



NEWSLETTER REPORT

January 2014⁵

WFP - founded in Warsaw, Poland, 1960



From the President's Desk

Welcome to the WFP newsletter, a new initiative aimed at strengthening our communication. In another move to improve communication, our newly elected secretary, David Piedrafita is now updating and improving our home page www.wfpnet.org. And, as many of you may have noticed, WFP is even present in the social media. Please read below about WFP on Facebook.

The highlight of 2014 was, needless to say, ICOPA XIII in Mexico City. Ana Flisser and her team had managed to gather an impressive number of high profile speakers and we had wonderful social gatherings, great food and a memorable gala dinner. To those of you who missed it: Make sure not to miss the next ICOPA to be held in South Korea in 2018. You can read more about the past and the next ICOPA later in this newsletter.

WFP has since its founding in 1960 been mostly dedicated to organising the ICOPA meetings. However, during the dynamic leadership of the past presidents David Rollinson and Alan Cowman and due to the efforts of Les Chappell, our former secretary, WFP has entered into a new phase with a more modern organisation and increasing activities. At the council meeting held during ICOPA we elected a high number of new executive board members. All board members are presented on our home page. The board has already had to act swiftly to ensure the continued activities of WFP under new European bank laws. I wish to thank each board member for your contribution and I look a lot forward to collaborating with you.

WFP is close to launching our own journal in collaboration with Elsevier thus making us more visible and allowing us to contribute more to the science and practice of parasitology. When it becomes a reality we shall be ready with a newsletter dedicated to this major event.

I would like to wish all parasitologists around the world a happy and successful New Year 2015. I look forward to the coming four years and to see you all in South Korea for ICOPA XIV – if not before.

Jørgen Kurtzhals

President of World Federation of Parasitologists

Service to the WFP Society



Dr. Leslie Chappell, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, has served WFP faithfully as secretary for about a decade and contributed immensely to the modernisation of the federation. Due to illness Les had to step down as secretary shortly before ICOPA XIII in Mexico. We are happy to learn that he is recovering steadily, as it clearly shows in this recent family photo. At the council meeting in Mexico all delegates shared in a vote of thanks for the great contribution Les has made to WFP. On a personal note I would like to add that it has been a great pleasure to work with Les and I wish you many enjoyable years. I am sure you will continue to follow WFP with keen interest.

Jørgen Kurtzhals

ICOPA Conference Reports

ICOPA 2014 Report: Mexico



ICOPA XIII was held in Mexico City from 10th to 15th August 2014. Almost 1400 participants came to this first ICOPA in Latin America. A full report of the congress can be found on the WFP-website and www.icopa2014.org.

WFP wishes to thank the organisers warmly for a high level scientific program and wonderful social gatherings.

ICOPA 2018 Invitation:



At the Council Meeting of the WFP Daegu, South Korea was elected host city for the XIV International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA) in 2018. The Korean Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (KSP) will have the honour to be the host Society. We highly appreciate the Mexican organization, the WFP Council members and the President of WFP, Professor Alan Cowman for making the ICOPA XIII very successful, and for selecting Korea as the host in 2018.

In 2018 KSP looks forward to share our experiences with other parasitologists around the world. KSP's development goes hand in hand with Korea's modern history. Almost 90% of the population suffered from parasitic infections after the Korean War in 1953. Through a long-term national campaign and the hard work of Korean parasitologists', the intestinal parasitic infection rate went down to under 3%. Korea became a member of OECD's Development Assistance Committee as the only country in the Committee that went from recipient to donor, and we are committed to sharing the know-how we gained from our experience. Since 1995, with grants from KOICA and NGOs, members of KSP have taken part in development assistance programs to control neglected tropical diseases in Asia, South America, and Africa. KSP is also focused on research. Since 1963, KSP has been publishing the Korean Journal of Parasitology, now indexed by SCI. 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of KSP's establishment. We would like to invite colleagues from around the world to celebrate our birthday together.

KSP will do everything that can make ICOPA XIV a successful, meaningful and fun congress for everyone. The ICOPA XIV will be held from September 9th to 13th, 2018 (exact dates to be confirmed), which is the best time to visit Korea. The main venue will be EXCO in Daegu. Our



proposed theme is "Parasites: Harms and Benefits". The core academic program will include plenary sessions, parallel symposia, and more. We will also arrange a student-mentor program, charity auction, and a Parasite Photomicrograph Exhibition as well as lectures for the general public. We will prepare a welcome reception, gala dinner and a party for young professionals. We will also have a variety of cultural programs for participants and accompanying persons. We will offer various support to participants as much as possible.

Korea is a beautiful and exciting country where the old and new coexist. The popularity of K-pop and TV dramas has made Korea the preferred choice for a new generation of visitors. The venue will be in Daegu which is located in the southeast of Korea and is the third largest city in the country. It is a clean, safe and modern city. Especially Daegu is near the most beautiful tourist attractions in the country. There are four UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites within an hour's drive. Attractions include



Haeinsa Temple, Bulguksa Temple, and Seokguram Grotto - crown jewels in Korea's historical legacy. Korea is very reachable from most locations worldwide. From Incheon Airport, there are connecting flights to Daegu, and the high speed train takes 2 hours and 40 minutes and leaves directly from Incheon Airport. There are 32 hotels, traditional hanok houses and student housings to suit all budgets.

KSP will work together with WFP, international board members, and all our colleagues, and certainly make ICOPA XIV beneficial to all participants, from all countries. Please note the date, September 9-13th, 2018, and visit Korea to be a part of ICOPA XIV.

Korean Bidding Team for ICOPA-2018

WFP Awards

The WFP distinguished achievements awards were for the second time presented at ICOPA XIII in Mexico City. The awards are given to outstanding parasitologists, nominated by member societies of WFP. We would like to congratulate this year's recipients:

Professor Ian Beveridge, Australia

Professor Simon Brooker, UK

Professor Jean Dupouy-Camet, France

Professor Saovanee Leelayoova, Thailand

Dr. Edoardo Pozio, Italy

Dr. Hector Quiroz-Romero, Mexico

News and Views

Prize to WFP past president

It is a great honour to announce that the Sornchai Looaresuwan Prize of 2014 was awarded to our past president, Professor Alan Cowman at a recent conference in Bangkok, Thailand. This was in appreciation of Alan's highly significant contribution to malaria research and we would like to congratulate Alan. This and many other events were noted on the WFP facebook page, which also allowed the members to send their congratulations directly to Alan.

WFP on Facebook



First of all, I would like to wish everyone a happy holidays. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a Ph.D student in the lab of Prof. Alan Cowman and as the social media officer of the World Federation of Parasitology. It has been a big year for the WFP what with ICOPA in Mexico and the launch of the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/worldfederationofparasitology/>), which now stands at over 4316 members from around the world. We have used this platform to help spread the word on WFP website updates, parasitology events and courses, as well as any other parasitology-related content. Given that we have so many users, I would love to ask that anyone who is interested in helping admin the page along with me to get in touch via weir.c@wehi.edu.au. Additionally, if we have any Twitter users that would like to discuss setting up a Twitter platform for the WFP, please also get in contact. By utilizing social media we are capable of reaching more people who have an interest in the field of parasitology. I fervently believe this to be important given the vital role of science communication amongst scientists, students and the public. Looking forward to hearing from a few eager members.

Happy holiday, Christopher Weir

Reminders:

The 2015 NZSP & ASP Annual Conference, will be a joint meeting between the Australian Society for Parasitology and the New Zealand Society for Parasitology, held in Auckland, New Zealand 29th June – Thursday 2nd July



Parasites are Forever

EMOP XII

12th European Multicolloquium of Parasitology

TURKU, FINLAND, JULY 20-24th, 2016



MOLECULAR APPROACHES TO MALARIA

21-25 FEBRUARY 2016
LORNE | VICTORIA | AUSTRALIA

