

## **Minutes for SBSP telephone board meeting 25 February 2016, 9:00-10:20am**

### **Members Present:**

**Jakob Skov (JS)**

**Pikka Jokelainen (PJ)**

**Vaidas Palinauskas (VP)**

**Age Kärssin (AK)**

**Gunita Deksne (GD)**

**Andrea Miller (AM)**

### **Not present (with notification):**

**Rebecca Davidson (RD)**

- 1. Accepting new members: Rakesh Sehgal (India), Noora Helmiina Remes (Finland), Sirpa Tellervo Korkmaz (Finland), Saifelislam Elmustafa (USA)**

All members were accepted.

- 2. New webpage – comments and discussion (all)**

The Board agreed that the new webpage looks great. JS suggested that minor changes/corrections should be forwarded directly to the webmaster Brian Lassen. Any major changes will be discussed by the Board at a Board meeting or through email.

The online pay function is up and running on the website. The new members will pay membership when they join. The Board decided that all old members should pay starting January 2017 using the online system. Only valid, paying members will be listed on the online membership list. JS will keep the webmaster updated about new members. VP suggested that the online payment system be modified to include two buttons—one which says “join” and one that says “renew”. This might lessen confusion from old members looking to renew in Jan 2017.

With the new online payment function, the Board should be able to keep better track of those who have paid and not paid dues. Valid dues paying members are entitled to more benefits, particularly in terms of conference and grant support. JS will summarize the rules for dues payment and a copy will be posted online.

- 3. Bank account fusion – final preparations (Jakob)**

The Danish, Baltic, Finnish, and possibly Norwegian accounts still exist. JS will prepare a signed document stating our plan for account fusion. This will be distributed to the holders of the existing accounts to be used in account closure.

RD will update the Board on further bank fusion news at the next Board meeting.

#### **4. Board manual *in brief* (Pikka and Jakob)**

PJ will revise the manual and send for final comments. PJ still needs contact information from some of the Board members.

#### **5. 'Parasite in Focus' – current status (Rebecca *in absentia*/Gunita)**

GD submitted a template for the Parasite in Focus. The Board agreed with the template, and suggested that authors (with contact information) could be included. GD also suggested to liven the template up with lots of pictures. The template could be developed into a poster style document that can be uploaded on the website as a downloadable pdf file. PJ also suggested to share these on the Facebook page. The Board agreed with these suggestions.

The Board discussed potentially requiring a minimum time of two months for the Parasite in Focus to be displayed on the website. However, it was decided to be very flexible to start with and parasites could be changed as needed. All parasites described will be archived.

#### **6. Update on the SBSP grants (Gunita and Age)**

Signed grant applications need only to be sent to the secretary in pdf form. The [contact@sbsp.eu](mailto:contact@sbsp.eu) email will be used on all forms as the secretary contact information.

The Board will open for grant applications twice yearly (April 1, October 1) and accept applications for one month. The Board will make a decision on grants within 2 months of the closure. These deadlines will help streamline communication and the decision process within the Board. It will also make the competition between applicants more fair. One review grant (max 1500 €), three travel grants (500 €), and any number of undergraduate stipend together up to a maximum of 2000€ will be given per year.

Travel Grant Specific Revisions: The Board agreed that travel grants should be open to all members at all levels (undergraduate to professor emeritus/emerita). The travel grant is not meant for conferences and GD will clarify the wording to reflect this. The travel grant should be applied within one year of the grant.

Parasitological Review Grant Specific Revisions: This is a rarely used grant, and the Board would like to promote its use. The requirement to publish in an open access journal will be removed and replaced with a requirement to publish in an internationally peer reviewed journal. The grant will be 1500 €, without further explanation of how to use the funds.

## **7. EMOP XII update (Pikka)**

Registration is now open. JS will send all members the official letter of invitation from the EFP.

## **8. SBSP exhibition at EMOP XII? (Pikka and Jakob)**

JS and PJ suggested that the SBSP could have an exhibition space at EMOP. This would not only serve as SBSP-specific support for the EMOP conference but also create an opportunity to advertise the Society and the next SBSP conference in Riga. However, this has not been something SBSP has traditionally done. PJ and JS suggested that the next GA could discuss setting aside money to support the local organizers of the future SBSP conferences.

The Board expressed some concern over the pre-listed cost of the space at EMOP. However, a final decision will be made after a continued discussion at the next Board meeting and Treasurer (RD) report about the financial situation of SBSP. PJ will ask for lower-cost options at EMOP than those listed on the website.

## **9. AOB**

The next meeting will be set for mid-March and will focus on the bank fusion and whether or not to buy an exhibition space at EMOP.