

Minutes of General Assembly

Bernard Clot, IAA President, opened the General Assembly at 6:30 p.m. The attendance list is attached to the Minutes, 42 members were present.

I. OPENING

The Assembly started with one minute of silence in honour of members who passed away during the 2014-18 period: Carlo Lanzoni (2014), Sunirmal Chanda (2015) and Mary Jelks (2016).

II. MINUTES OF 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The President of the IAA read the minutes of the previous GA held during the 10th ICA Sydney Congress. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no activity regarding the "Scholarship Trust" working group during the period 2014-2018. Therefore, the IAA President proposed to dissolve the group. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

IV. OFFICERS REPORTS

The officer's reports of the 2014-18 period were presented:

- Bernard Clot presented the "President Report" (attached to this minute).
- Dorota Myszkowska presented the "Vice-president Report" (attached to this minute).
- Javier Rodríguez-Rajo presented the "Secretary Report" and the "Treasurer Report" (attached to this minute).
- Matt Smith presented the "Newsletter Editor Report" (attached to this minute). After discussion about the newsletter was sent to 413 researches and the IAA has only 53 active members it was concluded the mailing list should be revised.
- Bernard Clot presented the "Webmaster Report" (attached to this minute) in behalf of Annalisa Ariatti.

All reports were unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

No reports were presented as at this moment the IAA had no working group during the 2014-18 period.

Carmen Galán, Editor in Chief of the "Aerobiologia journal", reported several problems about the journal. The impact factor decreased in the 2017 JCR index. After evaluation of the situation with the Springer Editors the conclusions of the editorial were both, the extraordinary high increase of the Aerobiologia journal impact factor in the 2016 JCR and the fact that during the year 2017 the Aerobiologia journal published so many papers by number. Carmen Galán also noted the difficulties with selecting referees as in most cases the invited referees decline the revision of the papers for several reasons. The Editor in Chief requested all IAA members to make an effort to optimize the selection of journal referees. Finally, Carmen Galán explained the importance of inviting researchers from other topics (microorganism, bacteria, etc.) to send papers to the journal in order to improve the worldwide visibility of the IAA as well as the Aerobiologia journal. In this sense she informed that during the next Aerobiologia December issue, a paper from NASA will be published for the first time.

VI. NEWS FROM ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES

Associations included in the IAA presented reports:

- **AEA:** The President of the Spanish Aerobiology Association, Rosa Pérez Badía, presented the AEA. The Association has 70 active members, one working group (urban aerobiology) and one collaboration agreement with the SESA (Spanish Society of Environmental Health) for congresses and publications in the SESA journal. The AEA promotes one Annual Award for the best PhD Thesis and Annual practical aerobiology seminars. The AEA proposes to the IAA GA to open these seminars to the IAA members by means streaming connections.

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- **AIA:** The Vice-President of the Italian Aerobiology Association, Emma Tedeschini, presented the AIA. The association has 23 active members and the Coordinator of the pollen network was Maira Bonini. During this year, a meeting of the GA will be held for renewing the Executive members of the Association. Every year the AIA promotes a "Day dedicated to pollen" during the month of March.
 - **SGA:** Regula Gehrig, presented the Swiss Aerobiology Association. Allergologist Medical Doctors and members of Meteoswiss formed the Association. At this moment, a Medical doctor occupied the Presidency of the association. Several congresses were organised each year. The SGA proposes recommendations for the new hypoallergenic urban plantations.
 - **EAS:** Ingrida Sauliene, President of the EAS, presented the association. The European Aerobiology Association has 73 active members, 4 working groups (Educational, Quality control, Basic courses and European legislation). Recently the EAS organized the 2016 EAS Congress in Lyon, Aerobiological Basic Course in Sweden, in 2017; Allergy School on Pollution in Croatia in 2017 and 2 oral sessions, 2 poster sessions and 1 working group during the last 2018 EAACI congress. The EAS supported several grants for young aerobiologists to participate in the 11th ICA Parma Congress. The next activities promoted by EAS will be the 2019 Aerobiology Basic Course in Lyon and the 2020 ESA congress in Córdoba.
 - **AAA:** Connie Katelaris presented the Australasian Aerobiology Association. The AAA was founded 4 years ago and has 12 members. She informed that Janet Davis explained the actual situation of the AAA by means a communication presented during the 11th ICA.
- Finally, Bernard Clot, the President of the IAA, regretted the reduced activity of the NAF (Nordic Aerobiology Federation) and the BAF (British Aerobiology Federation) during recent years.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The President of the IAA, Bernard Clot, proposed not to modify the Membership dues for the next 4 years. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The IAA Executive Committee proposed to the GA the nomination as "**Honorary Members**" of: Giuseppe Frenguelli, Carmen Galán, Christine Rogers and Paul Comtois. The proposal was unanimously accepted and the new HM were thanked and warmly congratulated.

IAA Awards 2018:

During the 2018 edition the **Young Aerobiologist Award** was obtained by Dr. Olga Ritenberga from University of Latvia.

To foster excellence in research, the International Aerobiology Association recognized single, significant research contributions to the peer-reviewed literature, which incrementally move the science of aerobiology forward: **The Best Research Paper Award**. During the 2018 edition the prize was obtained by Dr. F. Ruggiero from University of Pisa with the paper "*Free orbicules of Cupressaceae detected in daily aerobiological samples by optical and confocal microscopy*". F. Ruggiero, G. Bedini. *Aerobiologia* DOI 10.1007/s10453-017-9495-1. Both were warmly congratulated.

The President of the IAA, Bernard Clot, proposed the establishment of new working groups:

- The first was the "**Statutes Review Group**" and the volunteers for the group were Paul Beggs, Bernard Clot, Letty de Weger and Matt Smith.
- Bernard Clot presented information about the "**Young Aerobiologists WG**" held during the ICA Congress. As a results of this meeting a new working group was constituted with O. Ritenberga as EC contact person.
- Other possible working groups have been proposed by Paul Comtois (a series of thematic papers "Aerobiology and...") and Roberto Albertini ("Forecasting", "Real Time Monitoring", "Indoor", "Survey networks".....). Each WG could prepare a white paper, proposition or project by one year before next congress. The President of the AEA proposed the organization of one online seminars to be included in this working groups.

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VIII. SITES FOR THE 12th ICA IN 2022

The President of the IAA, Bernard Clot, informed that three proposals of the next ICA in 2022 organization have been sent to the IAA Executive Committee: from Rajiv Sahay, Florida (USA), Carsten Skjøth, Worcester (UK) and Donat Magyar, Budapest (Hungary). The IAA Council recommended to the IAA GA the Worcester proposal. Carsten Skjøth presented the Worcester proposal by means an introduction video as well as a power point. The congress would be held in Worcester (UK) during July 2022. The Chair will be Carsten Skjøth, an IAA member. The fees of the Congress will be similar to the ICA 2018.

IX. SITES FOR THE NEXT ADVANCED COURSES

The President of the IAA, Bernard Clot, informed that the next Advanced Aerobiology course will be held in August 2019 in Payerne (Suisse) on the subject "Automatic and real-time monitoring". The next Aerobiology Advanced course will be organised in Barcelona (Spain) in 2020.

X. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2018-2022

The next Executive Committee and list of representatives of Associated Societies presented for 2018-2022 were unanimously elected:

Dorota Myszkowska – President
Paul Beggs – Vice President
Bernard Clot – Past President
Matt Smith – Secretary General
F. Javier Rodriguez-Rajo –Treasurer
Lukasz Grewling – Newsletter Editor
Olga Ritenberga – Webmaster
Carmen Calderon – Member
Roberto Albertini – Member
Carsten Skjøth – Organizer of the next Congress

The list of Associated Societies representatives was presented:

SGA – R. Gehrig, A. Pauling
AEA – R. Perez-Badia, C. Galan
EAS – I. Sauliene, L. de Weger
PAAA – L. Syzdek, P. Comtois
IAS – S. Gupta Bhattacharya, A.H. Rajasab
AIA – E. Tedeschini, A. Arsieni
RNSA – C. Sindt, G. Oliver
AAA – C. Katelaris

Proposed for Council at large – Bidarakere Rangaswamy, Gabriela Murray and Maira Bonini. The Council may nominate two additional Council at large members. A working "Communication group" was created with Matt Smith, Olga Ritenberga and Lukasz Grewling as coordinators.

XI. OTHER BUSSINES

Bernard Clot stressed the necessity to elect IAA Auditors. During the next Executive Committee they will be elected, according to the Statutes. The President expressed thanks to Roberto Albertini for the perfect organization of the 11th ICA and closed the meeting at 20:12 p.m.



Dr. F. Javier Rodriguez-Rajo
IAA SECRETARY GENERAL