



ISPMF Newsletter 3: October 2015

Membership numbers rose in 2015:

Membership numbers have risen in our second year and we now have 3 Gold corporate sponsors, 5 Silver corporate sponsors, 44 full members, and 18 developing country / student members. The total membership is 102. The success of the society is very much driven by its members and we appreciate your continued support. This year the ISPMF has been able to:



- Award 13 bursaries for ISPMF members to attend the 6th PBVAB conference in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Negotiate a reduced registration for ISPMF members for PBVAB.
- Sponsor a successful and well attended evening reception at PBVAB.
- Maintain the ISPMF website.

Regional representatives: The nomination of regional (continental) ISPMF contact persons was suggested from members feedback. The role of the representative is to act as a contact person for members wishing to set up smaller regional meetings or for any other matters that they like to discuss. Many thanks to the following ISPMF members who volunteered for these roles:



Rima Menassa Rima.Menassa@AGR.GC.CA for North America
Andres Wigdorovitz awigdo@gmail.com for South America
Inga Hitzeroth inga.hitzeroth@uct.ac.za for Africa
Kisung Ko ksko@cau.ac.kr for Asia and Julian Ma jma@sgul.ac.uk for Europe

ISPMF Conference 2016: Ghent, May 25th-27th

The ISPMF announces its second conference in Ghent, Belgium, hosted by the Plant Systems Biology Department of VIB and Ghent University. Ghent is conveniently located close to Brussels (30 mins by train).



Confirmed plenary speakers are:

Lars Von Borcke (IP Management & Technology Transfer, Plant Bioscience Limited)
Francis Santens (Glycobiology group, Department for Biomedical Biotechnology, VIB-UGent):
Willem Vandeveldel (Team leader, Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control – Downstream process development in Ablynx, Belgium)
Els Beirnaert (Senior Manager New Ventures, VIB)
Xavier Saelens: (Group leader- Molecular Virology, Department for Biomedical Biotechnology, VIB-UGent),
Alain Goossens (UGent-VIB, Plant Biotechnology) and Gilbert Gorr (Chief Scientific Officer, Phytion).

For Society members, the conference fee will be €120, or €80 for PhD students and participants from developing countries. For non-members, the cost will be €200. This covers registration, lunches, refreshments and a cheese and wine party on the evening of May 25th. A conference dinner will be organised separately. A list of accommodation options will be posted on the Society website. You will be notified when registration opens online (expected in January 2016), together with details of how to submit your abstracts and applications for Society bursary.



Molecular Farming Funding Opportunities:

ISPMF bursaries:

The Society will be offering bursaries to members attending the Society meeting in Ghent. Awards will only be made to those giving an oral or poster presentation and priority will be given to students and post-docs. Awards will be for £150 (~€200) for European members, and £300 (~€400) for members from other continents. Application details will be posted on the website in January.

Travel bursaries are also offered to any Society members travelling to other conferences and offering an oral presentation on Molecular Farming. To apply for an award of up to £150 (~€200), please complete and submit an application form (download from the Society website). The conference must be of reasonable size (> 60 delegates) and you must be speaking on the programme.

ISPMF Regional workshops:

If any groups of members are interested in organising a regional workshop, please co-ordinate this initially through your Regional Representative, and contact a member of the Society's committee to discuss options for financial support from the Society.



A call for Research and Innovation Actions addressing “New Plant Breeding Techniques (NPBT) in molecular farming: Multipurpose crops for industrial bioproducts” has been included in the draft 2016-2017 Work Programme for EU Horizon 2020 funding. It is identified as BIOTEC-07-2017 in the Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing Call document.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-leit-nmp_en.pdf#page=27

www.societyformolecularfarming.org

If you have items for the next ISPMF newsletter please contact your regional representative or penny.hundleby@jic.ac.uk



In the News:

Denka



Icon Genetics acquisition:

The Japanese company DENKI KAGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Denka) recently announced the acquisition of Icon Genetics GmbH for approx. 10 billion Japanese Yen (~75M Euros). Denka with its headquarters in Tokyo is a global group which specialises in raw materials, electronics and the growth sector of pharmaceuticals. Development of vaccines and diagnostic reagents, as part of Denka Seiken Co., Ltd is one of the most important themes of Denka Group's growth strategy. The acquisition will take place in two phases over two years and result in Icon Genetics becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Denka. Icon Genetics will continue to carry out research and development in the vaccines and diagnostic reagents field.

GREENOVATION

Biopharmaceuticals

Greenovation Biotech GmbH announced in September that it had received approval to begin a phase I clinical trial in Europe for its first drug candidate moss-aGal from the German regulatory authority (BfArM). Moss-aGal, a recombinant form of human alpha galactosidase, is developed as an enzyme replacement therapy for patients with the genetic lysosomal storage disorder Fabry disease. Greenovation uses "BryoTechnology", a proprietary moss expression system in *Physcomitrella patens*. The technology attaches mannose molecules to the surface of moss-aGal, which improves uptake in the human body, which is mediated by mannose receptors on cell surfaces.



ZMapp Update

ZMapp the plant monoclonal antibody cocktail against Ebola virus that was co-developed by Mapp Biopharmaceutical and Public Health Agency of Canada continues its clinical development path. In February, LeafBio, the commercial arm of Mapp Biopharmaceutical, announced that it had received approval of its application for an Investigational New Drug (IND) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the USA. The U.S. National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) subsequently announced that together with the Liberian government, the first clinical trial of ZMapp will take place at an Ebola treatment centre in Monrovia and in the United States at up to four high-containment treatment facilities.

In July, LeafBio, Inc., the commercialization arm of Mapp Biopharmaceutical, announced the licensing of Defyrus' ZMAb antibody portfolio, pioneered at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and licensed



In the News:

ZMapp update continued from page 3...

earlier to Defyrus, thereby consolidating the intellectual property for ZMapp™ – which is composed of the best mAbs of Mapp's MB-003 and ZMAb.

In September, LeafBio, Inc. announced that the FDA had granted ZMapp™ “Fast Track” designation for the treatment of Ebola virus disease. “Fast Track” designation is granted to drugs that the FDA determines, based on nonclinical or clinical data, have the potential to address an unmet medical need and that are intended to treat a serious condition. Fast Track designation allows for certain benefits, including opportunities for frequent interactions with the FDA, which may enable designated drugs to reach market sooner.

Prior to this designation, the FDA had granted ZMapp™ “orphan drug” designation, which provides financial and other regulatory incentives meant to encourage development of drugs and other products targeted at rare diseases. The goal of both of these designations is to encourage researchers and scientists to research and develop treatments for diseases that may otherwise be overlooked.

Fast Track designation may shorten the path toward filing and obtaining approval of a Biologics License Application, the marketing application that must be approved by the FDA before ZMapp™ may be marketed in the United States.

Plant Biotechnology Journal

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Wiley announces a Special Issue on Molecular Farming in Plant Biotechnology Journal

Editor-in-Chief: Henry Daniell

Guest Editors: Stephen J. Streatfield
and Edward P. Rybicki

**Society members have free access to
this issue throughout November.**

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pbi.2015.13.issue-8/issuetoc>