

2011 Microbial Control Division Business Meeting Minutes

Current officers:

Chairperson	Stefan Jaronski (USA)	2012-2014
Chairperson elect	Leon Rabinovitch (Brazil)	2012-2014
Secretary/Treasurer	Michael Brownbridge (Canada)	2012-2014
Member at large	Nick Jessup (UK)	2012-2014
Member at large	Kenneth Narva (USA)	2010-2012
Student representative	Maria Cristina Crava (Spain)	2010-2012
Past Chairperson	Surrendra Dara (US)	2009-1011

The Microbial Control Division business meeting was convened Aug 10, 2011, 20:00 h, by Chairperson Dara, with 50 members in attendance. Minutes from 2010 SIP meeting were read and approved by voice vote.

Membership in the division stands at 149 for the year 2011, as of the meeting, including 6 students versus 163 with 7 students in 2010).

Elections of Officers:

The Secretary/Treasurer position and one Member-at-Large position needed to be filled, with current incumbents' terms expiring. The Chair-Elect Position was not filled, by majority vote of the members attending, but instead we decided to hold an electronic vote after the meeting, featuring two nominees. [Leon Rabinovitch was subsequently elected by email ballot.] Michael Brownbridge was elected Secretary-Treasurer by majority vote. For Member at Large, four nominations were brought forward and, by majority vote, Nick Jessup, was elected.

Finances:

FY 2011, 1 May 2010-30 April 2011 (vs. FY2010)

Balance from FY2010	\$7213.05 (6926.05)
Income from dues	\$ 387.00
Interest	\$ 44.67
Total	\$7638.72 (7613.05)
Travel assistance for SIP (Turkey) meetings	\$1140.00 (400.00)
Balance as of 30 April 2011	\$6504.72 (7213.05)

Predicted expenses for the Halifax meetings: In 2011 MCD gave a travel award to one student (Nancy Brill (\$750). Travel assistance was provided to one scientist (Natalia Munteanu, \$750).

Scientific Program:

There were a total of 24 (2 student) oral and 26 (2 student) poster presentations at the Halifax meeting.

Microbial Control Division Symposium:

The MCD organized a symposium on the role of microbial pest control agents in integrated pest management systems. Talks included the role of entomopathogens in orchard, field crop, small fruit and glasshouse IPM practices, as well as a brief revisit to basic principles.

Workshop:

A cross-divisional workshop titled 'Industry innovations in biocontrol' was organized with the Bacteria Division. Speakers talked about pyramided traits, RNAi product platform, Bt brinjal, successes and challenges in commercialization of biocontrol agents, and entomopathogenic fungi for sucking pests.

Other business:

- Student applications for MCD travel awards: Only two applications were received for the 2011 meeting. MCD members were asked to encourage student to apply next year.
- Report on Bt standard: Analyses of the new Bt standard were completed and a draft report was being written as of the Halifax meeting. [Note added since the meeting: A final draft was accomplished and reviewed during the winter of 2011. Several procedural problems in the study need to be resolved, however, before the report can be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Symposium and workshop ideas for 2012 meetings: Two ideas were presented at the business meeting: (1) Issues in Microbial Agent Production Technology and Quality Control (esp. in Latin America); (2) State of Microbial Control Programs in Latin America. [Note added since the meeting: T Jackson and S Dara have organized a symposium on the latter topic for the 2012 meeting.]
- Nominations for SIP council: The society's Governing Council is seeking to fill several positions and MCD members were encouraged to put nominations forward.
- SIP website revisions: Dara presented SIP intentions to revamp our website, and solicited ideas about making it more useful.
- Membership: Meeting attendees discussed methods to increase student membership, and retain current student members. Several ideas were brought forward. Mentors be matched with students beginning with the mixer to enhance networking. We could also have a student "meet and greet" whereby the students in their own gathering introduce themselves to the others. Another idea is to have student quiz games (Steinhaus Games) analogous to those held by the Entomological Society of America (with teams on a country or regional basis). The travel awards could also be advertised in other venues (International Organization for Biocontrol regional newsletters, IPM Net Newsletter; requests for applications mailed to university departments
- Meeting frequency: The group discussed the appropriate frequency of SIP meetings, in response to a query by the Governing Council. The consensus leaned toward continuation of annual meetings.

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 21:05 hr.

Respectfully submitted,
Stefan Jaronski