

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

4th August 2014

Meeting was chaired by Elke Genersch.

Agenda was approved.

SIP Council Meeting

Elke Genersch gave an overview of the SIP Council Meeting.

Mainz meeting

There has been lots of interest in this year's meeting, 485 delegates have registered so far and people are still registering, 180 of which are members, 120 non-members, 47 student members, 76 student non-members and 22 companions.

There are 413 contributions being presented at this year's meeting, 247 oral contributions (60 student presentations), 166 poster contributions (29 student posters).

DBI contributed the following to the 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.

Vancouver meeting 2015

Next year's meeting will be held on the University campus in Vancouver, Aug 9 - 13, 2015. Accommodation will also be on campus and ranges from dormitories to suites. Registration fee will be around Can \$575 (Can \$1 = 0.69 €, £0.55 Stirling, US \$0.93)

Tours meeting 2016

SIP 2016 will be held in Tours, Loire Valley, France, July 24 – 29, 2016. The meeting 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 425 € which will include mixer, BBQ, cocktail style lunch on Wednesday 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).

Student contest committee

Student contest committee will discuss the practicalities of whether the students should get the evaluation sheets from the judging of posters and presentations. This was following a request from the student committee that the students would like to get their evaluation sheets in order to learn how to improve their presentations. It was highlighted that this would only make sense if all jurors wrote notes and explained their evaluations instead of just ticking the relevant boxes. Notes need to be legible and jurors need to ensure that they are not written in too harsh a style. It was agreed that this will inevitably increase the work for the jurors and this may make it harder to get people to volunteer for this position.

Division Reports

The Virus Division has suggested that electronic voting (via the SIP website) be used to elect officers. This is to enable non-attending members to participate in elections. If this is agreed it will mean that the By-laws of all divisions will need to be changed accordingly, it currently states that voting takes place at the meeting. DBI members were encouraged to provide any feedback as this is only a suggestion and has not yet been agreed. The general consensus from the meeting was that this is a good idea and no-one had any complaints.

SIP Finances

The council has decided to increase the amount of money given to each division from the SIP General Fund to support student and speaker travel awards. Divisions are advised "Take it or lose it"

US\$ 750 to be spent on student travel award

US\$ 750 to be spent on speaker travel award

US\$ 750 to be spent on either student or speaker travel award.

Divisions were encouraged to also use their own money for supporting invited speakers.

Current Situation of DBI

Membership

We currently have 27 regular members, fees are \$10 per year, it is not clear how many student members we currently have, and there is no annual fee for students.

	2011	2012	2013
Regular Members	25	26	27
Students	15	16	?

Finances

We had \$2,008.56 starting balance; \$270.00 dues were collected last year, once interest has been applied (5.49% interest) our closing balance at the end of the last financial year was \$2,284.05.

Student Travel Awards

DBI awarded 2 student travel awards in 2014, each student receiving \$500 (\$750 + \$250 = \$1000) a student from each of the themes aquatic and terrestrial were chosen

- Ms. Lauren Hall – Oral presentation on “Assessment of immunocompetence in the shore crab, *Carcinus maenas*, to natural exposure of pathogens“
- Ms. Birte Arlt – Poster presentation on “Identification and characterization of immune inhibitor A metalloprotease of the honey bee pathogen *Paenibacillus larvae*“

It was agreed that DBI would continue to award 2 travel awards a year, one to aquatic and one to terrestrial. It was highlighted that more students need to apply for the funding. Helen Hesketh suggested that we email all divisions to encourage students to apply. It was mentioned that students do not need to be a member of the division in order to apply for funding, it was suggested that maybe we should request that the students which apply for travel awards become members of the division, especially as there is no charge.

DBI Committee

Elke Genersch	Chair	2012-2014
Kelly Bateman	Chair Elect	2013-2014
Kate Aronstein	Secretary	2012-2014
Eva Garcia-Gonzalez	Member-at-Large	2012-2014
Grant Stentiford	Member-at-Large	2012-2014
Gillian Hertlein	Student representative	2012-2014

The list of current officers highlighted that DBI needed to hold elections for committee members as the positions were due for renewal. It was agreed that the new chair elect should be someone who is working in the terrestrial environment, following the tradition to alternate between aquatic and terrestrial. It was also agreed that Grant Stentiford will remain a member-at-large for another year.

Election of new officers was agreed and the new committee is now:

Kelly Bateman	Chair	2014-2016
Helen Hesketh	Chair Elect	2014-2016
Elke Genersch	Secretary	2014-2016
Grant Stentiford	Member-at-Large	2014-2015
Sebastian Gisder	Member-at-Large	2014-2016
Dominic Wiredu-Boayake	Student representative	2014-2016
Henriette Knispel	Student representative	2014-2016

Plans for 2015 Meeting

Ideas for possible symposia and workshops were discussed, it was agreed that the following be organised by DBI for the meeting in Vancouver.

- Symposium : “Bee Health“ to be organized by Elke Genersch
- Joint Symposium: “Diseases of Insects for Food and Feed” to be organized by Jorgen Eilenberg
- Workshop: “Environmental DNA” to be organized by Grant Stentiford

Miscellaneous

There were no further points raised and meeting was closed.

Kelly Bateman

14th October 2014