



The International Organization for Mycoplasma (IOM)
IOM Newsletter -
supplement

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Chair: Dr Glenn Browning (Australia); **Chair-Elect:** Dr Steven Geary (USA); **Past Chair:** Prof Cecile Bébéar (France); **Secretary-General:** Dr Brad Spiller (UK); **Treasurer:** Dr Maria Pieters (USA); **Membership Secretary:** Dr Sabine Pereyre (France); **IRPCM Chair:** Dr Christine Citti (France); **Taxonomy Chair:** Vicki Chalker (UK); **Information Officer:** Dr Mitchell Balish (USA); **Board Members-At-Large:** Dr. Chih-Horng Kuo (Taiwan); Ran Nir-Paz (Israel); Birgit Henrich (Germany), Carole Lartigue-Prat (France); Dr. Rohini Chopra-Dewasthaly (Austria).

Professor George Filioussis 1967 – 2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 44, Number 1a, July 2020 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 2

NEW TAXONOMY CHAIR APPOINTED..... 4

NEW BOOK: MYCOPLASMAS IN SWINE..... 5

THE SAD PASSING OF PROFESSOR GEORGE FILIOUSSIS

Professor George Filioussis passed away on 14th January 2020



George was born in Drama, Greece in June 1967. He studied Veterinary Medicine at the Aristotle University, Thessaloniki Greece from where he got his degree as a Veterinarian in 1992. After having completed his army service George worked as an assistant at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Aristotle University where he started to get interested in Mycoplasma infections affecting ruminants. In 2002 he obtained his PhD on 'Mycoplasma bovis infections in cattle' at Aristotle University. In 1995 – 2000 George participated in COST Action 826 Mycoplasma of Ruminants and was actively involved in the organization of the first meeting of this action held in Thessaloniki, which had a strong impact on researchers from Europe to progress research on pathogenic Mycoplasma species of ruminants. After working for the Greek Army as Veterinarian in Athens, he returned to the Aristotle University where he was nominated Professor in 2011. George strongly contributed to the control of Mycoplasma bovis and Mycoplasma agalactiae outbreaks in Greece and attended IOM congresses and European Mycoplasma congresses whenever possible. He most recently attended the One Health Mycoplasma Meeting in London Colindale March 2019. Beyond Mycoplasma infections, George also had a good eye on other, often unexpected bacterial infections of animals, such as a lethal infection of a dog with a vaccine strain of Brucella melitensis or a new bacterial species, tentatively named Porphyromonas katsikii, that caused pyogranulomatous pneumonia in goats. George was a most constructive and convivial person with whom it was a pleasure to collaborate and discover unexpected and unknown infectious agents. After a stroke from which George suffered last fall, he went back to work, but sadly could not finish his projects. He is survived by his wife Theodora and his three children Nina, Vaios and Odysseas.

George, your friends miss you.

From Joachim Frey

NEW TAXONOMY CHAIR APPOINTED

Dear Mycoplasmologists,

After a long and hard search we have found someone to step into Dan Brown's shoes as Chair of the Taxonomy Committee. We would like to thank Dan for his many years of leadership in this field and also for managing the Joe Tully Mollicutes Collection as well.

Dr. Vicki Chalker, Head, Respiratory & Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit at Public Health England has been appointed as Dan's successor. She has been an active member of the Taxonomy field and has a strong connection with the National Collection of Type Cultures, a leading bacterial repository that also operates out of Public Health England. During the decision-making process, it was clear that Vicki had the support from many of the existing members of the Taxonomy working group and we wish her well in her new role.



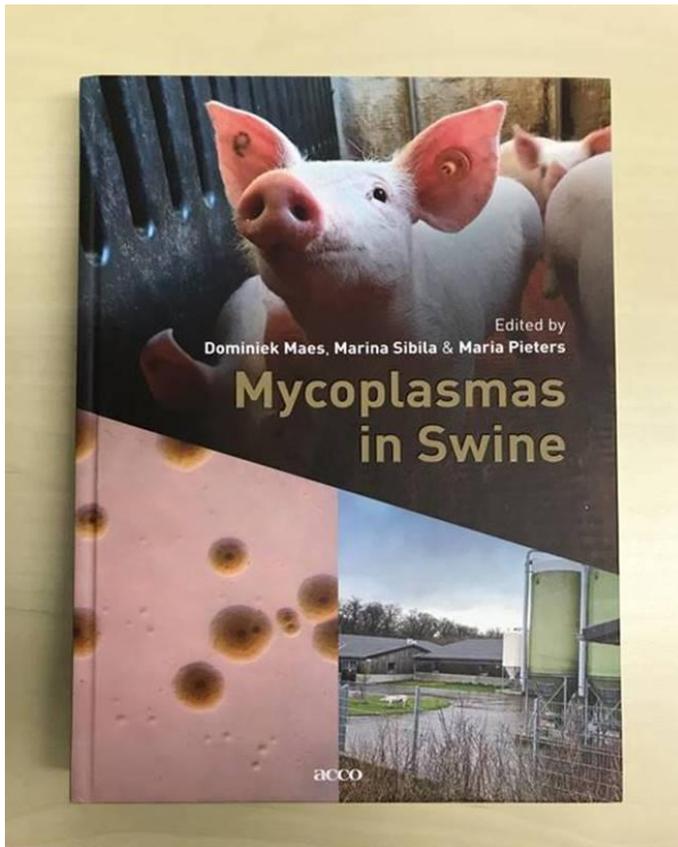
For those that do not know Vicki well, she has a track record in both veterinary mycoplasmaology at the Royal Veterinary College until 2003, before taking on a leading role in clinical diagnostics at Public Health England after her post-doctoral training. Currently she has honorary research positions at Imperial College London and acts as an advisor to WHO and ECDC.

Vicki will be representing the IOM at the ICSP gatherings which regularly take place informally at FEMS meetings as well as at the IUMS or Bergey's (BISMIS) meetings, where possible. If you have any taxonomy questions or are keen to participate more fully in Mollicutes taxonomy, please feel free to contact her at Vicki.Chalker@phe.gov.uk

NEW BOOK: MYCOPLASMAS IN SWINE

<https://www.acco.be/en/items/9789463797962/Mycoplasmas-in-Swine>

The first edition of the book **Mycoplasmas in Swine** has been published this month! The book has been



written and reviewed by internationally renowned scientists and clinicians from all over the world and aims to provide up-to-date scientific, clinical and practical information of pathogenic Mycoplasmas in swine. It may be relevant for scientists from universities, research institutes and diagnostic laboratories, persons involved in veterinary and animal science education, swine practitioners, and health professionals working in industry. The three editors are grateful to all persons who have contributed to this book, to the

companies that supported the initiative and helped with the distribution of the book, and to all colleagues who will read the book.

(Eds: Dominiek Maes, Marina Sibila and Maria Pieters)