



The International Organization for Mycoplasmaology (IOM) IOM Newsletter

Volume 36, Number 2, September 2012

Chair: Prof Daniel Brown (USA) **Chair-Elect:** Dr Steven Djordjevic (Australia); **Past Chair:** Prof Joachim Frey (Switzerland); **Secretary-General:** Dr Roger Ayling (UK); **Treasurer:** Dr Gail Gasparich (USA); **Membership Secretary:** Dr Anja Persson (Sweden); **IRPCM Chair:** Dr Glenn Browning (Australia); **Information Officer:** Dr Chris Minion (USA); **Board Members-At-Large:** Dr Michael Calcutt (USA); Dr Caio Cordova (Brazil); Dr Christine Knox (Australia); Dr Laura Regassa (USA); Dr Brad Spiller (UK).



Congratulations to:

Ken Waites and John Glass

who received The IOM Board of Directors Award
at the IOM Congress in Toulouse.

An award that came with a distinctly French beret

Congratulations to the other IOM Award Winners.

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MESSAGE FROM THE IOM CHAIR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great privilege and pleasure for me to chair the IOM's Board of Directors for the 2012 – 2014 biennium. The Board's charge is to lead an organization having a long-term record of success, stability and solvency. I am thankful to those who entrusted us with this responsibility, and I pledge again that I will do my best to meet the highest expectations of the IOM membership. I certainly welcome input from any IOM members regarding questions or concerns that may be addressed by the Board.

Many of us enjoyed the excellent 19th IOM Congress hosted this year in Toulouse, France, where the local organizing committee was headed by Christine Citti and the scientific program committee by Inna Lysnyansky. The venue, accommodations, and scientific program were in the best traditions of the IOM, and we are all grateful for the dedicated work of those committees. Merci beaucoup especially to our keynote speakers Ada Yonath, Olivier Neyrolles and Luis Serrano, and to our IOM scientific award recipients Bob Davis, Li Xiao and Saskia Hogenhout for their contributions to the program. Among the breaking news reported during the scientific sessions I was struck by our increasing knowledge of the hemotropic species, the very large number of mollicute genomes now being sequenced, a possible role for mycoplasmosis in multiple myeloma, and how basic research continues to translate into a large amount of diagnostic and epidemiological mycoplasmaology. I also heard that we can expect public announcement soon of a potential breakthrough in culturing certain allegedly "unculturable" species, which will be transformative indeed!

For those who could not attend the Congress, I'll take this opportunity to congratulate Oliver Prince, recipient of the 2012 Harry Morton award for outstanding research by a graduate student, and Maria Lluch-Senar, recipient of the 2012 Louis Dienes award for outstanding research by a postdoctoral scientist. We wish them productive and rewarding careers as members of the community of professional mycoplasmaologists. I also want to acknowledge Ken Waites and John Glass, this year's recipients of Board of Directors awards given in grateful recognition of individual efforts that promote the aims of the IOM.

I invite all members to renew their IOM membership, especially those who could not attend the Congress so that they can obtain the abstracts through the IOM website, as well as all the current IOM news. Please be sure that all members of your group are registered IOM members because this is how we keep the organization alive. In Toulouse our Information Officer Chris Minion previewed a forthcoming re-designed IOM website which will be fully updated and with improved ease of functionality regarding payment of membership dues.

As reported in the March, 2012, IOM Newsletter, preparations for the 20th IOM Congress to be held in Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil on June 1-6, 2014, are already well underway. The chairman of the local organizing committee is Caio de Cordova, and the scientific program committee is being chaired by Pascal Sirand-Pugnet. Based on an initial site visit to Blumenau and the discussions we had in Toulouse I am confident that good progress toward the groundwork is already established to ensure an attractive and successful program. For those who cannot wait that long to talk mycoplasmaology, continental meetings are planned for 2013, one to be hosted by Branka Seol in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and a second in the US. Details will be forthcoming soon.



Dan Brown
Gainesville, Florida USA

Finally, I have two requests. First, we have been unable to locate a copy of the proceedings of the second (1978) IOM Congress. If anyone has a copy that could be scanned for deposition into the IOM Archives I would be very grateful. I'm particularly interested in documenting the establishment of IOM's first scientific awards. Second, it would be excellent if more people who were involved in the earliest activities of the IOM would write down their remembrances, possibly for publication in the IOM newsletter, to help those of us who came later understand how we arrived where we are today.

19TH IOM CONGRESS, 15TH TO 20TH JULY 2012 – TOULOUSE, FRANCE

IOM 2012

Toulouse - France

19th Congress of the International
Organisation of Mycoplasmaology



Dear Congress Participants,

I hope that you had a safe trip back home and the time to enjoy some vacations in France. Pictures of the congress will be available at the end of the month via the IOM website (www.the-iom.org).

Overall, about 280 participants from over 30 countries attended the meeting, with a total of 254 scientific contributions of which 57 were oral presentations: a big thank you to the scientific committee headed by Dr. Lysnyansky who assembled a great scientific program.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, I would like to warmly thank all the invited speakers, all the participants and all the sponsors for their great contributions towards the success of the congress.

We felt the meeting went smoothly, with the latest scientific advances being presented and discussed in a very friendly atmosphere.

I am looking forward meeting you all at the next IOM congress that will be held in 2014 in Brazil!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Citti', written on a white background.

Christine Citti,

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the 19th IOM congress.

THE 2012 IOM AWARDS

These awards honour the highest achievers in our field and are initiated through specific nomination by IOM members.

Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel Award -- for outstanding research in mycoplasmaology

2012 Recipient: Dr. Robert E. Davis

Derrick Edward Award -- for outstanding research in mycoplasmaology by a young investigator

2012 Recipient: Saskia A. Hogenhout

Peter Hannan Award -- for outstanding research in applied clinical mycoplasmaology.

2012 Recipient: Li Xiao

Louis Dienes Poster Award – is given to recognize an outstanding poster in mycoplasmaology by an author who is a postdoctoral fellow.

2012 Recipient: Maria Lluch-Senar

Harry Morton Poster Award - is given in recognition of an outstanding poster presentation in mycoplasmaology by a graduate student.

2012 Recipient: Oliver A. Prince

The IOM Board of Directors Award - is made to recognize outstanding group or individual efforts that promote the aims, objectives, or activities of the IOM, or contribute to advances in the science of mycoplasmaology.

2012 Recipients: John Glass and Ken Waites

Robert F. Whitcomb Award – This award has been reviewed and was not made in 2012, but will be made in 2014.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON COMPARATIVE MYCOPLASMOLOGY (IRPCM)

The IRPCM is a permanent standing committee of the IOM. Its objective as defined in the Constitution is to advance and disseminate knowledge on all aspects of mycoplasmas (members of the taxonomic class Mollicutes). In furtherance of this objective, the program shall aim to encourage individual and collaborative studies, including the effective exchange of scientific information, to reach this goal. Specifically, this will include:

Developing a more complete understanding of the cellular and molecular biology of mycoplasmas, including those features that may be unique in the prokaryotic world to mycoplasmas;

Elucidation of the diversity of mycoplasmas;

Defining virulence factors of mycoplasmas pathogenic to humans, domestic and wild animals, and plants; and

Identifying more effective means of diagnosis, prevention, and control of mycoplasma infections and disease.

The IRPCM has a number of teams and all members of the IOM are encouraged to join a team to facilitate collaboration and exchange of information. The IRPCM meetings at the IOM Congress are important in developing discussion and these collaborations, however some sessions are held in parallel and some IOM members could not attend the congress, so if you would like to join a team, please contact the appropriate team leader detailed below.

IRPCM Team	Team Leader	e mail
Avian	Chris Morrow	chris.morrow@bioproperties.com.au
Chemotherapy	Inna Lysnyanskyy	innal@moag.gov.il
Molecule Contamination in Cell Cultures and Bioproducts	Helena Windsor	mexp@mycoplasma-exp.com
Molecular Genetics	Meghan May	mmay@towson.edu
New and Emerging Mycoplasmas	Ana Ramírez	aramirez@dpat.ulpgc.es
Porcine	Dominiek Maes	dominiek.maes@ugent.be
Ruminants	Robin Nicholas	robin.nicholas@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk
Spiroplasmas/Phytoplasmas	Assunta Bertaccini	bertaccini_a@biblio.cib.unibo.it
Clinical Aspects of Human Mycoplasmas	Cecile Bébéar	cecile.bebear@u-bordeaux2.fr

The IRPCM has pages on the IOM website, so check for information on there. In addition a number of teams have their own Listserv, so have regular exchange of information within their own teams.

In addition to the IRPCM Team Leaders a number of advisers are on the IRPCM Board these include: Roger Ayling, Steve Djordjevic, Ken Waites, David Ley and Steve Geary

Glenn Browning
IRPCM Chair.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

The IOM introduced sustaining memberships for companies to support the IOM. If you know of other companies who would be interested in supporting the IOM by becoming sustaining members, please let the treasurer know. It is a good way for them to raise their profiles on the IOM website and at the biannual congresses. We thank the following companies for their support:



20TH IOM CONGRESS

The 20th IOM Congress will be held in Blumenau, Brazil from 1st to 6th June, 2014.

The Local Organising Committee are in regular contact, but will be meeting in late October, during the Latin American Congress of Microbiology, in Santos, SP (Brasil) <http://www.sbmicrobiologia.org.br/latino/>, where we will be discussing plans and progress for the meeting in 2014.

A conference organising company is taking care of many of the arrangements at the congress location.

By the 20th September I will be applying to our national research agency (CNPq) for student travel grants (and a few more things). Other grants to support travel awards will also be applied for as calls open.

Caio Cordova
Chair of Local Organising Committee

Travel awards for IOM 2014

Details of the process to obtain these awards will be announced nearer the Congress date. Some awards will be made as previously through the IOM, however as the congress is not in Europe a FEMS award will not be available through the IOM. It is worth considering joining other societies that may offer awards to help attend the IOM Congress.

FEMS offer meeting Attendance Grants to young European Scientists (under 36) to attend microbiology meetings that are not supported by FEMS. 250 to 600 Euros

- Assessment based on applicants profile
- Quality of accepted abstract
- Probable impact of the meeting nationally and Internationally
- Travel distance and cost.

Society for Applied Microbiology (Sfam) offer meeting attendance grants. Maximum award £300.

SGM also offer travel grants. Maximum £500 for travel outside Europe.

- Must be members for at least 3 months.
- Must either be a graduate within 3 years of appointments, a PhD student within the EU or a post-doc within 3 years of appointment.
- Must be presenting work.

Addendum: The dates for the ASM 2014, 114th General Meeting are May 17th to 20th 2014. It will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA

21ST CONGRESS 2016

We have received a bid from Australia to host the 2016 Congress, the bid is currently being revised and other bids are invited. The deadline for submission of sealed bids is the 1st December 2012.

If you would like to host the IOM congress information about congress requirements and procedures are available from Roger Ayling.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES -

"Mycoplasmology - a practical approach" Dubrovnik, Croatia June 6th to 8th 2013

Final details, costs, abstracts submission and contact details will be announced soon, but put the dates in your diary now.

ASM 2013, 113th General Meeting, May 18th to -21st 2013, in Denver, Colorado, USA

IOM MEMBER RECEIVES HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD VETERINARY POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Our congratulations go to Professor Dr László Stipkovits from Hungary on his well deserved recognition by the World Veterinary Poultry Association.

THE WORLD VETERINARY POULTRY ASSOCIATION



We hereby certify that

Professor Dr. László Stipkovits

has been elected an

Honorary Life Member

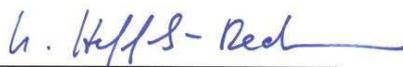
of the World Veterinary Poultry Association

in recognition of

his long and valued service to the Association and

his distinguished contributions to avian science

Cancun, Mexico, 16 August 2011



Dr. U. Heffels-Redmann

Secretary/Treasurer



Prof. Dr. H.M. Hafez

President

THE IOM BOARD 2010 – 2012 MEETING MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MYCOPLASMOLOGY**

Chair, DR. JOACHIM FREY (Switzerland)
Chair-Elect, DR. DANIEL BROWN (USA)
Past Chair, DR. ALAIN BLANCHARD (France)
Secretary-General, DR. ROGER AYLING (UK)
Treasurer, DR. MITCHELL BALISH (USA)
Membership-Secretary, DR. ANJA PERSSON (Sweden)
Information Officer, DR. CHRIS MINION (USA)
IRPCM Chair, DR. GLENN BROWNING (Australia)
At-Large Members, DR. CHRISTINE CITTI (France), DR. JOHN GLASS (USA), DR. SHIGETOU NAMBA (Japan), DR. RAN NIR-PAZ (Israel), DR. KONRAD SACHSE (Germany).

<http://the-iom.org/>

2010-2012 IOM BOARD MEETING
19th IOM CONGRESS
Sunday July 15th 2012, 15.30 - Hotel Mercure

Attendees: Chair, DR. JOACHIM FREY (Switzerland), Chair-Elect, DR. DANIEL BROWN (USA), Past Chair, DR. ALAIN BLANCHARD (France). Secretary-General, DR. ROGER AYLING (UK), Treasurer, DR. MITCHELL BALISH (USA), Information Officer, DR. CHRIS MINION (USA), IRPCM Chair, DR. GLENN BROWNING (Australia), At-Large Members, DR. CHRISTINE CITTI (France), DR. JOHN GLASS (USA), DR. SHIGETOU NAMBA (Japan), DR. RAN NIR-PAZ (Israel), DR. KONRAD SACHSE (Germany), NEW BOARD: DR. MICHAEL CALCUTT (USA), DR. CAIO CORDOVA (Brazil), DR. CHRISTINE KNOX (Australia), DR. LAURA REGASSA (USA), DR. STEVEN DJORDJEVIC (Australia).

Apologies: DR. ANJA PERSSON (Sweden), DR. GAIL GASPARICH (USA), DR. BRAD SPILLER (UK),

Joachim Frey opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Toulouse and thanked Christine Citti for facilitating the meeting. He also thanked Roger Ayling (Secretary-General) for his support and for preparing and distributing the IOM Newsletter in a timely manner.

Officer and Committee reports

Secretary-General, Roger Ayling – report attached.

Treasurer, Mitchell Balish – report attached.

Mitchell Balish stated that the IOM had healthy finances, with 3000US\$ extra in the account, which is good considering the economy, partly due to increased membership, increased dues and sustaining members.

Christine Citti mentioned the difference in cost of the IOM congress for IOM members. It was recommended that future congresses should give IOM member a minimum 50 Euros discount, or an amount which should be more than the membership dues to encourage people to become IOM members.

Roger Ayling asked about ensuring sustaining members had paid their memberships.
Action: Mitch to check.

Joachim Frey asked how much does IOM need as assets. A discussion followed: generally the IOM Congress is self supporting, but back up may be required. Ran Nir-Paz suggested that the IOM should pay for the people that help to organize congresses in future. Part of the discussion was about liability of costs for the IOM and congress organizers and whether insurance was possible to underwrite the financial liability, but previous enquires on insurance,

other than 3rd party liability, was found to be extremely expensive and would increase congress registration fees considerably.

Joachim Frey suggested we spend approx \$20,000 for the next congress on a project basis and consider covering the IOM Board expenses.

Christine Citti indicated that the congress incurred substantial additional cost for the rooms for the IRPCM meetings and suggested the IRPCM should pay towards the rooms. Chris Minion pointed out that the IRPCM was an integral part of the IOM (permanent standing committee) and the congress should incorporate those meetings in its plans.

Caio Cordova asked about travel awards for the 2014 congress and asked if he can be assured that the IOM will contribute between \$10,000 to \$15,000. This was put forward to the new IOM Board Meeting as a recommendation. It was also suggested that the IOM could help towards VISA costs. **Action – IOM contribution to next Congress.**

Membership Secretary – Anja Persson - report attached

Ran Nir-Paz suggested a system of e-mailing members when payment is due. Suggestions were made to fund improvements in the membership database so it has automatic entry etc. Chris Minion updated us on this.

Information Officer – Chris Minion

Chris Minion said he can implement a membership system and incorporate it into the new IOM website he has been working on. He then went on to present and demonstrate the new web site to the IOM Board. The new website incorporates all the current information and has additional features with more drop-down directories, a new Search window, the Methods wiki, and links to sustaining members, and some script about them. Chris is continuing to work on the new website and anticipates it being active by this autumn.

Some discussion followed about congress abstract submission and ease of checking current status of IOM membership of submitting authors. Currently people don't need to be a member to submit an abstract and the IOM doesn't want to reduce abstract submission, but we should check and encourage IOM membership. It should also be made easier to check if the abstract presenter is registered for congress and this should be made clear on the abstract submission site that abstracts will be withdrawn by a set date if authors are not registered for the congress. It was suggested that non-IOM members should be asked to submit a non-refundable deposit.

Some comments were made about the current membership process – paypal has presented very few difficulties although some costs are associated with it, that's why sustaining members are asked to pay by cheque. On the new website it will be easier to pay membership fees either as a new member or renewing member. Renewing members will have a new form populated from the database, which then links to paypal. New members will need to complete the whole form. Membership will not be entered onto the database until the treasurer has checked payment, and then he can check a box to activate the membership. **Action: Chris Minion to continue with updating the website and to incorporate suggestions on membership processes and consider approaches of checking membership against abstract submissions.**

IRPCM Report - Glenn Browning

Glenn reported on the change of the IRPCM team reports. They have changed to a report more on collaboration by team members rather than literature review, which is easier for team leaders. It may also be more encouraging for people to take on team leader role. He also

reported we have a few new team members. Alain Blanchard asked if IRPCM team leaders should be IOM members – Yes, they should be.

Taxonomy - Daniel Brown – report attached

Daniel Brown reported that the team was active. The Bergey manual has been published and a pdf version was available free for Springer members/Institutional contacts. Prokaryotes information is to be worked on by Alain Blanchard, Mitch Balish and Meghan May.

He also reported that the ICSP Business may be done by Skype in future, which would avoid the need to travel. Previously the IOM had agreed to financially support travel to the ICSP Business meetings.

Archivist Report – Lynn Duffy / Ken Waites - report attached

The Mollicutes Collection – see attached letter and note in taxonomy report.

Discussions about saving the collection were made. Time is of the essence as Purdue University is ready to dispose of the collection. For several reasons it was stated that the collection could not leave the USA. Daniel Brown has therefore agreed for the culture collection to be moved to his laboratory, but required IOM financial support to transport the collection from Purdue to Florida. The collection does not appear to be fully catalogued, but it was felt that every effort should be made to at least save the cultures. One comment made was this is a “unique and potentially valuable resource and anyone who didn’t support this should not be an IOM member!” It was agreed the IOM would pay up to \$5,000 to move the culture collection.

Awards Committee - Kim Wise - report attached

Student Travel Awards – Duncan Krause - report attached

Some discussion took place about the criteria for receiving travel awards. The amount given and distribution of them is dependent of both the funding allocated for travel awards and the number of applicants. It was decided that the new Travel Award Chair, taking over from Duncan and Robin could review this.

19th IOM Congress Scientific Program Overview - Inna Lysnyansky – report attached

Inna highlighted the difficulties associated with the Robert Whitcomb award, which a sub-group of the award committee had been reviewing. The committee has worked on how this award will work and it requires new IOM board approval. Initially the rules said that the Robert Whitcomb award was not done by regular members of awards committee, therefore it had the advantage of not having extra work. The recommendation for this award to be treated as the other IOM awards will require a new IOM Board decision. No separate donation is made for this award, therefore it is IOM funded and therefore the IOM can change without reference to the initial ‘benefactor’. – **Action re: Robert Whitcomb Award.**

19th IOM Congress (2012) Local Organizing Committee Report – Christine Citti

250 delegates had registered for the congress. Just two months ago only 150 had registered, therefore it was extremely difficult to finalize arrangements etc. Sponsorship was also late. Christine commented that the IRPCM also takes a lot of time organizing rooms and the changes that had been requested. Christine will provide more details of the congress and finances later. **Action: Christine Citti to provide more details of the 19th IOM Congress.**

21st IOM Congress (2016) Bid – Brisbane – Christine Knox

Christine Knox provided the IOM Board with an extensive bid document to host the IOM Congress in Brisbane in 2016. She also gave a presentation to the IOM Board. She suggested that the congress could be timed to go 'back to back' with the Australian Society of Microbiology meeting. Some discussion followed about the need to clarify liability, and this was carried over to the New IOM Board Meeting. **Action New IOM Board**

AOB

There were no other items of business and no nominations were made to give honorary membership.

The IOM (Old) Board Meeting closed at 18.10.

These minutes have been circulated and approved by the majority of the IOM Board Members.

Secretary-General Report, Roger Ayling

I was delighted to be re-elected by the IOM members as Secretary-General for the IOM for the biennium 2010-2012. I found it extremely beneficial to serve this second term knowing what to expect and being more familiar with the processes, timings and governance of the IOM.

I have enjoyed working with the IOM Chair Joachim Frey and the other members of the IOM Board over the past two years. I have also had been fortunate in having good communications with the many IOM members who are not on the IOM Board but play a very important role in the IOM. I would particularly highlight the different committees that work towards making the IOM Congresses so successful, specifically the congress local organizing committee, the scientific committee, the awards committee and the travel awards committee.

As part of Secretary-General role four newsletters have been issued to IOM members, in: October 2010; May 2011; December 2011 and March 2012. These are also available on the IOM website. The newsletter following the IOM Congress contained a report of the successful congress in Chianciano Terme organized by Assunta Bertaccini and the minutes of both the old and new IOM Board meetings, which I believe is important so that the IOM organization is open and visible to all of its members that make this specialized organization so good. Other newsletters contained reports of IOM member's recognition and achievements, such as Dr Marylène Kobisch being honoured as Chevalier dans l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur from the French ministry of superior education for her outstanding life-work on animal health. Reports of other mycoplasma meetings included: the joint congress of the 5th Asian Organization for Mycoplasma (AOM) and the 38th Japanese Society of Mycoplasma (JSM); the European Mycoplasma Meeting, "Whats new in mycoplasma" which was held at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Weybridge site; and the first meeting of United States Mycoplasma working group, held in Fort Worth, Texas.

A number of IOM Board votes have been carried out, mainly to do with funding of travel awards, and the venue for the 2014 Congress. The best part of the IOM secretary-general job was informing the IOM award recipients, their responses clearly demonstrating how happy and worthy the selected recipients are. I have also assisted with a number of general enquiries about mycoplasmas and the IOM.

During the last biennium, some major disasters have occurred around the world; the events in Japan and the flooding in Brisbane stand out. It makes one realize that the IOM is a truly International organization with IOM members, people we know, being personally affected by these tragedies.

I feel truly honoured to be re-elected as secretary-general for 2012-2014 and will work closely with Dan Brown, the new IOM Chair and endeavour to do my best for the IOM in this role.

Respectfully submitted

Roger Ayling
July 2012.

Treasurer Report, Mitchell F. Balish

There have been no substantive changes to the manner in which I have executed the office of Treasurer since the last Congress.

All data in this report are as of 30 June 2012.

SUMMARY

The IOM has a total of **\$158,711.25** in cash and investment assets. This is an **increase of \$13,005.59** since 30 June 2010. **However**, a fairer comparison between the current and previous assets considers that the bank account has, at present, an “extra” \$10,000, the result of an anonymous donation to cover student travel expenses, which will all be spent as described below. In the absence of these funds, **the net increase is \$3,005.59. This unusual circumstance should be taken into account in composing the next report in two years.**

- Bank account: \$42,319.98 (increase of \$8,808.54)
- Vanguard Admiral Treasury Money Market Fund: \$5,266.15 (increase of \$1.34)
- Vanguard Short-Term Treasury Fund (IRPCM): \$31,114.33 (increase of \$870.69)
- Vanguard Short-Term Federal Fund: \$80,010.79 (increase of \$3,320.96)

The investment assets earned were **40% lower** than in the previous biennium, presumably due to: 1) transfer of ~20% of the funds in the investment accounts to the bank account during the previous biennium, resulting in less interest-earning money during this biennium; and 2) the continued economic troubles in the U.S. and elsewhere. Nonetheless, the combination of the **increased dues rate as of 2009** and a **slight increase in membership** has resulted in **net financial steadiness** for the IOM.

The money used for per diems for IRPCM Board members at both the previous and current Congresses will be transferred from the IRPCM account to the bank account.

EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS

Since 1 July 2010 the IOM's expenditures have totaled **\$34,266**, as follows:

- Costs associated with 18th IOM Congress: \$14,431, as follows:
 - Speaker awards, \$4,000
 - Travel awards, \$9,200
 - Per diems, \$1,100
 - Miscellaneous, \$131
- Costs associated with 19th IOM Congress: \$18,114, as follows:
 - Paid out to Local Organization Committee, \$16,114
 - Travel awards, \$2,000
- Other costs, \$1,722, as follows:
 - State of Ohio non-profit filing, \$300
 - IUMS membership, \$200
 - Shipping charges for materials transferred to IOM archives, \$472
 - Web site maintenance, \$500
 - Bank charges, \$222
 - Miscellaneous, \$28

(Previous biennium: expenditures were \$41,434)

Since 1 July 2010, the IOM's receipts have totaled \$47,237, as follows:

- Interest and gains, \$4,193
- Dues, \$22,756
- Recovery from \$18th IOM Congress: \$10,323
- Anonymous donation for travel awards: \$10,000

(Previous biennium: receipts were \$31,946)

OTHER

Since the IOM is a registered non-profit organization, **we do not pay taxes**. However, in keeping with the law, I prepared and filed the 990-EZ tax form in June of each year. I found it a relatively simple task, not worth spending hundreds of dollars on for it to be done by an accountant.

The financial parameters are well within the bounds of a non-profit organization using the short version of the tax form. 1) Investment income routinely constitutes ~20% of our total income; the limit for a publicly supported organization is 66.7%. 2) Gross receipts are ~\$20,000 per year; the limit for being allowed to file the short version of the tax form, and not the long one, is \$500,000. These parameters are unlikely to approach the limits in the future.

Therefore, it is my opinion that as long as the IOM does not fundamentally change the way it does business, **the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. is not ever likely to waste its time and effort on an audit of the IOM**. Moreover, my successors will not need to approach the record-keeping and reporting with any greater stringency or effort than are currently applied.

OUTLOOK

Further anticipated expenses associated with the 19th IOM Congress are no greater than \$30,000.

The audit that was performed in 2008 was, in my view, excessive, focusing on improving investment strategies. I will have an audit conducted next year, in keeping with the policy that was established several years ago, but it will be much more limited in nature. The amount of money that the IOM has is, at present, more than suitable for its operations, and it is my opinion that **the Board should, in the future, consider finding new, appropriate ways to spend some of that money** "to promote the cooperative international study of mycoplasmas and mycoplasmal diseases, and to disseminate knowledge about their characteristics, effect, transmission, and control" (the stated "primary purpose" of the IOM).

CLOSING

Being Treasurer of the IOM has been an eye-opening experience for me. I'm glad to have learned so much about how this organization, about which I care deeply, operates at various levels. In addition, this experience has confirmed for me what I had suspected all along – namely, that finance is not a task for which I am inherently suited. I look forward to helping Gail Gasparich, my successor, learn the task. I wish her luck, and I am confident that the finances of the IOM are in good hands.

Membership Secretary Report, Anja Persson

The IOM currently has 233 members in good standing 216 of these are paying members, the other 17 are honorary members.

8 are retired, 153 regular members, 53 students and 2 sustaining members.

Only a few have paid for a period beyond 2012: 4 retired and 30 regular members

Many members have dropped out: 4 retired, 68 regular and 40 students who last paid there membership in 2010 and 1 sustaining, 2 retired, 52 regular and 40 students who last paid in 2008. (112+95=207 members in total!)

My comments:

We need to improve the strategy for keeping members active also when they choose not to visit the IOM congress!

There is a need for a new database where we don't erase previous information on memberships and members of passed years.

Membership data should be entered directly into the database by the member upon renewal or entrance, and automatic emails should be generated such as a confirmation letter when treasurer has entered payment confirmation, and reminders to renew memberships.

My best regards to the board members!

Anja Persson

Taxonomy Report, Daniel Brown

Report of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes, Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Mollicutes

Prepared by Daniel R. Brown, Chairman, 29 June 2012

1. Membership

Current members:

Assunta Bertaccini (Italy)	Christine Knox (Australia)	Maureen Davidson (USA)
Alain Blanchard (France)	Laura McAuliffe (UK)	Jerry Davis (USA)
Janet Bradbury (UK)	Lucia Manso-Silvan (France)	Emeritus members:
Daniel Brown (Chairman; USA)	Meghan May (USA)	Jose Bové (France)
Giuseppe Firrao (Secretary; Italy)	Laura Regassa (USA)	Harold Neimark (USA)
Joachim Frey (Switzerland)	Ricardo Rosenbusch (USA)	Dennis Pollack (USA)
Gail Gasparich (USA)	Konrad Sachse (Germany)	Shmuel Razin (Israel)
Ryô Harasawa (Japan)	Dmitriy Volokhov (USA)	David Taylor-Robinson (UK)
Nigel Harrison (USA)	Ex-officio members:	Joseph Tully (USA)
Tom Knight, Jr. (USA)	Glenn Browning (Australia)	

2. Activities since the prior IOM Congress

Minutes of the 2010 subcommittee meeting have been published: Firrao, G. and D.R. Brown. 2011. International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes. Subcommittee on the taxonomy of Mollicutes. Minutes of the meetings, 11 and 16 July 2010, Chianciano Terme, Italy. International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology 61:695-697.

Several subcommittee members and other IOM members contributed to the updated description of the mollicutes published by Bergey's Trust in 2010: Division (= Phylum) III. *Tenericutes*. In: Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology (Second Edition), Volume 4. The *Bacteroidetes*, *Spirochaetes*, *Tenericutes (Mollicutes)*, *Acidobacteria*, *Fibrobacteres*, *Fusobacteria*, *Dictyoglomi*, *Gemmatimonadetes*, *Lentisphaerae*, *Verrucomicrobia*, *Chlamydiae*, and *Planctomycetes*. Krieg, N.R., Staley, J.T., Brown, D.R., Hedlund, B., Paster, B.J., Ward, N., Ludwig, W. and Whitman, W.B., eds. Springer, New York NY, pp. 567-723. This is available for download in pdf format from the publisher at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/n41776m62m451403>.

Subcommittee members Alain Blanchard and Meghan May, with IOM member Mitch Balish, are in the process of preparing an updated description of the mollicutes to be published in the forthcoming Fourth Edition of The Prokaryotes.

3. Matters Arising

The ICSP did not convene during the 2011 IUMS International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology in Sapporo, Japan, as a consequence of the earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tōhoku. An on-line plenary session is planned before the end of the 2012 calendar year.

Jerry Davis and Maureen Davidson are relinquishing authority as director and curator, respectively, of the Mollicutes Collection. One impact is that there will no longer be a recognized collection to accept antisera as required by the current standards for description of proposed new species of mollicutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R. Brown

Archivist Report – Lynn Duffy / Ken Waites

We have had no requests for information during this biennium. We have had two donations during this same period. Janet Robertson donated bibliographies and reference books/journals from her collection. See attachment. We also received 15 boxes of mycoplasma papers from the collection of Peter Whittlestone. These were provided to the IOM archives by Helena and David Windsor at Mycoplasma Experience. Due to the moving of the UAB Historical Library where the archives are housed, I have been unable to catalogue this donation and place it in the archive storage. However, some of these papers are dated from the 1940's. Whittlestone, was among the first to isolate *M. hyopneumoniae*. These should be added to the archives in a few months.

Unedited
Chronological Listing of Publications in
THE MYCOPLASMA COLLECTION

Of
Professor Emerita Janet A. Robertson,
Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology,
Medical Sciences Building, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H7

Donated to THE IOM ARCHIVES,
University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL
February, 2011.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

These provide a useful guide to the early literature on mollicutes. Their use can guard against those claiming as discoveries what are merely re-discoveries!

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C.H. Domermuth and J.G. Rittenhouse. Mycoplasmataceae: A Bibliography and Index. 1852-1970 – Research Bulletin 61, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. August, 1971.

1970-1972 – Research Bulletin 64, September, 1973.

1973-1975 – Research Bulletin 114, September, 1976.

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This collection is an excellent listing of early publications in mycoplasmaology that are often impossible to identify otherwise. This effort was a great gift to the field.

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THESIS

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This may be one of the first theses on mollicutes; I have not sent other theses in my collection

The Mollicutes collection - letter

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Dear Members of the IOM and IRPCM Boards of Directors

As you may know, I have been working for the US Food and Drug Administration for about 2 years on a part time basis as part of an interagency agreement between Purdue University and the FDA. When it was apparent that I would be away from Purdue University for long time periods, I arranged for Dr. Ching Ching Wu to oversee the daily operations of the Collection and to send out reagents as needed. However, Dr. Wu has left Purdue and I have been unable to secure faculty oversight of the Collection. In October, 2011, my assignment to the FDA became a full time commitment and it appears that this will continue. The IOM and IRPCM must now make immediate plans for the deposition of The Mollicutes Collection as I am not, and will not, be at Purdue University for months at a time. Without the support of a full time faculty member, Purdue University has no reason to continue housing the Collection and I fear they will decide to discard the reagents and assign the laboratory space to some else besides myself.

The Collection currently houses the collections of organisms for Joseph Tully (US National Institutes of Health), Robert Whitcomb (US Department of Agriculture), small amounts of serotyping antisera for *Ureaplasma urealyticum/Ureaplasma parvum* from Janet Robertson

(University of Alberta), large bulk supplies of polyclonal antisera from Michael Barile (from the Bureau of Biologics, which is now part of the Food and Drug Administration), and approximately 100 clinical isolates of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* from George Kenny. Please note that there is no other information available about the *M. pneumoniae* isolates. They are completely anonymous due to US regulations regarding research involving human subjects.

The Collection consists primarily of a large number of lyophilized vials of reagents. This part of the Collection requires a large cold room (about 100 sq. ft) or the equivalent in refrigerated storage. In addition, there are frozen seed cultures that take up about half of a 20 cu.ft -80°C freezer. There also are large bulk containers of polyclonal antisera that require about four -20°C freezers. I realize that this is a lot of material to move and it requires a large amount of space to house this material.

I regret that moving the Collection or letting the reagents be discarded appears to be the only option open to the IOM and/or IRPCM. Unfortunately, my own efforts to find someone willing to oversee the Collection have failed.

Sincerely,

Jerry K. Davis, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM
Professor of Comparative Pathobiology
Director of Veterinary Laboratory Animal Care

Awards Committee Report

Report of the 2010 - 2012 IOM Awards Committee Submitted by Kim Wise, Committee Chair July 7, 2012

The following ten members served on the Committee for the 2010-2012 biennium. Their dates of appointment by the IOM Chair and country affiliations are indicated.

Appointed in 2008:

Michael Calcutt (USA)
Ran Nir-Paz (Israel)
Anja Persson (Sweden)
José Poveda (Spain)

Appointed in 2010:

Cécile Bébéar (France)
Kevin Dybvig (USA)
Jørgen Jensen (Denmark)
Shigetou Namba (Japan)
Patricia Totten (USA)
Kim Wise (USA) – Committee Chair

During the 2010-2012 biennium, the Committee addressed two operationally separate functions, detailed in the corresponding sections I. and II. below:

I. Evaluation of nominees and selection of recipients for the 2012 Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel (EK), Derrick Edward (DE), and Peter Hannan (PH) Awards.

II. Evaluation of nominees and selection of recipients of the 2012 Louis Dienes (LD) and Harry Morton (HM) Awards.

A third activity undertaken by the Awards Committee Chair, by request of the IOM Chair (See minutes of the 2010 meeting of the New Board), was to organize the re-evaluation of criteria and process for determining the Robert F. Whitcomb Award. This did not involve the above-referenced Awards Committee; rather a separate *ad hoc* group was established for this purpose (See section III, Evaluation of the Robert F. Whitcomb Award, below).

Finally one change in the rules governing the IOM Awards Committee was requested by the Committee Chair and granted by the IOM Board (See section IV, Change in the rules governing the IOM Awards Committee, below)

I. Selection of the 2012 Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel, Derrick Edward, and Peter Hannan Award Recipients.

The first call for nominations was distributed electronically to the IOM membership by the IOM Secretary-General on August 22, 2011. Subsequent announcements by this mode and through the IOM Newsletter were made prior to the prescribed December 15 deadline for receiving nomination packages. On receipt by the Committee Chair, packages were immediately distributed to members for their evaluations, based on research excellence, impact, sustained contribution or promise, according to the published criteria for each award. After deliberation, members completed ballots listing all nominees (with abstention offered for any members with conflicts) and returned their votes concurrently to the Chair and to one other designated Committee member for verification. All members returned ballots and by

simple majority selected the award recipients indicated below. The results of the selections, along with a biographical sketch prepared for each recipient by the Committee Chair, were sent to the IOM Secretary-General and IOM Chair on January 25, 2012. The Secretary General contacted each recipient, confirmed acceptance of the awards and posted the outcome of the award selection in the IOM Newsletter.

**Recipient of the 2012 Emmy Klieneberger- Nobel Award
Robert E. Davis**

Dr. Robert E. Davis has made prominent and sustained research contributions to the field of mycoplasma throughout his highly distinguished career. Among these are the discovery and definition of major lineages within the *Mollicutes*, including organisms comprising the genus *Spiroplasma* and many within *Candidatus Phytoplasma*; the identification of these agents as critical pathogens of plants that include important crops; and the concept that mobile genetic elements may have driven both the early evolution of these obligate parasites and their adaptation to plant hosts and insect vectors. With undergraduate training in Botany at the University of Rhode Island and a Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Cornell University, he has since been affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (USA) where he continues to serve as Research Leader. Possibly most significant among many key findings by Dr. Davis and his research team is his initial recognition of a new spiral, wall-less life form, showing motility and causation of severe corn disease, whose name "spiroplasma" was eventually accepted as the formal genus name of a broad clade of mollicutes. Cited by the American Phytopathological Society (APS) to be among the top Millennial Milestones in Plant Pathology, this finding opened an entire field of research studying a class of organisms of great biological interest and economic importance. He also pioneered the characterization of phage- and plasmid-based sequences in spiroplasmas and their role in genomic restructuring and host adaptation. He has led the effort to generate the genome sequence of *Spiroplasma kunkelii*, and his team has developed several of the current serological and molecular genetic tools used to identify and classify spiroplasmal subgroups. Additional efforts toward defining and classifying the non-helical mycoplasma-like plant pathogens, now termed phytoplasmas, are similarly impressive. His team proposed lineage-specific pathways of pseudogene formation within this clade and phage-based mechanisms propelling its early evolution; devised the framework for phylogenetic classification of phytoplasmas; and has identified several new phytoplasma pathogens. Dr. Davis has interacted with many international collaborators and has promoted major research initiatives targeting plant pathogens, such as that in Lithuania, for which he was awarded national recognition. His scientific accomplishments reach far beyond the arena of mycoplasma, as evidenced by his receipt of prestigious awards and citations. He is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the USDA-ARS Science Hall of Fame, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the APS, where he received the Ruth Allen Award for outstanding contributions to the science of plant pathology.

**Recipient of the 2012 Derrick Edward Award
Saskia A. Hogenhout**

Dr. Saskia A. Hogenhout has made major research advances in deciphering the intimate conversation among plants, microbes and insect vectors at the molecular level. These interactions are the basis for the pathogenesis and transmission of diverse plant viruses and bacterial pathogens, including species of *Spiroplasma* and *Candidatus Phytoplasma*. As an undergraduate and graduate student at Wageningen University and Research Centre (The Netherlands), her first research focused on virus pathogens, pursuing doctoral studies characterizing the proteins mediating the binding and persistence of luteovirus in aphids. After receiving her Ph.D. in 1999, she was appointed Assistant Professor at The Ohio State

University (USA) where she initiated an independent program on leafhopper and planthopper transmission of phytoplasmas and rhabdoviruses. During the ensuing period, in which she was promoted to tenured Associate Professor, a major portion of her research efforts addressed phytoplasmas and their relatives, and included genome sequencing and analysis, cell biology and the identification of new phytoplasmas. In 2007, she accepted a Project Leader position at The John Innes Centre (UK), where she has built an expanded research team addressing functional phytoplasma genomics, and virus-insect interactions. She enjoys widespread collaborations throughout the international community. Her research publications represent significant contributions in understanding phytoplasma biology and host interactions and her recent reviews on phytoplasmas and effectors of plant-associated organisms are widely recognized to be thorough and illuminating. The most significant contributions to mycoplasmaology, within her broader research program, include several top tier publications describing the complete sequence of the genome of Aster Yellows phytoplasma strain Witches' Broom (AY-WB); the identification of several phytoplasma effector proteins encoded in repeated chromosomal regions, and the finding that some regions are mobilized into extrachromosomal configurations; the differential upregulation of different sets of these effectors in plants versus insect vectors; the induction by one effector (SAP54) of plant phenotypes resembling those infected with AY-WB; and the complex induction by another effector (SAP11) of witches' broom properties in the model plant system *Arabidopsis thaliana*, through destabilization of conserved plant transcription factors that also confer advantage to insect vector reproduction through altered plant defense. Her application of powerful genomic tools in model systems is reshaping concepts and experimental approaches in phytoplasma pathobiology. Dr. Hogenhout is actively contributing to international efforts in this area and is highly regarded in the scientific community, as evidenced by her current roles as a contributing member of the Faculty of 1000, a member of the Editorial Board for *Molecular Plant Pathology*, and Coordinator of a working group for EU COST Action FA0807.

Recipient of the 2012 Peter Hannan Award

Li Xiao

Dr. Li Xiao has made significant research contributions to the understanding and control of human mycoplasmal disease, particularly through her molecular and genomic analyses of serovar variation in *Ureaplasma* and through studies identifying molecular genetic determinants for antibiotic resistance. Both areas are critical for developing effective clinical assessment and treatment strategies. Following undergraduate and graduate training in biochemistry and molecular biology, respectively, at Shandong University and the Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Science (China), she entered a PhD program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (USA) studying the role and inhibition of mammalian cell chaperones in the evolution of anti-cancer drug resistance. After receiving her degree in 2006 she remained at this institution, and first entered the field of mycoplasmaology as a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Pathology then, in 2011, was appointed Research Associate in the Department of Medicine where she continues her studies. Several publications over this period reflect significant advances. She has applied real-time PCR and other molecular genetic approaches to identify, classify and determine genotypic traits and serotype correlates of ureaplasmas. Additionally her recent comparative genomic analysis of large sets of clinical isolates has revealed rampant gene transfer and combinational mosaic structures in genes that encode serovar-determining surface proteins. This latter finding substantially challenges the ongoing paradigm that serovar-specific clinical manifestations may be found, or should be expected, in ureaplasmas. More generally, this concept may apply to other mollicutes in which genotypic instability and diversity occur in loci determining serotypes. In parallel to these important studies, she has examined accumulating genome sequence data from clinical isolates to identify specific mutations conferring antibiotic resistance. She has recently identified mutations in ribosomal proteins and rRNA correlating with macrolide resistance of ureaplasmas and is assessing other chromosomal mutations associated with resistance to fluoroquinolone antibiotics. She has developed specific genetic

assays to identify antibiotic resistance in other human mycoplasmas including *M. pneumoniae*, as well as rapid tests for detection and classification of key human mollicutes. She continues active collaborations with researchers in genomics and informatics and applies these contemporary tools to the challenges of human clinical mycoplasma. She currently has expanded research initiatives addressing ureaplasma interactions with the human innate immune system.

II. Selection of the 2012 Louis Dienes and Harry Morton award recipients.

Contestants for these awards were self-nominated at the time of abstract submission for the 2012 Congress. These were electronically tagged as LD or HM entries during the abstract submission process for later access by the Committee. All references to abstracts during deliberations leading up to the Congress used the unique tracking number assigned to abstracts on submission. On April 4, 2012 following the (extended, March 18, 2012) deadline for receipt of abstracts for the 2012 Congress, those in the LD and HM award categories were made accessible to the Committee on-line, for perusal and evaluation. Based on initial review of abstracts to evaluate research quality and impact, members submitted a top tier of abstracts to the Chair and to one other designated member for verification. These were pooled into a short list and re-distributed to the Committee on May 15, 2012 to serve as a primary (but not exclusive) set of posters to be further evaluated at the IOM Congress. On June 26, a final list of posters for LD and HM awards (matching tracking numbers, final poster numbers, first author names and poster session assignments) was sent by the Chair of the Organizing Committee to the Chair of the Awards Committee, and distributed to the Committee as a critical roadmap for the process of judging posters at the Congress.

At the time this report was submitted the final tally of award candidates was:

LD Award candidates: 17
HM Award candidates: 31

At the time this report was submitted, the expected process for selection entails examination and evaluation of posters at the Congress by all ten Committee members expected to attend, except that any member having a conflict through affiliation with the work presented is to be excluded from judging the award category in which the conflict occurs. Ballots submitted by the Committee at the Congress will be used to determine award winners. These results will be communicated to the IOM Chair prior to announcement of the awards at the end of the Congress.

Issues for future consideration:

1. Distribution of award candidate posters between two poster sessions, each separately displaying posters for only two days, compromises the ability of the Committee to compare posters between the two sessions.

Recommendation: Display all posters for the entire duration of the Congress if at all possible.

2. Placement of the second poster session to terminate immediately prior to the ending ceremony of the congress unnecessarily places extreme pressure on judging, disallows any plans to have an oral session comprised of award winners, and precludes preparation of a formal award document that can be presented at the Congress.

Recommendation: Plan the final poster session to end one day prior to the closing of the Congress.

These needs should be communicated to the Program Planning Committee and Organizing Committee early in the planning stage for a Congress.

III. Evaluation of the Robert F. Whitcomb (RFW) Award

Following the decision by the IOM Board of Directors in 2010 to improve the procedures and rules governing the RFW award (see minutes of the New Board meeting in the October 2010 IOM Newsletter), IOM Awards Committee Chair Kim Wise was charged with that goal. To this end an *ad hoc* group, approved by the IOM Chair, was identified and appointed for the 2010-2012 biennium to review and recommend changes in those rules, including the criteria for the award and the process for selection. This RFW Task Force was headed by Professor Shigetou Namba and included the following IOM members, having particular expertise in plant and insect mycoplasmaology, the research area of Dr. Whitcomb's expertise and legacy:

Assunta Bertaccini (Italy)
Laure Béven (France)
Cristina Marzachi (Italy)
Shigetou Namba (Japan), Task Force Chair
Joel Renaudin (France)
Yan Zhao (USA)

The Task Force received its charge August 23, 2011 and deliberated over complex issues involving disparate viewpoints until reaching consensus decision by majority vote, which was finalized formally in a set of new rules submitted to Kim Wise May 1, 2012 and subsequently communicated to the IOM Board on May 9, 2012 for their evaluation, refinement and decision toward implementation. The recommended changes reflected a major shift from the current criteria and process (based on presentations by more junior research trainees at a Congress), to a nomination-based evaluation for more senior research accomplishments in plant and insect mycoplasmaology, similar to the criteria and process established for the EK, DE and PH Awards. Due to the timing of the Task Force recommendations and the need for further Board action, incompatibility of the newly recommended process with the schedule for the 2012 Congress, and constraints in the 2012 Congress scientific program for accommodating the prior award process, the Board voted not to award the RFW Award at the 2012 Congress, with the expectation that a new form of the award will be in place and announced to Congress attendees as a means in the future to better honor Dr. Whitcomb's lifetime contributions to the field.

IV. Change in the rules governing the IOM Awards Committee

To ensure that the IOM Awards committee has sufficient expertise to meet its obligations throughout a biennium (for example if appointed regular members with expertise in particular areas are unable to attend a Congress or cannot serve for any reason), a proposal was submitted to the IOM Board by Awards Committee Chair Kim Wise, to modify the language in the current rules governing the appointment of the Committee (newly proposed language is shown underlined in italics):

“The Awards Committee shall consist of ten regular members appointed by successive Chairs of IOM. Members will serve for two biennia (four years), with five holdover members who were appointed by the retiring Chair and five new members appointed by the new Chair of IOM after assuming office. At the beginning of each biennium the incoming Chair of IOM will appoint a Chair of the Awards Committee from among the five hold-over members, who will serve in that capacity for one biennium (two years). Collectively, members of the Awards Committee should reflect the expertise necessary to evaluate all IOM award categories. Subject to approval and appointment by the IOM Chair, the Chair of the Awards Committee may assign qualified IOM members as ad hoc participants to provide specialized expertise or fill gaps in Committee member service for specific needs during a single biennial term.”

The proposal was unanimously approved by the IOM Board on November 21, 2011 to be effective immediately. The change was announced to the IOM Membership in the IOM Newsletter (December, 2011 issue) and the rules were amended on the IOM website.

V. Appreciation of the 2012 IOM Awards Committee and RFW Task Force

Kim Wise wishes to thank everyone who participated in both groups for their truly outstanding service during this biennium. The quality of effort, dedication to tasks and responsiveness to timelines was extraordinary and made the demanding process for honoring those in our organization a pleasure.

Student Travel Awards Report

2012 Travel Award Committee Report

The following IOM members generously shared their time and expertise in reviewing and ranking the applications for student travel awards to the 19th Congress of the International Organization for Mycoplasma in Toulouse, France.

Janet Bradbury (UK)	Glenn Browning (Australia)
Mick Calcutt (USA)	Roger Dumke (Germany)
Kevin Dybvig (USA)	Xavier Foissac (France)
Joachim Frey (Switz.)	Gail Gasparich (USA)
Steve Geary (USA)	Jorgen Jensen (Sweden)
Tsuyoshi Kenri (Japan)	Duncan Krause (USA)
Philip Markham (Australia)	Shigetou Namba (Japan)
Robin Nicholas (UK)	Jaume Piñol (Spain)
Ken Waites (USA)	Yan Zhao (USA)

A total of 34 applications were considered, each reviewed and scored by four committee members. The following recipients were identified as most meritorious:

From FEMS Conference Grant (Totaling 6000 Euros):

R. Afriat (Israel)	A. Broto (Spain)	C. Churchward (UK)
L. González (Spain)	F. Gosney (UK)	A. Guimaraes (USA)
J. Kornspan (Israel)	L. Garcia Morales (Spain)	N. Nimmo (Kenya)
R. Rosales (UK)	A. Sprygin (Russia)	

From IOM funding and donations (Totaling \$23,000):

N. Armour (USA)	G. Campos (Brazil)	K. Carrijo (Brazil)
K. Cowart (USA)	S. Distelhorst (USA)	T. Kasai (Japan)
Y. Liu (China)	T. Lobão (Brazil)	L. dos Santos Machado (Brazil)
B. Mehra (India)	J. Neto (USA)	O. Prince (USA)
R. Pritchard (USA)	B. Raymond (Australia)	L. dos Santos (Brazil)
M. A. Shahid (Australia)	E. Sweeney (Australia)	J. Tacchi (Australia)
A. Tenfen (Brazil)	I. Tulum (Japan)	N. Wawegama (Australia)
M. Widjaja (Australia)	D. Wijesurendra (Australia)	

Duncan Krause and Robin Nicholas, Co-chairs

19th IOM Congress Scientific Program Committee (SPC) - Report

Members of the SPC:

Inna Lysnyansky, Chairman (Israel)
Laure Beven (France)
Rohini Chopra-Dewasthaly (Austria)
Steven P. Djordjevic (Australia)
Steven J. Geary (USA)
Robert D. Hardy (USA)
Ludwig E. Hoelzle (Germany)
Enno Jacobs (Germany)
Cristina Marzachi (Italy)
Laura McAuliffe (UK)/Roger Ayling (UK)
Ran Nir-Paz (Israel)
Jaume Piñol (Spain)
Takeshi Shimizu (Japan)
Pascal Sirand-Pugnet (France)
Jonas M. Winchell (USA)

The SC has been approved by IOM new meeting, on July, 13th, 2010.

- ❖ October 2010: Names of the committee members were announced in the IOM newsletter.
- ❖ October – November 2010: Topics for symposium were chosen.
- ❖ November 2010 – October 2011: Three Keynote speakers were confirmed.

Ada Yonath, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel.

Olivier Neyrolles, Institute of Pharmacology & Structural Biology, CNRS - University of Toulouse, France.

Luis Serrano, EMBL/CRG Systems Biology Research Unit, Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) and UPF, Barcelona, Spain.

- ❖ October 2011: tentative titles for the keynote lectures were received.
- ❖ November 2011: First draft of congress schedule developed in collaboration with chair of the LOC.
- ❖ November 2011: Names of keynote speakers and abstract deadlines were announced in the IOM newsletter.

Final deadlines were:

- Abstract submission: December 5th 2011- February 29th 2012.
- Extended deadline for the abstract submission: March 18th 2012.
- ❖ November 2011: First draft of congress schedule developed in collaboration with chair of the LOC.
- ❖ End of November 2011: Abstract submission website opened.
- ❖ January 26th 2012: Chair of the SPC was announced about award's winner.
- ❖ February 6, 2012: Reminder of abstract deadlines circulated to IOM membership by email.
- ❖ February 23th, 2012: Reminder of abstract deadlines circulated to IOM membership by email.
- ❖ March 4th 2012: Website passwords emailed individually to each Committee member.

- ❖ March 4th 2012: Abstract reviewing assignments were emailed to Program Committee members, with deadline of March 20, 2012 for recommendations to reject or priority for oral versus poster presentation. Each abstract was reviewed by at least two members of the SPC and by me.

A total of 272 abstracts were submitted through the website by March 18, 2012.
33/272 abstracts were submitted during extended deadline for the abstract submission.

- ❖ April 4-5 2012: All submitters were individually notified by email via submission website of initial abstract disposition (accepted vs. rejected). Finally, 265 abstracts were accepted, 7 withdrawn. Assignment to an oral or poster session was to be confirmed at a later date.

The distribution of the abstracts among topic categories was as a follow:

Identification, Detection and Diagnosis: 33

Human Mollicutes: 27

Chemotherapy and Vaccines: 22

Virulence and Pathogenesis: 27

Immunology and Host Response: 18

Taxonomy: 3

Animal Mollicutes: 48

Molecular Biology, Genetics and Global Approaches: 42

Cell Biology, Physiology and Metabolism: 11

Plant and Insect Mollicutes: 19

Epidemiology: 16

Based on reviewers' recommendations and thematic balance, abstracts were further selected for 3 symposia, 6 seminars and 2 short oral presentations. Because of the time table (the duration of the IOM 2012 is 4 and not 4.5 days as was previously), it was also agreed that the 2 seminars (epidemiology of mollicutes and Plant and insect mollicutes) would overlap. Abstracts, which were not selected for oral presentations were divided into two poster sessions based on their categories.

- ❖ April 17th 2012: The IOM board voted that the Whitcomb Award will not be awarded at this year IOM. It was decided, that Joachim Frey will honor Robert Whitcomb and mention the existence of the award at an appropriate time during the IOM congress.
- ❖ May 11, 2012: Committee members notified of final Congress schedule.
- ❖ May 14-15th, 2012: All submitters were notified by email via submission website of final abstract disposition (oral vs. poster and specific session assignment).
- ❖ May 23th 2012: The complete program was sent to the local organizers.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the Scientific Program Committee members for their enthusiastic and fruitful help, Chis Minion for his management of the abstracts submission website, Christine Citti and other local organizers for their help in setting up the program.

Inna Lysnyansky,
Chair of the Scientific Program Committee
19th IOM Congress, Toulouse, France
2010-2012

THE IOM BOARD 2012 – 2014 MEETING MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MYCOPLASMOLOGY**

Chair, DR. DANIEL BROWN (USA)
Chair-Elect, DR. STEVEN DJORDJEVIC (Australia)
Past Chair, DR. JOACHIM FREY (Switzerland)
Secretary-General, DR. ROGER AYLING (UK)
Treasurer, DR. GAIL GASPARICH (USA)
Membership-Secretary, DR. ANJA PERSSON (Sweden)
Information Officer, DR. CHRIS MINION (USA)
IRPCM Chair, DR. GLENN BROWNING (Australia)
At-Large Members, DR. MICHAEL CALCUTT (USA), DR. CAIO CORDOVA (Brazil), DR. CHRISTINE KNOX (Australia), DR. LAURA REGASSA (USA), DR. BRAD SPILLER (UK)

<http://the-iom.org/>

2012-2014 IOM (New) BOARD MEETING
19th IOM CONGRESS
Wednesday July 18th 2012
Time: 17:00

Attendees: **Chair**, DR. DANIEL BROWN (USA); **Chair-Elect**, DR. STEVEN DJORDJEVIC (Australia); **Past Chair**, DR. JOACHIM FREY (Switzerland); **Secretary-General**, DR. ROGER AYLING (UK); **Treasurer**, DR. GAIL GASPARICH (USA); **Information Officer**, DR. CHRIS MINION (USA); **IRPCM Chair**, DR. GLENN BROWNING (Australia); **At-Large Members**, DR. CAIO CORDOVA (Brazil), DR. CHRISTINE KNOX (Australia), DR. LAURA REGASSA (USA), DR. BRAD SPILLER (UK), PASCAL SIRAND-PUGNET (FRANCE),

Past Treasurer, DR. MITCHELL BALISH (USA)

Apologies: **Membership-Secretary**, DR. ANJA PERSSON (Sweden); **Treasurer**, DR. GAIL GASPARICH (USA); DR. MICHAEL CALCUTT (USA)

Daniel Brown (Chair) officially opened the (New) IOM Board meeting.

Items carried forward from the IOM (old) Board Meeting were:

Finances: Discussion took place about use of current IOM Funds. Daniel Brown stated that the IOM could afford to open its purse strings a little bit. He suggested at least \$50,000 may be needed in reserve for IOM Congresses. Therefore he recommended that the IOM should be able to provide \$15,000 for student travel awards for the IOM Congress in Blumenau. Some money could also be used to support delegates requiring travel VISA's.

With current funds it may be possible that a small amount of funding could be used for a research proposal, ideally one with high visibility that will increase IOM membership. Chris Minion suggested a high impact project such as the genome sequence project. At the genomic IRPCM meeting John Glass agreed to spear-head a large scale sequencing project. Joachim Frey suggested some funding could be used for visits to learn techniques in other laboratories. This could be managed by a new committee or by the awards committee. **Action: Use of IOM funds to be discussed and agreed by e mail.**

The Mollicutes Collection

The IOM Board can influence the **mollicutes collection**. Steve Geary suggested spending IRPCM funds on that project. One comment made was this is a "unique and potentially valuable resource and anyone who didn't support this should not be an IOM member!" It was unanimously agreed the IOM would pay up to \$5,000 to move the culture collection. More information is required on some isolates and Mitchell Balish and Daniel Brown offered to visit Purdue University by mid-August.

Glenn Browning asked about membership dues and its affect on revenue, which has remained approximately the same. There is a need to proactively invoice lapsed IOM members and specifically sustaining members. Daniel Brown has a letter he used for the ASM, which may provide a suitable template for this. **Action: Daniel Brown to provide example template. For the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to take forward.**

Robert Whitcomb Award – The IOM Board agreed that this should be revised to be a regular IOM award that the Award Committee managed as per other awards. No funds are currently provided, but this should be investigated to see if any more funds were available. **Action: Daniel Brown to find out if any funds were available for this award.**

Nominations of committees

Scientific Committee - Pascal Sirand-Pugnet had accepted an invitation to chair this committee. The proposed committee was voted on and formally adopted.

Chairman Pascal SIRAND-PUGNET (France), Marc MARENDA (Australia); Maristela VASCONCELLOS CARDOSO (Brazil), Jorgen S. JENSEN (Denmark), Sabine PEREYRE (France), Michael KUBE (Germany), Ran NIR-PAZ (Israel), Yuko SASAKI (Japan), Jorg JORES (Kenya), Maria LLUCH SENAR (Spain), Anja PERSSON (Sweden), Saskia HOGENHOUT (UK), Kevin DYBVIG (USA), Meghan MAY (USA), Sunjay VASHEE (USA), Duncan KRAUSE (USA).

Awards Committee – Dr Namba has agreed to chair this committee. The format of this committee is laid down in the IOM Governance and must contain “Carry over” members of the committee. Glenn Browning suggested previous awardees sat on the committee so there is no possible conflict of interest. **Action: Daniel Brown will inform Dr Namba of this recommendation.**

Details of Scientific Awards Committee - added after the IOM Board Meeting:

Chair: Shigetou Namba;

“Carry over” members: Cecile Bebear, Kevin Dybvig, Jorgen Jensen, Patricia Totten

New members: Robert Davis (2012 Klieneberger-Nobel), Saskia Hogenhout (2012 Derrick Edward), Li Xiao (2012 Peter Hannan), Steve Geary and John Glass.

Travel Awards Committee and Travel Funds

Duncan Krause and Robin Nicholas had decided to stand down. It was suggested that Ken Waites, Christine Citti, Inna Lysyanski and Jorg Stuekle may be suitable people to carry out this role. It was stated that the Travel Award applicant’s supervisor must be an IOM member.

Action: Daniel Brown to take forward after the congress.

NIH Application for funds – Daniel Brown will take this forward, as he has all the information from Duncan Krause and Duncan is happy to give advice. **Action: Daniel Brown to apply for NIH Travel funds for the 2014 Congress**

FEMS Application for funds – FEMS do not fund meetings outside of Europe, however students can apply for their own grants through various organizations. This information should go on the IOM Website. **Action: Roger Ayling to find out about the options to obtain individual travel grants and supply that information to Chris Minion to be put on the IOM website.**

Caio Cordova agreed to find equivalent funding to support the meeting.

2014 Congress – Blumenau, Brazil. Daniel Brown has no concerns, he found that travel was straight forward, it was only 20 minutes ride to hotel from the local small airport. His wife approved of the venue! They had visited restaurants, the university, the visitor's bureau and had met the mayor and the director of the tourism board. Caio Cordova will present the 2014 Congress venue at the banquet. The congress is scheduled to take place from June 1st to 6th, 2014 avoiding travel whilst the World Cup is taking place. It is likely to avoid the ASM meeting dates which will probably be in May. No changes were made from the previous Blumenau budget.

2016 IOM Congress – formal bid from Christine Knox – The discussion continued over the concern of financial liability, which needed to be clarified in the bid information. Therefore Christine would clarify the bid and budget.

It was agreed that the revised and any other bids should be received by December 1st which would also provide an opportunity for other competing bids to be submitted. A decision could then be made by February 1st. Christine Knox suggested a closed application process should be implemented, which was agreed.

A fair ballot for the IOM Congress bids was discussed, with several current board members from USA and Australia, it was decided that the IOM Board members were fair and objective and it would be obvious if this was not so. Suggestions were made to solicit proposals to revise the congress bid and assessment documents.

Action: Christine Knox to prepare revised bid by December 1st. Daniel Brown/ Others to inform potential bidders of the 1st December closing date for sealed bids.

Action: Roger Ayling to circulate Congress bid and Assessment documents to the IOM Board for comments before 1st December.

Roger Ayling thanked people that put in bids to host the congress, as a lot of work goes into preparing these bids.

It was also discussed if the IOM should consider holding the IOM Congress less frequently. Discussion followed, but it was decided that science is moving very quickly and that the IOM would possibly lose continuity and membership if the frequency of IOM congresses was reduced, so it should remain as a biennial congress.

Glenn Browning wanted to inform the IOM Board that it was losing some 'old' members from the IRPCM Board.

Chris Minion aims to have the updated IOM website on line by the autumn. There was support for Chris Minion and for continual improvement of the IOM Website.

The meeting adjourned at 18.20

These minutes have been circulated and approved by the majority of the IOM Board Members.