

Minutes for SBSP board telephone meeting 4 November 2016, 13:00-14:00

Members Present:

Jakob Skov (JS)

Pikka Jokelainen (PJ)

Vaidas Palinauskas (VP)

Rebecca Davidson (RD)—joined for last half (excused for the first half)

Andrea Miller (AM)

Age Kärssin (AK)

Gunita Deksnė (GD)

1. Accepting new members (if any?) (**all**)

It was noted that the new online payment system makes it difficult to tell when there are new members. The Board will ask the webmaster if there can be a notification for when new members have applied.

2. Grants (**all**)

There were no grant applications for this grant period. The Board will try to increase promotion of grants in the spring in an effort to increase applications. Full funding for all grants will be available again for the application period (April 1-May 1). As part of the promotion effort, VP agreed to try to gather a list of past grant winners and a description of their projects for the website.

3. CSBSP7 update (**Gunita**)

The CSBSP7 will be held June 8-9 in Riga, Latvia. There was a lot of good advertising done at EMOP in July. GD reported that the conference venue is booked. The conference organizers are still looking for sponsors. GD asked if the Board would like to host a permanent website for this and future SBSP conferences and will look into the cost of such a website. The conference program has been drafted, but the organizers are still open to suggestions for invited speakers.

4. ICOPA 2022 bid and organization (**Pikka/Jakob**)

There is a group gathering to discuss making a bid for ICOPA to be held in Denmark in 2022. The Board discussed the role SBSP could take in this. PJ is part of the group which is discussing making the bid and will have more information after a meeting on December 9.

5. Heracles collaboration request (**Pikka**)

PJ reminded that the Heracles project (*Echinococcus*) is looking for collaborators from the northern European countries.

6. A general information letter to members (**Jakob and Pikka**)

JS and PJ will draft a letter to the members. It will include information about the Hercules project, the upcoming conference, grants, and how to pay membership.

7. Document explaining regulations on payment and membership to members (**Jakob**)

RD and JS will draft and circulate such a document for approval among the Board. It was also suggested that modifying the pay button to say “Join/Renew” could be useful to avoid confusion over where to renew (for existing members).

8. Board manual update (**Pikka**)

PJ will get some comments from JS, but the manual is nearly in its final form.

9. Parasite in Focus – are we ready to implement it on the webpage? (**Gunita**)

This has mostly been tabled as GD is involved in the upcoming conference preparations. However, her PhD student will continue to finalize the *Alaria alata* information sheet.

10. Bank account fusion update (**Rebecca**)

The bank accounts are now all consolidated in Sweden.

11. Facebook page update (**Pikka**)

The Facebook page has nearly 500 likes. It will be a good tool for advertising the next conference and members are encouraged to promote the page. Members are also encouraged to post their own work on the page.

12. EFP payments (**Vaidas**)

There has been some confusion with EFP on SBSP's current and past membership dues. RD will contact EFP to clarify the situation. Dues for this year will need to be paid for by March.

13. Spam from ContactUs e-mail (**Andrea and Rebecca**)

Spam does come through the ContactUS email and can be a lot at certain times. AM is concerned that she will miss real emails from potential members. AM will compose a list of questions including this and others (concerning membership) to contact the webmaster about.

14. AOB

VP informed the Board of the recent passing of an honorary member (Prof. Vytautas Kontrimavičius). The Board discussed the potential of including such information on the website, but acknowledged that it is difficult to know about such events for all honorary members. Therefore, the Board decided to not make these formal announcements. However, informal support and acknowledgement from the Board towards the close ones of a deceased honorary member was highly encouraged.

JS will update SBSP contact information with EFP.

The Board briefly discussed the history of SBSP.

The Board approved GD to print 150 more postcards for conference advertising.