



Parasitology NEWS

The Newsletter
of the
British Society
for Parasitology

JULY 2006

CONTENTS

Bursary scheme
funded by Gates
Foundation and WFP

1

Engaging
Parasitology!

1

Society News

2

Announcement
of C A Wright
medallist 2006

3

Engaging
Parasitology!

3

Forthcoming
meetings of
interest to
our members

4

BSP Annual Report
and Accounts

5

BSP-Belfast:
Announcing the
2007 Spring and
Malaria meetings

7

Conference Report:
Kinetoplastid
Diseases 2006

7

Bursary scheme funded by Gates Foundation and WFP

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a sum of \$288,075 by the Global Health Programme of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This award was made to enable us to support 93 scientists from developing countries to attend ICOPA XI. In addition to this award, our ICOPA bursary fund has been supported by the World Federation of Parasitologists and by sums raised by raffles held at previous BSP conference dinners. In total, 125 ICOPA delegates from over 40 different countries have been awarded funds to cover their registration, accommodation and travel costs.

Although the main focus was on providing support for early stage scientists, more established scientists based in countries from which obtaining the level of support required to attend ICOPA would have been difficult were also given awards. A glance at the programme shows that many of



Stars on the map show the countries where ICOPA bursaries have been awarded.

the bursars selected by the committee for funding have (independently) had their presentations selected for oral presentations at ICOPA, suggesting that the bursary scheme is supporting good science in addition to providing career development opportunities for scientists from overseas.

In addition to this we have spent over £19,000 of our own funds supporting 78 of our own student members to attend ICOPA.

Engaging Parasitology!

We are pleased to announce that the BSP has been successful in obtaining nearly £30,000 of funding from the Wellcome Trust's Engaging Science programme to help promote public understanding and awareness of Parasitology. The award will support the exhibition of 16 banner posters, which are being prepared by Mike

Barrett and Lee Innes, as well as two sets of public lectures at ICOPA. The funding also means that the posters can be taken to a number of other public events over the next couple of years. Council member Lee Innes headed the application, and she reports in more detail on what will be done with the award on page 3.

Society News

Notice of next AGM at ICOPA

As there was no Spring Meeting in April 2006, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at ICOPA in August. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 9 August in the Lomond Auditorium, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow from 4.00 to 5.30 pm.

Results of ballot for new Council members

Thank you to everyone who voted in the elections for the two new members of BSP Council, and to the nine candidates who offered their services. There was a good return of ballot papers, and the two members elected to serve on Council for the next three years were Sue Welburn (University of Edinburgh) and Jo Cable (Cardiff University). The new Council members will take office at the AGM in August, and will replace Professor Mark Viney (University of Bristol) and Dr Gus Bell (Trinity College, Dublin) who will be retiring from office at this time.

Appointment of new Vice-President

The current BSP president, Professor Hilary Hurd, will end her term of office at ICOPA in August, and the current Vice-President, Professor John Barrett (University of Wales) will take over as the new BSP President for the next two years. Council is pleased to report that Professor Graham Coombs (University of Glasgow) has agreed to be the new Vice-President of the Society and he will take office at the August AGM.

Honorary membership

BSP is pleased to announce the awarding of Honorary Membership to Professor

David Walliker, University of Edinburgh, in recognition of his distinguished contribution to genetic studies of malaria parasites.

BSP Autumn Symposium 2007

The autumn symposium next year will be on the subject of "Parasitic co-infections: challenges and solutions". The symposium convenors are Andrea Graham (Edinburgh), Mark Viney (Bristol) and Mark Booth (Cambridge). The meeting will be held at the Linnean Society in London on Friday 9 November 2007. Mark your diaries now for November 2007!

Changes to your contact details

Please help us to avoid wastage on postage of the newsletter. If you have moved recently, or are about to do so, please let us know your new address. There is a form on the bsp website (<http://www.bsp.uk.net/php/membership.php>), or you can simply drop a line to the BSP secretariat, Cathy Fuller (contact details on the back page of this newsletter). You will then be sure of receiving BSP correspondence, newsletters, emails etc. and the Society will not waste your money on postage for items that are returned. If you do not wish to receive BSP information by post and/or by email, please let Cathy know.

Future BSP Meetings

6-11 August 2006:

11th International Congress of Parasitological Associations (ICOPA XI), SECC, Glasgow.

15-18 April 2007:

Spring and Malaria meeting, Belfast.

9 November 2007:

Autumn Symposium, Linnean Society, London.

Announcement of C A Wright medallist 2006



Professor Mike Ferguson,
2006 C A Wright Medallist.

We are pleased to announce the award of the prestigious C A Wright medal to Professor Mike Ferguson, Professor of Molecular Parasitology at the University of Dundee, in recognition of his work on molecular parasitology, particularly in the areas of glycobiology and parasite post-genomics.

The medal will be presented to Professor Ferguson at the 11th International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA XI) in Glasgow in August. The medal address by Professor Ferguson will be given on Monday 7 August at 5.30 pm in the Clyde Auditorium, SECC, Glasgow, on the first day of the ICOPA XI meeting, and will be followed by the civic reception in the Glasgow Science Centre.

The C A Wright medal has been given annually since 1985 to a member of the BSP to recognise their outstanding contribution to the discipline of parasitology. The recipient is a scientist in mid-career who, it is considered, will confirm their already outstanding achievements to become a truly distinguished future leader of their field. This sentiment is in keeping with the encouragement of younger parasitologists by Chris Wright, Director of the Experimental Taxonomy Unit at the Natural History Museum, London, UK and the Society's President at the time of his untimely death in 1983, and in whose memory a commemorative medal was instigated.

Engaging Parasitology!

As reported on the front page, the BSP has been successful in obtaining funding from the Wellcome Trust's Engaging Science programme to help promote public understanding and awareness of Parasitology. BSP Council member Lee Innes reports on the award and plans for its use.

Parasites are a intriguing and diverse group of organisms that have evolved to live inside us, with a range of different consequences for our health and wellbeing. The major objective of the project is to communicate the fascinating relationships between people and their parasites through the use of accessible exhibits and a series of public talks. The project will highlight examples of the very different and diverse relationships between people and parasites. It will include some of the major parasitic diseases such as malaria, discussing why they are so deadly and why they have proved such a challenge to control. Examples will also be given of parasites that co-exist quite happily

with their hosts, and which may offer exciting new therapeutic strategies to control diseases such as asthma and inflammatory bowel disease.

It is proposed to launch the project to coincide with ICOPA XI in Glasgow this year. Thereafter the exhibit and public talks will be taken to other locations within Scotland and the rest of the UK. As the launch of the project will be in Scotland, part of the exhibit will highlight the significant contribution of Scottish scientists, doctors and explorers to the discovery of many of the major parasitic diseases of mankind.

There has been increasing media interest in the subject of Parasitology and it is hoped that this project will be engaging, informative and inspirational in telling the stories of these early Scottish scientific pioneers, as well as raising awareness of the consequences of our close interactions with parasites.

... continued overleaf

The Scottish Encounter with Tropical Disease

Glasgow Science Centre 31 July – 7 August
SECC Glasgow 8 – 11 August

A remarkable number of parasites that infect humans were first discovered by Scottish scientists, doctors and explorers. To celebrate these discoveries, and to illustrate the wide diversity of host-parasite relationships and their consequences for our health and wellbeing, an exhibition will be on show to the public at the Glasgow Science Centre and the SECC on the dates shown above.



Glaswegian Muriel Robertson (1883-1973) made key discoveries regarding the trypanosome's lifecycle.

The Beasts within us

Two evenings of talks open to members of the public and ICOPA delegates will be held in the Lomond Auditorium at the SECC on Tuesday 8 and Thursday 10 August from 6.00 to 7.30 pm. These talks will illustrate different examples of our relationships with parasites, followed by a question and answer session chaired by Dame Bridget Ogilvie.

Tuesday 8 August, 6-7.30 pm
SECC, Glasgow

Tapeworms: The X-files

Professor Phil Craig (University of Salford)

Malaria: a global and evolutionary challenge

Professor Andrew Read (University of Edinburgh)

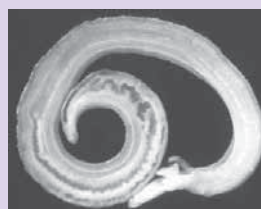
Thursday 10 August, 6-7.30 pm
SECC, Glasgow

A dose of worms: the latest health tonic

Professor Anne Cooke (University of Cambridge)

Professor Robert Summers (University of Iowa)

Many parasitic worms have co-evolved with people and have learned how to evade and manipulate our immune defences to enable their survival. Understanding how parasites are able to do this has led to some exciting new treatments for diseases such as asthma, diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease, which may be caused in part by an "overactive" immune response. Can parasitic worms be used therapeutically to help "damp down" an overactive immune response, and thus relieve disease symptoms?



Schistosoma haematobium: adult worm.

(Photo: WHO/TDR/Stammers)

Please come along and help support these events and join in the debate! We would also welcome any suggestions from members for future talks at different venues in the UK.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to our members

6-10 November 2006:

Third Annual International Workshop on Arctic Parasitology. Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

www.vet.ucalgary.ca

13-15 September 2007:

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Centenary conference 'One hundred years of tropical medicine: meeting the Millennium development goals'. Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.

BSP Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2005 appeared in the February 2006 issue of *Parasitology News*. The Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2005 appear below.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

Statement of trustees' responsibility

The charitable company's trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charitable company's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ascertain the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and other applicable legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk management

The Council has examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charitable company faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Reserves policy

The Council has established policies to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity. The Council feels that sufficient funds are available to enable the charity to continue its current activities in the event of any significant drop in funding. However, it would obviously be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and the requirements of the revised SORP 2000 Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

By order of the Council.

Dr F Tomley, Secretary

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY

We report on the financial statements of the charitable company for the year to 31 December 2005, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountants

As described, the charitable company's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and they consider that the charitable company is exempt from an audit. It is our responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable us to report our opinion.

Basis of opinion

Our work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so our procedures consisted of comparing the financial statements with the accounting records kept by the charitable company, and making such limited enquiries of the officers of the charitable company as we considered necessary for the purpose of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the charitable company under section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records –
 - i) the financial statements have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in section 249C(6) of the Act; and
 - ii) the charitable company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the financial statements for the period specified in section 249A(4) of the Act (as modified by section 249A(5)) and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in section 249B(1).

Hartley Fowler LLP

44 Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex RH12 2PD

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2005

Income and expenditure	Notes	Total Year to 31/12/05 £	Total Year to 31/12/04 £
Incoming resources			
Member subscriptions		21,136	23,300
Scientific meetings registrations	8	90,001	135,651
Sale of publications and royalties		2,894	2,797
Advertising and sponsorship		100	–
Bank interest received		11,981	10,742
Total incoming resources		<u>126,112</u>	<u>172,490</u>
Resources expended			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Scientific meetings expenses	8	69,839	105,279
Student grants		10,713	11,452
Affiliations and sponsorship		372	900
		<u>80,924</u>	<u>117,631</u>
Management and administration			
Committees and officers expenses	4	2,688	3,277
Insurance		368	465
Bank and credit card charges		2,752	2,684
Computer software expenses		1,762	1,980
Printing, postage and stationery		7,852	11,331
Telephone		235	247
Accountancy fees	3	2,702	2,702
Legal and professional fees		30	293
Secretariat fees		9,371	8,323
Sundry expenses		182	200
Depreciation	5	2,014	–
		<u>29,956</u>	<u>31,502</u>
Total resources expended		<u>110,880</u>	<u>149,133</u>
Net movement in funds/ Net income for the year		15,232	23,357
Retained funds brought forward	10	263,784	240,427
Retained funds carried forward	10	<u>279,016</u>	<u>263,784</u>

Total recognised gains and losses: The Society has no recognised gains or losses other than the gains and losses as shown above.

Continuing operations: None of the Society activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY
BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2005**

	Notes	Total Year to 31/12/05 £	Total Year to 31/12/04 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	6,042	–
Current assets			
Debtors	6	20,456	8,129
Short term bank deposit accounts		256,966	273,364
Current cash at bank and in hand		4,384	3,077
		<u>281,806</u>	<u>284,570</u>
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>8,832</u>	<u>20,786</u>
Net current assets		<u>272,974</u>	<u>263,784</u>
Total net assets		<u>279,016</u>	<u>263,784</u>
Financed by:			
Funds			
Unrestricted:	10	<u>279,016</u>	<u>263,784</u>
		<u>279,016</u>	<u>263,784</u>

The directors have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by section 249A(1) not to have these financial statements audited and confirm that no notice has been deposited under section 249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that:

- the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at 31 December 2005 and of its results for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Professor H Hurd (President) Dr J Jones (Treasurer)

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2005**

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting conventions

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985. The recommendations of the statement of recommended practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2000 have been followed in the preparation of these financial statements.

1.2 Fund accounting

The charitable company's general funds consist of funds which the charitable company may use for its purposes at its discretion. The charitable company has no restricted or designated funds.

1.3 Income

Subscriptions and meeting registrations are included in income when they are received; full provision is made for income received in advance. All other voluntary income is included upon receipt. Income is stated after trade discounts.

1.4 Depreciation of tangible assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment and website 25% reducing balance

1.5 Investment income

Interest is included in income on receipt and credited on this basis to the income and expenditure account.

1.6 Management and administrative expenditure

Management and administrative expenditure comprises of all expenditure incurred in the running of the charity which can not be directly allocated to the charity's direct charitable expenditure. As such it includes Council expenses, insurance, legal costs, bank charges, secretarial expenses, audit and accountancy fees.

1.7 Cash flow statement

The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption, conferred by Financial Reporting Standard 1, from presenting a cash flow statement as it qualifies as a small company.

2 Incoming resources

The income of the Society includes subscriptions, advertising, sale of publications, meetings and sponsorship income, as well as interest received and donations.

3 Total resources expended

	Year to 31/12/05 £	Year to 31/12/04 £
This is stated after charging:		
Accountants remuneration	1,800	1,800
Other	<u>902</u>	<u>902</u>

4 Transactions with trustees

No trustees received any remuneration for their services during the year. However all trustees were reimbursed their travelling costs for attending meetings.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment and website £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 January 2005	–	–
Additions	8,056	8,056
At 31 December 2005	<u>8,056</u>	<u>8,056</u>
Depreciation:		
At 1 January	–	–
Charge for the year	2,014	2,014
At 31 December 2005	<u>2,014</u>	<u>2,014</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2005	<u>6,042</u>	<u>6,042</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2004	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

6 Debtors

	31/12/2005	31/12/2004
Debtors	220	850
Other Debtors	19,000	5,986
Prepayments	1,236	1,293
	<u>20,456</u>	<u>8,129</u>

7 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/2005	31/12/2004
Trade Creditors	1,131	2,504
Deferred Income	–	15,049
Accruals	7,701	3,233
	<u>8,832</u>	<u>20,786</u>

8 Scientific meetings

	Registrations and Income £	Expenditure £	Surplus/ (Deficit) £
Nottingham (Spring) Meeting	87,216	67,454	19,762
London (Autumn) Symposium	2,785	2,385	400
	<u>90,001</u>	<u>69,839</u>	<u>20,162</u>

9 Share capital

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. Each member's guarantee liability is limited to £1.

10 Reconciliation of movements in reserves

	31/12/05 £	31/12/04 £
Net movement in funds for the year	15,232	23,357
Opening funds at 1 January 2005	<u>263,784</u>	<u>240,427</u>
Closing funds at 31 December 2005	<u>279,016</u>	<u>263,784</u>

11 Related parties

In 2003, The British Society For Parasitology won the bid to host the 2006 ICOPA international meeting in Glasgow and a separate limited company, ICOPA XI Limited, has been established to be responsible for this project. The British Society for Parasitology has made a loan of £19,000 to ICOPA XI Limited which is shown within debtors.

BSP-Belfast: Announcing the 2007 Spring and Malaria meetings



Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast.
(Photo courtesy of QUB ImageBank)

The 2007 BSP Spring and Malaria meeting will be held at Queen's University Belfast from 15 to 18 April. BSP are pleased to announce that at this meeting they will be joined by the Irish Society for Parasitology. The local organiser is Aaron Maule who is assisted by a team of other parasitologists at Queen's including: Gerry Brennan, Ian Fairweather, Elizabeth Hoey, Nikki Marks and Alan Trudgett. Gus Bell from Trinity College Dublin is the Malaria Meeting coordinator.

The plenary lecture will be given by Professor David S Roos, Merriam Professor of Biology and Director, Penn Genomics Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA who will speak on 'Designing and Mining Pathogen Genome Databases'. He will be joined by over 20 other invited speakers with international profiles in a wide variety of parasitology disciplines. Delegates will be free to move between both meetings and there will be a range of sessions available to choose from. Apart from the usual favourites there will be additional sessions on Fasciolosis, Trypanosomiasis/Leishmaniasis, Gene Silencing/RNAi, Parasite Fitness and Drug Resistance, Parasites as Environmental Indicators, Regulatory T cells and Immunomodulation,

Trematode-Snail Interactions and Veterinary Parasitology. The malaria theme will incorporate sessions on Novel Approaches to Antimalarial Therapy, Protein Folding, Transport and Modification, Proteomics and Protein-Protein Interactions, Molecular Cell Biology, Host-Parasite-Vector Interactions, Immunology and Vaccinology, Pathogenesis and Clinical Malaria and Epidemiology and Control.

This will be the first time that BSP has held a meeting across the Irish Sea and the local organisers would like to send an open invitation to anyone with an interest in parasitology, and most especially those who have never previously visited Northern

Ireland – a warm welcome is assured. The conference location at Queen's is just on the South-side of Belfast City centre (it's only a 15 minute walk) and in the midst of botanical gardens, museums, restaurants and bars that will meet most social needs. Belfast is well served by two airports (Belfast International Airport and The George Best Belfast City Airport) that facilitate a range of budget airline options that make travel to Belfast from mainland UK (and indeed Europe) surprisingly cheap – especially if you book early! Please book a date in your diaries. Further information will appear in the November newsletter.



The Giant's Causeway.
(Photo courtesy of QUB ImageBank)



'Get whatever you want in Belfast!'
(Photo courtesy of Parasitology at Queen's)

Conference Report: Kinetoplastid Diseases 2006

In March 2006, Jeremy Sternberg (Aberdeen University) attended a conference in Senegal and The Gambia on Kinetoplastid Diseases.

During 2005, many of us in the trypanosome and leishmaniasis research community received email invitations to a conference on Kinetoplastid diseases to be held in West Africa in March 2006. The set up was unusual and the organiser was totally unfamiliar to us, so in the end it was a small band of intrepid parasitologists who gathered in Dakar on 10 March. What ensued was a remarkable and unconventional week, part formal conference, part a relaxed forum for discussion of science, and part an opportunity to experience the atmosphere of both city and rural Senegal and The Gambia.

The first part of the meeting, held in Dakar, consisted of three days of formal oral and poster presentations on a wide range of topics in kinetoplastid biology, although *Trypanosoma brucei*

dominated the proceedings. Five papers were presented on the immunology of African trypanosomiasis. These included new data on the relationship of pathogenesis and systemic inflammatory response syndrome, presented by Henry Tabel (Saskatoon), and the role of the inflammatory response in setting the progression of meningoencephalitis, from Jerry Sternberg (Aberdeen).

The control of virulence was approached from two directions. Firstly, clinical studies are beginning to investigate host immunogenetic factors in determining the avirulent infections of *T.b. rhodesiense* observed in Malawi (Sternberg). Secondly, parasite virulence is now being dissected in the progeny of genetic crosses between high and low virulence isolates in rodent infection, and promising results indicating the segregation of virulence phenotypes was presented by Liam Morrison (Glasgow). This lead on to the genetics of African

**BRITISH SOCIETY
FOR PARASITOLOGY**

All membership and financial enquiries should be made to:
BSP Secretariat (Cathy Fuller)
27 Village Road, Cockayne Hatley
Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2EE
tel/fax: (+44) 01767 631878
email: bsp@bsp.uk.net

We're on the web!
Visit us at www.bsp.uk.net

**BSP 2006
SOCIETY HONORARY OFFICERS***President*

Professor Hilary Hurd
School of Life Sciences
Huxley Building, Keele University
Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG
email: h.hurd@keele.ac.uk

Vice-President

Professor John Barrett
Institute of Biological Sciences
University of Wales
Aberystwyth Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth 3DA
email: jzb@aber.ac.uk

Honorary General Secretary

Dr Fiona Tomley
Institute for Animal Health
Compton, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 7NN
email: Fiona.Tomley@bbsrc.ac.uk

Honorary Meetings Secretary

Dr Michael T Rogan
Cestode Zoonoses Research Group
School of Environment and Life Sciences
University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT
email: M.T.Rogan@salford.ac.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Dr John T Jones
Unit of Mycology
Bacteriology and Nematology
Scottish Crop Research Institute
Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA
email: jjones@scri.sari.ac.uk

Honorary Communications Secretary

Dr Lisa Ranford-Cartwright
Division of Infection and Immunity
Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences
University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8TA
email: L.Ranford-Cartwright@bio.gla.ac.uk

BSP COUNCIL

Dr Angus Bell
Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Mark Viney
University of Bristol

Dr Lee Innes
Moredun Research Institute
Edinburgh

Dr Olivier Sparagano
University of Newcastle

trypanosomes: the application of genetic mapping to discover genes associated with human serum resistance and drug resistance was described by Annette MacLeod (Glasgow). This approach becomes extremely powerful when combined with the *T. brucei* genome database, and two presentations on the latest developments on each of the tri-trypan genomes were given by Chris Peacock (Sanger). The genetic approach was further developed by Bruno Bucheton (Marseille) who described a genetic epidemiological approach to identify QTLs associated with susceptibility to *Leishmania donovani* infection.

As noted above, a trait of major concern in *T. brucei* is the emergence of drug resistance in both human and bovine infection. Presentations covered both the molecular mechanisms of drug resistance (Harry de Koning, Glasgow) and the consequences of drug resistance in the design of animal surveillance and treatment programmes (Oumar Diall, Bamoko).

In *Trypanosoma cruzi*, Alicia Couto (Buenos Aires) presented a detailed dissection of the glycosphingolipid biosynthesis pathway, and data on potential novel inhibitors of the pathway. Reinaldo Bestetti (Ribeirao Preto) gave a detailed account of predictive factors in Chagas cardiomyopathy and treatments which manage the emergence of this condition.

Discussions resulting from the day's talks continued well into each evening as the participants explored the restaurants and bars of Dakar, and enjoyed some fine music (even though Youssou N'Dour was out of town).

After the first part of the meeting, while some participants went home, the majority hit the road, quite literally. We travelled to the Senegal/The Gambia border in a convoy of Peugeot 505 taxis, which are such a familiar means of long distance travel in Africa. Then we transferred to minibus to reach the ferry crossing the Gambia River to Banjul, and once again in a convoy of taxis to Kololi. The next day we had an interesting visit to the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC), and a chance to learn about the N'Dama cow. The N'Dama is one of a number of West African shorthorn breeds which show resistance to African trypanosome infections. The ITC is promoting their use in areas of high tsetse challenge and participating in a major programme in collaboration with ILRI to determine the genetic basis of trypanotolerance.



Kinetoplastids 2006 participants taking a break to go bird-watching in the mangrove creeks at Tendaba, The Gambia.

(Photo: Jeremy Sternberg)

and students. (On this occasion, the local input was small, as the conference coincided with a student strike at Dakar University!). It is a worthy objective, and Kinetoplastids 2006 was an interesting first shot at doing this with the trypan/leish community. However, this meeting was to some extent limited by the small group of delegates, and a lack of structure to the science programme. This and the structure of future meetings provoked considerable discussion amongst participants, and the general view was that the meeting format and ethos was a good idea. To this end it was decided that the next kinetoplastids meeting would be held in 2008 or 2009, and that several of this year's delegates would form a scientific steering committee to set themes for each session and get keynote speakers on-board. We are very much looking forward to this task. Meanwhile, we understand that Mangosteen is planning a malaria meeting in The Gambia in spring 2007. No doubt you'll get the email invite soon, but otherwise go to <http://mangosee.com>.

Jeremy M Sternberg
University of Aberdeen