

August 15, 2004

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH-RELATED WATER
MICROBIOLOGY (HRWM) SPECIALTY GROUP**
(International Water Association)

From: Joan B. Rose, Chair of the HRWM

Greetings to all of you who are members of the HRWM group. I was so pleased to accept the nomination for chair of our group. I was voted in and officially took office in September 2003 at the Specialty meeting in South Africa.

You all know more than anyone that the most significant cause of deaths and illnesses in the world is the contamination of water. It is acknowledged that there is a water crisis and much effort has been placed on measuring the quantity of water. However, it is the quality of water that is directly linked to health and where there is a paucity of information.

This is where all of you come in. I see this group as the most significant global intellectual resource for development of strong science. We are dedicated to understanding the natural and anthropogenic processes that affect microbial contamination of environmental and water systems and the subsequent impacts on human health. The scientific approaches link the cellular and molecular-level processes to the classical risk assessment paradigm and traditional health sciences.

I am very proud to represent all of you to the larger audience of the IWA and to work with all of you.

I wanted to update you on several initiatives.

WEB SITE

As you know we try to communicate via email and have board meetings at the IWA biannual and the HRWM Symposium. Yet, one of the ways we are trying to enhance our communications is through our web site. Please check it out because we have been updating it and there are exciting news items being listed: Including

- Journal of Water and Health: Table of Contents (updated quarterly)
 - Outbreak news
 - Group meeting news (see site for news on Marrakesh, Swansea is upcoming)
 - Other events
 - Abstracts from oral and poster papers of our meetings
 - Publications, books
 - Key Links
- You can find all the Newsletters here and a reference to all proceedings of our meetings.

(Web-site – <http://www.iwa-microbiology.org>)

We should thank Dr. Gertjan Medema who is running this web site for all his efforts.

I would like to invite the membership to participate in making our website the place to go for information. Please submit to me any news of

- Outbreaks in your area
- Meetings and conferences
- Key publications
- Opportunities for students, post-doctoral scientists or visiting scientists.

Any questions you may have please feel free to email me. As our web site matures we hope to make changes based on your comments.

MEMBERSHIP

Officers: The Current Board membership is as follows:

1. Prof. Joan B. Rose, USA
2. Dr. Ray Morris, UK
3. Prof. Nicholas J. Ashbolt, Australia
4. Prof. Albert Bosch, Spain
5. Prof. W.O.K. Grabow, South Africa
6. Dr. Gertjan Medema, Netherlands
7. Prof. Shin-Ichiro Ohgaki, Japan
8. Prof. Mark D. Sobsey, USA
9. Prof. Gary Toranzos, Puerto Rico
10. Dr. Maria Sato, Brazil

We hope to increase our membership and to set up a resource list which is accessible via the web site.

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By Laws

We are currently adopting a brief set of bylaws. These will be available for the membership to review soon.

Our mission is the promotion of scientific knowledge in all aspects of microbiology of water and associated material. The impacts on human health are felt at the international level, engaging members world –wide is our goal. We have been a viable international organization for more than 25 years and represent practitioners, health professionals, academicians, and regulators.

Meetings

We are holding a special HRWM meeting at the World Water Congress in Sept 19-24, 2004 in Marrakech, Morocco. [Web site for the main organization <http://www.iwahq.org.uk>]. See our web site for the microbiology sessions.

Efforts are already underway for the HRWM 2005 meeting in Swansea, Wales in the United Kingdom.

2007 meeting in Tokyo.

Other

I am hoping that we can work on several issues in the next few years.

1. Setting priorities for global water microbiology quality research agenda.
2. Setting up a potential Clearing house for microbial water quality data.

I would welcome any suggestions. I will be setting up subcommittees and if any of you have time to contribute I would love to have you part of one of these issue teams. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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