



## President's Column

The first third of each calendar year always seems to be rife with BSMM-related activities. The course in diagnostic medical mycology takes place in a couple of months, swiftly followed by our annual meeting. In March the American Society for Microbiology holds its triennial specialized meeting on *Candida* and *Candida* infections; this year it takes place in Austin, Texas. Two young postgraduates will be attending this meeting, supported by BSMM travel awards.

Chris Kibbler deserves very special mention for his tireless activities on behalf of the Society in setting up the BSMM-sponsored Diploma Course in medical mycology. I have to admit that when I first heard about the plans for this venture I had serious doubts whether we could ever attract sufficient academic co-sponsorship and financial support to make it work. But Dr Kibbler has put enormous effort into driving the course ahead. We have obtained all the necessary academic credentials, we have received generous sponsorship from our colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry, and we are now in the final stages of preparing course materials in order to launch the course before the end of this calendar year.

I hope to see you all at our annual meeting. The emphasis this year will be a little more clinical than at some recent meetings, but that is — in my view — a very positive thing. The eminent clinical geneticist, Robin Winter, died recently. He once wryly observed that, although many human malformation syndromes were the result of mutations in particular genes, the clinicians who diagnosed and treated the diseases had never heard the names of the genes, and the scientists who studied and named the genes had never heard of the diseases. One of my oft-repeated themes is that I fear we are watching a similar rift appear between the scientists who study fungal pathogens at the molecular level and the clinicians who manage patients with mycoses. It was at the BSMM that I first learned how fascinating the interface between medicine and basic science can be; so please come to Bradford even if you think only molecular genetic work is of interest to you.

### BSMM SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription fee for the BSMM has increased to £20 this year. If you haven't already, please fill in a standing order form and return it to the Treasurer as soon as possible to ensure your continued membership.

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Certainly, our Foundation Lecturer, Jack Bennett, is one of the biggest stars among clinical mycologists, and we should be grateful that he is prepared to travel to the UK just to talk at our meeting. We are also blessed with a talk from a second US clinical mycologist of great renown, John R. Graybill. Our other eminent speakers will include Geraldine Butler, Gordon Brown, Jean-Paul Latgé, John Rex and Tom Rogers. It is shaping up to be a great occasion, with Bradford offering its own special brand of culture and hospitality to give us a fine social experience as well.

Do check on the BSMM website ([www.bsmm.org](http://www.bsmm.org)) for updated news of the Society's activities.

**Frank Odds**

## **BSMM Annual Meeting 2004 - Bradford**

The 2004 Annual Scientific Meeting of the BSMM will be in Bradford University, on the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April (the weekend after Easter). The meeting will be on the University Campus, which is near the centre of Bradford, next to the Photographic Museum. On Sunday evening there will be a curry at Omar Khan's, along with registration. The Scientific sessions will start at 9.15 on Monday and run through to noon on Tuesday. Dinner and songs will be in the Richmond Building on Monday evening.

We have excellent invited speakers centred on the theme of interaction between fungi and the host. Thus the sessions will be focussed on The Clinic, The Host and The Fungus. There will be plenty of scope for offered papers (and space for posters). We are fortunate to have Jack Bennett from NIH, Bethesda as Foundation Lecturer.

A range of accommodation will be available, for as little as £15-20 per night

(book early!) as well as some more comfortable facilities.

For those who think Bradford is a grim northern town, it does have it's share of old mills, some of which are amazing buildings. The history of the woollen trade still has echoes now – soon after arriving in Bradford I saw my first case of cutaneous anthrax. The city centre includes the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television. To the north is the Victorian model industrial village of Saltaire, complete with the Hockney Gallery. There is plenty else to do, including visiting the Alhambra theatre and eating.... Countryside is near by, and you can walk on Ilkley Moor or in the steps of the Brontes.

Leeds-Bradford Airport ([www.lbia.co.uk](http://www.lbia.co.uk)) is close by, and there are train & bus stations in the very centre of the city.

The program and registration forms are enclosed with the newsletter and can also be downloaded from the BSMM website.

<http://www.visitbradford.com/index.asp>

<http://www.bradford.gov.uk>

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/external>

Further information can be obtained from

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**Paul McWhinney**

# “CLINICAL MYCOLOGY” AND “CLINICAL MYCOLOGY” !!

Clinical mycology textbooks don't get published very often, and yet in the last year we have seen 2 new books published. One, edited by Dismukes, Pappas and Sobel is published by Oxford University Press, and the other, edited by Anaissie, McGinnis and Pfaller is published by Churchill Livingstone. Both books are around £100 and seem to aim at similar markets, covering fungi and the diseases that they cause and then looking at infections in specific populations.

So what differences are there and which is the best book to buy?

“Clinical Mycology” (Anaissie *et al.*) is split into 4 sections, with the first one containing introductory chapters on epidemiology, pathogenesis, immunology, histopathology, radiology and antifungal therapy. The chapter on radiology, at 50 pages is particularly comprehensive and is well illustrated throughout with pictures. The second section contains the information about the fungi and this is perhaps the weakest section of the book. Although most fungi are covered, the detail in each chapter is limited. For example, the endemic mycoses are all covered in a single chapter. The third section of the book covers clinical syndromes and organ systems. This is a useful section, providing information about all the fungi likely to affect a particular group of patients or system in the body. However, it also means that there is significant duplication throughout the book. Endemic mycoses, for example, are covered in a chapter in the second section, then again in 7 of the 12 chapters in section 3. The final section has two chapters on “Geographic, Travel and Occupational Fungal Infections” and “Mycotoxins and Human Disease”.

Endemic mycoses feature again in this section.

So what of “Clinical Mycology” (Dismukes *et al.*) ? This book is split into 8 parts. The first part contains chapters on lab aspects of mycology and epidemiology of fungal infections. Part 2 contains 8 chapters on each of the major groups of antifungal agents. These chapters are very comprehensive and extensively referenced. They cover all the major drugs and give not only modes of action, pharmacokinetic data, safety and efficacy data as well as information about the drug indications. The next 5 parts (18 chapters) cover the diseases caused by yeasts, moulds, dimorphic fungi, then infections of skin and subcutaneous tissue and miscellaneous fungi. Each chapter looks at the causative organisms and then moves on to detail the pathogenesis, manifestations of disease, diagnosis and treatment. The last part of the book covers infections in special populations, including neutropenic patients, blood or marrow transplant recipients, solid organ transplant recipients and AIDS patients. As with the other book, this introduces some duplication of material.

So which is the most useful book? It depends on how you approach using the book. If you want to know about, for example, histoplasmosis, then the book by Dismukes *et al.* has all the information in one chapter, whereas the book by Anaissie *et al.* requires you to jump between sections. If, however, you want to know about infections of bones and joints, then you can refer straight to a chapter in Anaissie *et al.* As a clinician, I suspect the book by Anaissie *et al.* will be most useful, but as a mycologist, I find the book by Dismukes *et al.* the most useful – so it's a shame I bought the one by Anaissie!

**Ruth Ashbee**

# NOTICEBOARD

## BSMM Course in Diagnostic Medical Mycology 2004

The next BSMM course will take place between March 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Leeds. The course, which takes place in Leeds, is aimed at Biomedical Scientists, Microbiologists and Specialist Registrars in Microbiology or Infectious Disease. The course is always over-subscribed and it is advisable to book your place early. Places are reserved on payment of the course fee. To register your interest, please email the course organiser, Ruth Ashbee (Ruth.Ashbee@leedsth.nhs.uk).

**The course is now fully booked**

## BSMM Constitution and Membership List

The BSMM Constitution and membership list will be re-printed after the forthcoming meeting in Bradford. Your address will appear as it does on the label of this mailing – if you wish to change it, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible. If you use your personal address and do not wish this to appear in the membership list, then please inform the Secretary, by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## BSMM Travel Grants

BSMM Travel grants are awarded three times each year. The deadlines for submission of applications this year are June 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Application forms are available from the BSMM website ([www.bsmm.org](http://www.bsmm.org)).

## Forthcoming meetings

### **BSMM Annual Meeting, Bradford, April 18-20<sup>th</sup>**

Information on the BSMM Annual meeting in Bradford is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. Read the article on p2 for more information.

### **ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis, Texas, March 18-22<sup>nd</sup>**

Further information can be obtained from the American Society for Microbiology website ([www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org))

### **Focus on Fungal Infections 14, New Orleans, March 24-26<sup>th</sup>**

Further information can be obtained from the organisers website ([www.imedex.com](http://www.imedex.com))

### **ASM General Meeting, New Orleans, May 23-27<sup>th</sup>**

Further information can be obtained from the American Society for Microbiology website ([www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org))

### **10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology, Wroclaw, Poland June 17-20<sup>th</sup>**

Further information can be obtained from the website ([www.ECMM2004.org](http://www.ECMM2004.org))

Contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter should be submitted to the General Secretary (Ruth Ashbee, e-mail: [Ruth.Ashbee@leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:Ruth.Ashbee@leedsth.nhs.uk)).

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