

BSMM News

January 2007



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BSMM President's Address

Our society had a busy year in 2006. The annual meeting in Dublin was a resounding success with a fabulous array of internationally renowned speakers, so thank you to Elaine Bignell, Kevin Kavanagh, and the rest of the local team for all their efforts on our behalf. The BSMM bi-annual course in diagnostic mycology also took place in March. As always it was well received and another tranche of mycology enthusiasts were launched. Thanks, as ever, to Ruth Ashbee for her excellent organisational skills and cheerful willingness to undertake this. We also had a joint meeting with the Royal College of Pathologists in July at which the entire faculty was composed of BSMM members. The feedback from this has been very good.

The BSMM/UCL Diploma/MSc in Medical Mycology goes from strength to strength and now that the course has become well established in the UK the working party felt that it was time to offer it further afield. I have been in contact with the Presidents of both ISHAM and ECMM who applaud the efforts of so many members of the BSMM and have both agreed to advertise the course in their respective newsletters and on their websites. Jacques Meis even predicted '...the start of a new breed of European Medical Mycologists'. So many members of the BSMM should be proud of their involvement with this initiative that has truly been a society-wide undertaking but special thanks must go to the Programme Director Chris Kibbler.

Dick Hobson is the local organiser for this year's annual meeting in Leeds and he and Gary Moran (meetings secretary) have put together a stimulating programme of invited presentations. Now it is up to you to help fill in the gaps with offered papers. The selection committee is asking for brief abstracts to facilitate decisions in the event that there are too many offered papers and some have to be accepted as posters rather than oral presentations. We are particularly hoping to be able to include some offered case histories as well as scientific papers.

As many of you will have noticed the inaugural meeting of the UK Clinical Mycology Network (UKCMN) is to take place immediately following the BSMM meeting in

Leeds. One of our first joint endeavours was for Dick Hobson to open negotiations with the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) to attempt to get medical mycology recognised as a distinct specialty. Professor Stephen Gillespie, as part of the RCPATH 'Blue Skies Group', has written a paper in which he suggests that what have for many years been *de facto* sub-specialties should now be made *de jure*. Moreover, he recommends that as proposals for the recognition of medical mycology are already circulating through the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) and the College Advisory Training Team (CATT) that this be used as one of the test-bed sub-specialties. Great work Dick – we wish you well.

Carol Munro has undertaken to lead a group that has already sourced a web designer for the society's web presence and you can expect to see some exciting developments during 2007. Silke Schelenz, as chair of the BSMM working party on standards of care, has organised through the RCPATH audit office a national audit of the current standards published in 2003. We await the results with interest. I wrote to you all before Christmas detailing developments with the BSMM Fungal Infection Registry and can reassure you that this is also progressing well.

It is good to note that the Spring 2007 meeting of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) is focusing on current issues in the diagnosis and treatment of fungal infection. Our secretary has already circulated details of this meeting on 15th March. Many BSMM members have been asked to speak and there is a plan for a JAC supplement to come out following the meeting.

Finally, as you will notice from the above, Dick Hobson has been extremely busy and a decision was made at the last committee meeting to lighten the load of the secretary who in the past has been responsible for producing the newsletter. Sue Howell kindly volunteered to take on the role of committee member with a special responsibility for the newsletter so please help her by continuing to submit interesting articles, reports, photos etc.

I hope that all of you will have a very happy, healthy and fulfilling 2007.

Elizabeth Johnson



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Conference report: 2006
Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology meeting, Princeton University, NJ

This year the 2006 Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting took place in Princeton, New Jersey, USA in July. Thanks to the BSMM generously awarding a travel grant, I was not only given the opportunity to attend this fantastic meeting but also to present a poster on some of my research. This enabled me to have some extremely insightful discussions on my work with other members within the yeast community.

The conference took place over a period of 5 days, with each day being packed with various sessions and workshops. A wide range of topics was covered within this period ranging from recombination of DNA to bioinformatics analysis of large scale screens. Of particular enjoyment were the keynote talks given out throughout the conference by recipients of various awards. These included talks by Charles Boone who was presented with the Ira Herskowitz or as he referred to it as the “Mid-life crisis” award, Christine Guthrie (presented with the Winge-Lindgren Address) and Kim Nasmyth (presented with the Lee Hartwell lecture).

With over 60 investigators presenting their findings and over 500 posters being presented at the conference there was a lot to take in, in only 5 days! Although all the sessions were enjoyable, the sessions of particular interest to me were; Cell cycle; Kinase Regulated Cell Polarity; Cell and Nuclear Dynamics and Membrane based signalling, talks in these sessions focused in research which was closely related to my own interests.

A variety of workshops were held during the course of the conference and I found Pathogenic Yeast and Other Fungi (chaired by Gerry Fink) and Imaging (organised by Trisha Davis) to be of particular interest and use to me. The Pathogenic Yeast and Other fungi

session focused on other yeast species which could be used as a model organism, such as *Ashbya gossypii*, instead of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Aaron Mitchell also presented some recent data from his work involving the pathogen *Candida albicans* and its growth on biofilms during this session. The imaging session discussed a variety of new imaging strategies and techniques which have recently being developed and used for research purposes. It also gave hints and tips on imaging in general.

The conference winded down towards an end on the Saturday evening, when the conference dinner was held and Fred Sherman was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Later that evening everyone let their hair down and danced along to the music the band provided!

This was one of the best conferences I have ever attended, the talks were all excellent and it was a great opportunity to meet other people in the field from all over the world and talk about their work and interests. I’ve fully enjoyed myself and would once more like to take this opportunity to thank the BSMM for sponsoring me so enabling me to attend this fantastic conference.

Hsueh-lui Ho

BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting 2007

The 2007 BSMM Annual Meeting will be held at Devonshire Hall, in the University of Leeds, from 18th-20th March 2007. There will sessions on antifungal agents, epidemiology, antifungal immunity, and molecular mycology, including presentations by a number of top UK and international speakers. The 2007 BSMM Foundation Lecture will be delivered by Professor Neil Gow from Aberdeen, and the meeting will include a ISHAM-funded Glyn Evans Lecture, presented by Professor Ted White of the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute. Submission of offered papers and posters by BSMM members at all levels is encouraged, and these may include fungal case reports. The Annual Dinner will be held at the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds (www.thackraymuseum.org/), including the opportunity to roam the museum. For further information, please contact the Local Organiser (contact details below) or see the BSMM website (www.bsmm.org).

Dick Hobson, Local Organiser

BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting 2008

The 2008 BSMM Annual Meeting will be held in Norwich.

Silke Schelenz, Local Organiser

BSMM Website

The BSMM web site is in the process of getting a face lift. We would like to develop the web site further to make it an important resource for medical mycology, to raise the profile of the society and to make it an accessible forum for our members. The initial upgrade should be completed by Spring next year and we see the website's development continuing over time. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the society. If you are interested in getting involved in the development of the website please come along to the AGM in Leeds in March 2007. Carol Munro will be responsible for the maintenance of the new site and would like to hear from members what they would like to see on the website. If you would like to contribute any suggestions, news, articles or images please forward them to Carol by e-mailing c.a.munro@abdn.ac.uk.

Carol Munro

BSMM membership

The BSMM now has 302 members, and would like to welcome the following members who have joined the Society since production of the last Newsletter (15/9/06): Kerstin Nather (Aberdeen), Omar Loss (London), Miruna David (Birmingham), Veronica Veses (Aberdeen), Chris Goodall (Leeds), Derry mercer (Aberdeen), Deborah O'Neil (Aberdeen), and Chris Bamford (Aberdeen).

Human Tissue Act Training Event

Organised by the Infectious Disease Research Network
Friday 9 March 2007

Cost: £30

Venue: Rutherford Theatre, Institute of Physics,
76 Portland Place, London, W1B 1NT

Information, including a programme and online registration:

<http://www.idrn.org/researchworkshops.php>

The Human Tissue Act regulates removal, storage and use of human tissue * defined as material that has come from a human body and consists of, or includes, human cells. Recent legislation came into force 1

September 2006, which covers the offence of 'DNA theft'. New offences include:

- Removing, storing or using human tissue for Scheduled Purposes without appropriate consent.
- Storing or using human tissue donated for a Scheduled Purpose for another purpose.
- Trafficking in human tissue for transplantation purposes.
- Carrying out licensable activities without holding a licence from the HTA (with lower penalties for related lesser offences such as failing to produce records or obstructing the HTA in carrying out its power or responsibilities).

(ref: Human Tissue Authority website,
<<http://www.hta.gov.uk/>><http://www.hta.gov.uk/>).

The day will consist of presentations from experts in this field, plus interactive sessions in the afternoon. The Chair of the event is Professor Adrian Newland, President of the Royal College of Pathologists and there will be representatives from the Human Tissue Authority present.

Institute of Biology – Benefits of Affiliation

Professor Sir Richard Gardner wrote a letter to the BSMM as an affiliated society to the Institute of Biology (IoB), outlining the IoB activities and benefits of affiliation. The following is a summary of the main points of the letter:

The IoB is recognised for providing high quality and impartial advice, recently on the topics of stem cell research, the use of animals in research, GM food and crops, biofuels, antibiotic resistance and sustainable agriculture. Approximately 20 Government documents are prepared per year, and during the development of these papers affiliated societies are consulted and invited to contribute.

Some successes from the IoB include: stopping HEFCE lowering the funding for undergraduate biology teaching, reducing the bureaucratic nature of legislation on the use of stem cells in research, and obtaining Government support for the need for animals in medical research.

Furthermore, the IoB has launched a CPD scheme to support an enhanced CBiol status, and has developed a programme of courses and workshops to support this CPD programme. Members of our Affiliated Societies may attend at discounted IOB member rates.



For the IoB to maintain the excellence of their science across a broad remit, they need to recruit as widely as possible, and Affiliation of the BSMM is therefore important. See the IoB website for more information <http://www.iob.org>

Forthcoming meetings

Focus on Fungal Infections 17

March 7th-9th 2007, San Diego, California

Details:

www.imedex.com/calendars/infectiousdisease.asp

Magic Mushrooms: Difficult Issues in Mycology. BSAC Spring Meeting

March 15th 2007, Birmingham, UK

Details: pjmcoy@bsac.ac.uk

2007 BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting

March 18th-20th 2007, Devonshire Hall, Leeds

Details: www.bsmm.org

United Kingdom Clinical Mycology Network (UKCMN) Inaugural Annual Meeting

March 20th 2007, Devonshire Hall, Leeds

Details:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/fungal_infection/s/ukcmn.htm

Society for General Microbiology 160th Meeting University of Manchester, UK

Plenary: Intracellular life of microbes

26-29 March 2007

Details: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings>

A full course on medical mycology will be organized in Goettingen, Germany, March 2007. This course will largely be held in the German language, which may be convenient for participants from Central and Eastern Europe. Details: http://www.isham.org/CBS-Kurs_Medizinische_Mykologie_2007.pdf.

Conference of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology

April 1st- 4th 2007, Osnabrück, Germany

Details: www.vaam.de

Rapidly Changing Mycology – new facts and ideas to put you ahead of the reference lab. – Sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and National Laboratory Training network, Texas. May 9th 2007 Toronto, Canada

Details: \$175 before 28/2/07, \$215 thereafter. If interested please send your name, address and fax no. to:

Jim.Harris@dshs.state.tx.us

The ECMM-ISHAM Working Group on Scedosporium infections will organise a Workshop in Angers, France, in June. Details:

<http://www.isham.org/Program-Angers2007.pdf>.

Society for General Microbiology 161st Meeting University of Edinburgh, UK

3-6 September 2007

Details: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings/>

3rd Trends in Medical Mycology (TIMM)

October 28th-31st 2007, Torino, Italy

Details: www.TIMM2007.org

Federation of Infection Societies - Scientific Meeting 2007

Cardiff City Hall

28-30 November 2007

Details: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/fis2007/>

3rd Advances Against Aspergillosis

January 16th-19th 2008, Miami Beach, Florida, USA

2008 BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting

March/April 2008, Norwich, UK

Details: www.bsmm.org

Society for General Microbiology 162nd Meeting Edinburgh International Conference Centre, UK

31 March - 3 April 2008

Details: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings/>

Society for General Microbiology 163rd Meeting Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

8 - 11 September 2008

Details: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings/>

Pan-African Medical Mycology Society (PAMMS) in Cape Town, South Africa, and co-sponsored by ISHAM. Information and programme can be found on

http://www.isham.org/PAMMS_2nd_Announcement1.pdf; please register via

http://www.isham.org/PAMMS_2007_Registration_for_m.rtf.

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