Candida* pathogenesis
Paul Fidel (Louisiana State University, New Orleans, USA)

09:10 Role of IL-17 and IL-22 in fungal infection and translational medicine *Teresa Zelante (University of Perugia, Italy)*

09:35 *Malassezia* and atopic eczema *Annika Scheynius (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden)*

10:00 Offered paper

10:15 Offered paper

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

Session 6: BSMM PhD student prize presentations (Chair: Carol Munro)

11:00 Offered paper

11:15 Offered paper

11:30 Offered paper

11:45 Offered paper

12:00 Offered paper

12:15 Offered paper

12:30 PRIZE AWARD: Best Poster Presentation for PhD students

12:45 – 14:00 LUNCH

END OF PROCEEDINGS

Just to remind you of the local attractions of Glasgow:



Ashton Lane



Botanic Gardens, Glasgow

The 2010 Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme (GUKIFP)

As you will be aware the Fellowship Programme launched on 10th December 2009 and closed for applications on March 31st 2010. The specific aim of the programme is to support the development, exploration and dissemination of best practice which enhances patient care in the areas of HIV, Chronic Hepatitis B (cHBV) and Invasive Fungal Disease.

In total we received 149 enquiries regarding the Fellowship Programme and received 83 completed applications. As a result, the Grants Review Committee have awarded 31 grants totalling over £798,000 to applicants whose proposals best demonstrated a plan to deliver:-

1. Targeted, locally based initiatives, in high prevalence areas that increase HIV diagnosis and linkage into care.
2. Broader, regional based initiatives which aim to replicate proven and effective, HIV diagnosis programmes across a clinical network by utilising existing linkages to care.
3. Targeted, locally based initiatives, in high prevalence areas, that increase cHBV diagnosis and linkage into care.
4. Audit programmes to determine the optimal treatment pathways for patients with Invasive Fungal Disease.

We are delighted by the response to this years programme and were genuinely impressed by the variety of projects submitted for funding in Invasive Fungal Disease, HIV and cHBV. Applications came from a broad range of colleagues, from community based organisations, Primary Care Trusts, charitable organisations as well as those based in secondary care. Many projects were supported by a collaboration of organisations in a local area. We also received a number of applications for projects that aimed to increase diagnosis of both HIV and HBV.

As part of the ongoing commitment to the programme, all projects will be completed by March 2011 in time for the second annual Best Practice Sharing Event to be held in May 2011 where the grant awardees will communicate the learnings from each of their initiatives. This will create the potential for successes to be replicated broadly in other parts of the country with the aim of benefitting even more people living with HIV, cHBV or Invasive Fungal Disease. As such, Gilead is proud to support scientific, educational and charitable activities that can really improve the lives of patients. Details of the best sharing practice event will be sent to you nearer the time.

The 2011 Fellowship Programme will be launched in December 2010. It is anticipated that the process and

timelines for applications for the 2011 programme will be similar to the 2010 programme – opening in early December 2010 with a deadline of the end of March 2011. More information on the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme is available by contacting us at fellowshipprogramme@gilead.com.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Bright

General Manager
Gilead Sciences Ltd (UK and Ireland)
On behalf of the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Grant Review Committee

Successful Applications for Invasive Fungal Disease

Professor Samir Agrawal, Barts and the London NHS Trust/Queen Mary University of London
A prospective audit of invasive fungal disease (IFD) among immuno-compromised patients in a haemato-oncology environment, to provide a real-time complete infective picture that can be used for rational decision making, thereby improving treatment pathways and patient

Dr Paul T Heath, St Georges University of London.
neoFUNGAL: Invasive fungal infections in NeonIN.

Dr Elaine McCulloch, Royal Hospital for Sick Children.
Fungal ecology of patients with chronic respiratory disease.

Dr Katy Rezvani, Hammersmith Hospital
Scoring criteria for fungal infections in haematological malignancies

Dr W S Tuncliffe, University Hospital Birmingham
The epidemiology of fungal infection and its management in injured military personnel treated at UHB from 2007 to date

Gilead Fellowship Programme 2011 – applications invited

Following the launch of the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme (GUKIFP) in 2009, and a successful Programme in 2010, we are pleased to provide details for the 2011 Fellowship Programme, which aims to provide grants amounting to £550,000. In 2010 the Fellowship review committee awarded 31 grants amounting to £780,000 across three disease areas – HIV, invasive fungal disease (IFD) and chronic hepatitis B (cHBV) to applicants throughout the

UK and Ireland whose projects represented a broad range of initiatives in a variety of settings from Newcastle to Brighton. The committee were genuinely impressed by the diversity and coverage of projects submitted for funding in 2010 and subsequently, the lessons learnt from the successful applications will be shared at a Best Practice Sharing Event to be held at The King's Fund in London on 19th May 2011. Further details of this event can be obtained by contacting the Fellowship co-ordinator at fellowshipprogramme@gilead.com, or by visiting the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme website at www.ukifellowshipprogramme.com.

The website also provides further information about the Fellowship Programme, including video footage of project presentations by successful grant applicants and a speech by Lord Fowler, who was a guest speaker at the BPSE held in May 2010 at The King's Fund.

The aims of the Fellowship Programme are to support the development, exploration and dissemination of best practice which enhances patient care in the specific disease areas of HIV, IFD and cHBV. Financial grants amounting up to £550,000 will be awarded to individual organisations or groups of healthcare providers within a locality whose proposals best demonstrate a plan to deliver:

1. Targeted, locally based initiatives which use proven methods of detection to increase HIV diagnosis and linkage into care in high prevalence areas.

£350,000 will be available and this is expected to fund 10–14 projects

2. Targeted, locally based initiatives using dry blood spot testing as the method of detection to increase chronic hepatitis B diagnosis and linkage into care in high prevalence areas.

£120,000 will be available and this is expected to fund 6–8 projects

3. Projects for improving the journey of patients with invasive fungal disease through changes to practice and service delivery both inside and outside of the hospital setting.

£80,000 will be available and this is expected to fund 4–6 projects

Clear criteria upon which grant requests will be assessed have been established as we expect this to be a highly competitive process for funding – as it has been in previous years. Applications will be accepted from 13th December 2010 – 31st March 2011 and we anticipate awards being made by the end of April 2011.

The funding awarded is contingent on projects being completed by March 2012.

In order to facilitate the sharing of best practice, Gilead Sciences Ltd will again be hosting an event in the second quarter of 2012 at which the award recipients will be invited to present the learnings gained from their project with other grant recipients and interested colleagues. Gilead is committed to supporting local initiatives which ultimately improve patient care and we look forward to receiving completed applications over the next few months. For more information on The Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme, for details of how to apply and the assessment criteria, please contact us at fellowshipprogramme@gilead.com, or visit www.ukifellowshipprogramme.com.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Bright (General Manager) and Dr Cham Herath (Medical Director)

Gilead Sciences Ltd, UK and Ireland Gilead Sciences Ltd, UK and Ireland

Notices, useful information bites.....

A new user-friendly phylogenetic program is being developed by Thasso Griebel in Jena, Germany, Epos, a tool for phylogenetic analysis from ground up. Included is an embedded database that allows data storage and management, including raw sequences, alignments, distance matrices and trees. A multitude of algorithms is supported, for example, ClustalW and Muscle for multiple sequence alignments, RaxML and Paup for tree construction as well as various consensus and supertree methods. The Epos user interfaces allows you to view and edit your data, and execute the algorithms either locally or on a remote cluster. The Software provides a tree comparator for visual comparison, script support, Blast integration and a way to automatically install external programs (i.e. ClustalW). Epos is Open Source and runs on all major Platforms (Windows/Mac OS/Linux). You may download the latest version from <http://bio.informatik.uni-jena.de/epos/>.

A new sequence-based identification tool has been put online by the Molecular Research Laboratory in Sydney, Australia, see <http://www.mycologylab.org/BioloMICSSequences.aspx>. This database uses ITS barcodes and particularly focuses on medically important fungi. Sequences deposited are validated by type-strains and therefore provide more reliable identification of less-known fungi than GenBank. This adds to similar databases made available by CBS <http://www.cbs.knaw.nl/databases/>, or focusing on special groups such as Trichoderma <http://www.isth.info/tools/molkey/index.php?do=unset>

or Fusarium

<http://board.fusariumdb.org/board2.php?a=dv&nu=42&id=2>.

The Dermatophyte Genome Steering Committee, the Broad Institute and the Hans Knoell Institute are pleased to announce that the sequencing and annotation of **seven dermatophyte genomes** is complete and can be accessed at the Dermatophyte Comparative Database: http://www.broadinstitute.org/annotation/genome/dermatophyte_comparative/MultiHome.html. The seven sequenced genomes include *Trichophyton rubrum*, *T. tonsurans*, *T. equinum*, *T. verrucosum*, *Microsporum canis*, *M. gypseum* and *Arthoderma benhamiae*. If you are interested in contributing to the biological analyses of these genome sequences, please contact Ted White at ted.white@sbri.org for details.

A new book on ***Candida albicans* methods and protocols** has appeared, edited by Cihlar & Calderone. For information on this very useful publication, see <http://www.springerprotocols.com/BookToc/doi/10.1007/978-1-60327-151-6>.

UKCM BSMM/UCL MSc/ Diploma Course

The BSMM/University College London MSc/Diploma Course in Medical Mycology Applications are invited for this unique distance learning based course. The programme is based at University College London and run jointly by UCL and the BSMM. Teaching is provided by the leading UK experts in mycology, by means of DVDs, web-based materials and practical courses, and includes a research project conducted at the student's home institution.

A bursary may be available from the British Society for Medical Mycology to support the costs of this course. Details are available on the BSMM website.

Places are limited, so if you wish to find out more please contact Anne Dickens, the course administrator at a.dickens@medsch.ucl.ac.uk as soon as possible to register your interest. Further details may also be found on the BSMM website at www.BSMM.org

Society of Biology news

January 2011 Treasury respond to Society's letter on the CSR

In the run up to October's spending review, the Society wrote to the Treasury as part of a suite of activities to highlight the value of science research and to make the

case for continued investment in research and training. We have received a reply from the Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury who described the maintenance of the BIS science budget at £4.6bn as "an excellent outcome for the science community" alongside focus on health and capital support for the Diamond Synchrotron, Pirbright and the UKCMRI. He went on to comment that the Higher Education Innovation Fund will be reformed to incentivise universities to increase commercial interaction between research and industry, and that details of this will be released in due course as will details of HEFCE QR funding.

The Society is continuing to raise concerns about the impact of government departmental budget restrictions on the commissioning of research and about challenges in the provision of good practical teaching among other matters.

Forthcoming meetings

Gordon Conference on Immunology Of Fungal Infections, January 16-21, 2011, Galveston, Texas.

Royal Microscopical Society, Belfast 27-28 January 2011, www.rms.org.uk

The Middle East Yeast Workshop 'Molecular Diagnostics and Treatment' in Doha, Qatar, 16-18 February 2011 <http://www.hmc.org.qa/yeast/uc.htm>

The website of the workshop "The dynamics of zygomycete research in a changing world" is now open with preliminary program and registration data. The workshop is organised in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 3-5 March, 2011. There is no registration fee <http://www.zygomycota.eu/index.html>

PAMMS (Pan-African Medical Mycology Society) will be held in Assiut, Egypt, March 5 and 6, 2011. The conference will be followed by a practical workshop on medical mycology, to be held 7-9 March, 2011

BioImaging: Illumination of Disease Conference, the EBSD Meeting in Dusseldorf from 28 – 29 March 2011, www.rms.org.uk

SGM Spring 2011 Meeting, Harrogate International Centre, 11-14 April 2011

The 8th International Conference on **Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis** will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.A., 1 – 5 May, 2011. <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/iccc>

The 4th FEBS Advanced Lecture Course “**Human Pathogens: Molecular Mechanisms of Host-Pathogen Interactions and Virulence**” will be held in La Colle sur Loup, France, 7-13 may, 2011
<http://www.hfp2011.fraunhofer.de/> .

4th FEMS Congress of European Microbiologists will be organised in Geneva, Switzerland, 26-30 June, 2011
<http://www2.kenes.com/fems2011/sci/Pages/SymposiaandWorkshops.aspx>

The International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) will organize next congress in Sapporo, Japan, September 2011. The bacteriology and mycology sessions will be 6-11 September
<http://www.congre.co.jp/iums2011sapporo/data/general.html>

The European Microscopy Congress at Manchester Central on 16 – 21 September, www.rms.org.uk

The 5th Trends in Medical Mycology (TIMM) will take place in the Valencia Conference Centre, Valencia, Spain, 2-5 October 2011. www.TIMM2011.org.

Host-fungal interactions: pathogenicity versus immunity. EuroSciCon, BioPark Hertfordshire, Welwyn Garden City, 21 October 2011

The 12th Western Pacific Congress on Chemotherapy and Infectious Diseases entitled “**New Pathogens New Challenges**” will be held in Singapore, 2-5 December, 2010. For information and registration, see the website <http://www.wpcid2010.org/>.

Links to Societies and webpages of interest:
http://www.rms.org.uk/events/Forthcoming_Events for events sponsored by the Royal Microscopical Society

Items for the next BSMM newsletter

If you have any ideas, reviewed a mycology book, or come across something that would be of interest to our community, and that would be suitable for publication in the BSMM Newsletter please email Sue at susan.howell@kcl.ac.uk

BSMM membership

Currently the Society has 331 members. There are 250 UK members and 77 overseas members, including 28 honorary and two life members

The Society would like to ensure that it acknowledges the contributions of its members and welcomes nominations for life and honorary membership. Life and honorary members have all the privileges of ordinary membership but are exempt from paying any annual subscription charges. The Constitution states that “Members of at least 10 years standing, who have retired from active practice, shall be eligible to become life members. Members who have made a notable contribution to medical or veterinary mycology and/or to the work of the Society, shall be eligible for nomination to honorary membership.”

A member can be nominated for either life or honorary membership by the Committee or by two members, as long as the nomination is received by the General Secretary two months before the AGM. The award of life or honorary membership is then voted upon at the AGM.

Since the last newsletter the Society would like to welcome the following members:

Celine O’Gorman (Bochum)

Shaun Robertson (Aberdeen)

Rhiannon Pursall (Birmingham)

Ali Robb (Newcastle upon Tyne)

David Moyes (London)

Silvia Wehmeier (Aberdeen)

Sophie Clarke (Exeter)