

IBBS World



Newsletter of the International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation Society
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IBBS AGM 2009

John Dalton East, Manchester Metropolitan University,
UK (www.mmu.ac.uk for maps)

9 October

12.30: refreshments

1.00: 'From Steel to Stone:
stories of a career in biodeterioration'

A talk by Christine Gaylarde, new BBS President

2.00: AGM

www.biodeterioration.org, www.ibbsonline.org

Editor's Notes

It seems that every year, the summer newsletter is produced beneath a cloudy British sky - where is the sun?! At least all is bright in the world of IBBS. Our Manchester meeting on the Economic and Social Impact of Fungal Deteriogens went very well, and future meetings are in the planning stage. Our new website, ibbsonline.org will soon be launched - many thanks to Paul Airey for his hard work - and we have also begun working on our learning resources packs, which we intend to launch in 2010. More information on these and other ventures are described within. The special issue of the journal, devoted to IBBS-14 will be available soon: many thanks to the contributors and editors for helping to produce this valuable documentation of a very successful meeting. The Journal impact factor for 2008 was a creditable 1.375. For comparison, Letters in Applied Microbiology was 1.679, and Journal of Applied Microbiology 2.028. Our Journal is also very applied, and of great value to its readers, so I do encourage you to submit manuscripts, and to cite references when appropriate! Once again, I must appeal to our membership to step forward to assist with the running of the Society. I will step down as President at the 2009 AGM, and am delighted to be able to pass on the responsibility to Christine Gaylarde. If you are able to attend the AGM, please come - or if you would like to be involved with the Society or Council, but think that you are too far away, do let us know. We are investigating different ways of running Council via new media, so it may well be possible to have a high-tech as well as an international membership!

I have really enjoyed being President, and am proud to have been involved with several very successful meetings and initiatives with IBBS. With my best wishes to you all, [Jo](mailto:j.verran@mmu.ac.uk)



Honorary Fellows

Two giants of biodeterioration were recognised for their contributions to the subject and the Society by the award of Honorary Fellow. Dennis Allsopp received his award from the President at the Manchester meeting. Glyn Morton was unable to attend the Manchester meeting, due to prior commitment as Teyve in a production of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Secretary John Gillatt presented the certificate in the bar of the Lowther Pavilion, Lytham St Anne's, after a performance!

Economic and Social Impact of Fungal Biodeteriogens

University of Manchester, April 6-7, 2009

Meeting Review

The meeting was jointly hosted by IBBS and the British Mycological Society. It attracted around 70 delegates, primarily from the UK, but a few international delegates also attended. After formal welcomes from the Presidents of the two Societies, Dennis Allsopp gave an opening address, which also marked the celebration of him being made an Honorary Fellow of the Society. His contribution to biodeterioration has been immense, particularly through co-authoring almost iconic text books on the subject, and running training courses for many years. His was a delightful and meaningful presentation concerning the economic impact of fungal biodeteriogens. Dennis had worked hard to try to find a number that reflected the cost of biodeterioration to the global economy, in terms of prevention, replacement or restoration - he was able to deduce a very large number! He illustrated the presentation with anecdotes derived from his huge experience. His talk set



the scene for an excellent meeting. Katja Sterflinger gave the keynote address, which encompassed the diversity of fungal deterioration, and also the importance of culture collections and newer technologies for defining and discovering the causes of deterioration. Sessions on deterioration of different substrates, specific applications in food microbiology, impact on health, and economic implications formed the topics of the conference. There was plenty of discussion, and I am sure some new collaborations were initiated. For myself, I found the description of various case studies enlightening, especially those describing isolation of fungi from Egyptian mummies in the Manchester Museum collection, and a meeting with a delegate from the Health and Safety Executive proved very useful in the development of risk assessment associated with inhalation of fungal spores.



Geoff Robson and Malcolm Greenhalgh planned and hosted a really good meeting, and also led us on an adventure down the famous Manchester 'Curry Mile' for the Society dinner. It was a very pleasant, informal and tasty celebration. Thanks as always to the organisers, speakers and audience. Both Societies were pleased with the meeting, and it would not be unlikely that a similar collaboration happens in the future.

IBBS-15, Vienna 2011

Our next triennial will take place in 2011, at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, and will be hosted by the Department of Biotechnology. The venue is located in the 19th century district of Vienna. The local organisers are Katja Sterflinger and Guadalupe Pinar, and we are very grateful to them for offering to take on this important task. Dates will be 19 - 24 September. There is already a website, where you can follow progress: www.ibbs-15.boku.ac.at.

The meeting will, as usual, address a range of topics associated with biodeg, biodet and biorem, and we are currently identifying more specifically what these topics will be. Our photograph shows Katja and Hans-Curt Flemming in deep discussion over coffee at the Manchester meeting.



Society News

New IBBS Website

The IBBS is proud to announce the launch of our new website; www.ibbsonline.org.

It has been designed to be more user friendly than the previous site, both for IBBS members and the general public.

Many improvements have been made. For example, every page of the site has been resized to fit modern day internet browsers, keeping it 'futureproof', and a set of new images have been added, which are displayed in a random sequence on each page of the site. We have added the current list of articles published in our journal, *International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation*, which will be updated periodically, and include a link to a pdf of each individual article. Details of recent and future meetings will still be available, as will details on how to join the Society and the history of the society. Soon, a profile of each council member will be available.

A forum has also been added to the site. This is an exciting development as it will not only enable IBBS members to discuss the society and all matters IBB but also allow the public to ask technical questions. The regular inflow of queries regarding biodeterioration that are received and disseminated to members by the Hon. Secretary demonstrate the interest in our subject. This year, we have been asked about controlling fouling on underwater fluorescent lamps, sources on economic impact of biotechnology, and fungal contamination. Members are free to follow up these inquiries, and the potential is there for new projects. The website should also facilitate this important aspect of our charitable status.

All IBBS members will be emailed shortly with instructions on how to sign up to for the forum. Paul Airey (pairey@ntlworld.com)

IBBS Learning Resources

Work has begun on the IBBS learning resources. We are producing a series of fact sheets describing various aspects of biodeterioration. The sheets will be available for free download from the website, and we hope that they will prove useful to teachers, researchers, and the general public. The first 6 sheets have been commissioned from eminent individual members of the society, with subjects primarily addressing deterioration of different substrates: metal, cultural heritage, paint etc. Each author has been charged with the production of information to fit a one-side sheet, with illustrations and references. I will edit and produce the sheets, with the help of an MMU undergraduate, and after the authors have approved the final copy, we hope to get the resource live in 2010. If any member has a suggestion for factsheet topics, or would like to offer their expertise, please let me know. There will be an update in the next newsletter. Jo Verran

j.verran@mmu.ac.uk



Antonia Matzaris, MMU undergraduate, illustrated a story of 'magic mushrooms' as her microbiology and art assignment.

Awards

Bursaries

IBBS is pleased to announce a bursary award to Dr Srikanth Mutnuri of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Goa, India. This project is entitled 'Survey of microbial in situ PAH degradation activity based on Southern hybridization using gene probes'. Bursaries offer £250 or Euro equivalent towards undergraduate student projects. The bursaries may be applied for by any IBBS member, nominating a particular student. The successful student is also expected to join IBBS. There is no restriction on the country of origin, or the age of the student. Application forms are available on the website, and from the Treasurer (Kath Whitehead). Successful recipients are expected to provide a brief report for the newsletter or website with images on completion of the project. The next deadline is October 1st. k.a.whitehead@mmu.ac.uk

Chapters Update - International Development Grant

After much discussion, Council decided that the establishment of Chapters, effectively sub-groups of IBBS in developing countries, would be too difficult to administer. Instead we will launch a new award, the International Development Grant, which will provide £250 or Euro equivalent to an IBBS member in a developing country to support dissemination and collaboration in IBBS-related research, usually by holding a conference/meeting amongst researchers of biodeterioration, biodegradation or bioremediation. Following the meeting, a synopsis must be submitted to the Society. One award will be made each year, and applications must be made 6-12 months before the meeting is due to take place. The award is subject to ratification at AGM. If successful, then information and more details will be provided on the next newsletter, and on the website.

Dennis Allsopp Essay Prize

Subsequent to his talk at the Manchester meeting, Dennis suggested the launch of an essay prize for younger Society members and other scientists. Council considered this to be a valuable new initiative, so more details, when finalised, will be published by email, website and newsletter.

Future IBBS meetings

A key task of Council is to ensure that IBBS host regular meetings. Our meetings are a major source of income to help maintain the services that the Society provides, but also of course it is important to serve the needs of the biodeterioration, biodegradation and bioremediation research communities, and industry, by updating and enabling networking.

Our Meetings Secretary, Jimmy Walker, is working hard on identifying and planning interim meetings. If you have ideas for topics, or would like to be involved with the organisation or hosting of an IBBS-supported conference, please contact him on jimmy.walker@hpa.org.uk.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT Biodeterioration of our Cultural Heritage: Sustainable Conservation Solutions Cancun, Yucatan, Mexico March 11-12, 2010

Environmental Building Solutions Ltd in association with the International Society for the Built Environment Ltd (ISBE Ltd), Heritage Biocare, IBBS and the University of Campeche presents an international multidisciplinary day conference and training briefing. Topics addressed during the conference include environmental monitoring and health, structures, services and deterioration of our cultural heritage, monitoring and inspection methodologies and standards and strategies for control. During the training workshop, talks and discussions will be led by D Jagjit Singh, Prof Dr Otto Ortega-Morales, Dr Christine Gaylarde, Dr Dennis Allsopp and Prof Joanna Verran. The full 'Heritage Biocare 3 CD will be available to participants.

For further information, www.ebssurvey.co.uk, or beortega@uacam.mx

In The Loop

Members will recall that some of the ideas for the learning resources factsheet derived from the excellent material provided by the Society for General Microbiology (www.sgm.ac.uk). Janet Hurst of SGM has provided valuable advice during the startup of our new initiative. At MMU, we have also set up a website that outlines the activities of our research group in terms of Research, Consultancy, Education and Communication, and we have been pleased with its success. The website includes freely downloadable video footage of basic microbiology practical procedures, and should be very useful for schools, particularly in countries where access to equipment and facilities may be less than perfect. We have also included information on educational initiatives. I thought IBBS members might be interested in looking at the level of information that we hope IBBS will soon be able to provide. Members who enjoy reading may find the launch of the 'Bad Bugs Book Club' of interest. We are reading novels with a microbiological focus, and would be delighted to receive feedback if anyone else wants to use the books and reading guides in their own bookclub. www.sci-eng.mmu.ac.uk/intheloop.



Other Meetings

7LABS - the Seventh American Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium, Quito, Ecuador.

October 20-22, 2009

Please note the change in dates. Abstract submission is still open.

Abstracts should be sent in Word (Times New Roman, 12, line space 1.5), not exceeding 500 words, to 7labs@seksmail.com, and ambiente@uisek.edu.ec. Abstracts should include: title, topic area, names of authors with institutions and countries, email, telephone and stage of the investigation (initial, in progress, or finalised).

Conference website: www.7labs.uisek.edu.ec

9th International Myco- logical Congress (IMC9), Edinburgh UK, August 1-6, 2010

Information on this important meeting is available on the website www.imc9.info. Abstract deadline for oral and poster presentations is April 9 2010.

Eurobiofilms 2009. 1st Eu- ropean Congress on Micro- bial Biofilms, Rome, Italy, September 2 - 5, 2009

For more information, go to www.ptstroma.it/EUROBIOFILMS2009/

BioMicroWorld2009 Lis- bon, Portugal, December 2-4.

The III International Conference on Environmental and Industrial Microbiology. The meeting provides a multi-disciplinary forum to present current science and to discuss research priorities for the future. The 2007 meeting attracted researchers from almost 60 countries. www.formatex.org/biomicroworld2009. Deadline for abstract submission, September 15 2009.