



Minutes of the Diseases of Beneficial Invertebrates (DBI) Business Meeting

10th August 2015

Meeting was chaired by Kelly Bateman.

Agenda was approved.

Minutes from the 2014 division meeting have been placed on website, members will approve these minutes via email.

SIP Council Meeting

Kelly Bateman gave an overview of the SIP Council Meeting.

Membership

Membership of the society has dropped in the last year, members are encouraged to invite colleagues and students to join the society. Members have also been asked to ensure their membership is current and kept updated; remember to renew your membership fees when they are due.

Facebook

There has been lots of discussion over unofficial facebook (FB) pages over the last few years, one of which was the student FB page. It has been decided that the student FB page will be closed and they will have an area on the society FB page instead. There will also be one administrator per division responsible for updating the FB pages with relevant information, highlighting new publications etc.

SIP Finances

The final details of the SIP accounts were still being sorted so these will be approved at the next SIP council meeting. Overall the society is in good financial shape with \$260,281.60 in the bank at the end of the last fiscal year.

SIP Early Career Award

A new award has been suggested and agreed by the SIP Council members, the Early Career Scientist will recognise highly original contributions of fellow invertebrate pathologists, who are still early in their career. Candidates should have been awarded a PhD in the last 8 years and will need to be nominated by two regular SIP members. Deadline for nominations will be 15th January of each year with the winner being selected by March 1st at the latest.

International Ambassador Proposal

Peter Krell suggested establishing an Ambassador Program as a way to raise the profile of SIP to invertebrate pathologists throughout the world. The SIP Ambassadors would develop and maintain connections with local invertebrate pathologists at various academic, government, industry and other institutional organizations; they would inform SIP about needs for the local scientific community and suggest how SIP could help out; and help increase the network of SIP members in their areas. Through this programme the society will be able to target regions like India and China and some African Countries that have invertebrate pathologists but are underrepresented in SIP. A given Ambassador might represent more than their home country, but rather a region (e.g., Northern African

Countries, Southern African Countries, and Central Europe) as the Ambassador is more likely to know and meet with invertebrate pathologists from neighbouring countries.

Mainz meeting

There were 485 delegates, with 413 contributions being presented, 247 oral contributions (60 student presentations), 166 poster contributions (29 student posters).

DBI had contributed the following to this meeting:

- DBI Symposium, "Emerging tools for Aquatic Pathogen Discovery and Description" organised by Grant Stentiford and Spencer Greenwood
- DBI/Bacteria joint symposium, "Host-pathogen ecology at the molecular level" organised by Christina Nielsen-LeRoux and Elke Genersch
- Two contributed paper sessions with 15 presentations.

It was a huge success with a net profit of approximately \$30,935 USD.

There were 400 participants at the Banquet, 400 bottles of wine/secco and 100L of beer were consumed.

Vancouver meeting 2015

This year's meeting was held at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, there were a total of 327 attendees of which 294 were delegates and 76 were students. There will be 118 oral contributed papers, 39 symposia talks and 115 posters. This was the first year the society used an app to publicise the programme and make announcements, there were also a few printed programmes available for purchase. Members are requested to provide feedback on their experiences with this process to the Vancouver organising committee.

DBI members Grant Stentiford, Leellen Solter and James Becnel organised an OECD funded workshop 'Microsporidia in the Animal to Human Food Chain: An International Symposium to Address Chronic Epizootic Disease'. This was held on the Sunday prior to the start of the SIP meeting.

DBI/Microsporidia Symposium: Following the OECD funded event on Microsporidia DBI and Microsporidia hosted a cross divisional symposium on "Microsporidia as emerging pathogens". This was covered by 5 invited speakers:

- Patrick Keeling - The complex relationship between microsporidia and fungi
- Mark Freeman - Fish microsporidians: emerging pathogens or emerging knowledge?
- Wei-Fone Huang - Understanding phylogenetic relationships among species in the *Nosema/Vairimorpha* clade: What does genetic similarity say about host switching in the Microsporidia?
- Bryony Williams - Emergent pathogens of invertebrates: environmental sampling to identify novel parasite lineages
- Louis Weiss - Investigations into the composition of the microsporidian polar tube

A workshop on "environmental DNA" organised by David Bass and Grant Stentiford was held following the DBI Business meeting. Presentations by David Bass and Naomi Fast generated lots of discussion around the topic.

DBI had two contributed paper sessions with 10 presentations (3 student) and 8 poster presentations (4 student).

Tours meeting 2016

Next year's meeting will be held in Tours, Loire Valley, France, July 24 – 28, 2016. The meeting committee will be chaired by Elisabeth Herniou and the programme will be

organised by Christina Nielsen LeRoux and Jean-Michel Drezen. The registration fee will be around €410 which will include mixer, BBQ, and the banquet. Transportation to the venue is easy, from Paris airport to Montparnasse Station (40 min) and then via TGV to Tours (1 h).

San Diego meeting 2017

SIP 2017 will be the 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary of SIP meetings and will be held at the University of California, San Diego Campus, La Jolla, California, 14th-18th August 2017. The campus is 13 miles north of the San Diego International Airport, 4 miles from the village of La Jolla, and 2 miles from the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. The meeting committee will be chaired by Surendra Dara. A Golden Jubilee committee has also been formed to ensure this meeting celebrates this event in style, members are encouraged to contact these committee members with any ideas they may have.

Golden Jubilee Committee Members: Gianpiero Gueli Alletti, Betty Davidson, Kelli Hoover, Johannes Jehle, Nina Jenkins, Peter Krell, Leellen Solter, Grant Stentiford and Monique van Oers

Current Situation of DBI

Membership

Membership has remained stable over the last few years. We currently have 44 members, 26 regular member and 18 student members, fees are \$10 per year for regular membership, student membership is free.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Regular Members	25	26	27	27	26
Students	15	16	10	12	18
Total	40	42	37	39	44

Finances

The balance in the DBI's account at the close of FY 2014 was \$2,540.14. 2014 Fiscal year closed end of April 2015.

Closing Balance 2013	\$2,284.05
<u>Revenue</u>	
Dues	\$250
Interest	\$6.09
Student Travel Awards (GF)	\$1500
Invited Speaker (GF)	\$750
Total Revenue	\$2,506.09
<u>Expenses</u>	
Student Travel Award	\$500
Student Travel Award	\$500
Invited Speaker	\$300
Money not spent from GF	\$950
Total Expense	\$2,250
Closing Balance 2014	\$2,540.14

Student Travel Awards

There were three applicants for the travel awards this year, judges from the DBI committee and external SIP members (not named on any applications) were asked to be jurors to ensure a fair and open judging process. As in previous years it was agreed that DBI would award 2 travel awards this year, one to aquatic and one to terrestrial research areas. The standard of the entries was very high as commented on by all the judges, the winners were:

- Bas Verbruggen is a PhD student at Exeter University in the UK and will present in the contributed papers session.
“White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) infection: understanding pathways of infection and opportunities for treatment from the perspective of a resistant species”
- Henriette Knispel is a PhD student at the Institute for Bee Research, Hohen Neuendorf in Germany and will present a poster titled:
“Chitin-degrading Protein *PICBP49* - a key virulence factor of *Paenibacillus larvae*”

It was agreed that DBI would continue to award 2 travel awards a year, one to aquatic and one to terrestrial. However should we have three high quality travel award submissions again, members of the committee will decide whether to grant an additional award based on quality of science.

DBI Committee

Grant Stentiford stood down as member at large, DBI members would like to thank him for his contributions to the division over the last few years. He was replaced with David Bass, a protistologist who holds a joint position at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Natural History Museum in the UK. The Committee is now:

Kelly Bateman	Chair	2014-2016
Helen Hesketh	Chair Elect	2014-2016
Elke Genersch	Secretary	2014-2016
David Bass	Member-at-Large	2015-2017
Sebastian Gisder	Member-at-Large	2014-2016
Dominic Wiredu-Boakye	Student representative	2014-2016
Henriette Knispel	Student representative	2014-2016

Plans for 2016 Meeting

Ideas for possible symposia and workshops were discussed, it was agreed that the division would try to encourage new membership by branching into new areas and areas not recently covered by the society. France is a well known oyster production industry and so a session on oyster diseases was suggested, following discussion this was changed to cover all molluscs. The division will invite key personnel from this research area and liaise with the European Union Reference Laboratory for Mollusc Diseases which is also based in France. A pan divisional symposium was suggested to cover high throughput sequencing techniques and recent advances in this area with respect to the different divisions. It was not clear how this will be organised, following the DBI business meeting this suggestion was mentioned by

DBI members at the Microsporidia, Fungi and Virus Division meetings. Microsporidia and Fungi were keen to collaborate on this topic. The Virus Division suggested that this topic was too broad and suggested that DBI host a cross divisional symposium with them on Bee Viruses. The plenary next year will be based around insects for food and feed and it was felt by the virus division that this may be better suited to the meeting in Tours. The discussions surrounding both these topics will continue. Finally a workshop on coral diseases was suggested.

- Symposium : Mollusc Diseases to be organised by Kelly Bateman and David Bass
- Joint Symposium: High Throughput Sequencing and Bioinformatics to be organised by David Bass
- Workshop: Coral Diseases to be organised by Kelly Bateman and Michael Sweet

Miscellaneous

There were no further points raised and meeting was closed.

Kelly Bateman

18th August 2015