CSM President Newsletter-September 2013

Dear CSM members,

It has been 3 months since we all met at the CSM annual conference at Carleton University in Ottawa. Since then, the executive and council have been at work planning the next annual conference that will have a special taste. In fact, next time we meet will constitute a premiere for the CSM as the annual conference will be jointly organized with the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS). We believe these international scientific congresses will attract thousands of microbiologists from around the world. Nevertheless, I can assure you that the congresses will comprise the usual CSM activities including the Student Competitions and the CSM Award Lectures.

The president of the IUMS 2014 National Organizing Committee is Pierre Talbot, supported on the Scientific Program Committees by Pierre Belhumeur (Mycology Congress), Charles Dozois (Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology Congress) and Alain Lamarre (Virology Congress).

The 2013 Annual Conference in Carleton University, Ottawa

On behalf of the CSM executive and all CSM members, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work done by Ashkan Golshani and the Local Organizing Committee at Carleton University. The annual conference was a great success with over 400 registered attendees. Photos of the event are posted on the CSM website (http://www.csm-scm.org/english/conf_past.asp).

The Environmental Dimension of Antibiotic Resistance Satellite Symposium organized by Ed Topp and the Local Organizing Committee attracted over 100 scientists. This symposium has put into perspective the importance of recognizing the presence of antibiotic residues and of understanding the dissemination antibiotic resistance genes in the environment. It was greatly appreciated by the attendees. We also thank Wafaa Antonious for excellent management of the conference and symposium.

The 2014 Annual Conference

Next year’s annual conference will be held in conjunction with the IUMS 2014 from July 27 to August 1st at the Montreal’s Convention Centre. I would like to point out that the deadlines will differ substantially from what CSM members are used to. All information can be found on the IUMS 2014 site (http://www.montrealiums2014.org/welcome_e.shtml). From the CSM website you also have a direct access and a summary of important information (http://www.csm-scm.org/english/conf_upcoming.asp).

The abstract submission will open October 1st, 2013 and will close on January 30th, 2014. All abstracts (300 words), including the students applying for the Student Symposium Competition and the Poster Competition have to be submitted through the IUMS website. The guidelines for the Student Symposium Competition (http://www.csm-scm.org/english/conf_stusympcomp.asp) and for the Poster Competition (http://www.csm-scm.org/english/conf_posterpres.asp) can be found on the CSM website. Students applying for the competitions will have to fulfill the requirements as indicated on the CSM website. An extended abstract (1000 words) will have to be submitted through the CSM abstract submission system to be eligible for student competitions (oral and poster). I strongly encourage students to participate in these competitions.
This year, Travel awards up to $1,000 are available for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Application can be done with abstract submission starting in October but should be submitted by December 2nd. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent on January 31st, 2014. If the travel grant is awarded, the registration fees to attend the meeting will be waived. All other information can be found on (http://www.montrealiums2014.org/travel_e.shtml).

This congress will provide you with the opportunity to meet microbiologists from around the world share your research results and develop new collaboration. We thus encourage CSM members to spread the word about the IUMS 2014 and persuade fellow microbiologists to become CSM members. The success of this joint adventure depends on you!

See you in Montreal next year!

Other Society News

CSM Executive-Changing of the Guard

I am pleased to announce that Christine Szymanski from the University of Alberta is joining the CSM executive as 2nd Vice-President. We look forward to Christine’s contributions to the management of our society. Ivan Oresnik is leaving the position as Past-President. Thanks Ivan for all the time invested in the Society. Nancy Martin moves to the Past-President chair and Charles Dozois will take over the 1st Vice-President chair. Ayush Kumar and Russell Hynes will continue doing an incredible job respectively as Secretary-Treasurer and Meeting Secretary. Josie Libertucci remains the Graduate Student Representative and at the secretariat Wafaa Antonious is the person to contact for questions regarding the CSM. There are several changes on the council and with the committees as well. Have a look at the CSM website for names.

Meet the Microbiologist-Get your Own Tag

With a full membership comes the opportunity to get your own tag on “Meet the Microbiologist” on the CSM website (http://www.csm-scm.org/english/mem_meet.asp). This is an opportunity to show your research program to colleagues, potential graduate students or postdoctoral candidates that you may meet at the next annual conference.

Call for Honorary Members

The number of honorary members is determined by the total of regular members (up to 5%). As for now, we have 2 honorary members and could accommodate for a few more. We would greatly appreciate if you could supply us with nominations. Please forward to the CSM Secretariat’s office the names of members that you feel could deserve to be honorary members.

J. Daniel Dubreuil
CSM President