

Minutes for SBSB board telephone meeting 20 May 2016, 13:00-13:50

Members Present:

Jakob Skov (JS)

Pikka Jokelainen (PJ)

Vaidas Palinauskas (VP)

Rebecca Davidson (RD)

Andrea Miller (AM)

Age Kärssin (AK)

Gunita Deksnė (GD)

- 1) **This meeting was called to focus on priority matters (grant applications, EMOP). Therefore, all other business, including membership approvals, are postponed until our next full Board meeting.**

- 2) **Decision on grant applications (all)**

The Board received three applications for the undergraduate stipend and one application for the literature review grant. To avoid conflict of interest, the undergraduate stipend was decided upon by JS, PJ, RD, AM, GD, and AK. The literature review grant was decided upon by JS, RD, AM, VP, and AK.

All three students who had sent an application for the undergraduate stipend appeared very motivated. It was decided to award an undergraduate stipend of 750 Euro each to Gabriele Vaitkute and Akvilė Kvietauskaitė. Gabriele's project will deal with *Haemoproteus* species composition in wild caught biting midges, and Akvilė's project will deal with hemosporidian species genetic diversity. Both projects were well described and will be done in Lithuania. The Board concluded that these projects would contribute significantly to the knowledge of hemosporidian species worldwide and particularly in the Baltic region.

The literature review grant of 1500 Euro was awarded for work on an article entitled "Cryptosporidium and Giardia in Eastern European countries: Current situation". The co-applicants were Brian Lassen, Pikka Jokelainen, Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, and Gunita Deksnė. The Board concluded that this article was an excellent collaboration between the Baltic and other Eastern European countries on a timely and important topic.

AM will summarize comments from the Board and will compose response letters to all applicants for JS to sign.

For the autumn grant period, there will be no literature review funds available. However, 500 Euros still remains for the Undergraduate student stipends. All mobility grants (three) are still available for this year.

3) EMOP planning

JS, PJ, RD, AM and GD will be attending EMOP. We have one free registration. The Board decided to award this free registration to GD, as she will not only be working to promote SBSP in general but also the next SBSP meeting in Riga.

The Board agreed on the following promotional items:

- 1) A SBSP banner/flag or pull-up stand with our logo. VP will investigate prices.
- 2) A large poster advertising the benefits of membership. JS will design.
- 3) A leaflet providing an overview of the Society, its grants, and how to apply for membership. RD will design.
- 4) A postcard reminder for the next SBSP meeting. GD will know the dates in the next two weeks and inform the Board.

There will also be a computer at the stand to show our website and Facebook page.

The stand will be shared with EFP, which will likely have newsletters to hand out.

Preliminary drafts of promotional items should be emailed to the Board for discussion and approval by June 6.

A time schedule for manning the information stand will be decided upon at EMOP.

4) AOB

The Finnish and Lithuanian bank accounts are officially emptied and closed. The Danish bank account will be closed soon, but the Norwegian bank account is pending.

The exhibition fee for EMOP has been paid for.

RD awaits the grant applicants' bank information to distribute those funds.

The next Board meeting will be end of June or at EMOP. It will be a full meeting.