



HEALTH-RELATED WATER MICROBIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

May 2000

Newsletter No 7

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By the closing date of 25th March 2000 (as given in the last electronic Newsletter of 1st March 2000), the following nominations were received for the posts of Chairman, Secretary and Editor.

Chairman

Prof Joan Jofre (Spain) – nominated by Willie Grabow (South Africa), Arie Havelaar (the Netherlands), Ray Morris (UK), Konrad Botzenhart (Germany), Albrecht Wiedenmann (Germany)

Secretary

Dr Ray Morris (UK) – nominated by Joan Jofre (Spain), Konrad Botzenhart (Germany), Albrecht Wiedenmann (Germany), Willie Grabow (South Africa)

Editor

Prof Willie Grabow – nominated by Albrecht Wiedenmann (Germany), Konrad Botzenhart (Germany)

Dr Ray Morris – nominated by Arie Havelaar (the Netherlands), Willie Grabow (South Africa), Joan Jofre (Spain)

Willie Grabow has indicated that he does not wish to be considered for this post and his name has been withdrawn.

Thus, according to the rules for election of the officers of the HRWM Group, there is no need for an election to be conducted for the above posts and the new officers to serve for four years, starting with the Paris biennial meeting, will be:

Chairman – Professor Joan Jofre (University of Barcelona, Spain)

Secretary – Dr Ray Morris (United Kingdom)

Editor – Ray Morris to carry on this function for the time being

Thanks to all who took the time to consider the future of the Group's management.

Arie Havelaar has indicated that he wishes to withdraw from the Management Committee as the representative from the Netherlands and has suggested that Dr Gertjan Medema (of Kiwa, the Netherlands) would be willing to take his place.

FINAL PARIS PROGRAMME

If you have not yet seen it, the final programme (along with some other information) for the forthcoming Paris biennial is now available at www.microbe.demon.co.uk/paris/

We have received a record number of submissions for the oral; sessions (165) and, inevitably, this has meant that a large number have been referred to the poster sessions. However, it is most encouraging that about another hundred additional abstracts have been specifically submitted for poster presentation emphasising the importance of such informal presentations. Certainly, posters always allow longer discussions with those that are genuinely interested in the particular topic rather than the short discussion time associated with oral presentations. It is anticipated that the final number of posters for Paris will be about 180-200!

All this means that the Paris meeting of the Health-related Water Microbiology Group is going to be the biggest ever by an unbelievable margin! On top of the oral and poster sessions will be an early evening workshop on bacteriophages in bathing waters, exploring methods, applications and relevance of these candidate indicators of viral contamination. This is being organised by Joan Jofre and many other colleagues and it is hoped it will be a lively event. In addition, an Open Meeting of the Group will also be held.

FINAL MANUSCRIPTS FOR THE PARIS SYMPOSIUM

Authors are reminded that final manuscripts (prepared according to the guidelines on the Symposium web page) must be received by May 25th (postmarked).

REGISTRATION

All authors of oral and poster presentations are reminded that they **MUST** register for the IWA Congress otherwise they will not be allowed to present their work and manuscripts will not be considered for inclusion in the Proceedings.

If you have not yet registered please do so as soon as possible. If you are not able to attend Paris please notify Ray Morris of the withdrawal of your contribution as soon as possible.

USEFUL SITES FOR HOTELS AND TRAVELLING IN PARIS

Visit www.subwaynavigator.com to find you way around central Paris – on-line maps! Looking for a hotel then try www.pariotel.com

MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

It has been some time since the Group's membership list was updated. There are always enquiries about the whereabouts of members, what they are up to and how to get in contact with them. It is proposed to draw up a new Directory which can then be referred to by members. In order to conform to British law on privacy, it will be necessary for all contributors to indicate that they accept their information being held on computer.

The minimum details required for this Directory of Members will be:

- Name: family name, given name, title (e.g. Dr, Prof etc)
- Affiliation and address: full details please, no abbreviations
- Telephone and fax number
- Email address – this is probably the most important (after your name of course!)
- Summary of current interests relevant to health-related water microbiology (maximum of 500 words please)
- Publications – three most recent publications
- Any other information that you would like to see in your Directory entry

Please send to Ray Morris at Directory@microbe.demon.co.uk

It is proposed that this directory will be updated annually and so entries for 2000 should be sent as soon as possible so that the list would be available by September. It would be most useful if everybody responded!

POSITION AVAILABLE!

Study Coordinator - San Salvador, El Salvador and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA from May 1, 2000 - salary \$30, 000 - 35,000 (commensurate with experience)

This is a two-year research position to conduct a microbiological field study evaluating the safety and performance of dry sanitation systems (desiccating latrines) in El Salvador. The Study Coordinator fellow will be based in El Salvador for the duration of the project and will oversee all aspects of the field study, including laboratory analyses. The Study Coordinator will be responsible for coordination among the key participants (UNICEF-El Salvador, the El Salvador Ministry of Health, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) during the entire course of the project to achieve the research objectives.

The required experience is MS or PhD in Environmental Microbiology or related science. The applicant should have strong laboratory skills, fieldwork experience, strong interpersonal and management skills, experience with computer database software and fluency in Spanish. Preference will be given to individuals with previous international experience.

Applicants should send a full cv, letter of interest and names/addresses of three references to:

Dr. Christine Moe, Dept of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina, CB# 7400 McGavran-Greenberg, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400, USA

Tel: (+1) - 919-966-1420

Fax: (+1) - 919-966-2089

Email: christine.moe@unc.edu

[This post may well have been filled by the time this Newsletter appears but if you are interested give Christine a call – she may still be looking for someone!]

NEWS OF CONFERENCES

20-23 February 2001 – *Sustainable Development of Water in 21st Century* – Singapore – details at www.cbip.org or from cbip@nda.vsnl.net.in

25-28 March 2001 – *Sludge Management Entering the 3^d Millennium – Industrial, Combined, Water and Wastewater Residues* – Taipei, Taiwan - details from dilee@ccms.ntu.edu.tw - call for abstracts deadline 31 August 2000

10-15 June 2001 – *5th International Conference on Diffuse/Non-point Pollution and Watershed Management* – Milwaukee, USA – details from V.Novotny@marquette.edu - abstracts by 30 September 2000

9 -13 September, 2001 - *Membrane Technology for Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse* - Tel-Aviv, Israel – details from gidi@bgumail.bgu.ac.il or abik@mekorot.co.il

Do you know of other conferences of interest to Group members? It doesn't matter if they are fully international or regional or national or even in your back yard – they all need an airing! Perhaps more importantly is the need for reviews of such meetings to ensure that as wide an audience appreciates what is going on around the globe.

IWA CONGRESS BERLIN 2001

The Group does not plan to have a full Symposium at this meeting but it has been suggested that we organise a few specialised sessions. Possible topics could be (1) the microbiological aspects of grey water for domestic use and reuse, (2) microbiological problems associated with providing safe water supplies in developing countries, (3) low technology point-of-use water treatment – advantages and pitfalls, (4) emerging pathogens – their future importance in health-related water microbiology, and probably many more.

As a departure from the usual run of the mill oral presentation, perhaps such sessions could be run as (a) discussion workshops or (b) as training sessions for younger microbiologists.

Opinions and ideas (and offers of help and contributions) would be most welcome!

INFORMATION ON SOURCE WATER QUALITY REQUIRED!

I am currently working with others on the development of a low-tech point-of-use water treatment system for use in disaster situations (amongst others). It is apparent that, to be sure that such equipment can cope with the rigors of variable source water quality, we need to have some idea of what to expect. I would be interested in receiving any information on raw potable water quality from anywhere in the world – physicochemical and microbiological parameters – including surface, spring, wells, borehole sources – anything that has been used to produce drinking water. Please feel free to send whatever information you have to Ray Morris at wmorris@microbe.demon.co.uk - many thanks!

WANTED – NEWSLETTER ARTICLES!

It is hoped that the Newsletter will develop into a regular (?possibly every four months) means of inter-communication between Group members. But in order to succeed we need you to provide articles of general or specific interest. It is hoped that, in the not too distant future, we will have an item describing the problems associated with water microbiology in Cuba and Belarus and the needs of rural populations in developing countries. If you have anything that will be of interest to readers (which will not infringe on your copyright restrictions as the Newsletter is a members-only publication) please send them in!

Please note that all correspondence for the Newsletter should be sent to HRWMNews@microbe.demon.co.uk

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