

# Newsletter

Copyright © HRWM 2007

ISSUE 3 - November 2008

## Summary of HRWM Meeting at IWA, 2008

### Highlights

Governance (page 2)

Summary 100 Years of  
Disinfection Workshop (page 2)WaterMicro 2009, Naxos Greece  
Update (page 3)

Bursaries (page 3)

Awardees (page 4)

Thirty-four people attended the IWA HRWM meeting in Vienna, Austria, September 2008. The following topics were discussed:

- The HRWM meeting in Japan was a success. We had 299 global participants 65 from the Asian region, 52 oral presentations and 179 posters over the four days. Bursary awards were successful in Japan and will also be offered for WaterMicro 2009 for the Greece meeting. We will be much clearer in our application criteria for students and scientists from the developing world.
- Publishing: Michael Dunn spoke briefly on the success of the Journal of Water and Health and how its citation factor was 1.1. This journal is a success story with increased usage. The issues with the Water Science and Technology (WST) journal have been resolved, oral presentations are not automatically published, rather they must be submitted to the journal for normal peer review. Our back log of papers from the Japan meeting has now been processed. Nineteen (19) papers were accepted, 4 accepted with revision, 20 papers were rejected and 4 withdrawn. Five (5) papers were not submitted. There was some discussion on the possibility of having papers being tagged to a conference and the possibility of having a CD for a meeting. It was unclear how this could affect our citation factor. This needs to be discussed with Michael Dunn. A request was made for reviewers to add a little more detail in their comments to the authors and for all members to sign up as reviewers for WST.
- HRWM will be developing a new HRWM-IWA award for excellence in honor of Willie Grabow. Walter Jakubowski has agreed to serve as the chair of this 7 member committee.
- Other meetings:
  - World Water Forum March 16-22, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey
  - IWA-ASPIRE, October 18-22, 2009 in Taipei, Taiwan
  - IWA, September 19-24, 2010 in Montreal, Canada
  - IWA 2012 in Korea

### Important Dates

#### January 31, 2009

Deadline for Oral presentation abstracts  
Deadline for Bursary Applications  
Deadline for Secretary Nominations  
Deadline for best HRWM Logo Contest

#### March 31, 2009

Deadline for Poster presentation abstracts  
Notification of acceptance for Oral presentation  
Notification of Bursary recipients  
Notification of HRWM Logo Contest winner

#### April 20, 2009

Notification of acceptance for Poster presentations

#### April 30, 2009

Early registration discount deadline

#### May 31 - June 5, 2009

WaterMicro 2009 Symposium in Naxos

#### May 31, 2009

Symposium Welcome Reception

#### June 2, 2009

WST Journal business meeting

#### June 3, 2009

HRWM Board meeting

#### June 4, 2009

HRWM Group Business meeting  
Symposium Gala Dinner

### WaterMicro 2009

May 31 - June 5, 2009  
Naxos, Greece

[www.watermicro2009.gr](http://www.watermicro2009.gr)





## Governance

At the WaterMicro 2007 business meeting HRWM approved changing the by-laws to include a Vice Chair and Secretary. These positions will be voted on at each HRWM meeting. At the WaterMicro 2009 business meeting the new Vice Chair and Secretary positions will be voted on. The Vice Chair position will be held for 2 years, then that person will become HRWM Chair for 2 years, followed by 2 years as Post Chair (serving 6 years total). The Secretary will serve the HRWM for 4 years. Nicholas Ashbolt and Gertjan Medema are running for the Vice Chair positions, while Hiro Katayama is the only nomination as of yet for Secretary. Nominations are still open for the position of Secretary through January 31, 2009. Please send nominations to Marion Savill at Marion.Savill@esr.cri.nz and Joan Rose at rosejo@msu.edu. Absentee voting for those unable to attend the WaterMicro 2009 meeting will occur in early May via email (hrwm@msu.edu). Final voting will occur at the HRWM business meeting in Naxos.

## 100 Years of Disinfection Workshop, IWA 2008

HRWM hosted the '100 Years of Disinfection' Workshop at the IWA Conference in Vienna. The workshop stemmed from the 100th anniversary of the publication of Harriette Chick's pivotal work on inactivation and Chick's Law. Joan Rose, who chaired the session, opened with a brief presentation on the life and history of Harriette Chick and Chuck Haas continued with an overview of the past, present and future of drinking and wastewater disinfection.

After the introduction, the morning session was devoted to disinfection methods and mechanisms along with regional perspectives. Chlorine, ozone, UV and membrane filtration were discussed by Chuck Haas, Rhodes Trussell, Regina Sommer and Jamal Awad, respectively. Brief geographical perspectives were given by Gertjan Medema (Europe), Mark Sobsey (North America), Blanca Jimenez (Mexico) and Shinichiro Ohgaki (Asia).

Key questions that the workshop addressed included: What do we mean by disinfection? How do we invest better in new approaches (e.g. revisit bromine)? How do we stop contamination of water at the source and through wastewater disinfection? How do we address the developing world? How do we look into the future of water quality and treatment? These questions and others raised valuable discussion points during the session and stressed the need for further education and research in the next 100 years.

The information gathered in this session will be compiled by the presenters into a white paper produced for publication.

## Candidate Statements

**Nicholas J. Ashbolt**  
(Vice-Chair Position)



No statement available at time of publication.



**Gertjan Medema**  
(Vice-Chair Position)

Dear colleagues and friends,

My main reason for putting myself forward as vice-chair is that I cherish the group. The group was a forum for me to exchange scientific knowledge from the moment I started my career in health-related water microbiology. Our conferences were the place where I got to know the people behind the publications. Our conferences were and are the place where you can experience that the group does good science in an area that is very relevant to the world and have fun at the same time. This appealed to me and continues to attract young scientists. I am proud to see how successful the group is with the launch of our own Journal of Water & Health with IWA(P) and the WHO.

My objectives as vice-chair? Mainly: to keep up the good work! My special emphasis? Promote good science and good scientific exchange, expand the possibilities for travel bursaries for scientists from countries with small resources and promoting exchange between our group and the WHO and IWA specialist groups in related science areas, such as water reuse.

**Hiroyuki Katayama**  
(Secretary Position)



I attended the HRWM group meeting for the first time in Mallorca, Spain in 1996. I have been studying viruses in water and having a lot of benefit from the HRWM group since then, I really like to thank the HRWM community. It was my pleasure that last year in 2007, I could contribute to the HRWM group by helping the International Symposium on HRWM (WaterMicro 2007) in Tokyo as a member of the local organizing committee. Should I be elected as a secretary of the HRWM group, I would like to maintain the traditional virtue of our group, attract young members and enhance international variety.



## WaterMicro 2009: Naxos, Greece

The 2009 HRWM Symposium will be held Sunday, May 31st through Friday, June 5th, 2009 in Naxos, Greece. Naxos lies at the heart of the Aegean Sea in the Cycladic Islands, a unique setting with sandy beaches, picturesque villages and ancient monuments whose history goes back to 3000 BC. The Symposium will cover all aspects of infectious disease via water pollution and will specifically highlight tourism and recreational water. Topics include:

- Water pollution and diseases
- Microbial behavior in the water environment
- Detection, identification, and source tracking of microbial contaminants
- Water/wastewater treatment and disinfection
- Epidemiology of waterborne diseases
- Biofilm studies
- Microbial risk assessment and management
- Recreational water, tourism and health
- Climate change and water quality
- Water quality in locations with water shortages (i.e. the Cyclades)
- Solar disinfection
- Waterborne nosocomial infections

Abstracts may be submitted for both oral and poster presentations. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes in length and guidelines for posters will be posted on the Symposium website. 10 posters will be selected for an additional 5 minute presentation to be given on the last day of the conference.

The conference will also feature two parallel small round-table discussions. The first held June 2nd will allow Greek researchers to highlight local problems. (Note: This part of the symposium will be presented in the Greek language.) The second, held June 4th, will be devoted to the World Day of the Environment. It will feature three keynotes focused on the theme of Water and Environment and emphasizing water re-use.

The famous Greek archaeologist Professor Vassilios Lambrinoudakis will be the keynote speaker opening the conference and will talk about water and water systems in ancient Greece. He will also lead the technical tour to local ancient monuments.

In addition to the technical conference and tours our Greek hosts have planned many exciting social events. A welcome reception will be held on the evening of May 31st and a Gala Dinner on June 4th along with several tours of the islands villages, ancient temples and castles throughout the week.

Please see the official website at [www.watermicro2009.gr](http://www.watermicro2009.gr) for the official call for abstracts and registration details.

## Bursaries

Applications for Bursaries to attend WaterMicro 2009 are due on January 31st. Students going to school in a developing country/region, scientists working in a developing country/region, and mentor/student teams representing a developing country/region are eligible to apply. Ten (10) awards of up to 1000 Euros are available. The application form will be available on the WaterMicro2009 website at [www.watermicro2009.gr](http://www.watermicro2009.gr). Submit applications to Joan Rose as instructed on the form. The awardees will be notified by March 31st.

## HRWM Logo Contest

The contest for a new HRWM logo remains open until January 31, 2009. We are looking for a new and more eye-catching symbol to represent our field of work. We have only received one submission thus far.

The winner will receive free registration for the WaterMicro 2009 meeting in Naxos, Greece. The winner will be notified via email by March 31st.

All entries must be submitted in a pdf format by January 31, 2009. Please send entries to Dr. Joan Rose at [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu) under the heading 'HRWM logo contest.'

The winning entry will be selected through a vote by members via email. The entry has to be free of any copyrighted characters or symbols. Once submitted, all rights to use the logo are relinquished to the HRWM board of directors. This winning logo will then be given to a professional logo maker to finalize for use.



[www.travel-to-naxos.com](http://www.travel-to-naxos.com)



# Awardees

We are very proud to have three HRWM members who received awards at the 2008 IWA Meeting in Vienna: Willie Grabow, Joan Rose and Mark Sobsey. Congratulations and keep up the good work!



**Willie Grabow**

Dr. Willie Grabow was recognized with an Honorary Award given to individual members or employees of corporate members of IWA who have made an outstanding contribution to the IWA and to the water sector. Dr. Grabow was a member of a team that designed the principles of the Specialist Group concept. At the 1980 Biennial IAWPR Conference in Toronto, the first Specialist Group was established with Dr. Grabow as first Chair. The Group was initially known as the International Association on Water Pollution Research (IAWPR) "Study Group on Water Virology" but soon afterwards changed to the "Specialist Group on Health-Related Water Microbiology." The IAWPR eventually became the International Water Association (IWA). Willie served as Chair of the Group for a number of years during which time the principles of the Specialist Group concept were adapted and streamlined, tested in practice, and established. Today the IWA has more than 50 Specialist Groups, generally regarded as the backbone of the IWA. Dr. Grabow served the IWA over many years in capacities such as member and chair of the Program Committee, and member of the Governing Board and Strategic Council, and chair of the organizing committees for many specialist group symposia. He remains an active member of the IWA and the water sector since his retirement from the University of Pretoria, where he remains a professor emeritus.

## Call for Collaboration

### Preventing Waterborne Disease: Assessing and Mapping the Contribution of Sewage to Waters of the World

The main goal of this proposal is to use new genomics tools to characterize and quantify the human fecal impact on water in order to advance understanding of the impact of wastewater on water quality throughout the world. To do this, we propose creating a Global Map of Pollution using cutting edge genomics tools for assessing water quality. This assessment of global water quality will allow for more precise, targeted interventions by agencies responsible for health, water, and sanitation and identification of global hot spots for fecal contamination. We have formed the International Consortium for Assessing the Contribution of Sewage to Global Waters (IC-Sewage) to conduct the assessment. If you are interested in collaborating with this research team or would like further information please contact Dr. Joan Rose at [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu).



**Mark Sobsey**

Dr. Mark Sobsey was a recipient of the IWA 2008 Project Innovation Award Grand Prize for Small Projects. The goals of the award winning study were to characterize the microbiological effectiveness and health impacts of the ceramic water purifier - a household-scale ceramic filtration technology - in target populations and to identify successes and potential challenges facing the scale-up and implementation of the technology. "We know that biosand and ceramic filters and other household water treatment technologies make an enormous difference in the health of people who don't have access to clean drinking water. We have the technologies, but now it's a matter of finding ways to get these technologies into communities and households, and have people adopt and use them effectively and sustainably," said Dr. Sobsey. The project was funded by UNICEF and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). Dr. Sobsey is currently at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the Kenan Distinguished University professor of environmental sciences and engineering and director of the Environmental Microbiology Lab.



**Joan Rose**

Dr. Joan B. Rose was honored as the first ever recipient of the IWA Hei-jin Woo Award, dedicated to the memory of Hei-jin Woo, a Korean female engineer and scientist working in the water field. The Award serves to recognize the achievements of a woman engineer or scientist working in the water field, with more than 10 years of experience, with demonstrable excellence in academic, service, research or administration. Dr. Rose's work in public health microbiology has involved the development of methods, work with surveys, investigation of the fate and transport of pathogens, and risk assessment and approaches for water quality and public health protection. Her work has had local, national and international impacts as she continues to strive to promote water safety and global health. She is currently at Michigan State University as the Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research.



## WaterMicro 2011: Proposed Locations

The proposed locations will be voted on at the WaterMicro 2009 meeting in Naxos, Greece.

### Florianopolis, Brazil



#### Venue:

Federal University of Santa Catarina or Majestic Palace Hotel

#### Dates:

August 29 - September 2, 2011

#### Topics:

Water pollution and diseases; Microbial source tracking; Catchment protection; Water reuse and health concerns, Biofilms studies; Water and sanitation in developing country; Climate change and water quality; Recreational water and health; Epidemiology of waterborne diseases; Microbial risk assessment; Microbial quality of shellfish growing areas.

#### Organization:

CETESB, University of São Paulo, Federal University of Santa Catarina, and AIDIS

### Roturua, New Zealand



#### Venue:

Kingsgate Hotel

#### Dates:

September 4-11, 2011 (early September or late October)

#### Topics:

Water pollution and diseases; Microbial source tracking; Catchment protection; Biofilm studies; Water and sanitation in developing country; Climate change and water quality; Recreational water and health; Epidemiology of waterborne diseases; Microbial risk assessment; Microbial quality of shellfish growing areas, Applications of nanotechnology; Water and energy; Zoonoses.

#### Organization:

Institute of Environmental Science (ESR), National Institute of Water and atmospheric Research (NIWA), Agricultural Research (AgResearch), Ministry for Environment (MfE), and Ministry for Agriculture (MAF)

## Call to Host WaterMicro 2013

Members please begin to prepare an application to host WaterMicro 2013. Members should begin to plan to declare their interest at our WaterMicro 2009 Meeting in Naxos, Greece. Information to think about includes:

- City/Country
- Venue Location
- Dates
- Topics
- Tours/Social Events
- Accommodations

## Recommended Reading

Foodborne Viruses: Progress and challenges. M. Koopmans, D. O. Cliver & A. Bosch (Eds). ASM Press, Washington, D.C., USA, 2008, ISBN - 978-1-55581-464-9.

Pathways for Sustainable Sanitation: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Arno Rosemarin, Nelson Ekane, Ian Caldwell, Elisabeth Kvarnstrom, Jennifer McConville, Cecilia Ruben & Madeleine Fogde, EcoSanRes Programme, Stockholm Environment Institute Publication Date: 01 Nov 2008 ISBN: 9781843391968

Health Impact Assessment for Sustainable Water Management. Lorna Fewtrell and David Kay. Publication Date: 16 Jul 2008 ISBN: 9781843391333

## HRWM Newsletter

**Editors:** Rachel M. McNinch and Joan B. Rose  
**Design:** Audrey Tan

**Look for the next HRWM Newsletter in May 2009**

For further information regarding HRWM please visit the website:  
**[www.iwa-microbiology.org](http://www.iwa-microbiology.org)**