

International Society for Diatom Research
16th General Meeting, held at the 24th International Diatom Symposium
Quebec City, Canada, 26th August 2018 (13.30)

Attendance: 82 members

Chair: Marina Potapova (ISDR President)

1. Minutes of the 15th General Meeting

Minutes are available online via the ISDR website, with the link distributed by email. Minutes were approved by Graham Underwood, Seconded by Linda Medlin

2. Deceased members

A moment of silence was held to honour members the diatom research community who had passed away during the two years since the last symposium.

Any members wishing to write an obituary to honour a deceased member, to be published in Diatom Research, please contact the Editor in Chief, Eileen Cox.

3. Secretary's report

Thanks were expressed to colleagues on council and particularly to Keely Mills who now administers a substantial amount of membership work, being linked closely to the payment system.

Reminder to members that the society has an extensive collection of back copies of Diatom Research and copies of the 18th and 19th symposium proceedings should anyone wish to purchase them.

We are aware that the website needs upgrading and if any members have interests in this area and would be able to help, please get in touch.

Taylor and Francis now send out replacement copies of DR and only retain a limited number of spare copies.

4. Treasurer's report (presented by Keely Mills)

Keely expressed her thanks to all the local treasurers who do an excellent job in encouraging new members and maintaining our membership levels. Keely invited those interested in become a local treasurer for their country to contact her.

Keely summarised the society's financial position which is more buoyant now that payments to Biopress have finished and we are in a position to consider future expenditure on society activities, such as developing the website.

The society was able to make a number of student travel awards to support attendance at the IDS which equated to a value of c. £4700 overall. It was noted that council agreed to allocate a minimum of half the profit from the two years in the lead up to the symposium to provide support for student travel bursaries in future years.

5. Report of the Editor in Chief, Diatom Research (presented by Eileen Cox)

- The continuing relationship with publishers of the journal, Taylor and Francis, is working well.

- The online submission process is effective and it is possible to see where delays are.
- The journal now has a new cover, an image produced by Chris Carter.
- Papers now appear online and citable earlier than previously.
- The number of submissions is increasing with 41 submissions to date in 2016.
- The journal has an allocation of 500 pages. Colour pictures usually available at no cost, depending on the allocation.
- It takes approximately 8 weeks from submission to initial decision and 19 weeks submission to final acceptance. The average is 75 days from acceptance to online publication. The EiC deals directly with authors at the initial acceptance stage, which is helping with the quality of final output.
- Associated Editors needing to find willing reviewers. This is challenging with a 4 weeks turnaround time. Reviewing is part of our scientific responsibility and members are encouraged to engage with this process.
- Publication would be quicker if journal style and format followed appropriately. The editorial team is currently in the process of revising instructions to authors. These will also be posted on the ISDR website.
- The Impact Factor is rising, now at 1.868. A much higher percentage of papers is now being cited, with uncited papers now below 30%. The journal is ranked 40 out of 103 in Marine and Freshwater Biology, up from 80th in 2011. A good marker of the quality of the journal and increasing visibility from Taylor and Francis.
- If posting your publications on Researchgate, please only post the pre-publication, unformatted copy.
- Submissions are increasing, the percentage acceptance rate is less than 50%, but it is important to maintain quality.
- Editorial Board – John Barron and Roger Flower have now stepped down. David Harwood (marine fossils) and Jeffery Stone (freshwater palaeoecology) have recently joined the board. It would be helpful to have expertise on modern marine environments and freshwater ecology / monitoring.
- Finally, the EiC encouraged members to submit papers to the journal.

6. Elections

Thanks were expressed to members of council stepping down: Evelyn Gaiser, Shigeki Mayama, Geraldine Reid and Eugenia Sar, along with past symposium organisers Xiangdong Yang and John Anderson.

The election of new council members was announced:

Vice President: Richard Jordan (becoming President 2018-2020).

Council members: Paul Hamilton, Sarah Spaulding, Leanne Armand (to serve for four years).

For the first time an Early Career Representative has been elected to the council. Council agreed that this would be for a period of two years in the first instance, with the possibility of election for a further two years. Election to this post is administered by the ECR community. For the purposes of the election an Early Career Researcher is a current student or someone within four years of completion of their studies. Members present approved the necessary change to constitution.

7. Young Scientists Meeting

Hannah Vossel reported on the Young Scientists Meeting activities held during the Quebec symposium.

- The meeting had been a great success and discussions were held on ideas for future workshops.
- The speed talk format worked well but it was suggested to have a separate session for these, along with informal evening meetings for ECRs.
- It was proposed to incorporate more workshops for ECRs into future symposia.
- A blog series for the Young ISDR was proposed.

8. Handover of duties

Marina Potapova formally handed over the role of President to Mark Edlund.

Mark expressed his thanks to Marina for her service to the society, to council members and to Keely Mills and Sarah Davies.

He noted positive news on membership levels, the broad range of topics at the symposium, highlighting a vibrant and diverse discipline.

The Young Scientists Meeting had been very well received, with thanks to all involved in making the first event a success.

9. Prizes and Awards

ISDR Council recommended to the general meeting that John Barron be awarded an honorary fellowship for his long and distinguished service to the diatom research community and as a long standing member of the editorial board. This was unanimously supported by members.

Student presentation prizes

2nd place talk: Nicholas Schiffer

1st place talk: Evelin Pinseel

2nd Place poster: Nikki Pogorzelec

1st place: Michael Kloster

Thanks were expressed to the judges, to all the speakers and to Taylor and Francis.

10. Symposia

Thanks were extended to Reinhard Pienitz, Dermot Antonaides, Emilie Saulnier-Talbot, Claudia Zimmerman and the local organising committee who made the Quebec symposium such an excellent success.

The 2018 IDS will be held in Berlin, organised by colleagues at the Botanical Museum Berlin, Botanic Gardens, the home of Ehrenberg's collection. Further details will be released

Need to consider timing of the meeting. June is bad in UK, also need to make sure there is not a clash with the International Palaeolimnology Symposium (to be held in Sweden).

Richard Jordan presented a detailed proposal to host the 2020 International Diatom Symposium in Yamagata, Japan.

It was also suggested that colleagues in Central and South America may be interested in hosting a future symposium. It was also suggested to develop a guide to help groups to organise a new meeting.

Jonathan Taylor suggested that the 2022 symposium could be held in South Africa, but would need logistical support from others.

10. Any Other Business

It was suggested that posters and talks from the symposium could be made available online. This would entail a lot of work but could be followed up.

Linda Medlin suggested some fundraising products, such as stoppers for wine bottles and a diatomists cookbook.

Meeting closed at 14.45