

**Minutes, Business Meeting Microsporidia Division
Pittsburgh, PA, Aug 1, 2013**

1. Call to Order

The Annual Business Meeting of the Microsporidia Division was called to order at 19:00 pm on August 12th, 2013 at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in Pittsburgh, PA, USA. Thirteen members were present (4 were student members):

Present: Ann Cali, Bryony Williams, Dörte Goertz, James Becnel, Andreas Linde, Wei-Fone Huang, Leellen F. Solter, Susan Bjornson, (all Division members) and Johnny Shayahan, (non-members of the Division), Thomas Steele, Dominc Wiredu Boakye (student members), Gwyn Puckett, Keir Balla (non-members students)

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the 2012 business meeting were published online (http://www.sipweb.org/microspor/minutes/2012_min)

There were no questions or comments.

Moved by Solter and seconded by Linde, **“that the minutes of the Microsporidia Division Business Meeting of August 06, 2012 be approved as submitted.”** Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of the Division Report to the Society

a) The Secretary/Treasurer’s Report was reviewed:

- Budget Balance: \$ 2,945.43, (as of May 1st, 2012). The balance has increased \$315 from last year, due to membership dues and interest (\$9.76). The money owed to the general fund for meeting awards is \$25. Budget balance is \$ 3,245.19 (as of April 30th, 2013).
 - A cross-divisional workshop (with the Fungi Division) was held following the business meeting this year. The workshop introduced EUPath database, a functional genomic database and resources of fungal and microsporidian pathogens. The division also provided half of the expenses (about \$200) for the workshop speaker (Mr. Brian Brunk), and the other portion will come from Fungi Division.
 - We held a symposium “Graduate student studies of microsporidia and other protists” this year to recognize the upcoming areas of microsporidian research. Five students were invited in this symposium:
 - Keir Balla - Genetic architecture underlying variation in *Caenorhabditis elegans* host resistance to natural microsporidia infection
 - Dominic Wiredu Boakye - Studying the molecular and cellular evolution of intranuclear microsporidia in crabs
 - Gwyn Puckett - Immune response of *Lymantria dispar* to naturally occurring intracellular pathogens
 - Schoeters Floris - The potential use of a host specific biological treatment against locusts
 - Thomas Steele - Microsporidia and the two-spotted lady beetle *Adalia bipunctata* L.
 - We were given special permission to fund the students to come to this symposium. Council provided \$1,750 and Microsporidia division provided \$1,840. These funds were allocated as awards that the students can use for travel.
- b) Membership: 40 (7 student members), up from 35 in 2012, 38 in 2011 and 42 in 2010.

4. Election of new officers:

- Daniela Pilarska will be finished her term for member at large this year. New member at large, Johny Shayahan, was elected in this meeting. Leellen Solter nominated Johny Shayahan for the member at large, and Shajahan Johny agreed to join the division and accepted the nomination. The Division members unanimously approved the nomination.
- Current Officers:
 - Current Officers: Chairperson: Carlos Lange (2012-2014)
 - Chairperson-Elect: Susan Bjornson (2012-2014)
 - Secretary-Treasurer: Wei-Fone Huang (2012-2014)
 - Member-at-Large: Shajahan Johny (2013-2015)
 - Member-at-Large: Grant Stentiford (2012-2014)
 - Student member: Thomas Steele (2012-2014)

5. New business / information:

- Suggestions were solicited for topics for the symposium and workshop for the 2014 SIP meeting in Mainz, Germany.
- Bryony Williams suggested a symposium on the emergence of new parasites and pathogens of organisms from different environmental habitats.
- Leellen Solter mentioned that the previous suggestion would be a good start for another OECD symposium in Vancouver, Canada (2015). The symposium could be cross-divisional (perhaps with the Diseases of Beneficial Invertebrates Division) and be similar with the one held in Halifax (2011) (that is, a full-day symposium with about 20 speakers). Leellen Solter has discussed this with Grant Stentiford (past-chair of DBI division), and he has been asked to hold another OECD symposium. James Becnel suggested that we invite Patrick Keeling, and all researchers working on similar systems in this symposium. The time will be suitable for discussing the further annotated genome information and better developed bioinformatics tools and resources. Ann Cali endorsed the idea. Susan Bjornson suggested that we should add honeybees and bio-control agents to this symposium. Leellen Solter suggested we should further discuss with DBI division, and it could be expanded into a two-day symposium.
- Bryony Williams also suggested a symposium more focused on the European microsporidia researchers. Susan Bjornson suggested we can discuss more details and invited speakers through email discussion and communications.
- Leellen Solter suggested a workshop about the microsporidia in ecology and inviting Didier Ebert from Switzerland. James Becnel suggested the workshop could also focus on the feminizing or male-killing effects of certain microsporidia.

6. Adjournment

- Moved by Linde and seconded by Solter, “**that the Microsporidia Division Business Meeting be adjourned**”. The meeting was adjourned at 07:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Bjornson, Division Chair-Elect
Wei-Fone Huang, Secretary/Treasurer