

IS-MPMI *Reporter*

July, 1995

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Eighth International Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions Congress Planned For July 1996

The International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions and the Local Organizing Committee are pleased to announce the 8th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (and concurrent 7th Annual Gatlinburg Symposium) to be held July 14-19, 1996, in Knoxville, TN, USA.

The Congress format consists of invited speakers and poster sessions. The meeting will emphasize the impact of molecular biology on all aspects of plant-microbe interactions. In order to maximize conference potential, an integrated conference style was established, permitting joint sessions of interest to microbiologists, geneticists, pathologists, chemists, agronomists, and others. Molecular plant-microbe interactions will be discussed as related to: a) symbioses, b) pathology, c) virology, d) crop improvement, e) agriculture, f) plant development, and g) environmental and natural resources.

International scientists will present the latest knowledge on each subject, integrated with an evaluation of the function of this research in view of present-day agricultural production, difficulties in the genetic analysis of mutigenic characteristics, and environmental variables. The official language will be English. The Congress will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, a location offering cultural events, natural beauty, and many recreational activities. In addition, the meeting will end just before the 1996 Olympic Summer Games begin in Atlanta, GA.

Congress sessions and housing will be adjacent to the 1982 World's Fair site, integrating the University of Tennessee Convention Center, The World's Fair Holiday Inn, and the Exhibition Halls. This venue allows for minimum walking between the meeting hall and poster exhibition room. Both the University Campus and the Downtown area are within easy walking distance.

During mid-July, the weather is warm and sunny, allowing ample opportunity to see the rich biological habitats of the nearby Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

Each participant will be charged a basic registration fee of US \$300-325, in line with previous congresses. However, due to the limited availability of restaurants in the downtown Knoxville area and in order to increase interaction among Congress participants, the organizers have chosen to provide a number of meals on-site. Therefore, there will be an additional MANDATORY \$150 meal charge. No registrations will be permitted without payment of this mandatory meal fee. Student registration will be about US \$265-290.

The basic fee does not include air travel, accommodations, and excursion fees. Special functions including field trips for conferees and spouses will be announced in the Second Circular. A variety of housing, from first class hotel rooms to air-conditioned dormitory rooms, will be available.

Organization of the Congress is being done by the Faculty of The University of Tennessee Center for Legume Research under the auspices of the International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.

For further information about the Congress, including registration forms, please contact:

UT Conferences, The University of Tennessee
P.O. Box 2648, Knoxville, TN 37901 USA
Phone: 615-974-0250 FAX 615-974-0264
e-mail: UTConferences@gateway.ce.utk.edu
WWW: <http://www.ce.utk.edu/departments/conferences/confhome.html>

OLYMPICS: Due to the competition for tickets for Olympic events, interested persons are strongly encouraged to call this number immediately: Martina Polt, All-Ways Travel, Phone: 800-522-5611 or 615-690-1800 FAX 165-690-1976.

Failure to call immediately may result in your inability to obtain tickets. The meeting organizers make no guarantees with regard to Olympic activities.

IS-MPMI CONGRESS TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Sunday, July 14, 1996

- p.m. - Registration, Mixer, Entertainment

Monday, July 15, 1996

- a.m. - Opening Remarks, Fungal Pathogenesis
- p.m. - Agrobacterium, Poster Viewing Session

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

- a.m. - Bacterial Pathogenesis
- p.m. - Symbiotic Associations, Poster Viewing Session
- Evening - Southern Hospitality Picnic, Entertainment

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

- a.m - Bacterial Signal Transduction
- p.m. - Excursions: Cumberland and Smoky Mountains (hikes, canoeing, lakes, and forest) or Oak Ridge National Laboratory (science museum, nuclear technology)
- Evening - Working Groups

Thursday, July 18, 1996

- a.m. - Plant Genetics
- p.m. - Virology

Friday, July 19, 1996

- a.m - Biocontrol
 - p.m. - Plant-Cell Signal Transduction
 - Evening - Concluding Remarks, Congress, Banquet, Entertainment
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MINUTES

IS-MPMI Board Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 5, 1995

IS-MPMI President Eugene Nester convened the meeting with Board Members Barry Rolfe (President-Elect), Linda Thomashow (Treasurer), Jan Leach, and Alan Collmer at the APS Press head offices. Steven Nelson and Corie Dacus of APS Press also participated, and Sally Leong (Secretary) joined the group in the evening. Other Board Members, Michael Daniels and Ulla Bonas, communicated issues for discussion by letter.

The purpose of the meeting was to deal with a number of issues relating to the development and future of the Society, its relationship with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and APS Press in the publishing of Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (MPMI), and the planning of the biennial meetings. Highlights of the meeting follow.

The core activity of the Society has been the organization of the biennial meetings that have been held at Briefeld (1982), Ithaca (1984), Montreal (1986), Acapulco (1988), Interlaken (1990), Seattle (1992), and Edinburgh (1994). Publication of MPMI began in 1988, and in 1990 the Society became incorporated. Both of these events involved legal and financial relationships with APS Press.

Business Executive Steve Nelson explained that all activities provided through the St. Paul office are nonprofit and services generally include publication and membership services for the four scientific societies (with the following March 1995 memberships): APS (5,000), The American Society of Cereal Chemists (4,500), The American Society of Brewing Chemists (750), and IS-MPMI (416).

There are a total of 60 employees and there is also a small office in Leuven, Belgium. An office for the Pacific Rim is in the planning stage. APS Press currently charges IS-MPMI \$6 annually per member for services, which include publication and mailing of newsletters, membership directories, and meeting announcements,

administration of the legal and financial responsibilities of the Society, and a developing series of Internet services.

MPMI is currently published bimonthly and is subscribed to by 244 libraries, 97 IS-MPMI members, and 1,141 nonmembers. Because of printing and mailing expenses, the average cost of \$100 per member for an annual subscription yields a net loss that must be offset by library subscriptions. Electronic publishing is more cost-effective. The titles and abstracts of MPMI articles will be available on the Internet soon.

Beginning in 1996, full text of the journal will be available through IS-MPMI NET on the Internet. This service and an appropriate fee schedule are being developed. MPMI operated at a deficit until 1993, but has made a surplus since then, yielding IS-MPMI a 2% royalty for the past two years. At an evening follow-up meeting, the Board voted to continue the current arrangement with APS and APS Press regarding the publication of MPMI.

The Board made several decisions regarding MPMI: (i) The handling fee will be increased to \$150 for up to six pages and an attempt will be made to decrease color figure charges (the cost and quality of MPMI color prints was seen as an advantage of MPMI over many other journals). (ii) The Editor-in-Chief will now be a full member of the Board, since any issues affecting MPMI finances, such as switching to a monthly publication schedule, must go to the Board. (iii) The publication schedule will remain bimonthly until the flow of manuscripts justify increased frequency. (iv) Potential areas for expanded coverage by MPMI include molecular ecology, biotechnology, and chemical biology.

As decided at the Edinburgh meeting, the 1996 meeting will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, with Gary Stacey as Chair of the Organizing Committee. There was considerable discussion concerning potential changes in the nature and format of the Proceedings. These included publication of unrefereed abstracts and or selected longer papers in MPMI, publication in MPMI of a 15- 20 page overview of significant points of the meeting, referenced with appropriate abstract citations, or distribution of the complete text or selected abstracts on IS-MPMI- NET.

No significant change will be made for the Knoxville meeting, but further membership input will be sought on this issue for future meetings. Future activities of the Society were discussed. It was decided that the IS-MPMI Newsletter needed to be published more frequently. IS-MPMI should develop a membership brochure and further define and advertise its identity as an international group joined by an interdisciplinary pursuit of a very active biological frontier with relevance to critical world problems.

As suggested by Michael Daniels, IS-MPMI could use the Internet to provide technical outreach to scientists in developing countries. Various other means of outreach, including subsidized participation in biennial meetings, were discussed. The importance of maintaining the true international character of IS-MPMI was also considered. For example, permitting European members to pay dues and subscription costs with Eurochecks through the Belgian office would be helpful.

Several changes in the structure and operation of the Board were made or initiated. First, it was discovered that there was an open position because of the retirement of two Board members. In accordance with the results of the last election, Ben Lugtenberg was invited to join the Board.

Second, the Editor-in-Chief of MPMI will now be a full member of the Board. Third, a rotation scheme for Board membership, with appropriately coordinated terms of appointment, was discussed and will be developed by the next meeting; the revised by-laws will also reflect more accurately the duties of the officers. Fourth, an operations manual, including biennial meeting arrangements, will be developed.

The next board meeting is currently scheduled during the Knoxville meeting in July 1996.

Treasurer's Report

Membership of the Society as of March, 1995 stands at 416 members, down from a high of 460 a few years ago. Membership dues remain at \$25 per year, of which \$6 is allocated for membership services and administrative costs. Cumulative income from dues as of December 31, 1994 was \$10,206.52. This is a significant source of revenue for the Society, and increasing the number of full members is a major goal in 1995. There were 722 registered attendees at the meeting in Edinburgh last year, so it is clear that interest in the area of molecular plant-microbe interactions is much, greater than the size of our Society would indicate!

Royalties from publication of our journal, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*, constitute the second source of income to the Society and totaled \$8827.70 FY 94. Total income for 1994 was \$19,281.10. Operating expenses for 1994 (members services, administrative charges, and other) were \$8,286.47 resulting in a net surplus of \$10,994.63. Net worth of the Society as of March 31, 1995 was \$29,315.65. The Society should maintain a reserve fund for emergencies of approximately 50 percent of the annual budget.

As a nonprofit organization, IS-MPMI must comply with state and federal tax regulations. We have a federal tax identification number and are required to file annually with the IRS. Our financial records must comply with accepted accounting procedures, and we must account for all our financial transactions including the biennial meeting and the publication of Proceedings. Things have certainly become more complicated as the Society becomes larger and more successful.

A final report on the Edinburgh meeting is not yet available. However, as agreed in 1992, any excess funds will be brought forward as a reserve for future meetings. The Society is grateful to the many companies and foundations whose contributions of funding and materials helped to make the meeting a great success.

Survey Results

In March, 1995 we sent out an e-mail message to members for whom we had addresses, asking your thoughts on what form the Proceedings for the biennial meetings should take. Thanks to all of you who took the time to send us your opinions. The response to our first question, "Do you like the book as it has been published from previous meetings?" was overwhelmingly positive.

Many of you noted that the book is a valuable teaching resource. All but a few of you were negative to our second option, "Would you prefer to have an overview (15-20 pages) of the meeting published in the Journal, along with titles and authors of some of the most important abstracts."

Finally, you were unanimously in favor of the third idea, "Would you like to have full abstracts available through the Internet (IS-MPMI-NET)?" The Proceedings for the 1996 meeting in Knoxville will be published in the usual book format, and we will attempt to make the abstracts available prior to the meeting via the Internet. Those of you who wish to share your thoughts on the Proceedings but did not get an opportunity to respond by e-mail are invited to send your ideas to

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Upcoming Meetings

- **July, 1995** First Midwestern Molecular Microbial Ecology Meeting, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin, US. Contact: Robert Goodman or Laurie Luther, Phone: 608/262-0325 Fax: 608/262-8643 e-mail: goodmanr@macc.wisc.edu
- **August 6-10, 1995** 10th International Conference on Frankia and Actinorhizal Plants, Univ. of California at Davis, Davis, California, US. Contact: Alison Berry, Phone: 916/752-7683 Fax: 916/752-1819
- **August 12-16, 1995** American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US. Contact: Deb Merritt, Phone: (651) 454-7250 Fax: (651) 454-0766 e-mail aps@scisoc.org
- **August 13-17, 1995** 15th North American Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation Conference, North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, North Carolina, US. Contact: Dr. Gerald Elkan, Phone: 919/856-4598 Fax: 919/515-3945 e-mail: gelkan@mbio.ncsu.edu
- **September 3-4, 1995** 16th Annual Crown Gall Meeting, Friday Harbor, Washington State Univ., Washington, US. Contact: Dr. Walt Ream, Phone: 503/737-1791 Fax: 503/737-0497 e-mail reamw@bcc.orst.edu
- **September 3-8, 1995** 5th International Conference on Pseudomonas Syringae Pathovars and Related Pathogens, Berlin, Germany. Contact: Dr. Klaus Rudolph, Inst. Pflanzenpathologie Grisebachstr Fax: 01149-551-394187
- **September 11-15, 1995** 6th International Symposium on the Microbiology of Aerial Plant Surfaces, Island of Bendor/Bandol, France. Contact: Dr. Cindy Morris, Fax: (33) 990 31 63 35, e-mail morris@avi-amp.avignon.inra.fr
- **September 24-29** 7th FAOBMB (Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists Congress, Sydney Convention Center, Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia. Contact: Secretariat, Phone: 61 2 262 2277 Fax: 61 2 262 2323 e-mail: ldaley@tourhosts.com.au
- **September 25-26, 1995** Agrobacterium and Beyond - International Conference on Agrobacterium and Crown Gall, Paris (Gif sur Yvette) France. Contact: J. Tempe' or Denise Guidon, Fax: 331 6982 3695 or 331 4408 1631 e-mail: tempe@trefle.isv.cnrs-gif.fr or guidon@trefle.isv.cnrs-gif.fr
- **October 8-12, 1995** The Third International Symposium: Cytochrome P450 Biodiversity, Swope Conference Center MBL, Woods Hole Massachusetts, US. Contact: John C. Loper, Phone: 513/558-8474 e-mail: loper@ucbeh.san.us.edu
- **December 4-6, 1995** The 7th Industrial Biotechnology Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact: Doris Ruest, Phone: 613/993-9228 Fax: 613/957-9828
- **March 15-21, 1996** Keystone Symposium on "The Extracellular Matrix of Plants: Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology", Tamaron, Colorado, US. Contact: Keystone Sympsia, Phone: 303/262-1230 Fax: 303/262-1525
- **June 11-14, 1996** Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC), Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Contact: ABIC '96, Phone: 306/934-1772 Fax: 306/664-6615 e-mail: signatur@eagle.wbm.ca

- **June 16-21, 1996** Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Mycology, Holderness School, Plymouth, New Hampshire, US. Contact: Dr. Anne Desjardins, Phone: 309/681-6378 Fax: 309/681-6686 e-mail: adesjardins@asrr.arsusda.gov
 - **June 23-28, 1996** 11th International Botrytis Symposium, Wageningen, Netherlands. Contact: Dr. Jan van Kan, Wageningen Agricultural Univ., Phone: 31 8370 83126 Fax: 31 8370 83412 e-mail: "jan.vankan@medew.fyto.wau.nl"
 - **July 27-31, 1996** American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana, US. Contact: Deb Merritt, Phone: (651) 454-7250 Fax: (651) 454-0766 e-mail aps@scisoc.org
 - **July 30-August 8, 1996** 5th International Oat Conference and 7th International Barley Genetics, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Contact: C. Ouellet, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Fax: 306/966-5015
 - **September 12-15, 1996** Fallen Leaf Lake Conference on Horizontal Gene Transfer: Implications and Consequences, Leaf Lake, South Lake Tahoe, California, US. Contact: Michael Syvanen, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.
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IS-MPMI To Join "Information Superhighway"

IS-MPMI is going electronic. Plans are to join thousands of other organizations on the world's largest on-line computer network: internet.

"Most IS-MPMI members are already using internet on a regular basis so it makes absolute sense for the Society to make its information available on-line," states Eugene Nester, IS-MPMI president.

He adds, "In addition to the convenience, the internet is a much more cost-effective way to distribute information than printing and mailing it. It will also make it possible for members around the world to interact much more easily. I believe internet will play a critical role in IS-MPMI's future".

To start, the IS-MPMI-NET service will include general membership information, the IS-MPMI Membership Directory, the IS-MPMI Report newsletter, abstracts of accepted journal articles, and links to university departments in related sciences.

Future plans call for more elaborate services like on-line discussion groups, full text of MPMI, electronic abstract submissions, access to all previously published articles, job bulletin board and on-line membership renewal.

The IS-MPMI-NET home page is due on-line August first and can be found at www.scisoc.org/ismpmi.

A Note From The Editors

As I'm sure you know, it's been a while since we published a Society newsletter. Prior to now it was often difficult to find the manpower and resources to produce the newsletter regularly.

But that has changed. Our plans are to publish IS-MPMI Reporter on a quarterly basis, covering Society news and general information of interest to members.

We would like your input into the content of the newsletter. Your ideas for articles, regular columns or features

would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to see IS-MPMI Reporter become a key resource for information on meetings, publications, activities, etc.. Let us know what you think of this issue and your ideas for future issues.

Sincerely,

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