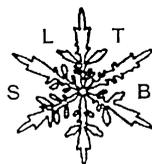


SLTB Newsletter



****STOP PRESS****

Ballot for New Committee Members

After the forthcoming AGM at the Royal Free Hospital (9-10th September) two members of the SLTB Committee will retire. Four nominations have been received for these two positions, therefore under the Rules of the SLTB, a Postal Ballot is being held (form enclosed).

Please return the completed Ballot Paper to the SLTB General Secretary: Prof Paul T Lynch, Biological Sciences, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby DE22 1GB, UK as soon as possible, and no later than **September 6th 2004**.

Profiles of Candidates Standing for Election to the SLTB Committee 2004

Dr Elena González Benito

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
(<http://www.agricolas.upm.es/organizacion/departamentos/Egonzalez/web%20EGLEzBenito.html>)

Plant Biology and Micropropagation Assistant Professor in the Plant Biology Department of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain). Fourteen years experience (post-doc) in plant tissue culture (somatic embryogenesis, micropropagation ...). I was introduced by Dr E Benson (then at Nottingham University) to cryopreservation, and have been working in that field for the last twelve years, mainly in the development of protocols for *in vitro* shoot apices, embryonic axes and seeds, both in agronomic and wild species (in the

department where I work there is the oldest seed bank of wild species, mainly Cruciferae and Iberian endemics <http://www.bio.etsia.upm.es/>). I have published over forty papers in scientific journals and several book chapters. Some of the recent papers related to cryopreservation are: González-Benito, M.E., Pérez-García, F. *CryoLetters* (2001) 22: 135-140; González-Benito *et al.* *CryoLetters* (2002) 23: 283-290; González-Benito *et al.* *Seed Science & Technology* (2003) 31: 423-434; González-Benito *et al.* *Seed Science & Technology* (2004) 32: 247-254.

Professor Brian Grout

Writtle College, UK

Brian Grout has worked in cryobiology since 1978, editing three cryobiology books and producing papers that range from mammalian cell cultures to tropical seeds by way of seashore invertebrates, potatoes and fungi. Previous experience also includes some time in commercial cryobiology as well as two tours of duty as the Meetings Secretary for SLTB, back in the 1980s. Consequently he has a wealth of interesting tales concerning some of the more senior members of the Society! Current interests include cryoconservation of currant (*Ribes*) germplasm and ethno-veterinary plants of Nepal as well as frozen storage of horse sperm. He is currently Head of the Postgraduate School at Writtle College, a specialist, land-based HEI affiliated to the University of Essex.

Professor David Rawson

University of Luton, UK

David Rawson is Professor of Applied Cell Biology at the University of Luton

and Director of the University's Institute of Research in the Applied Natural Sciences. His personal areas of research interest are in the cryopreservation of fish gametes and embryos; impact of cryopreservation methods on genome integrity; and cryopreservation of microbial consortia for exploitation in ecotoxicity bioassays. He is course leader for the new MSc in Cryobiology that starts in October 2004. In addition to his personal research interests, David has University wide responsibilities as Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies.

Dr Dirk Hinch

Max-Planck-Inst. für Molekulare
Pflanzenphysiologie, Germany

I studied biology at the University of Bochum and the University of Würzburg (Germany), where I also obtained my PhD. From 1990 until 1999 I held teaching and research positions at the Institute of Plant Physiology of the Free University Berlin (Germany). During this time I also worked as a visiting researcher in the laboratory of Prof John Crowe at the University of California at Davis (USA). In 1999 I moved to the Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology in Potsdam (Germany), where I am currently a group leader, heading the Central Infrastructure Group Transcript Profiling. I have been on the Editorial Board of *Cryobiology* since 1994 and on the Editorial Board of *CryoLetters* since 2002. I also served on the Committee of the SLTB from 1997 to 1999.

My research interests are mainly in the field of plant cold acclimation and freezing tolerance. The methods we apply in my group at the MPI include biophysical approaches to membrane stability under stress, using liposomes, biochemical approaches analyzing metabolite levels in plants under stress conditions, physiological approaches to analyze stress responses of plants, classical genetic approaches to analyze the genetical basis of plant freezing tolerance, and genomic approaches such as transcript profiling, including statistical and informatics-based tools for data analysis.

New Members

In the first half of the year, several new members joined the Society, among them Dr Martin D Fray, Frozen Embryo and Sperm Archive, Medical Research Centre Harwell, UK.

Martin Fray was awarded a PhD at the University of Nottingham after submitting a thesis entitled "Gonadotrophin release in *post-parturient* cattle and sheep" and then went to work as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Reading investigating the endocrine dynamics responsible for follicle selection. During this project the ovarian responses to exogenous growth hormone and follicle stimulating hormone were monitored in sheep actively immunised against inhibin. Martin then moved to the Institute for Animal Health to conduct research on the pathogenicity and immunogenicity of bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV). This work focused on the interactions between BVDV and cell function in cattle carrying congenitally derived persistent infections and/or experimentally induced acute infections. In addition to his research activities he also managed the bovine embryology laboratory which supplied genetically defined cattle to research groups within the Institute. This was achieved through line breeding and/or the super-ovulation/flushing of selected cattle, as well as, the importation of genetic material from our European collaborators.

Martin moved to the Medical Research Council's Mammalian Genetics Unit in November 2001 and is currently managing the frozen embryo and sperm archive (FESA). The archive functions as the central UK repository for deposition and dissemination of mouse stocks and is also one of the six nodes that make up the European mouse mutant archive. FESA currently holds >1650 strains as embryos, plus sperm samples from ~4,000 males, many of these lines are unique models of human genetic disease.

Other new members will introduce themselves and their research interests in the next Newsletter. We look forward to meeting the new and existing members of the SLTB at the forthcoming meetings!



qualification (letter of confirmation of status from supervisor essential). Please make sure that if you are entering this competition, you indicate this on the abstract form.

The Annual General meeting of SLTB will be held on Thursday 9th September at 16.30; the Annual Dinner will also be on the evening of Thursday 9th September (Cost about £25; places limited so book early).

Local contact for additional information if required:

Barry Fuller at b.fuller@rfc.ucl.ac.uk; FAX 00 44 (0) 20 7 830 2688. University Department of Surgery, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG, UK.

SLTB AGM September 2005

It is intended to hold next year's AGM at the University of York, UK hosted by Monica Wusteman and David Pegg. Arrangements are currently in the very early planning stages so watch this space!



Other Forthcoming Meetings

American Assoc. of Tissue Banks Chicago, USA August 28-31st 2004

The 28th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Tissue Banks will take place in Chicago from August 28-31, 2004. *Beware: location changed!!* Details can be found at <http://www.aatb.org>

Cryosurgery in the Americas Montreal, Quebec, Canada Sept 25-26th 2004

The 2004 Cryosurgery Congress of the Americas will be held on September 25th and 26th in Montreal PQ Canada. This event is organized by Omar Maiwand (UK), Gloria Graham (USA), Luis Marcial Peralta (Chile) and Rita Jean-Francois (Canada) under the umbrella of the International Society of Cryosurgery. This congress already has delegates attending

from a great many countries from specialties as diverse as Pulmonology, Cardiology, General Surgery, Dermatology, Urology and many more. All information is available online at: <http://www.societyofcryosurgery.org>

European Association of Tissue Banks Prague, Czech Republic October 13-16th 2004

The 13th International Congress of the European Association of Tissue Banks will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from October 13-16, 2004. Details can be found at: <http://www.eatb.cz>

Preservation of Genetic Resources St Petersburg, Russia Oct 19-22nd 2004

The above meeting will be held at the Institute of Cytology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

The programme includes fundamental aspects and applications of cryobiology of reproductive tissue of plants, animals and microorganisms. The aim of the meeting is international cooperation for the preservation of genetic resources.

For further details please contact:
Dr NA Mikhailova
Organizing Committee "Preservation of Genetic Resources", Institute of Cytology of the RAS, 194064 St. Petersburg, Russia
Fax: +7 (812) 2470341
E-mail: natmik@mail.ru

American Assoc. of Blood Banks Baltimore, Maryland, USA October 23-26th 2004

The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks will take place in Baltimore, Maryland from October 23-26, 2004. Details can be found at <http://www.aabb.org>

Cryomedicine 2004 Tokyo, Japan November 18-20th 2004

The Japanese Society for Low Temperature Medicine is organizing its 31st Annual Meeting as a joint World

Conference of “Cryomedicine 2004” in collaboration with the International Institute of Refrigeration and the International Society of Cryosurgery. The meeting will take place in Tokyo, Japan from November 18-20, 2004. Details can be found at <http://homepage2.nifty.com/cryomedicine>

**Fifth International Congress on
Plant Biotechnology Bioveg
Cuba, February 7-11th 2005**

This international meeting will be held from February 7th to 11th, 2005 in Bioplant Center, Ciego de Avila University, Cuba.

The meeting will include an International Workshop related with Plant Cryopreservation co-organised by Dr. Ir. Bart Panis from K.U. Leuven, Belgium (bart.panis@agr.kuleuven.ac.be).

Further details are available from <http://192.168.11.2/Bioveg/en/default.htm>

**International Society for
Experimental Hematology
Glasgow, Scotland
July 30th – Aug 2nd 2005**

The 34th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Experimental Hematology “Tradition Meets Innovation” will take place in Glasgow, Scotland from July 30–August 2, 2005. Details can be found at <http://www.iseh.org/meetings>



Hyphen Required?

Among the presents that I received on my recent birthday was a fascinating and highly amusing little book entitled “Eats Shoots & Leaves”. The author is Lynne Truss. The book is, believe it or not, a best-seller despite its subject, which is English punctuation. There are hilarious chapters dealing with the apostrophe; the comma; colons and semicolons; exclamation and question marks; and yes, the hyphen. “Hyphen usage”, the author concludes, “is just a big bloody mess”: she lists ten circumstances in which hyphens should be used but has to acknowledge that Fowler advised that “whenever

reasonable” the hyphen should be dropped!

As a reader of the literature concerning cryobiology, you will surely have encountered the three volumes edited by the late Peter Steponkus, “Advances in Low-Temperature Biology”. Note the hyphen. Yet, we are members of the Society for Low Temperature Biology. Note the absence of a hyphen. (Audrey Smith was an ardent disciple of Fowler.) In her list of approved uses of the hyphen, Lynne Truss does advocate hyphenation to join two nouns (“the London-Brighton train”) or two adjectives (“American-French relations”), but Steponkus hyphenated an adjective with a noun, albeit a noun-used-as-an-adjective, thus: “Low (adjective) hyphen Temperature (noun)”. Which is correct?

Lynne Truss defines punctuation as “a courtesy designed to help readers to understand a story without stumbling”. Well, since “low” is intended to qualify “temperature” but certainly not (I hope) “biology”, then I suggest that we really should hyphenate the words “low-temperature” in the name of our society.

David Pegg



From the Treasurer

Annual Membership Fees

The subscription for the year 2004 is now overdue. Those who have not yet paid are reminded to send your payment to the Treasurer (Tiantian Zhang) as soon as possible. Please note that the annual fees of SLTB membership have increased to **£20** for a standard member and **£15** for a student from **1st January 2004**. Since the SLTB cannot accept credit card payments, the best way of paying is by standing order. This form is on the website at: <http://www.slbtb.info/forms.htm>. Payments can also be made by cheque (any bank charges have to be covered by the payer) or in cash to the Treasurer at SLTB meetings.

Members who have been paying by Standing Order (thank you!) are reminded

to check your bank balance and make sure that the right amount has been paid for 2004.

Gift Aid Declaration

Since the SLTB became a registered charity in the UK in 2003, we can now reclaim tax on our UK members' subscription payments from the Inland Revenue. To enable the Society to do this, we need our members to declare that you would like the Society to treat your subscriptions as Gift Aid donations. I would like to urge UK members (tax payers only) to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration form (available from the website at <http://www.sltb.info/forms.htm>) as this will help the Society's much needed income generation!

Tiantian Zhang

Email Addresses – A Reminder

To help improve communication with the membership we want to develop a database of all members' email addresses. The intention is not to replace the traditional Society Newsletter with an electronic version, but rather to supplement it with specific news items etc. which we wish the membership to be aware of between the Newsletter's publication. Would you please complete the enclosed green form and post it General Secretary (Paul Lynch) or send it electronically to P.T.Lynch@derby.ac.uk – to save him lots of typing, and the inevitable mistakes.

Thank you to those members who responded to the previous requests for email addresses.

Note: The material for this edition was prepared by Ursula Rauen.