



Pan American Aerobiology Association
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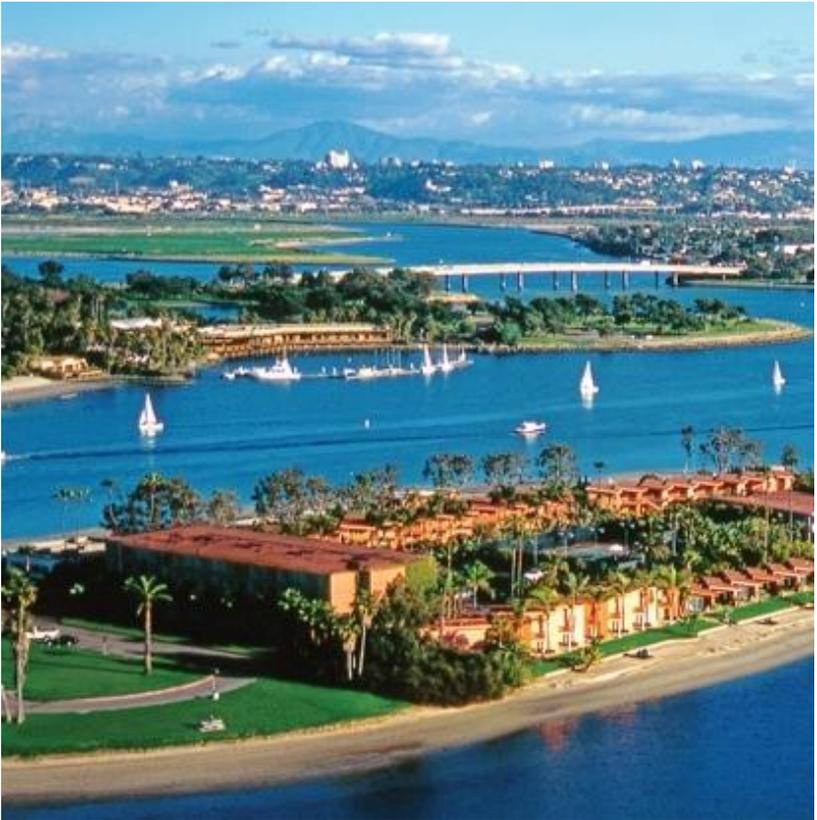




PAAA Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2011

Pan-American Aerobiology Association www.paaa.org



**Pan American Aerobiology Symposium
7-9 August, 2011
San Diego, California**

The Pan-American Aerobiology Association (PAAA) is an assemblage of individuals with diverse scientific backgrounds and expertise who have a common interest in the sources, dispersal, and deposition of airborne biological particles. The organization was officially constituted in June 1989 during the Second Canadian (and first Pan-American) Symposium on Aerobiology. The PAAA is an associated organization of the International Association of Aerobiology (IAA) and acts as the representative of the IAA in the Americas. You may join the PAAA at www.paaa.org. PLEASE JOIN US

Amigos y Miembros de la PAAA fuera de los Estados Unidos de América: *aceptaremos gustosos sus contribuciones en español, portugués o francés. Según las posibilidades de la edición, saldrán en el idioma original, o traducidas al inglés.*

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PAAA Executive Committee – 2009-11

President - James Scott – jscott@sporometrics.com

Vice President - Charles Barnes – barnescs@umkc.edu

Membership Sec/Treas - Mike Muilenberg – mmuil@schoolph.umass.edu

Recording Secretary – Robert T. Reid III – rreidiii@cox.net

Newsletter Editor – Ginette Leclaire – leclaireg@videotron.ca

Webmaster - Annalisa Ariatti – aa15@psu.edu

Past President – Paul Comtois – comtoisp@umontreal.ca

At Large Members:

Felix E. Riviera – Mariani – friviera@rcm.upr.edu

Maria Gabriela Murray – mgmurray@criba.edu.ar

Newsletter Editor Note

In this Winter/Spring Newsletter edition Mary L. Jelks have sent us a letter. Also, as we wish to keep up with our friends progress of career, Felix E. Rivera-Mariani wrote us a note. In the last edition he shared with us his doctoral thesis and now...

Robert Reid III from The Banck Center, host of the next Pan American Aerobiology Symposium in San Diego, sent us all information pertaining to this coming event in August 2011.

James Scott and Valeria Caramuti offer us a look back to the 1st Argentine Aerobiology Symposium, 9th International Congress on Aerobiology, August 2010.

You will also find information about the Latin American Travel Award and Mary Jelks Student Development Award. Michael Muilenberg and Christine Rogers gives us an update of the PAACB followed by an update on the PAAA Round Robin signed by Lawrence Syzdek and I.

Finally, in order to get you ready for the next meeting, you will find last year's General Membership Meeting Minutes.

I invite you to renew your membership. You will find a form on the last page of this Newsletter.

Wish you enjoy a few minutes of relaxing reading.

Ginette Leclaire

INVITATION to Aerobiology 2011

The Executive Committee of the Pan-American Aerobiology Association would like in invite all PAAA members, their guests, and all others interested in aerobiologically-related

fields, to participate in Aerobiology 2011, the annual symposium of the PAAA, to be held in San Diego, California, August 7th to 9th, 2011. The symposium will be held at the Bahia Resort Hotel in Mission Bay, and is being organized by Robert Reid, III. Additional information is available elsewhere in this Newsletter and through the PAAA website (www.PAAA.org). In addition to the thought-provoking scientific presentations, and always enjoyable social and professional interactions between attendees, families and guests find ample diversions between the popular beaches, Sea World, Belmont Park, and numerous other tourist attractions in the San Diego area. We are looking forward to a wonderful meeting and hope to see you and your families in sunny San Diego.

Nominations: Executive Committee Officers

The PAAA Executive Committee would like to invite nominations from the membership for all officer positions. Elections will be held in August at the Annual Meeting in San Diego, term length is two years. To continue to be a viable, meaningful organization, the PAAA needs active participation by many of its members, not just a few. Any members that would like to be more involved in the organization are invited to nominate themselves; you'll find your participation to be rewarding as well as appreciated. Information on the responsibilities of the different positions is given on the PAAA [web page](http://paaa.org/Officer_responsibilities0604.pdf) (http://paaa.org/Officer_responsibilities0604.pdf). If you are interested in being considered for an Executive Committee position, please contact Paul Comtois (comtoisp@ere.umontreal.ca) and Charles Barnes (barnescs@umkc.edu) from the 2011 Nominating Committee.

Don't miss!!!

*Pan American Aerobiology
Symposium
and
PAAA Annual meeting*

**Bahia Resort Hotel
on beautiful
“Mission Bay”**

**San Diego - California
August 7-9th, 2011**

Link to Registration

<https://sites.google.com/site/paaa2011aerobiologysymposium>

Contact: Robert T. Reid III

PAAA.2011.Symposium@gmail.com

Phone: (858) 271-0049

Pan American Aerobiology 2011 Symposium

The PAAA (Pan-American Aerobiology Association) will sponsor its annual symposium in San Diego, California from Sunday, August 7th through Tuesday, August 9th, 2011 at the Bahia Resort Hotel on beautiful Mission Bay. An Opening Reception will be held on Sunday evening, with the official opening of the scientific sessions on Monday morning, August 8th.

The primary objectives of the conference are: (1) to foster communication among those involved in the many disciplines encompassed by aerobiology, (2) to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of recent and ongoing research in aerobiology, (3) to encourage new investigators (including students) in aerobiology.

Since aerobiology is a multi-disciplinary field there will be a wide variety of topics covered during the conference. Among the interests of meeting participants are the production, distribution, dispersal, and deposition of airborne biological particles and the implication of these processes to ecology, human health, plant and animal pathology. The scientific program will be divided into the following topics:

1. General Aerobiology (including aerosol physics, biometeorology, modeling, and statistical methods, etc.).
2. Indoor Air Quality (including microbial ecology and sources, modeling the indoor environment, nature of indoor pollutants, etc.).

3. Medicine and Health (including aeroallergens, airborne infectious disease, epidemiology, inhalation toxicology, risk assessment, etc.).
4. Plant Pathology (including ecology, long distance moving of biota, insect migration and dispersion, modeling, etc.).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Aerobiology 2011 will take place at the Bahia Resort Hotel, which is located approximately 6 miles north of the San Diego International Airport and downtown San Diego.

California's second largest city and the United States' eighth largest, San Diego boasts a citywide population of nearly 1.3 million residents and more than 3 million residents countywide. San Diego is renowned for its idyllic climate, 70 miles of pristine beaches and a dazzling array of world-class family attractions. San Diego offers an expansive variety of things to see and do, appealing to guests of all ages from around the world. If you plan to visit our neighbor Mexico (25 miles south of the hotel) while you are here, you will need to bring a passport with you.

In August, San Diego is generally warm with daytime temperatures averaging 75 to 80 F and evenings averaging 65 to 70 F. Humidity is about 74% and rain is unexpected. Evenings can be cool, especially near the water, so be sure to bring a light jacket or sweater.

ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Abstracts submitted by April 30, 2011 will be reviewed for scientific merit and relevance to the objectives of the Symposium. Notification of program committee action will be sent on or before May 30, 2011. Presentations will be in oral or poster format, depending on author's preference and subject to the discretion of the program committee. English will be the official language of all presentations.

ELECTRONIC FORMS:

All additional conference information and all forms are available on the conference web site <https://sites.google.com/site/paaa2011aerobiologysymposium>. Both abstract and registration forms may be completed online or downloaded, completed and emailed.

REGISTRATION :

Registration fees for the symposium will be \$230 US for regular members, \$175 US for student members. Payment may be made via Pay Pal on the website or in a check made out to the PAAA Symposium. Registration fees cover the Sunday reception; Monday continental breakfast, boxed lunch and breaks; Tuesday continental breakfast, boxed lunch, breaks and banquet. Additional guests may join the reception and banquet for \$60.

Students are reminded of the opportunities to apply for the Mary Jelks Student Development Award and the Latin American Travel Award. Information is available on the website.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Accommodations for Aerobiology 2011 are available at the Bahia Resort Hotel, the conference location. This scenic hotel is in the heart of San Diego's famous Mission Bay, and offers a number of experiences and amenities. We are pleased to be able to schedule our meetings and to negotiate a discounted rate for the accommodations at this resort. Additional information regarding room rates and a link to reservations can be found at the [Bahia Hotel PAAA 2011 Symposium link](#). Shuttle service to the hotel may be arranged through Cloud9Shuttle at <http://www.cloud9shuttle.com>.

Other local hotels include the Best Western Mission Bay, 2575 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117 (800) 457-8080; San Diego Mission Bay Holiday Inn Express, 4610 De Soto St, San Diego, CA 92109 (858) 483 9800; Comfort Inn San Diego Mission Bay/Seaworld, 4540 Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109 (858) 274-7888, The Dana Hotel on Mission Bay, 1710 West Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109 (800) 445-3339.

Please address all correspondence and mail all forms to:

Robert T. Reid III
The Banck Center
8716 Production Ave Ste A
San Diego, CA USA
92121-2297
Phone: 858.271.0049
E Mail: PAAA.2011.Symposium@gmail.com

Mary Jelks Student Development Awards

The Pan-American Aerobiology Association is pleased to announce its scholarship program to support studies in aerobiology. The Mary Jelks Student Development Awards are given annually to students for the purposes of support of fieldwork, travel costs for visiting other laboratories, courses at other institutions, or travel to conferences. Up to two awards will be granted annually of \$500 each.

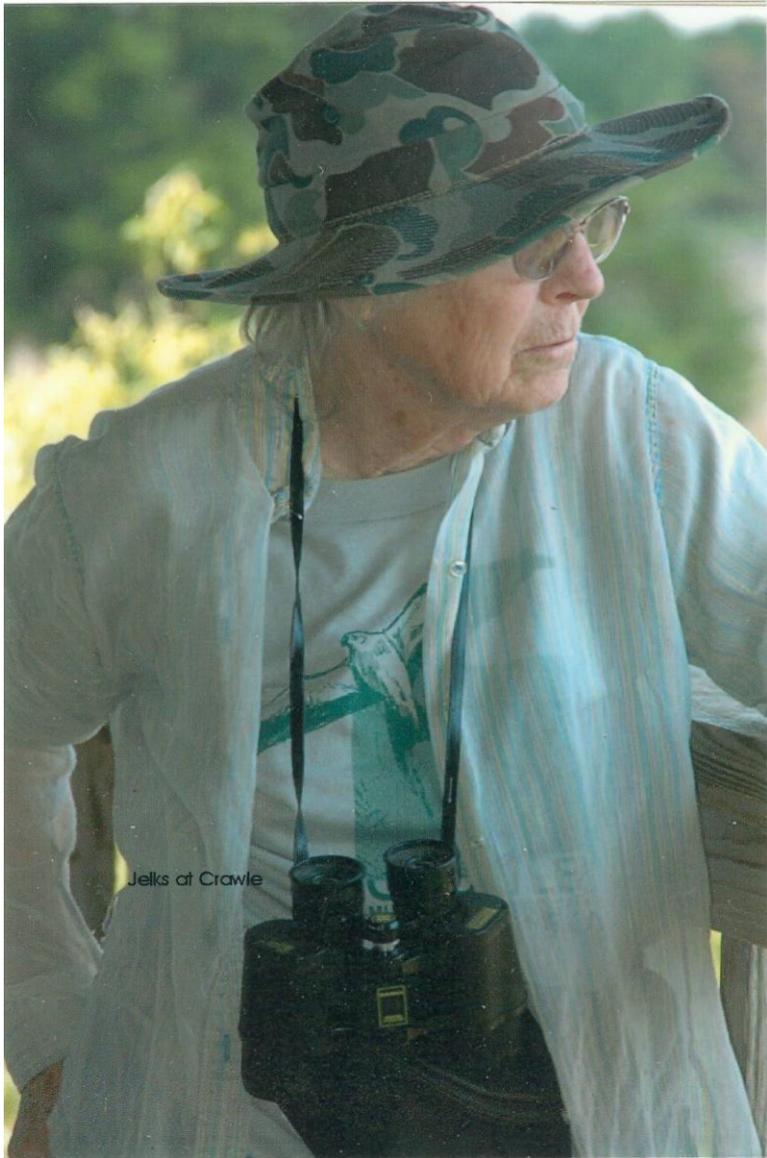
Eligibility: The PAAA Student Development Award is available to all students of Aerobiology in all PAAA countries. Students must be PAAA members. Previous winners of the award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award. Source:

<http://paaa.org/StudentDevelopmentAward.html>

Latin American Travel Award

The Latin American Committee invites any PAAA members from Latin American Countries to apply for the Latin American Travel Award. This award is intended for Latin American residents, especially students and younger scientists planning on attending Aerobiology 2011, who would benefit from additional financial support to attend meetings or travel for other related activities. Additional information is available on the PAAA website: (<http://www.paaa.org/LatinAmericanAward.html>).

News from our friends: Mary L. Jelks



Letter received in September 2010

Dear friends,

I keep busy with counts at my station in Sarasota FL 7 days/week and a station in Tampa (sent by Fed. express) four days/week. I also care for a butterfly garden at Myakka River State Park as well as a large plot at the entrance demonstrating dry prairie with many native grasses and Flowers.

Last summer I enjoyed the meeting in Kansas City but I did not go to the Rio meeting this year.

I give a Virtual Weed walk for the Tampa and St Petersburg allergists in Sept. (via Power Point). The photo enclosed is at Crowley Nature preserve where I gave weed walk. The Myakka River has 38 miles of wild and scenic river which I coordinate a clean up two times a year in May and October.

We are all very concerned about the oil spill and what it may do to sea life. Mote Lab here is testing via robots and needed lots of support.

I miss the unknown sessions and continue to photo any funny looking spores.

As ever, Mary L. Jelks, known as Myakka Mary.

News from our friends: Félix Riviera



I write you to update my information as I was recently admitted to work as a Postdoctoral fellow at the School of Public Health at the University of Johns Hopkins.

On May, 2010 I obtained my Ph.D. from the Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus after I successfully defended my doctoral thesis titled "Sensitization to basidiomycetes and airborne fungal particulate by asthmatic and allergic rhinitis subjects." My interest in fungal allergens and etiologies of allergic respiratory diseases lead me to develop expertise in the fields of mycology, aerobiology, and immunology and to study the allergenic particulate originating from fungi that could be working as possible allergens.

Before obtaining my degree, I had a serious interest in launching my research career. For that, I know that I would need to gain further experience with a Postdoctoral position at

a recognized institution. After submitting applications to various universities in the United States, I was finally recruited (started on October 15th, 2010) by the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, in which I will be working in the Center for Childhood Asthma in the Urban Environment under the mentorship of Dr. Patrick Breyse which has numerous publications related to asthma, allergens, effect of tobacco smoke in respiratory diseases, among others. Given my expertise mentioned previously, I will be working with detecting allergenic biological particulate matter that could be participating as inducers of allergic respiratory diseases, such as allergic rhinitis and asthma, in children at urban environments.

For me it was more than gratifying that I was recruited by Johns Hopkins University to continue my scientific goals. I am more than sure that this Postdoctoral Fellowship will be a great opportunity to further contribute in my fields of expertise and gain knowledge in other areas, and eventually accomplish one goal of obtaining a faculty position which I can teach and conduct research in the areas of allergies, asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Félix E. Rivera-Mariani, Ph.D. - frivera@rcm.upr.edu

Glance at the ICA 2010 Symposium - James Scott

For a week in late August, 2010, a great many members of the Pan American Aerobiology Association were joined by our international colleagues in Buenos Aires, Argentina for the 9th International Congress of Aerobiology.

The congress was held in the delightful Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Sciences Museum, founded in 1826 by Argentina's first President for whom it is named. The museum houses a rich collection notably including many pristine Cenozoic vertebrate fossils representing unusual taxa from the southern continent of the Americas unfamiliar to many of us. Equally striking (at least to the enthusiastic cadre of aerobiologists) were the exquisite Mesozoic bryophyte and pteridophyte fossils that flanked our entrance to the meeting venue.

A warm welcome reception was held at the museum on the first evening of the congress, accompanied by delicious Argentinean wines, hors d'oeuvres, and an atmosphere of intermingled anticipation and enthusiastic reacquaintance. Each day consisted of a thematic keynote address followed by an engaging program of podium and poster sessions from scientists representing over 35 nations (7 from the Americas).

To complement the scientific program, several social events permitted us to delve into the rich culture and history of Buenos Aires. On the second day, congress participants took a guided bus tour of the city, featuring a stroll through the historic Plaza de Mayo and an open-air tango show amid the many colourful houses, shops and patios of Caminito in La Boca. Thursday evening was a highlight, with an authentic Argentinean feast and tantalizing tango show at El Viejo Almacen.

Prior to the congress, several of us had already spent several days at the Museum already, taking part in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) working group to develop a User Requirements Registry on Aeroallergens under the leadership of Dr. Hillel Koren. This important initiative arose from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the G8 to inform high-level decision-making in consideration of global environmental change. We are encouraged by the inclusion of Aeroallergen and Airways Diseases within the GEO Societal Benefit Area of Health, and look forward to continued participation with this important project.

By all account, the 9th International Congress of Aerobiology was an unqualified success thanks in large part to the skillful planning and preparations of Dr. María Gabriela Murray and her team as our gracious hosts, and the rich and diverse scientific program contributed by the congress attendees.

James Scott, PAAA president

Look back upon the 1st Argentine Aerobiology Symposium, 9th ICA, August 2010 - Chair: Valeria Caramuti



***1st ARGENTINE AEROBIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, 9th
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AEROBIOLOGY
August 2010 – BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA***

On August 26th, 2010, the Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences “*Bernardino Rivadavia*” in Buenos Aires, Argentina was the venue for the 1st Argentine Aerobiology Symposium “Aerobiology Network of South-American Countries”, which had the aim of being a step forward towards the formation of a regional network of aerobiology information.

The scientific meeting was held in the framework of the 9th International Congress on Aerobiology, organized every 4 years by the IAA. The local organizing team was integrated by

members from Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences, RAMS Environmental Laboratory Inc. and Universidad Nacional de La Pampa.

During the morning, the conferences took place. The international community of Aerobiology was represented by prestigious scientists, like Dr. Carmen Galán Soldevilla and Dr. Paul Comtois. Dr. Galán Soldevilla explained the origin, development and current organization of the Spanish Aerobiology Network (REA) and she also referred to aspects related to quality and management. Dr. Comtois spoke about the ecological approach to Aerobiology, which has been poorly studied despite the importance of the global ecological impact of aerobiological dispersion.

From Argentina, the allergist Dr. Carlos Carignano explained the importance of local aerobiological information for diagnosis and treatment of allergies that affect the respiratory tract. It was valuable the contribution from Dr. Martin Ramirez, CONICET, who presented the *"Argentinean System of Biological Data: a portal to records of organisms in Argentina"*, a program from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentine Government, which could be useful for the creation of an Argentine aerobiological database.

Following the conferences, there was the poster session with eleven aerobiology monitoring stations of Argentina. The ones from Buenos Aires province were: Pollen Bahía (Bahía Blanca and Sierra de la Ventana), Mar del Plata, Aires Buenos Aires Environmental Monitoring Station, Buenos Aires, La Plata y Atalaya; from Entre Ríos province, Diamante; from La Pampa province, Santa Rosa; and from northwestern Argentina: San

Salvador de Jujuy and San Miguel de Tucuman, together with other cities.

In the afternoon, there was a round table discussion around different topics of aerobiological information networks. The panelists were Claudio Perez from Argentina, Jordina Belmonte Soler from Catalunya (Spain), Carmen Galán Soldevilla from Cordoba (Spain) and Alessandro Travaglini from Italy.

It is important to highlight the summary about the development and current state of aerobiological monitoring stations in Argentina, offered by Dr. Pérez.

Dr. Travaglini presented "*The Italian Pollen Network: 25 years of activity*", a review of the development and organization of the Italian Monitoring Network in Aerobiology (RIMA ®).

Dr. Galán Soldevilla referred to different topics under discussion in the Quality Control Group of the European Aerobiology Society (EAS), results of the Quality Control Questionnaire, some considerations for a definition of a standardized European methodology and a preliminary list of minimum requirements to handle an aerobiological monitoring station within a national network.

Dr. Belmonte Soler showed the results of the Aerobiological Network Questionnaire, with answers from 28 countries all around the world.

It is necessary to highlight her valuable collaboration in the coordination of roundtable discussion on the topic concerning the rights and obligations of monitoring stations within regional, national or international aerobiology networks.

These stations are vital for the continuity of the networks, despite not being supported by them. And the other important topic was the possibility of a Global Network, within a World Aerobiological Organization.

Valeria Caramuti, valecaramuti@yahoo.com.ar>



Valeria Caramuti is a PHD Student at Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina and a teacher of Biology at Universidad Nacional de La Pampa. She's characterizing the airborne pollen spectrum of Santa Rosa city, La Pampa province, Argentina, by a triannual sampling using a volumetric Lanzoni trap.

Postdoctoral opportunities - indoor microbiome studies

Postdoctoral Scholars: Indoor Air Microbial Ecology & Bioaerosol Dynamics

Three Postdoctoral Scholar appointments are available at the University of California, Berkeley. The successful candidates will join a team of researchers funded for 3 years by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to develop the field of indoor microbial ecology by 1) investigating the processes of bacterial and fungal community assembly in the indoor environment; 2) developing an understanding of the relationship between building design, external climate, and interior microbial community; 3) improving measurements of microbial derived volatile organic compounds, microbial toxins, and allergens in indoor air. The postdoctoral scholars will work directly with our faculty team including Ed Arens (Dept. of Architecture), Gary Anderson (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), Tom Bruns (Plant & Microbial Biology-PMB; Environmental Science Policy & Management-ESPM), Allen Goldstein (ESPM; Civil & Environmental Engineering-CEE), Steve Lindow (PMB), Bill Nazaroff (CEE), and John Taylor (PMB). The expected outcomes of the project are to improve understanding of the sources, factors and processes involved with development of microbial communities and their implications for the indoor environment, while attracting new talent into and increasing the visibility of this understudied field. Appointments will be made for an initial period of 1 year with possibility of extension for additional years. A recent Ph.D. and experience in applying molecular methods to describe the diversity and structure of bacterial and/or fungal populations is required for those wishing to address objective 1 while a background in atmospheric

science, chemistry, physics, engineering, or a related field is required for those wishing to address the other objectives. Applicants should send a cover letter describing their research experience and interests, a curriculum vita, and have three reference letters sent to:

Prof. Tom Bruns, Dept. Plant and Microbial Biology,
University of California
111 Koshland Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3102
pogon@berkeley.edu (email preferred).

Applications are being reviewed as received with an interest in early appointment. Please refer to the University's statement on confidentiality at <http://apo.chance.berkeley.edu/evaltr.html>. Minorities and women encouraged to apply. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Source: William W. Nazaroff, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department University of California

Pan American Aerobiology Certification Board **Update - C. Rogers, M. Muilenberg**

The Pan-American Aerobiology Certification Board (PAACB) continues to attract motivated and skilled spore analysts. There are currently 32 certified spore analysts with more working on certification. One indication of the value and recognition of the program is the listing of certification by the PAACB as a way for laboratories and analysts to demonstrate qualification for licensing as a Mold Analysis Laboratory under the State of Texas Mold Assessment and Remediation

Rules. Despite the cooling off of the indoor mold industry, the program is going strong and, in fact, recently received a boost through a paper in *Mycologia* (Mycological Society of America) by Robertson and Brandys (2011, *Mycologia* 103(1),226-231). The authors conducted a round-robin with samples collected under different environmental conditions and concluded that the seven AIHA-accredited laboratories evaluated were not able to reliably analyze the samples used in their study; qualitative and quantitative analyses were highly inconsistent between the laboratories. The AIHA administers a laboratory accreditation program but ignores the competency of individual analysts. Robertson and Brandys suggested that “certification in analytical proficiency should address individual analysts in addition to laboratory practice and procedure” and specifically mentioned our certification program. They went on to recommend that analysts participate in voluntary programs to improve analytical precision (for example, round robin programs) and mentioned the PAAA program (currently administered by Ginette Leclaire and Lawrence D. Syzdek); it was also suggested that MSA should also start such a program.

We would also like to announce that the PAACB has a new administrator, Lisa Groth. Lisa has a strong background in administration and data handling, and is very much interested in this program. She has revised the website (PAACB.org) making future modifications and updates much easier and is also working closely with the Board to update other aspects of the program. Communications with Lisa are best done via email (administrator@paacb.org).

Submitted by Michael Muilenberg and Christine Rogers

PAAA Round Robin - update - G. Leclaire, L.Syzdek

The fifth “Spore trap analysis” * Round Robin was launched last January. The two pairs of slide will travel many kilometers. From Montreal Canada they headed to New York State. They will head to Massachusetts, than south in Florida followed by a long way west to Texas, further to California and finally back north to Quebec (Canada) at the end of May. All together 10 different destinations. Our group is getting bigger and extends geographically.

So far slides travel very well and get back in perfect condition. We are still testing a data sheet to report results. From this experience we are going to adjust so things roll easily for participants and for people that gather data together.

*: Inertial impactor airborne fungal spore samples analysed by direct reading optical microscopy.

Ginette Leclaire and Lawrence D. Syzdek
leclaireg@videotron.ca and syzdeklarry@yahoo.com

PAAA 2010 Annual Membership Meeting - Minutes (Proposed)

Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date: 25 Aug 2010

I. Present: 13 PAAA members; 1 non-member. A quorum was not attained therefore official business could not be conducted; this was an informal meeting.

A. It was stated that an “electronic meeting” could possibly be held in Sept. 2010 and notification would be sent out via email.

B. Initial discussion took place regarding the size of a PAAA quorum. Presently a quorum is set at 20. A suggestion was made that it be reduced to 12. To be further discussed at the 2011 meeting.

II. Minutes from last year’s meeting can be reviewed on-line.

III. Exec. Comm. Reports

A. President J. Scott: No report

B. Vice Pres. C. Barnes: No report

C. Sec./Treas M. Muilenberg: A financial report for calendar year 2009 was presented; this is available to members upon request. 108 members paid dues in the three years prior to 2010; only 27 had paid to date in 2010. A new membership directory along with a dues notice was sent to all members in early August (2010). It has been suggested that the PAAA reconsider the collection of IAA dues; this was discontinued about 6 years ago. A proposal

from the PAAA Treasurer, for approval by the PAAA, is attached.

D. Recording Sec. R. Reid: No report; due to a death in the family, Robert Reid could not attend but sent his greetings and apologies.

E. Newsletter G. Leclaire: (See attachment)

F. Webmaster A. Ariatti: (via email) As the Webmaster of the PAAA Website, I wish to notify you that early this year our hosting server (Geocities) closed. I have moved our website to Yahoo Small Business and re delegated our domain - which is registered with Namesecure - to the new server. I have also updated the domain account holder, which is now registered to Mike Muilenberg, the present secretary/treasurer of the PAAA. Please be informed that there has been no change in our web address, which is still <http://www.paaa.org/>.

G. At-Large Members: No report

H. Committees: C. Rogers announced that Nicole Abel was awarded the Mary Jelks Student Development Award this year. Muilenberg announced the Felix Rivera received the Latin American Travel Award for 2010. Congratulations to Nicole and Felix.

G. Leclaire and L. Syzdek: BOSS committee (see attachment)

VI. Old Business

A. Future Annual Meetings

Possible locations were discussed for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Muilenberg reported that Robert Reid III offered to

host a meeting in San Diego, California. J. Scott also offered the possibility of hosting a meeting in Toronto if other venues did not work out. Also suggested were joint meetings with other organizations; Indoor Air, MSA (Mycological Society of America) in Alaska. Carmen Calderon offered the possibility of a meeting in Mexico City in a year or two (2012 or 2013).

B. A Nominating Committee needs to be formed which consists of the Past President, a member selected by the Membership, and a member selected by the Exec. Committee. Paul Comtois is Past President, C. Barnes was nominated *in absentia* by E. Levetin as the Membership representative; the Executive Committee will elect a third member.

V. New Business

A. C. Katelaris will be hosting the 2014 IAA congress in Sydney, Australia and asked that the PAAA sponsor a symposium (topics might include: aeromycology, indoor air, climate change). This will be further discussed during the 2011 meeting.

B. IAA Executive Council

Having membership exceeding 100, the PAAA is entitled to three seats on the IAA Council. Traditionally, IAA Council members have been nominated by the PAAA Executive Committee and approved by the membership. Nominees from the floor were P. Comtois and M. Muilenberg; Carmen Calderon also agreed to serve.

VI. Additional business will be delayed until the next official meeting

Respectfully submitted by M.Muilenberg for R.Reid (18 Feb 2011).

Newsletter Editor Report

Buenos Aires - Argentina - August 2010

The requirement of two editions per year of PAAA Newsletter have been reached this year. One in Autumn 2009 and the next in Summer 2010. Thanks to the following collaborators that have made these two publications possible. I appreciate their help.:

Charles Barnes, Christine Rogers, Melanie Joy, Scott Isard, Annalisa Arriatti, Janet Gallup, Estelle Levetin, Nicole Abel, Landon Bunderson, Felix E. Riviera-Mariani, Donat Magyar, Robert T. Reid III, Larry Syzdek.

There are new regular sections in the newsletter. The “Student Corner” is a way for us to find out what is going on with our future aerobiologists. The second new section “News from our friends” lets us catch up with aerobiology family friends. The “Method and Procedure” section is a way for us to share technical information.

I invite you to get in touch with me if you wish to include material into the Newsletter.

If you are a student, I invite you to take initiatives whether you wish to express your enthusiasm about your project or your experience at the PAAA meeting, etc. or you are a proud teacher and want to talk about your students’ work or you are seeking for a student and wish to advertize it. As usual news from your lab and projects are welcome, news from committees, technical notes also etc. as you wish to submit them.

Respectfully submitted by: Ginette Leclaire,
leclaireg@videotron.ca

Biological Sampling Strategies (BOSS) Working
Group

Special on: Guidelines for analysis (Direct
Microscope Examination)

August 2010 – Buenos Aires - Argentina

ACTIVITY REPORT

**Project: Data gathering on “counting parameters”
for single slit grab samples**

Aim: Generate data to build a scientific base to guide the elaboration of a standard spore counting method

This part of our activities is presently postponed. Since the ASTM method and the IRSST (Quebec-Canada) method came out, the aim of this project has to be reviewed and reoriented.

Project: PAAA Round Robin

Aim: Set up a PAAA Round Robin for fungal spore counting (direct reading)

In 2008, responding to a strong demand for a Round Robin among spore analysts, a few of us have gathered together to analyze slides in the first PAAA Round Robin. The aim was to make it ready for PAAA spore analysts members.

This Round Robin aims to get each analyst to compare himself to a group and facilitate a continual learning experience. We are going to ask for contributions from experts in different ways. One way can be to count the slides, another can be to help identify an unknown spore and so on.

The Round Robin seems to be appreciated. Semi solid mounts permit the slides to travel well from one lab to the next with no leaking, making for easy reading. In 2008 there were 5 analysts participating from 5 different laboratories and now the Spring/Summer 2010 Round Robin includes 11 participants from 8 laboratories. Lately, we have received 2 demands to join the program from 2 analysts from 2 laboratories. With Christine Rogers' help we have been and still are testing a basic data sheet to submit results. We are making adjustments so things are easy for participants and volunteers that gather data together. The next round will be sent in Autumn 2010.

Project: Unknowns database

Aim: Aid counters with difficult identification

This project is in standby for now. All volunteer energies have been concentrated on the round robin this year.

Respectfully submitted by: Ginette Leclaire and Lawrence Syzdek
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Our members' publications

This section is a way for us to have a glance at all PAAA members' latest publications as they wish to inform us of their work. If you wish, you can send such information with or without comments to the Newsletter Editor: leclaireg@videoron.ca.

In the next edition

***Contribution to the PAAA Newsletter** is always welcome. News from your lab or firm, news from students, aerobiology friends, reviews of books or articles, summaries of recent meetings, photos of interesting or unknown spores/pollen/other, etc. can be sent to Ginette Leclaire e-mail to: leclaireg@videotron.ca*

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