

BSMM News



December 2007

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Seasons greetings to all BSMM members. The last newsletter for 2007 includes news of exciting developments for the future of mycological research outlined by Carol Munro, the continued success of the BSMM MSc/Diploma in Medical Mycology, and news of the annual meeting in Norwich with key speakers from as far a field as Canada, USA, Netherlands, Switzerland, and our own home grown experts from Manchester and Norwich.

And don't forget to check out the great seasonal cartoon from Geoff Gadd!

Sue Howell

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BSMM Travel Grant Report

Molecular Mycology: Current Approaches to Fungal Pathogenesis. Woods Hole, 7-23 August 2007.

I am extremely grateful to the BSMM for awarding me a generous Travel Grant to part-fund my attendance at the Molecular Mycology course held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. The course provided a unique opportunity to meet and liaise with some of the world leaders in molecular mycology in an intimate setting, and allowed students to gain state-of-the-art training in molecular methods for studying a wide range of fungal pathogens important in human disease.

Over the three weeks, my fellow students and I were treated to some amazing lectures and discussions by Jack Edwards, Pete Magee and Aaron Mitchell (course directors), Scott Filler, Joe Heitman, Jamie Konopka, Terry Mylonakis, Judy Rhodes and Ted White (faculty),

and Judy Berman, Sven Krappmann, Don Sheppard, Mira Edgerton, Cam Douglas and Jenny Lodge (lecturers). We covered a range of current topics relating to *Candida*, *Aspergillus*, *Cryptococcus*, pathogenesis, anti-fungal drug development, and the use of various animal models to study mycoses. The lecturers kindly made themselves available for us to talk to them in an informal setting over meals in the cafeteria, at afternoon tea, or in the evenings at the Captain Kidd. The practicals were most enjoyable and included a range of *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments relevant to working with *Candida*, *Aspergillus* and *Cryptococcus*.

Attending the course was an incredible experience and I am extremely confident that the contacts I have made during the course will result in collaborative projects in the future. I would like to thank the course directors, Jack, Pete and Aaron, for all their efforts to ensure the continuing success of this course, and I would encourage any PhD students or post-docs to apply in the future.

Megan Lenardon

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Aberdeen Fungal Group

BSMM Annual Meeting Norwich 2008

The 44th BSMM annual meeting will be held in the University of East Anglia from Sunday 30th March to Tuesday 1st April. The accommodation consists of 58 *en suite* rooms on campus and many local hotels and bed and breakfast facilities. Details of local accommodation can be obtained from Dr Silke Schelenz the conference organiser: silke.schelenz@nuh.nhs.uk. The Annual Dinner will be held at the Sainsbury centre on the Norwich campus, on Monday evening after the Annual General Meeting. Applicants for registration are encouraged to submit their forms by email to the above address, and registration received by 31st January 2008 will qualify for a reduced rate.

The programme will include topics on medical mycology, fungal immunity and fungus-host interactions, and the Foundation lecture will be delivered by Dr Ben de Pauw of the Netherlands, "Management of Invasive Disease: a story of labrynth and minotaurs". Abstracts for presentations or posters should be submitted to Dr Gary Moran, Meetings



Secretary at gpmoran@dental.tcd.ie by 31st January 2008.

Following the same format as last year, the UKCMN meeting will take place on the Tuesday afternoon after the close of the BSMM meeting.

Silke Schelenz

FunNet Strategy meeting 2007

A Fungal pathogens Networking (FunNet) meeting was held in Gosau, Austria in September. Representatives of consortia funded by the European Commission met to share their visions of the future of medical mycology research in Europe and discuss strategies to make those visions become a reality. With nine different consortia (see websites listed below for further information) there is a need to co-ordinate activities and a great potential exists for networking in order to nurture further co-operation between consortia. This strategy meeting was planned and organised by Karl Kuchler (Medical University of Vienna) and follows a White Paper on Fungal Pathogens, which was written in 2006 by Alistair Brown (Aberdeen University). A short report written by Bernhard Hube (Hans Knoell Institute, Jena, Germany) and other participants that summarises the major conclusions of the FunNet 2007 meeting is available at the BSMM website. An updated White Paper is planned for the spring of next year and will be posted on the consortia web sites.

FunPath	http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/projects
CanTrain	http://www.cantrain.be
Galar Fungail II	http://www.galarfungail.org
FungWall	http://www.fungwall.org
EURESFUN	http://www.chuv.ch/imul/euresfun
Glycoshield	http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/projects
KinCan	http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/projects
Manasp	http://www.manasp.org
SignalPath	http://cogeme.ex.ac.uk/signalpath/

Carol Munro

The BSMM/UCL MSc and Diploma in Medical Mycology

The first students graduated from the course this year and we are pleased to report that all passed their final exams, and their project work and assignments were well reviewed by the external examiners.

This year, the course has been opened up to overseas students and we have had considerable interest from around the world. Twelve students joined the course this year and seven are from outside the UK. We wish them all well and hope that this development will help foster good relationships between the BSMM and other national mycological societies, which will be involved as part of the supervisory process. There is clearly an interest in laboratory standards, quality assurance and training in other countries and the course was discussed at the recent Trends in Medical Mycology meeting in Turin last month as a means of supporting these processes.

University College London has been ranked as one of the top ten universities in the world this year and so we are delighted that the course is hosted in such a celebrated institution, with all of the associated quality mechanisms and academic standards that accompany this. We hope that this will encourage more potential students to apply and be part of the continued success of the course. Once again, though, I would like to thank all those members of the BSMM who have given freely of their time to develop and support the course and its students and who are now, I, hope, coming to the conclusion that it has all been really worthwhile!

If you are thinking of applying, or have members of staff within your department who you think would be appropriate for the course, please make contact with Anne Dickens, the Course Administrator at: a.dickens@medsch.ucl.ac.uk or go to the UCL or BSMM websites for more details.

Chris Kibbler

Quiz

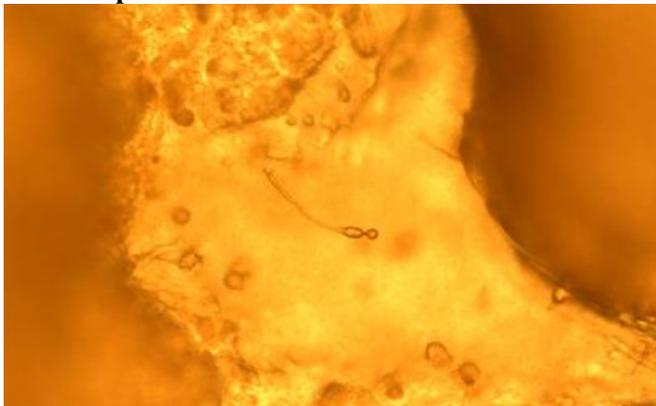
A picture of a fungal colony and its microscopic appearance have been supplied by Dr Dick Hobson for a quiz to guess the identity of the fungus, which was isolated from a small intestinal biopsy. The identification and some information on the mould will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

If anyone else would like to submit fungal photos for a quiz please send them to Sue at susan.howell@kcl.ac.uk

Colony grown on Sabouraud's Dextrose agar.



Microscopic examination



Forthcoming meetings

Federation of Infection Societies - Scientific Meeting 2007.

28th-30th November 2007, Cardiff, UK
 Details: www.sgm.ac.uk/fis2007

3rd Advances Against Aspergillosis

16th 19th January 2008, Miami Beach, Florida, USA
 Details: www.aaa2008.org

9th ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis

24th -28th March 2008, New York City
 Details: www.asm.org/Meetings/index.asp?bid=51311

BSMM Annual Meeting

30th March – 1st April 2008, Norwich , UK
 Details: www.bsmm.org

Society for General Microbiology 162nd Meeting

31st March – 3rd April 2008 Edinburgh, Scotland
 Details: www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings

2008 BSMM Annual Scientific Meeting

30th March - 1st April 2008, Norwich, UK
 Details: www.bsmm.org

Society for General Microbiology 163rd Meeting

8th-11th September 2008, Dublin, Ireland
 Details: www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings

BSMM Annual Meeting

28th 31st March 2009, London, UK
 Details: www.bsmm.org

26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection

18th-21st June 2009, Toronto, Canada
 Details:

ISHAM Congress

25th-29th May 2009, Tokyo, Japan
 Details: www.congre.co.jp/isham2009/

Combined meeting of the Nordic Society for Medical Mycology and the Swedish Society for Clinical Mycology.

“Impact of Diagnostics on Antifungal Treatment”. 22nd May 2008, Stockholm, Sweden.
 Details: <http://www.nsmm.nu/nsmmcalendar.html>

Nordic Society for Medical Mycology

“Histopathology in Medical Mycology: Theory to Practice”. 21st May 2008, Stockholm, Sweden.
 Details: <http://www.nsmm.nu/nsmmcalendar.html>

And finally...



Geoff Gadd



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

Current membership of the BSMM stands at 307 members. This is comprised of 230 UK members (including 24 honorary and 1 life member), and 77 overseas members (including 6 honorary members).

The BSMM welcomes the following Society members, who have joined since publication of the last Newsletter:

Christopher Thornton (Exeter)

Christopher McKenzie (Aberdeen)

Robin May (Birmingham)

Timothy Cairns (London)

Susan McChlery (Glasgow)

BSMM Annual General Meeting 2008

The 44th Annual General Meeting of the BSMM (formerly BSM) will be held on 31st March 2008 at 3.30 p.m. in Lecture Theatre 1, Institute of Biomedical & Clinical Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 19th March 2007
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Secretary's report
7. Working party reports
 - (i) BSMM/UCL Diploma in Medical Mycology - Chair Dr Chris Kibbler
 - (ii) Standards of Care - Chair Dr Silke Schelenz
 - (iii) Website - Chair Dr Carol Munro
 - (iv) Fungal Infection Registry - Chair Dr EM Johnson

8. UK Clinical Mycology Network

9. Proposed changes to Society Rules:

(i) Proposed new Paragraph 3: None of the Society's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purpose.

(i) Proposed new Paragraph 7 (will be Paragraph 8 if (i) is adopted): The Committee shall be elected for terms of three years except the Local Organisers (two years), Secretary (four years) and Treasurer (five years).

(iii) Proposed addition to current Paragraph 10: In considering applications for Society membership the Executive Committee will take into account the applicants' contribution to medical mycology in the British isles.

10. Annual Scientific Meetings

(i) Leeds 2007

(ii) Norwich 2008

(iii) London 2009

(iv) Exeter 2010

(v) Location for 2011 Annual Meeting

11. Election of Honorary and Life members

(i) Honorary members

(ii) Life members

12. Election of Executive Committee members

(i) Ordinary members ×3 (2008-2011)

(ii) General Secretary (2008-2011)

13. Any other business

An A4 sized copy of this agenda and the minutes of the 43rd BSMM AGM may be found on the BSMM website (www.bsmm.org). Members who require a paper copy and who do not have internet access should write to the Secretary (Dr RP Hobson, Department of Microbiology, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds, LS1 3EX, UK).

AGM apologies should be sent to the Secretary by post or by e-mail (Richard.hobson@leedsth.nhs.uk)

NB: In the interests of reducing unnecessary wastage of paper, additional copies of the AGM agenda and minutes will not be made available at the meeting itself. Society members who are planning to attend the AGM should bring their own paper copies of these documents with them, if required.