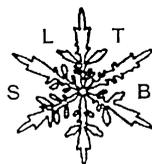


SLTB Newsletter



****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

Please find enclosed with this Newsletter a questionnaire aimed at maintaining the relevance of the Society to its membership and making improvements for the benefit of everyone. The Committee would be very grateful for your cooperation with this - PLEASE take the time to complete and return it to the Secretary, Paul Lynch, as soon as possible.



Women and Science

About a year ago (spring 2004) the new Spanish Prime Minister designated sixteen Cabinet members: eight men and eight women. At that time, much was said and written in my country about the role of women in society, especially in high ranks, both in private and public sectors. Proportionally few women of the total working force reach high-responsibility posts. The situation is similar for women in science and technology.

A recent EU study (2004) revealed that women researchers are still a minority (approximately, 33% of researchers in the EU are women), despite the fact that in most countries women are over 50% of graduates (58% in EU-25). However, the proportion of women graduating in science and engineering is lower (30% in EU-25). The greatest proportion of women researchers work in medical and social sciences.

The under-representation of women in science, and especially in research, has several explanations. To start with, as has already been pointed out, the lower female undergraduate proportion in science and technology. The low number of senior women scientists in public forums can deprive young girls of role models when students choose subjects at school. The fact that an even lower proportion of female scientists reach high positions, as in other professions, is explained in most cases by the fact that women are, in most cases, the “caring” gender of the couple.

The European Union has special programmes to study and promote the role of women in science. Under FP6, “Women and science” is included under the “Science and Society” activities. Some European countries also have policies to promote the careers of women in science and technology, both in higher education and research. Such is the case of the Athena Project in the UK.

Going back to the example of the Spanish government, shortly after the Ministers were designated in spring of 2004, a news item stated that altogether the eight female Ministers had a total of five children, while altogether the eight male Ministers had fifteen children.

These lines have been written based on the information provided in:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women-science/women-science_en.html

http://www.ine.es/revistas/cifra/cifine_mujer03.pdf

http://www.nature.com/nature/debates/women/women_contents.html

<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/women/home.htm>

<http://www.athenaproject.org.uk/>

M. Elena González-Benito
Committee member



Forthcoming SLTB Meetings

SLTB AGM 2005 University of York 15th -16th September

The annual scientific meeting and AGM of the SLTB will be held in the Biology Department at the University of York. The 2 day meeting will include symposia on **The Response to Cold Acclimation in Plants** and **New Developments in Tissue Banking**. Updated details of the scientific programme can be found on the SLTB website homepage (www.sltb.info). There will also be free communication and poster sessions on both days and a commercial exhibition. The deadline for the submission of abstracts will be **25th July 2005**. Information about the submission of abstracts together with an abstract form can be obtained from the organizers (see below) or on the SLTB website (www.sltb.info/forms.html).

The Ken Hobbs Award (£100) will be judged on the best oral presentation from students or young scientists within 1 year of PhD qualification. A letter of confirmation of status from the supervisor is essential to qualify for consideration for this award.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the SLTB will be held on Thursday 15th September. The **annual dinner** will also be held on campus on Thursday 15th in Heslington Hall, a sixteenth century building which now accommodates university administration. Numbers for this are limited so early booking is strongly recommended (£30 per person).

Registration will be £60 for SLTB members, £70 for non members and £35 for student members (letter of confirmation of student status from supervisor essential). One day registration will be £40. A registration form can be obtained from the organizers or on the website (www.sltb.info/forms.html).

Accommodation

IMPORTANT: please note

The University of York campus is situated two miles outside the city of York. For exact location, travel information and city accommodation see www.york.ac.uk/np/univcity.htm but since there are no hotels within easy walking distance of the meeting rooms a small number of single rooms have been reserved on campus. **These will have to be booked and paid for by July 25th**. Rooms are available for the nights of 14th, 15th and 16th September in Wentworth College, en suite with breakfast at £31 per person per night or Fairfax House with breakfast at £24 pppn. Please indicate if you are prepared to accept this non en suite accommodation; if not, it may be possible to provide other en suite rooms in Alcuin College on campus after the July deadline at a cost of £42.50 pppn. If you would like one of the rooms on campus please send the organizers your exact requirements and a cheque to cover the full cost by 25th July. Cheques should be made payable to "University of York: SLTB meeting Acc. C0055401".

Further details can be obtained from Monica Wusteman at mcw3@york.ac.uk or Belinda Wade at bjw3@york.ac.uk; Fax: 01904 328609; Medical Cryobiology Unit, Dept of Biology (Area 5), University of York, YORK YO10 5YW, UK.

CRYO 2006
Hamburg 24th-27th July

The meeting will be held as the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Cryobiology in association with the SLTB (at the 2005 STLBA AGM in York the membership will decide whether the meeting in Hamburg will also serve as the SLTB's 2006 AGM). The meeting itself will cover a wide range of subjects including hypothermia, physiology of resistance to cold in plants, and applications of cryobiology in conservation, surgery, cell, tissue and organ preservation. Relevant aspects of biology, molecular biology, physics, chemistry, physical chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, medicine, transfusion medicine, mechanical engineering, tissue engineering and transplantation will also be covered. The format will be the "classic" one, i.e. a reception on the evening of the day preceding the meeting, followed by a four day scientific meeting. On the first day David Pegg will organize a symposium (working title: "Clinical Applications of Low Temperatures"). On the morning of the second day we will have lectures on plant low temperature biology organized by Dirk Hinch. In the afternoon there will be a guided bus tour of Hamburg, and a combined barbecue/canoe event. On the third day Ursula Rauen has agreed to organize lectures on the topic of "hypothermia". The traditional banquet will take place during the evening of the last day.

If you are interested in more details, please go to: <http://www.cryo2006.org> where there is a button linked to a sign up form for inclusion in the mailing list and email notification of important deadlines. Since November last year (when the website was set up) there have been approx. 850 'hits' and 50 sign ups for meeting news.

Andreas Sputtek, Chairman
CRYO 2006 Organizer



Other Meetings

**First Congress on Cryobiology
organised in Latin America
Rosario (Argentina), May 3-5th 2005**

The team from the National University of Rosario in Argentina (Professors Edgardo Guibert, Joaquim Rodriguez, Eduardo Ceccarelli & Maria Mamprin) are hosting the first congress solely devoted to Cryobiology in Latin America. This will be held in Rosario from May 3-5th 2005, and will cover preservation of organs, tissues and cells for biomedical purposes, cryosurgery and cryotherapy, effects of low temperatures on plants and animals, and methods of evaluating viability of cryopreserved tissues. The Congress is also planned to include informal discussions and Round Table Sessions. Details of the meeting can be found on the web at :

<http://www.unr.edu.ar/academica/scyt/criobiologia/cascada/programa.htm>

It is hoped that the meeting will provide a platform for the establishment of a Latin American branch of the UNESCO Chair in Cryobiology, and future links with the SLTB.

**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>

**Plant Tissue Culture - Contributing to a
sustainable future
Perth, Western Australia
September 21-24th 2005**

This conference is organised by the Australian Branch of the International Association for Plant Tissue Culture. This conference will showcase recent developments in plant tissue culture and biotechnology, highlighting contributions to sustainability in horticulture, agriculture

and forestry, and conservation of the natural environment. Call for abstracts deadline: June 1st 2005.

<http://www.congresswest.com.au/PTC>

14th International Conference of the European Association of Tissue Banks Florence (Italy), December 8 – 11th 2005

For further information visit:

<http://www.eatb.de/html/events.htm>

11th Congress of The International Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (IAPTC&B)- Biotechnology and Sustainable Agriculture 2006 and Beyond Beijing, China, August 13-18th 2006

For further information visit:

<http://www.genetics.ac.cn/IAPTCB.htm>

If you have a meeting or other event that you would like published in the next SLTB Newsletter, please send the information to any member of the Committee. Thank you.



Workshops and Courses

Plant Cryopreservation Training Workshops in Belgium and France September/October 2005

Two training workshops on cryopreservation of plant genetic resources are being organized in the context of the EU funded project CRYMCEPT (see SLTB Newsletter April 2004).

For further details visit:

<http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/Events/Cryopreservation.htm>

MSc Cryobiology (Cryopreservation and Conservation)

The University of Luton is currently running MSc/PgDip/PgCert Cryobiology Courses to provide formal training and qualification for personnel working in organisations using cryobiology techniques and a sound foundation for individuals planning to undertake research in related discipline areas.

The courses include the following aspects and applications of Cryobiology:

- Principles of cryobiology
- Cryobiology in biomedicine
- Cryobanking and conservation of biodiversity
- (MSc) Laboratory research project
- (PGD) Literature based dissertation

The teaching team includes:

Prof Barry Fuller, Royal Free and University College Medical School, London

Prof Bill Holt, Institute of Zoology, London

Prof David Pegg, University of York

Prof Hugh Pritchard, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Ardingly

Prof David Rawson, University of Luton

Prof Glyn Stacey, National Institute of Biological Standard and Controls, South Mimms

Prof Paul Watson, Royal Veterinary College, London

Dr Tiantian Zhang, University of Luton

For more details please contact:

Dr Tiantian Zhang, Luton Institute of Research in the Applied Natural Sciences, University of Luton, The Spires, 2 Adelaide Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 5DU, UK

Tel: 44 (0)1582 743729

Fax: 44 (0)1582 743701

E-mail: tiantian.zhang@luton.ac.uk



Membership Fees

It is the Treasurer's job to remind you to pay your SLTB membership for 2005 if you have not already done so. A Standing Order through a current bank account is the most efficient and convenient way to make your payment of £20 for standard membership or £15 for students. At present the Society is unable to accept payment by credit or debit card. A Standing Order Form is available at www.sltb.info/forms.html and if you do not already take advantage of this facility I would urge you to complete the form and forward it your bank as soon as possible. If you are an established Standing Order user please would you ensure that this has been adjusted to the current rate.

Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque [increased to cover any bank service charges] made payable to the Society and sent directly to me, Brian Grout-SLTB Treasurer, Postgraduate School, Writtle College, Chelmsford CM1 3RR, UK.

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 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 www.sltb.info/forms.htm) as this will greatly help the Society's balance sheet!

Brian Grout, Treasurer



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. Would you please email Paul Lynch at P.T.Lynch@derby.ac.uk so that your details can be added to the database.

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



Note: The material for this edition was prepared by M Elena Gonzalez Benito.

SLTB Officers and Committee 2004-2005

Chairman

Andreas Sputtek (2002)

Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf
Inst. für Transfusionsmedizin
Martinistrasse 52
20246 Hamburg, Germany
Tel: 49 40 42803 4277/3430
Fax: 49 40 42803 4871
Email: sputtek@uke.uni-hamburg.de

General Secretary

Paul Lynch (2002)

Biological Scis Research Group
School of Education, Health and Scis
University of Derby
Kedleston Road
Derby DE22 1GB, UK
Tel. 44 (0)1332 591748
Fax: 44 (0)1332 597747
Email: P.T.Lynch@derby.ac.uk

Meetings Secretary

Barry Fuller (2002)

University Dept of Surgery
Royal Free Hospital
School of Medicine
Pond Street
London NW3 2QG, UK
Tel. 44 (0)20 7794 0500
Fax: 44 (0)20 7830 2688
Email: b.fuller@medsch.ucl.ac.uk

Treasurer

Brian Grout (2004)

Director of Postgraduate Studies
Postgraduate School
Writtle College
Chelmsford CM1 3RR
UK
Tel: 44 (0)1245 424200
Fax: 44 (0)1245 420456
Email: bwg@writtle.ac.uk

Keith Harding (2003)

Plant Conservation Group
School of Contemporary Sciences
University of Abertay Dundee
Kydd Building, Bell Street
Dundee DD1 1HG, UK
Tel: 44 (0)1382 308535
Fax: 44 (0)1382 308261
Email: setkh1@abertay.ac.uk

Monica Wusteman (2002)

Medical Cryobiology Unit
Department of Biology
University of York
York YO10 5YW
UK
Tel: 44 (0)1904 328718
Fax: 44 (0)1904 328609
Email: mcw3@york.ac.uk

M. Elena González Benito (2004)

Dpto de Biología Vegetal
Esc Univ de Ing. Técnica Agrícola
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Ciudad Universitaria
28040 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 34 91 336 54 35
Fax: 34 91 336 54 06
Email: me.gonzalezbenito@upm.es