BULLETIN 84

JANUARY 2005

Medical Mycological Society of the Americas

MMSA FOUNDED 1966

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOM WALSH

The mission of the Medical Mycology Society of the Americas is to serve as central organization in the western hemisphere's for all who interested in medical mycology. At a time when the problems of invasive fungal infections present ever increasing challenges to immunocompromised patients, when major breakthroughs are being achieved in laboratory and clinical mycology, and when training needs in our field are paramount to ensure a new generation of mycology experts, the 2004-2005 year will usher in a series of new initiatives that will help MMSA fulfill that important mission.

The 2005 Annual ASM Meeting inaugurates the first ASM-MMSA jointly sponsored symposium in medical mycology. Entitled "Sequence-Based Identification of Mycotic Pathogens," this symposium is the realization of the proposal discussed in the Division F Business Meeting at the 2004 ASM. The curriculum of this joint symposium was developed by Paul Fidel, Errol Reese, and Paul Layman in conjunction with Judy Rhodes. The speakers will review the expanding role of molecular diagnostic tools in clinical mycology laboratories with an emphasis on current applications and future approaches toward identification of medically important fungi using these important techniques.

We are also fortunate to inaugurate the first MMSA-Pfizer Medical Mycology Scholar Award as part of our expanding effort to embrace our colleagues in the Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. The 2005 recipient of the MMSA-Pfizer Medical Mycology Scholar Award is Dr. Mara R. Diaz who trained in Puerto Rico and is currently working at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science of the University of Miami in the area of direct molecular identification of pathogenic yeasts. The award will enable the outstanding investigators to participate in the ASM-MMSA symposium as well as the MMSA Annual Meeting. This award will provide a stipend for travel as well as a monetary award in part for outstanding achievements in the field of medical mycology. The MMSA is thankful to Pfizer for its vision and generosity for this important award.

The MMSA continues its mission to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of medical mycology through its traditional awards given annually at our evening banquet. John Taylor, the newest recipient of the Rhoda Benham Award will chair the 2005 award selection committee consisting of David Stevens, Judy Domer, and Carolyn Halde. Billy H. Cooper Memorial Bio Merieux-Microscan Award Committee is chaired Steve Moser and composed of Ana Espinel-Ingroff, Leslie Hall, and Bill Merz. The Milton Hubbert Graduate Student Award will be chaired by Caron Lyman. We encourage you to submit nominations to each of these committees in order to recognize distinguished and outstanding contributions of our graduate students, clinical mycologists, and senior colleagues for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

The MMSA website continues to be an important vehicle for communication to members of the medical mycology community, including registration for the Annual Meeting, for enrollment of new members, and for payment of annual dues. The visionary work of Errol Reese has made our website possible. We encourage you to contribute to this site. Steven Moser has now offered his expertise to continue to expand the dimensions of our new website.

Finally, Leslie Hall, as editor of the MMSA Newsletter will substantially expand its profile, scope, and content to serve as a practical and timely resource to those working in various fields of medical mycology. She is recruiting an editorial board and welcomes contributions.

I look forward to seeing you at what will prove to be an outstanding meeting and wish you the best of health and success for 2005.

Tom

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AWARD AND COUNCIL NOMINATIONS:

Rhoda Benham Award

Contact: John Taylor

jtaylor@socrates.Berkeley.EDU

Billy H Cooper Award

Contact: Steve Moser
moser@path.uab.edu

Milton Huppert Student Award

Contact: Caron Lyman
lymanc@mail.nih.gov

Council:

Barbara Robinson Dunn
Is accepting nominations for a 1 year term for Councilor West (to replace Barb Zimmer) and Secretary Treasurer (2005-2010)
brobinson-dunn@smtpgw.beaumont.edu

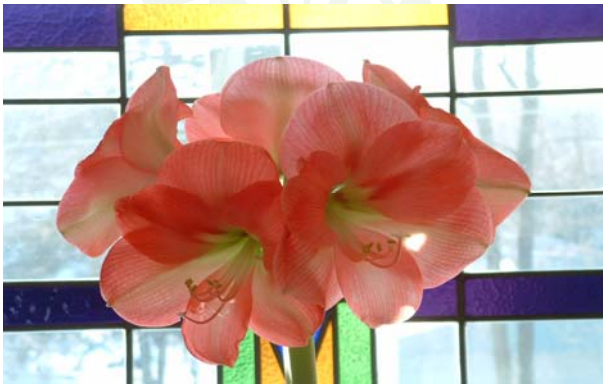
This is an excellent time to honor a colleague or friend with a nomination...Just send a quick e-mail and the Nominations committee will be happy to give you more information

A GREAT RESOURCE RECENTLY PUBLISHED!

SURFING THE WEB
Resources for Medical Mycology on the World Wide Web
Karoll J. Cortez, Andreas H. Groll, and **Thomas J. Walsh**
Page 437 [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/resolve?CID34774]

Clinical Infectious Diseases

Volume 40, Number 3
(1 February 2005)



FROM PRESIDENT ELECT BARB ZIMMER

Dear MMSA Friends and Colleagues:
I am honored to serve as president-elect for MMSA. The council has been working over the past several years to continually better serve the needs of our members. Our of our main functions has been to serve as a social organization, and we encourage everyone to attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. We had a wonderful time in New Orleans, and this year, the Local Arrangements Committee has planned an equally great banquet. It is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and to meet fellow mycologists. Also in the past year, the MMSA completed the development of a website for the society, and we are working towards new directions in the newsletter.
As we move forward into 2005, we will be working towards improving the society of meet membership needs We would like to provide benefits so that we grow as an organization, serving the needs of a diverse membership. Infections due to fungi are increasing, and many laboratories are performing routine identification, serology, and susceptibility testing of fungi using NCCLS guidelines. Many diagnostic mycology laboratory tests are produced by commercial manufacturers. Some of our members are retired, whereas some are just beginning their careers. Many new clinical laboratorians are finding themselves having to learn about fungi, whereas others of us no longer have the luxury of thinking exclusively about mycology in our daily work. But all of us are united in a common goal – that of having a knowledge of medical mycology, and wanting to share that knowledge and fellowship with others. If you have a question, someone in the MMSA has the answer.
The council and I welcome your input. Please feel free to make suggestions or comments to any of us. We look forward to serving you in the next year.
Sincerely,
Barbara L. Zimmer
Director, Clinical and Scientific Affairs
Dade Behring MicroScan

Current MMSA Officers and Council members

President: 2004-2006
Tom Walsh
walsht@mail.nih.Gov

President Elect:
Barb Zimmer
Barb_Zimmer@dadebehring.com

Vice President:
Errol Reiss
err2@cdc.gov

Treasurer Secretary
Jim Harris
Jim.Harris@tdh.state.tx.us

Councilor South America: 2003-2006
Benjamin Bolanos
bbolanos@rcm.upr.edu

Councilor East: 2003-2006
Barbara Robinson Dunn
brobinson-dunn@smtpgw.beaumont.edu

Councilor East: 2004-2007
Steve Moser
moser@path.uab.edu

Councilor West: 2005-2006
Election due 2005

Councilor West: 2004-2007
Paul Fidel
pfidel@lsuhsc.edu

Photomicrograph of *Mucor* (D. Miller)

FROM JIM HARRIS, SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Jim Harris requests your payment of 2005 dues of $20 during the first quarter.
His Address is:
Jim Harris
2501 Timberline Drive
Austin, Texas 78746
Please Note: if you did not receive an e-mail about this newsletter, your e-mail address needs to be updated to Jim Harris at:
Jim.Harris@tdh.state.tx.us
We will be trying to use email more effectively as a communication tool. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Newsletter by US Mail, we are happy to do so. Please let us know!

RECIPENTS OF THE RHODA BENHAM AWARD

Mycologists Previously Honored:
1967 Jose Ignaccio Baldo
1968 Chester W. Emmons
1969 Norman F. Conant
1970 Roger O. Egeberg
1971 Antonio Gonzalez-Ochoa
1972 Elizabeth L. Hazen and Rachel F. Brown
1973 Charles E. Smith (posthumous), Arturo Carrion
1974 Lucille K. Georg
1975 Michael L. Furcolow
1976 Libero Ajello
1977 Howard W. Larsh
1978 Charlotte C. Campbell
1979 Roger D. Baker
1980 Jan Schwarz
1981 John F. Busey
1982 Milton Huppert
1983 William Kaplan
1984 Everett S. Beneke
1985 Carroll W. Dodge
1986 Margarita Silva-Hutner
1987 Leo Pine
1988 Morris A. Gordon
1989 George S. Kobayashi
1990 Angela Restrepo Moreno
1991 Dexter H. Howard
1992 Demosthenes Pappagianis
1993 Leo Kaufman
1994 Julius Kane
1995 Norman L. Goodman
1996 Kyung Joo Kwon-Chung
1997 John P. Utz
1998 Glenn S. Bulmer
1999 David A. Stevens
2000 Juneann W. Murphy
2001 John E. Bennett
2002 Judith E. Domer
2004 John Taylor

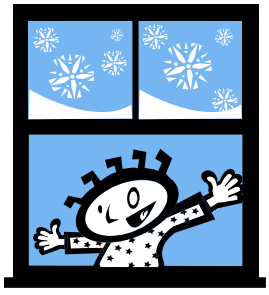
What a wonderful group of talented awardees...Nominate someone today!

RECIPENTS OF THE BILLY H COOPER AWARD

1983 Billy H Cooper
1984 Leo Kaufman
1986 Smith Shadomy
1987 Michael R. McGinnis
1988 Demosthenes Pappagianis
1989 Glenn D. Roberts
1990 Norman L. Goodman
1991 Ira F. Salkin
1992 Geoffry A. Land
1993 William G. Merz
1994 Michael A. Pfaller
1995 Michael G. Rinaldi
1996 Thomas J. Walsh
1998 Leslie Hall
2000 Donald L. Greer
1002 Lynne Sigler
2002 Arvind A. Padhye
2003 Ana V. Espinel-Ingroff

2005 Annual ASM Meeting inaugurates the first ASM-MMSA jointly sponsored symposium in medical mycology. Entitled "Sequence-Based Identification of Mycotic Pathogens," this symposium is the realization of the proposal discussed in the Division F Business Meeting at the 2004 ASM

TRAINING AND EDUCATION PAST AND FUTURE….



Advances Against Aspergillosis **see article P. was very successful and the next meeting is being planned for Paris! See the article on Page 9**

South Central Medical Mycology Group3rd Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans on October 21-22 and the 4th meeting is in the works

Introductory Clinical Mycology: Help for the Beginner will be presented in Atlanta at ASM on Sat and Sun June 4-5 A similar workshop was held in Rochester MN in November and had 125 participants!

A joint meeting of **Candida and Systemic mycoses** is in the works for 2006-stay tuned for more details!

Please let me know of any workshops or seminars you may be participating in.

We would like to include MORE training and education in the future!

A new feature to the newsletter

Fungal Diagnosis Using Rapid Antigen-Based Methods By Joe Wheat (MiraVista Diagnostic.)

Antigen detection is a useful tool for the rapid diagnosis of fungal infections. Methods are available for clinical use for aspergillosis, candidiasis, cryptococcosis, histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, and paracoccidioidomycosis. This report will focus on recent findings using the non- cryptococcal assays.

Aspergillus fumigatus

The primary use of the test is for monitoring neutropenic or bone marrow transplant patients for early evidence of invasive aspergillosis [1]. The manufacturer reported sensitivity to be 81% and specificity 89% when used for this purpose. Others recently reported sensitivity of 96.5% and specificity 98.6% [2]. Sensitivity is lower following solid organ transplantation. The test is performed daily Monday-Friday at MiraVista Diagnostics and over 5000 specimens were tested in 2004. Five percent of specimens have been positive and results have been reproducible in 90%. Although approved in the United States for testing serum specimens, galactomannan also may be detected in other body fluids [3]. In one study galactomannan was detected in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BAL) in 100% of cases vs. serum in 47% [4]. In a more recent study sensitivity in BAL was 76% and specificity 94% [5]. Less information is available describing the role of the test for cerebrospinal fluid. False-positive results have been reported in patients receiving piperacillin-tazobactam, reviewed elsewhere [1]. This cause for false-positivity limits the accuracy of the test in patients receiving this medication. Another preventable cause for false positivity is contamination of specimens, emphasizing the importance of aseptic technique during their collection and processing. Less common causes for false positivity have been reviewed [1].

Despite extensive literature, additional research is needed. Definitive characterization of the test in non-serum specimens and in children is needed to support FDA clearance for these indications. Determination of the cost-benefit would help physicians assess the value of the test in patient care. Also, use for monitoring treatment requires validation.

(1→3)- β-D-glucan assay

The β-glucan test is useful for diagnosis of the aspergillosis, candidiasis, and a few less common mycoses, but not zygomycosis or cryptococcosis. Its role in the endemic mycoses is unknown. A test kit was recently introduced in the United States by Associates of Cape Cod (Fungitell™ assay). The manufacture claims sensitivity of 65.0% and the specificity 81.1%. The sensitivity was 77.6% in patients with candidiasis and 80.0% with aspergillosis. In evaluation of patients with hematological disorders and invasive fungal infection, mostly candidiasis, sensitivity was 100%, and specificity 90% in a recent study [6]. If consecutive positive results were required for designation as positive, sensitivity fell to 65%. Others, however, reported sensitivity of 55% in aspergillosis [7] and specificity of 27% in ICU patients with bacterial infections [8]. Careful aseptic technique is essential to avoid contamination as cause for false-positivity. This test is not yet offered at MiraVista Diagnostics because of the uncertain demand and requirement for additional expensive equipment.

Histoplasma capsulatum

Since the last review of the diagnostic approach in histoplasmosis [9], one important advance has occurred. False-positive results were noted in solid organ transplant patients who had received rabbit anti-thymocyte globulin [10]. Development of human antirabbit antibodies (HARA) caused this false positivity. Subsequent research lead to modifications of antigen assay (2nd generation assay) to circumvent effects of HARA and other interfering materials, reducing false-positivity by over 80%. The 2nd generation assay also is more sensitive than the old assay. Antigen assays performed at other laboratories cannot be presumed to perform similarly to those at MiraVista Diagnostics

Paracoccidioides brasiliensis

Competitive immunoassays using polyclonal antibodies recognizing an undefined antigen described in 1992 [11] have been refined and evaluated for clinical use. Detection of gp43 glycoprotein and gp70 polysaccharide in serum was highly sensitive and specific for diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis and useful for monitoring therapy [12-14]. Both antigens also could be detected in the CSF and BAL [13,14] and in urine [15]. Detection of a gp87-kDa antigen also has been reported but would appear to be less useful because of cross-reactions with other fungi and mycobacterium [16].

Blastomyces dermatitidis

Diagnosis of blastomycosis by antigen detection was recently reported [17]. Antigenuria was present in 93% of cases of blastomycosis. While antigenuria did not occur in healthy subjects or those with certain fungal infections, antigenuria was detected in patients with histoplasmosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, and penicilliosis marneffei. Although clinical, epidemiologic, and other laboratory findings usually distinguish between these cross-reactive mycoses, research is needed to develop more specific tests. This test is routinely available at MiraVista Diagnostic.

MYCOLOGY IN A BOX-A TEACHING TOOL

We are pleased to announce the availability of a complete course in clinical mycology, called ***"MYCOLOGY IN A BOX***".
This course may be used in a self-study format or in the more conventional classroom and/or laboratory setting for group training. Only a coordinator is required to administer this course. An instructor with content expertise in mycology is not necessary. These courses are designed for:
Clinical Laboratory Science programs with limited resources for teaching clinical mycology
Hospitals or other institutions to be used for cross training, competency evaluation, and proficiency testing
Universities or colleges in which training in medical mycology is a component of the curriculum
Individuals, including medical technologists and pathologists, who are preparing for registry or board certification.

Mycology in a Box has two major components:
(1) a didactic course utilizing ***GermWare Mycology*** as the lecture guide, as well as cases studies, self-assessment exercises, and both midterm and final examinations
(2) a "virtual" laboratory course that includes: six laboratory sessions with worksheets; review of over 40 cultures of fungal species using d*igitized images to represent the colony morphology and microscopic features of each of the cultures*; 2 practical examinations; a student unknown program with 30 "unknown" organisms presented in digitized form
The 6 laboratory sessions and the student unknown program are presented as digitized images in a *PowerPoint* format

Mycology in a Box may be purchased as a total package; or each course may be purchased separately. Click on the link highlighted below for a sample review of the various components of this course. Due to the large number of images on our website, it may require a few minutes for the program to open so please be patient.

The IDC website - http://www.idc-i.com

An order form for purchase of the "Box" or its components can be downloaded from the website.

Developed by Elmer Koneman and Christie Grueser

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Submitted by Nancy McClenny, mcclenny@sfsu.edu

A 21 year old female was admitted with malaise, headache, fever, decreased visual acuity in both eyes, and right flank
pain. She had been diagnosed with Wegener's granulomatosis four months earlier and treated with steroids.

Ophthalmologists observed a large, white, circular mass near the optic nerve of each eye, suggestive of infection with *Candida* species. A partial vitrectomy was performed on the left eye and the mass was biopsied.

A gram stain of the vitreous fluid revealed septate hyphae, 2.5 micrometers in diameter and the tear-drop shaped structures seen in the accompanying image. What organism(s) grew from culture?

Printed with permission from Nancy McClenny and Ellen Jo Baron

MEDICAL MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS

REVISED Financial Report for period 5/1/03 - 5/1/04

EXPENSES

1. Newsletter printing and postage - Leslie Hall.....$ 561.73
2. e-guana.net, Inc. website provider fees.....1,685.00
3. 2003 Annual Meeting Expenses
   a. Banquet charges -.....4,226.40
   b. Banquet reimbursements (unavoidable cancellations).....101.90
   c. Cooper Award (cash and plate).....695.93
   d. Huppert Award.....350.00
4. 2004 Annual Meeting Expenses
   a. Engraving Huppert Award Plaque and Benham Medallion.....53.53
   b. Banquet Deposit -Mulate's Restaurant.....375.00
   c. White Oak Productions (music deposit for Mulate's Restaurant).....300.00
5. Registration for Incorporation in the State of Georgia.....30.00

TOTAL EXPENSES.....$8,379.49

INCOME

1. Earned Bank Interest (CD, and Money Market Account).....204.22
2. Member Dues (including sustaining memberships).....2000.00
3. Cooper Award support for 2003 and 2004 - Dade Behring and BioMerieux.....1400.00
4. Receipts from 2003 and 2004 Banquet tickets.....3176.60

Total Income.....$6,780.82

Net Expenses over Income $1,598.67

SPECIAL FUNDS

1. Milton Huppert Graduate Student Account (Maintained as a portion of CD*)
   Balance as of 5/01/03.....8,957.66
   Membership Donations.....none
   Interest.....144.20
   TOTAL.....$9,101.86
2. MMSA Endowment Fund (Majority in Money Market Account** and some in checking account)
   Balance as of 5/01/03.....11,577.90
   Membership Donations.....none
   Interest.....60.02
   TOTAL.....$11,637.92

ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY AS OF 5/1/04

*Certificate of Deposit - Frost National Bank - Austin, TX (3/31/04 report) 9,705.82
Checking Account - Frost National Bank - Austin, TX 14,379.24
**MMA - Frost Brokerage Services (4/30/04 report).....11,258.73

TOTAL ASSETS.....$35,343.79

(Note: Total Assets as of 5/01/03 were $36,867.46)

Statement prepared for the 2004 General Business Meeting of the Medical Mycological Society of the Americas in New Orleans, LA. May 25, 2004
James L. Harris, Secretary/Treasurer

AN UPDATE ON THE VALLEY FEVER VACCINE PROJECT
BY RICHARD HECTOR

Recent public health surveillance reports indicate that the incidence of coccidioidomycosis is increasing in both California and Arizona, causing a corresponding public health burden in the endemic areas. Because of the limited therapeutic options for the disease, caused by the soil-borne fungi *Coccidioides immitis* and *C. posadasii* (the latter recently defined and previously recognized as the non-Californian population of *C. immitis* [Fisher, M.C., Koenig, G.L., White, T.J., Taylor, J.W. Molecular and phenotypic description of *Coccidioides posadasii* sp. nov., previously recognized as the non-California population of *Coccidioides immitis*. Mycologia 2002. 94(1):73-84, 2002]), an effort is underway to identify and develop a vaccine for its prevention.

The Valley Fever Vaccine Project is an academic-based consortium of nine institutions with the overall goal of identifying a candidate vaccine that would undergo evaluation in human clinical trials for the prevention of coccidioidomycosis. The Project milestones are (1) antigen discovery, (2) antigen evaluation in mice, (3) evaluation of mixtures of antigens, (4) secondary evaluation in large animal model(s) (5) pharmaceutical development of the antigens, and (6) the filing of an IND and conducting a Phase 1 human trial.

The Project, administered through the California State University, Bakersfield Foundation, has been funded through a variety of sources, including the California HealthCare Foundation, the State of California Dept. of Health Services, the Valley Fever Vaccine Project of the Americas, NIH, CDC, and a number of other non-profit and local government agencies. The principal investigators include Drs. Garry Cole (MCO), Rebecca Cox (U. Texas), John Galgiani (U. Arizona), Theo Kirkland (UCSD), and Demo Pappagianis (UC Davis). Dr. George Rutherford serves as the overall P.I. and Richard Hector as the Project Director (UCSF)

The lead candidate vaccine, Ag2/PRA106+Csa chimeric fusion protein, is a combination of two proteins cloned from *C. posadasii* that was used to transform a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* host for production purposes. The resulting protein has been evaluated in murine and primate models of coccidioidomycosis. In murine models, the fusion protein results in 100% survival in an otherwise lethal challenge and also led to a substantial reduction in fungal burdens in the major organs. In the primate model, use of the fusion protein provided evidence of sensitization (specific antibody production) and enhanced production of IFN-g, and, after infection with a sub-lethal challenge, vaccinated animals showed reduced radiologic and histologic changes compared to control animals. There was no evidence of local or systemic adverse reactions to the vaccination.

The Project has identified a number of recombinant antigens and whole-cell vaccines that are considered viable "back-up" candidates, should the fusion protein ultimately prove unsuitable, and have filed 10 patent applications to date.

As the original five-year research phase has now come to a close, the primary focus of the Project has shifted to the pharmaceutical development and preparation of the vaccine for clinical evaluation and commercial license. Efforts to establish a manufacturing process are underway at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The fusion protein, now in a *Pichia pastoris* yeast host, has been expressed at a 15 L fermentation scale, and efforts to establish appropriate purification methods and analytical assays have begun. It is anticipated that the manufacturing and analytical method development could take as long as one year, after which pilot lots would be produced and formulated for toxicology and stability testing. The filing of the IND would follow thereafter, with the Phase 1 conducted in normal human volunteers outside the endemic zone. It is felt that once a manufacturing, toxicology and human safety data package are in hand, the vaccine should prove to be a viable licensing candidate for commercial development.

Advances Against Aspergillosis
September 9 to 11, 2004
San Francisco, CA

The inaugural meeting of **Advances Against Aspergillosis** was held from Sept. 9-11, 2004 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco. Overall, this newly designed international meeting was held as a forum for assembling many of the leading clinicians and basic scientists from around the world to drive forward the scientific and medical research agenda in *Aspergillus* and aspergillosis. The international flavor of the meeting was evidenced by the inclusion of 60 faculty from 12 countries and 364 registrants from 28 countries. Generous sponsorship by numerous sources helped offset the costs of the meeting and provided three additional satellite symposia, as well as social events. Support was also available for travel scholarships to young scientists.

The official opening of the meeting was done by David A. Stevens, who gave the genesis of the meeting and its goals, which were numerous and translational in nature. Thus, the program encompassed a broad range of topics including basic research, genomics, molecular biology, molecular genetics, immunology, pathogenesis, clinical medicine, veterinary medicine, diagnostics and epidemiology. Overall, the program included 45 invited speakers, 4 speakers chosen from submitted abstracts, 87 submitted abstracts presented in posters, and three industry sponsored satellite symposia.

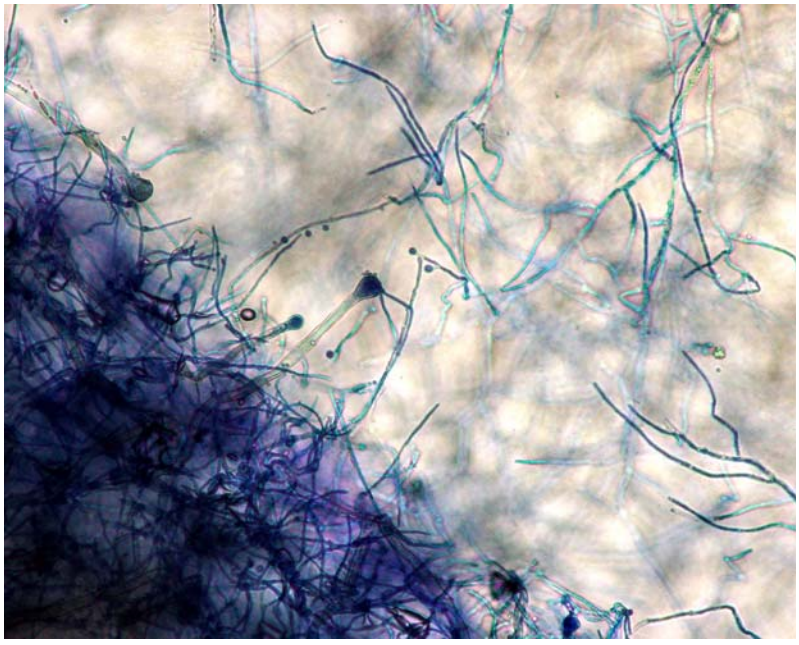
A highlight of the conference was the session with four speakers chosen by the conference committee members from the submitted abstracts. Each talk was superbly presented by the young investigators, who are to be commended for their efforts and preparation

The highlight of the social program occurred Friday evening with a 3 hour dinner cruise aboard the Horatio Hornblower on San Francisco Bay. The evening was clear, and the waters calm as the cruise provided captivating views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, San Francisco skyline, Bay Bridge and East Bay skylines.

In summation, the first **Advances Against Aspergillosis** conference was extremely successful on several fronts. A fundamental tenet of this meeting was to bring together scientists from around the world and from both clinical and basic sciences, and provide a venue for interactions and establishment of increased collaborative research. The Conference Chairs and the Committee members look forward to the second meeting, to be held in Europe in February 2006. The complete 2004 conference syllabus as a PDF file, as well as meeting updates and information for the 2006 conference, are available at the conference website (www.advancesagainstaspergillosis.org).

Respectfully submitted

Karl V. Clemons,
William J. Steinbach,
David W. Denning
David A. Stevens



Microaleurioconidia of Aspergillus terreus, submerged in the agar.

Photograph by D. Miller

If you have a keen interest in fungi
or fungal diseases of human and animals,

YOU are cordially invited to join the

Medical Mycological Society of the Americas

The benefits of membership include:

Network with other medical mycologists.

Attend our annual business meeting and banquet.

Receive our MMSA Newsletter.

Join in the new MMSA Discussion Board .

Be listed in and have access to Membership Directory

Qualify for the:
- The Cooper Award in clinical mycology
- The Rhoda Benham Award in general medical mycology
- The Milton Huppert Student Travel Awards which defray costs of attending the ASM meeting.

To join:

Individuals: Click on MEMBERSHIP, APPLICATION on the side bar of the MMSA Homepage: www.mycologicalsociety.org

Corporations: For details on becoming a corporate sponsor, email Deanna Sutton at suttond@uthscsa.edu

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET

The Atlanta Local Arrangements Committee is pleased to announce that the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet of the MMSA will be held Tuesday June 7, 2005 in Atlanta during ASM week
The locale is Max Lager's American Grill and Brewery
www.maxlagers.com
located at the corner of Peachtree St. and West Peachtree St. 1 block from the Hyatt Regency and within 6 blocks of the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC)

http://www.gwcc.com/pdf/Downtown_map.pdf (follow link to map of GWCC showing P'tree and W. P'tree)

Further details: The entire second floor is reserved including seating theater style in a room w. a large screen TV for PowerPoint. This will provide space for the Business Meeting, and after dinner address by 2004 Benham awardee: John Taylor.

Adjacent to the seating area and screened by microbrewery tanks is the open area with space for tables, a long bar, and leading to a patio.

The second floor is reserved from 5:00-10:00 PM.
5:00-6:00 PM MMSA Council meeting (This will not prevent MMSA and Div F members from entering and receiving bar service beginning at 5:30)
5:30 to 7:30 PM. Cash Bar is open. 5:30-6:30 hors d'oeuvres served in bar area.
6:00-7:00. General open business meeting
Dinner will be buffet style served in the Open Area along one wall.
Banquet tables are located in this area.
People could take plates into business meeting area too.
The Buffet dinner costs $28.95/person
This includes:
Entrees: Prime rib and wood grilled salmon.
(Special needs for vegetarians met at no additional cost)
Side items: seasonal vegetables, bread and butter, new potatoes
Dessert: key lime pie.
Coffee, sodas, tea are included.
There would be ample wait staff and meat/fish courses will be replenished as necessary
Persons could replenish their plates without disturbing the business meeting or after dinner speaker(s)
7:30 PM After dinner speaker(s) begin.
From 8:30-10:00 either fellowship or entertainment which would be a separate expense. Options for entertainment will be discussed later.
Other pertinent facts:
Wheelchair access is good because of elevator to second floor
No other party will be held on the second floor during this time
Parking: no on-site parking. Nearby Atlanta First United Methodist Church has been contacted and we requested the use of 20 parking places. This request is pending.

The Atlanta Local Arrangements Committee is pleased to announce that the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet of the MMSA will be held Tuesday June 7, 2005 in Atlanta during ASM week

This is always a lot of fun and great place to meet people.....

IN MEMORIAM

Doctor James T. Sinski
passed away on April 7, 2004. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 23, 1927 to Peter and Stella Sinski. He had four siblings, Norbert, Loretta, Richard and Marie. Doctor Sinski was a Professor Emeritus and retired from teaching at the University of Arizona and the University Medical School. He was recognized as a world expert on Fungi and during his career he authored and co-authored several books and numerous scientific articles. In the 1960's he did secret classified work on Biological Agents for the CIA (Fort Dietrick, Md.). President Clinton declassified much of his work on Coccidiomycosis prior to his leaving office. Dr. Sinski was invited by the Chinese Government to travel to China and teach Chinese Dermatologists about Dermatophytes in 1985. He had many hobbies including a lifetime attraction and collection of pop-up books. In the past, the University of Arizona main library would host Doctor Sinski and a sampling of his pop-up books once a year. He had recently, to the delight of the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, donated his pop-up book collection to them. His other hobbies included gardening Irises and Roses, and raising and showing Wheaten Terriers. He is survived by his lifetime companion, Alex Britain and his beloved niece, Susan and her husband, Dwight Naset and many students. A memorial service was held on April 30, 2004 at the University Medical Center, Duval Auditorium.

A NEW FORUM FOR THE MMSA NEWLETTER

Several of us were chatting one day and thought the time has come to beef up our newsletter.

A committee has been formed, call the

Newsletter Formation Editorial Board and consists of:

Tom Walsh, Glenn Roberts, Art DiSalvo, Bill Merz, Norman Goodman and myself.

We welcome your participation.

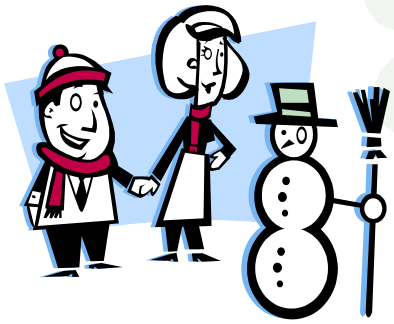
The first thing to do is to set our goals. A conference call is being set up for February 16, Wednesday at 3PM Eastern time.

If you would like to participate, please contact Leslie Hall (507-284-8380 or hall.leslie@mayo.edu.)

We would like to make the newsletter more credible with articles, cases and controversial topics! Please help us make this WORK!

Thanks. Leslie.

Now it is the time for all mycologists to step up and beef up our newsletter!



This Newsletter was assembled by Leslie Hall
Questions and Comments are welcome, as is any "news".
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I look forward to hearing from you.
Leslie