

## **SBSP telephone meeting**

**24th November 2014**

**Present:** Brian Lassen (BL), Pikka Jokelainen (PJ), Rebecca Kathrine Davidson Klaveness (RD), Jakob Skov (JS), Vaidas Palinauskas (VP), Gunita Deksnė (GD), Ulrika Forshell (UF)

### **Accepting new member applications**

Elena Platonova, Cécile Patrelle, Adam Novobilský were accepted as members.

### **Voting on funding decisions regarding undergraduate student stipend applications:**

PJ pointed out that an annual total of EUR 2000 are available for award, and for 2014 nothing has yet been awarded. However in the future this might mean that all funds are awarded to spring applicants, leaving nothing for the autumn. RD countered that we can keep the two application windows, provided it is made clear on the website that there is the risk of depleted funds in the autumn.

Two applications for the new undergraduate stipend had been submitted from Latvia:

Bettija Ligere – *Toxoplasma gondii* in Latvian cattle (sum: 1500 EUR)

Zanda Esite – *Alaria alata* in wildlife (sum: 2000 EUR)

After a discussion there was unanimous support of the *Alaria alata*-study with the exceptions of GD (as supervisor of both projects she was not allowed a vote). The motivation was that the study will increase the currently scarce knowledge on *Alaria alata*, and that diagnostics will be developed within the project.

Brian would contact both applicants and thank them and advise the winner. Vaidas will pay the amount. It was agreed that the two applicants would be mentioned, but only the winner will be named on the SBSP website.

### **SBSP6 student travel grant**

At the SBSP September meeting it was agreed that 4x EUR 500 would be available for award to students wishing to attend SBSP6 as a part of their training.

The application form is ready and attached to these minutes. Submitting an application in PDF is acceptable, but requires that applicants keep it in hard copy for future receipt purposes.

It was agreed for now that the address to the SBSP secretary will be used for applications. For next time a non-personal info@-email will be created, which was supported by all. Hosting websites usually offer at least 5 email accounts in a basic package and one can be used for this purpose. UF made the required changes to the form and emailed to Brian for upload on the website.

### **Young Scientist Award Competition**

JS will compile comments and issue a summary to the Board.

The information about the awards will be shared by uploading them on SBSP6/SBSP website.

### **Time to remind of paying membership in beginning of 2015 to members**

In January 2015, reminders shall be issued to members to renew their 2-year memberships.

PJ observed that the website will be up and running in December, so it is rational to postpone the reminder until then. Jakob will draft an email and issue to the Board for comments, but will await comments and new website functionality.

### **Parasite of the Year**

GD renewed the discussion on how to practically manage this idea. *Diphyllobothrium latum* was suggested by Pikka for 2016 as it is the “national parasite” of Finland and might be the mascot of the EMOP XII conference held that year in Turku.

GD stressed that “easy” parasites should be chosen, with readily available information. RD pointed out that a spread between classes should be observed over time. PJ suggested that the current advertisement space for SBSP on the website could be used for this purpose in the future. It would be a bonus if there is current relevance of the selected parasite. UF suggested a national connection – e.g. a Norwegian parasite, why it is chosen etc.

BL said that we could add this item to the agenda of the GA, where parasites of the year could be nominated and subsequent votes cast at SBSP6. All agreed to this.

### **New Board after next GA**

The topic was raised about who wishes to stay in the board, change roles and/or step down. BL wants to step down from the Board, UF was uncertain but the remainder are happy to continue.

All would give thought to whether they could shoulder the President role after BL. The option of adding a student to the Board was touched on, but would be postponed until the GA. RD clarified that the idea of a student would be to promote the grants.

PJ commented that the need for local treasurers will be a thing of the past, but BL countered that all countries should still be represented in the board. It is especially important with local language skills and networks.

The new Board would be added as an item to the GA agenda, which gives members time to think and comment. SBSP is a merger of a Scandinavian and a Baltic society, which needs to be maintained.

BL will most likely continue as webmaster-support until it runs well and will continue being connected to SBSP through the arrangement of EMOP XII where SBSP is the hosting society.

### **Status on website development**

BL suggested changing the hosting service provider from Northside Solutions to another, e.g. Tegnebordet. The Northside Solutions is in Estonian language only and the service has not been optimal.

BL added that hosting can be changed in the future and requested the Board to be on the lookout for reasonable hosting sites.

The general shape of the website has been decided, contents are being put in including payment options and web-forms, and hopefully this will be finalised by December.

### **Firm membership**

This idea has been put forward by JS, which offers a possibility for company membership and sending employees to SBSP conferences. However, a concern has been voiced if firms pay for 10 members, - do they then get corresponding voting mandate at the GA? More time is needed to iron out possible kinks in the concept. BL said that if the money goes to a grant, this risk could be circumvented. JS will put some more effort into this, and hopefully have a concept ready for the next Board meeting and then the GA.

BL will put together an agenda for the GA, which shall be available a month in advance (20 March 2015).

The next Board meeting will be in January 2015.

### **EMOP XII – “Parasites are forever”**

BL and PJ are on the organising committee, but there is a current lull in activity. The scientific agenda needs to be in place to attract sponsors and to allow decisions on plenary speakers etc. Responsibility for accepting sponsoring funds is a formality that is currently discussed along with selecting a formal sponsor for the event. SBSP will not mix their finances with that of the conference. The European Federation of Parasitologists is the official hosting committee, whilst we are the local host. Whatever is left over goes into the federation. There is a trend towards Nordic parasites – reindeer, fish, One Health, but this has yet to be decided. No speakers have been assigned yet, but getting prolific ones makes it easier to get funding.

SBSP should support EMOP with great ideas.

**AOB**

SBSP should promote SBSP and EMOP at other conferences by passing out postcards or business cards. More postcards are available if required.

UF explained that the status on changing bank account signing rights was slowly but surely progressing, but has proven more complicated than anticipated. Hopefully this would be finalised before year-end.