

THE AAB REACHES A NEW FRONTIER

FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY LAUNCHED!

ALSO LAUNCHED THIS QUARTER...



SEARCH FOR 'AAB'
AND CONNECT WITH US

Welcome to aab news Issue 74...

News from Council

Council met on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at Rothamsted Research. Council thanked members attending the AGM and are pleased to report that the AGM accepted the Annual Report for 2010, which has subsequently been uploaded to the Charity Commission website; thus completing our reporting duty. The AGM also accepted the proposal of Council that there would be no change in the membership fees in £ for 2012; and that the fees for on-line access to *Annals of Applied Biology* would be maintained with an increase of 3% in the rate charged for printed copies. Council currently has a vacancy for a Membership and Communications officer. Two other Trustees also gave notice of their intention to stand down at the end of 2012. Consequently, please consider whether you would be prepared and interested to become either Publications Officer or Programme Secretary. More details of the roles can be obtained from the AAB office (contact carol@aab.org.uk) and the current post holders (Martin Parry and Graham Russell respectively) will also be happy to discuss what the roles entail. Council reviewed progress against the agreed targets for 2011-12. Council also agreed the AAB budget for 2012. The President, Trevor Hocking was happy to note that we were making good progress against the targets.

Council had some preliminary discussion of the issues arising from consideration of the current targets to inform the priorities and target setting for the AAB for 2013-2014. A paper will be presented to the AGM later in the year. In the short-term watch out in your in-boxes in February for a members' survey; Council would like to underpin the process by considering your feedback on whether what AAB provides meets the needs of its members at the next Council meeting in March. The AAB is pleased with the breadth of the conference programme that is planned for 2012. All conference proposals for 2013 will need to be tabled at the Council meeting at the end of June 2012. If you have a good idea for a one day workshop or longer conference that would take place in 2013, please contact the relevant group convener or the AAB office directly, so that a proposal with associated budget can be developed in time. Council approved applications for membership from 65 new applicants and noted the breadth of interest amongst applications for membership and the number of international applications. We look forward to working with these new members in the months and years to come. AAB welcome the launch of the Plant Sciences Federation under the auspices of the Society of Biology. Peter Shewry, currently AAB Vice President, has been

acting as the key link in the development process for the AAB. We had a long-term Memorandum of Understanding with European Society for Agronomy. Under its new constitution, Council also agreed that the AAB should become a sustaining member of the ESA. Council received reports on publications. There have been changes in the Senior Editorial Board at *Annals of Applied Biology*. Martin Parry has stood down and Danielle Way (Duke University, North Carolina, USA) has been appointed to replace him. Progress with the new journal "*Food and Energy Security*" which is a joint venture with Wiley-Blackwell continues on schedule. Martin Parry has taken on the role of Editor-in-Chief for this new Journal which will be published on an open-access model. Council agreed that AAB members will be offered a 20% discount on the article processing charge. As you read this newsletter, the first papers will be available online. Council conveyed it's appreciation to the office staff for their sterling efforts which have kept the office working during a difficult period as a result of staff sickness. Claire Hartry has been developing the AABs online presence – watch out for the AAB Wikipedia page wiki.Association_of_Applied_Biologists

-Elizabeth Stockdale



Brian Kerry (1948 – 2011)

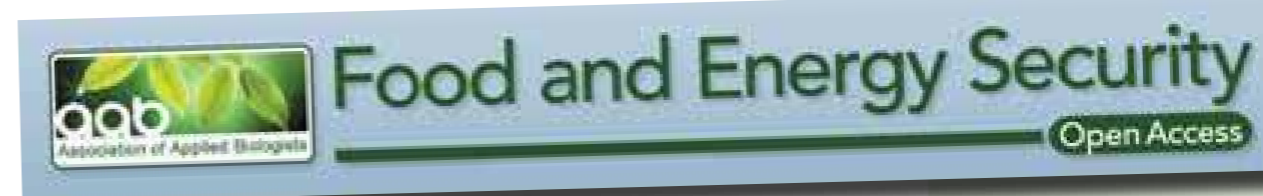
Brian Kerry died on Monday 17th October 2011 aged 63. He had been in hospital since undergoing a brain operation in September 2009. Brian was appointed to Rothamsted in 1973 after completing a BSc degree in Agricultural Science at Nottingham University and a PhD from Reading University. He joined the (then) Nematology Department at Rothamsted and started work on biological control of economically important plant-parasitic nematodes, a theme which was to be his research remit throughout his career. In September 1987, Brian was appointed head of the newly formed Entomology and Nematology Department with

approximately 90 scientific staff, including 28 PhD students and an overall budget of ca £3.3 million per annum. He oversaw the successful amalgamation of what had been two separate departments. Successive redundancies reduced staffing levels but Brian was able to maintain a spectrum of research activities in the department. He was appointed as Deputy Director of Rothamsted in 1998, a position he held until his official retirement in 2010. From 2007 he was also Director of the Centre for Soils and Ecosystem Function, at Rothamsted. Brian had a successful research career, having published a book and more than 100 research papers. In recognition of his contribution to nematology research, he was made a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists (1993) and given special awards by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (2003), and by the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (2011). He co-organised for the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) a workshop at Rothamsted dealing with the latest issues and news about developments in nematicides as a tool for the management of plant-parasitic nematodes. That commitment to the aims of the

AAB remained firm and Brian became President of the AAB in 2004. Brian's outgoing, cheerful personality made him friends all over the world and his scientific contribution to defining the basis of fungal control of plant-parasitic nematodes earned him scientific respect wherever he went. In 2008, he was awarded the MBE for services to science and the Queen conferred the award on him at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Brian was an effective communicator and in 1991 he was appointed Special Professor, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, University of Nottingham. His enthusiastic, open approach enabled him to interact effectively with students and peer groups alike, and he successfully supervised several PhD students at Rothamsted and through his extensive overseas links. Brian is survived by his wife, Maxine, his daughter, Anna, and his brother and mother.

-Excerpts reproduced from *Nematology* by permission of Koninklijke Brill NV, The Netherlands.

Roland Perry
Rothamsted Research
e-mail: roland.perry@rothamsted.ac.uk



Due to the rise in human population and inevitable consequences of climate change, we now know that we will need to produce 50% more food, 50% more energy, and 30% more fresh water within the next 20 years (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7951838.stm>). Developing countries are often ill equipped to deal with these challenges making the global need for reaction ever more vital. And when better to start than now? We have been getting the AAB

steadily up-to-date with social media and networking in order to exploit marketing capabilities for *Food and Energy Security*. Along with the Wikipedia page, we now have a fully functional Twitter page and Facebook. Soon we will have a Linked In page (social networking website geared towards companies and industry professionals) which means you can list us on your Linked In profile, if you are so inclined. One other source of marketing we want to use is T-shirts!

AAB President Trevor Hocking has vowed to buy a (suitably expensive!) bottle of Champagne for any talented AAB member who can come up with a witty t-shirt design for the *Food and Energy Security* journal. So far the best we have is a cob of maize with running shorts on, and we welcome a challenger. The winner will be thanked in our next newsletter, receive a free t-shirt, and of course win the bottle of fizz, courtesy of the AAB President! All entries welcome. Winner announced March 2012.



©Association of Applied Biologists. Photograph reproduced with kind permission from Bernadette Lawson

Can you help?



Roger Plumb and I have assembled at Rothamsted over the last few years a modest collection of old scientific equipment. We can thank some of our predecessors on the Rothamsted staff for consciously preserving most of the very old items, including, for example, balances used by Lawes and Gilbert in the 19th Century. Much of the collection, though, consists of items that had survived by accident and were found in the backs of drawers and cupboards or in little-used store rooms. Inevitably, there are some items that have proved difficult to identify. One such is illustrated in the accompanying photographs

and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who recognises it or can suggest what it was used for. The apparatus is about 130 cm tall (Fig. 1), and appears to have been designed for distillation. Its construction seems to us to be relatively unusual, which may suggest that it had a fairly specific use. As far as we know it is complete apart from various lengths of rubber tubing, which have perished and been lost. There is a spherical glass vessel at the top, which is protected by a safety shield (Fig. 2) fitted with an inspection window (made, we assume, of mica). There's a gas heating ring below the vessel and an asbestos sheet behind it.

A 'finger' extends into the vessel from above (Fig. 3), and it appears that water can be made to flow through this, thus creating a condensing surface. Condensate forming on the 'finger' must then, we assume, drip into the glass tube that extends into the vessel from below, to be collected in one of the two glass vessels at the bottom of the apparatus. The purpose of the second vessel, and that on the side (about three quarters of the way up), is uncertain.



We know from the label that it was made by Gallenkamp, and have made contact with the company that now owns that brand but to no avail. Our best guess is that it dates from the 1950s; we have a catalogue from that date but it appears not to be listed. The label does, however, bear the words 'Laboratory Specialities', implying that this bit of equipment was probably listed in the separate catalogue of specialist equipment that we know the company also produced. If you can help, please contact

-John Jenkyn at
Rothamsted Research,
Harpenden,
Herts AL5 2JQ,
Tel. 01582 763133 or
john.jenkyn@rothamsted.ac.uk.

Conference report

**Biomass and Bioenergy Crops IV,
University of Illinois and Energy Biosciences Institute,
Champaign, Illinois. 21-23 Sept 2011**



Miscanthus Sinensis variety trials showing different flowering patterns at the EBI's Energy Farm (Photo courtesy of David Turley, NNFCC)

When it comes to energy, the United States can do better, said Steven Koonin, Undersecretary for Science in the US Department of Energy, as the keynote speaker at the AAB's 2011 Biomass and Energy Crops IV Conference in Champaign, Illinois, hosted by the University of Illinois and the Energy Biosciences Institute. He defined the major U.S. energy challenges as improving energy security in the transport sector (as the US spends \$1 billion each day on oil imports) and to provide heat and power in environmentally sustainable ways while strengthening US competitiveness. "We are focusing on six strategies to help solve these energy problems," Koonin said. "The transport strategies include deploying alternative fuels, progressively electrifying the fleet, and increasing vehicle energy efficiency". The three strategies for heat and power include deploying clean electricity, modernising the grid, and increasing building and energy use efficiency. Koonin also encouraged more research into reducing the cost of energy crop production. However, in reality there is likely to be some scaling back of support for biomass and biofuels in the US as many

existing tax concession and other support policies come to an end in the next 1-2 years. Other presentations highlighted that the US has a significant underutilised agricultural land capacity. Steve Long (University of Illinois) reported that the US has 37 million hectares in set-aside (under the US Conservation Programme) and a further 14 million hectares of agricultural land had actually "disappeared" from the most recent US agricultural land census. Much of the conference focussed on development of biomass energy crops, with presentations on breeding and perennial crop yield improvement, novel biomass crops (including sorghum and giant reed), factors affecting establishment and use of energy crops to minimise soil run-off. The latter is a particular problem in maize/soya dominated rotations where soil loss events of up to 49 tonnes/ha were reported for Iowa, making soil one of the State's largest exports! Two aspects of the conference emphasised the scale of financial support that State and Federal Governments as well as private companies are putting into developing

cellulosic ethanol in the US. The first was a presentation by Samuel Jackson (General Energy) describing progress with the State of Tennessee's \$75 million investment in the University's Biomass Innovation Park Campus, designed to integrate and optimizes the entire biomass supply chain and provide a pilot 250,000 gallon cellulosic ethanol facility (planned to open later this year). The second was the scale of investment in the Energy Bioscience Institute and its 320 acre Energy Farm at the University of Illinois which was the focus of a visit at the end of the conference. The EBI was established with a \$500 million commitment from BP over ten years. This supports 60 research groups and around 560 staff, all primarily focused on developing cost-effective cellulosic ethanol production. The scale of planting on the EBI Energy Farm alone dwarfs any UK or European commercial planting and provides an impressive range of crop breeding, agronomy and environmental monitoring trials, its well worth a visit.

-David Turley
Crops and The Environment
Group Convenor

The EBI switchgrass plots harboured some interesting inhabitants! (Photo courtesy of David Turley, NNFCC)



Plant Biotechnology Journal: Editor-in-Chief vacancy

Applications are invited for the post of Editor-in-Chief of Plant Biotechnology Journal.

Plant Biotechnology Journal is currently ranked 11th in the plant sciences category of the Journal Citation Record with an impact factor of 4.886. It will publish its tenth volume in 2012, with a frequency of nine issues per volume and one volume per calendar year. The Journal is jointly owned by the Association of Applied Biologists, the Society for Experimental Biology, and Wiley-Blackwell. The Editor-in-Chief will be appointed by and report to a Management Committee consisting of two representatives from each of the three owning parties.

The current Editor-in-Chief is stepping down at the end of 2012. The Management Committee wish to appoint a successor capable of building upon the Journal's existing record of publishing high impact original research and reviews in applied plant science. The ideal candidate will have:

- Strong academic credentials and a track record of publishing in high quality academic journals,
- Previous editorial experience on high quality journals at editorial board, associate editor or editor level,
- An international reputation and proven network of contacts working within the plant sciences and associated areas of research,
- The passion, commitment, and vision to make Plant Biotechnology Journal the 'Journal of choice' for authors,
- Leadership qualities and an ability to motivate contributors, reviewers, Editors, Associate Editors and the officers of the Management Committee,
- A basic understanding of the business models adopted by the Journal and a willingness to develop the Journal in line with pre-defined objectives,
- The ability and time to juggle Journal editorship with any other professional or academic commitments.

A full job description is available on request but the key responsibilities of the role include:

- Seeking contributions to the journal and managing the peer review process for such contributions,
- Setting editorial policy and scholarly standards of the Journal; maintaining and improving those standards in line with key objectives,
- Working closely with the Editorial Assistant/Managing Editor to monitor copyflow, acceptance and rejection rates, and issue scheduling,
- Managing the Editorial Board, appointing and renewing Editorial Board members on agreed terms and to ensure that the Board's composition is sufficiently international and broad in scope,
- To communicate regularly with the Editorial Board concerning the development of the journal, editorial strategy, submissions,
- To assist the Publisher in promoting the journal by advising on publicity and promoting the journal wherever possible through contacts and at conferences attended.

Applications are invited from individuals working in any branch of plant biology. All candidates should submit their formal CV together with written answers (not exceeding one page of A4) to the following two questions:

1. What are the key attributes of a successful academic journal?
2. What would be your plans and ambitions for *Plant Biotechnology Journal* in your first term as Editor-in-Chief?

Potential candidates will be selected and ranked by representatives of the Management Committee. If formal interviews are required these can be arranged by tele- or video-conference for candidates applying from outside of the UK.

The position is for three years, commencing 1st January 2013, and carries an annual honorarium plus some expenses. The initial term may be extended by mutual agreement. The post may be held by a scientist resident within or outside of the UK.

Applications should be submitted by email to Felicity Clark at Wiley-Blackwell (fclark@wiley.com). The closing date for applications is 29th February 2012.



The Vital Role of Technicians

Mark Downs, CEO, Society of Biology

Technicians are the unsung heroes of many science based organisations, but their contribution is beyond question. They often have unique skills and expertise that underpin the ability of companies, schools, the NHS and universities to perform their roles successfully. It is not easy to define the term "technician," as the Technician Council rapidly discovered after its inception in early 2010. The range of biology-based technicians is enormous covering general and clinical microbiology, animal husbandry, plant science, ecology and health care; the list is almost endless.

There has been concern for some time, that intermediate level scientists (for example new graduates) and technicians do not have clear career progression routes. There is also a sense that they lack the status of others within the science sector. These individuals support vital research, teaching and contract work, but are usually ineligible to apply for Chartered Biologist or Chartered Scientist status.

To try to address this, the Science Council, whose Board I joined last year, is currently developing a new registration scheme for technicians and intermediate level scientists. This scheme aims to raise the profile of technicians and to support a number of initiatives which will enhance learning and development opportunities. Stakeholders throughout the science community will contribute to the development of the scheme and registration criteria.

The Society of Biology is committed to the success of this registration scheme; biology is the most diverse of the sciences,

and bioscience technicians work in vastly different disciplines and roles. The register will give technicians working in different fields a new shared sense of identity, and provide a much-needed method to assess and recognise competence across a professional range that is perhaps broader than within other science subjects. Registration will enable us to work with partners to deliver more consistent advice and guidance about development opportunities, to share good practice, and to gather better data about the sector.

The Society of Biology already manages several professional Registers: the UK Register of Toxicologists; the International Register of Fetal Morphologists, and the Register of Eligibility for Qualified Persons. These Registers are highly valued by members - they formally identify levels of competence and expertise, which are difficult to evidence by other means - and also by the industries and regulators of the relevant sectors they represent, as they support confidence and reassurance in the data that Register members generate and their interpretation of it.

I am delighted to say that the Gatsby Charitable Trust has agreed to support us in this endeavour. Over the next two years we will develop and firmly embed a system that will enable technicians and intermediate level scientists in the biological sciences to become early participants in the Science Council's new registration framework. We hope this will help increase their status alongside the opportunity to offer better co-ordinated and rigorous continuing professional

development.

In a structure that is very similar to Chartered Scientist, we envisage that the Science Council will issue registration licences to competent bodies which will in turn offer and manage professional registers. Wearing our hat as an umbrella organisation for the learned society sector across biology, we hope to offer the opportunity for any biology technician to join, working with our members to promote the benefits and opportunities this should bring. Timescales are not yet fixed but after wide consultation in the spring, we will aim to launch the pilot programme as soon as possible in 2012.

In parallel, the NHS is looking at ways to develop the NHS career framework through its "Modernising Scientific Workforce in the UK" initiative. This will include the work of many technicians and the associated training and education needed to support them professionally. In looking at the Technician's Register we will seek to work closely with the NHS to ensure as much synergy as possible.

Professional registers and the inherent responsibilities for their membership to abide by a code of conduct, including continuing professional development, have been a part of the historic career landscape for many of the professions. This new initiative alongside broader work on apprenticeships and sector skills gaps is set to be a major area of work for all professional bodies over the next five years and the Society of Biology is keen to take an early leadership role for biology.

Please see overleaf for AAB/ SoB Members deal...

The Society of Biology is the leading professional body for biologists in the United Kingdom – representing approximately 80,000 life scientists through two colleges of membership. We play a key role in raising the profile and understanding of the life sciences, and we welcome members from all areas of the biosciences

AAB Membership
-Society of Biology members deal
-FES 20% off APC for members

to help us do this. There are a number of benefits to joining, including:

- Professional recognition
- our post-nominal letters signify to all that a member is a professional biologist, well qualified and subject to a rigorous code of conduct.

- The Biologist magazine – Biology is brought to life through an impressive range of review articles, while topical pieces discuss science policy, new developments or controversial issues. Click here for a sample article.

- Networking – We offer excellent networking opportunities through our local branch network and online members' directory.

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – Our CPD scheme has been designed to provide a framework to formally recognise the ways in which members update and maintain their expertise. We provide all the tools members need to plan, record and evaluate their CPD activities.

- Chartered Biologist (CBiol) – Our professional qualification recognises the work members do to maintain their skills and expertise. All Chartered Biologists are required to undertake CPD in order to retain their Chartered Status.

- Newsletters – all members receive a monthly e-newsletter keeping them up to date with the latest news and events. We have also recently launched a new newsletter for those working in the biomed and pharma industry. For a snapshot of our current activities please click here. As a member of the Association of

Applied Biologists you can join the Society for a 50% reduced rate for your first year of membership, to take advantage of this opportunity please complete the application form which you can find on the AAB website.



FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY MEMBERS DEAL

The Open Access nature of the journal means there must be an 'Article Processing Charge' in place. The *Food and Energy Security* charge is £1,500 for submitting authors. However, if you are a member of the AAB we can offer you a 20% discount. please go to the Members Area on the AAB website to access the members' code. Happy submitting!

N.B we omit authors from a list of developing countries, put together by Wiley Blackwell, who get their fees waived

-Food and Energy Security Editorial Team

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED
23 NOVEMBER 2011

Dr Foluke Aderemi, Lecturer at Bowen University, Nigeria with a special interest in the utilisation and harnessing crop product into poultry feed ingredients

Dr Damian Allen, Research Station Manager and Agronomic Research Lead at Mendel BioEnergy Seeds with special interests in cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Eric Anderson, Teaching and Research Associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana with special interests in pesticide

application and biomass crops

Dr Marina Blenken, Associate Professor in Agroecology at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Mr Robert Bohannon, Director of R&D at Agdia Inc, Elkhart, USA with a special interest in virology

Mr Rob Cannell, Farmer and Contractor from Suffolk with special interests in cropping and the environment and pesticide application

Mr Graham Chadwick, Study Monitor at Eurfins Agrosience Services with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Ms Beth Cooper, Masters Student at Harper Adams University College with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, water quality and resources, soil management and renewable energy

Ms Laura Cortese, Graduate Assistant at Rutgers University, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems, plant physiology & crop improvement, plant breeding and bioenergy crops

Dr Mihaly Czako, Research Specialist Staff at the University of South Carolina with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Ms Kim Davie, PhD Student at the University of Nottingham based at SASA with special interests in virology and entomology

Ms Heather Engbers, MSc Student at the University of Guelph, Canada with special interests in cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Ms Colette Fardal, with qualifications in wildlife management and sustainable agriculture and special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Kerrie Farrar, Research Fellow at IBERS with special

interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, plant physiology & crop improvement, bioenergy and plant development

Dr Jean Fitzgerald, Research Entomologist Horticulture at East Malling Research with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

Mr Barrie Florendine, National Potato Specialist with UAP with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, cultivations and agronomy

Dr Otto Folkerts, Director – Transgenic programs at Chromatin Inc, USA with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, food systems plant physiology & crop improvement molecular biology and bioenergy

Mr David Foster, Technical Manager providing technical support to growers on the use of biological control and pollination at Koppert UK Ltd with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Jose Gonzalez, Associate Professor at South Dakota State University with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Gayathri Gopalakrishnan, Environmental Engineer/Scientist at the Argonne National Laboratory, Energy Systems Division, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Douglas Gucker, Agronomist working with farmers to use plants to reduce or eliminate nutrient loss into surrounding waters with special interests in cropping and the environment and food systems

Dr Joseph Gwyn, Vice President – Breeding & Genomics for Ceres Inc an energy crop and trait development company with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement, breeding, transgenic traits, agronomy and biotechnology

Dr Sissel Hansen, Senior Scientist at Bioforsk organic Food and Farming Division with nutrient dynamics in organic farming systems with special interests in cropping and the environment and food systems

Dr Haixiao Huang, Economist, biofuel and feedstock economics at the Energy Bioscience Institute, Urbana, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement and economics

Mr Jasper Hubert, Technical consultant and pollination coordinator for Koppert UK Ltd with a special interest in biological control

Dr William Hutchison, Professor and Head of Department at the University of Minnesota, USA with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems and crop biotechnology

Dr Theresa Huxley, Product Technologist Fresh Produce at Sainsbury's with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, virology, sustainability and environmental science

Mr Frederick Iutzi, Program Manager for Sustainable Agriculture and Renewal Energy at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment and bioenergy

Dr Elaine Jensen, Post-doctoral Researcher at Aberystwyth University with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Nick Jessop, Product Development Scientist at Exosect with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Dr Anders Jonsson, Senior Research at SLU, Sweden with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology and

cropping and the environment

Dr Roger Kanton, Research Scientist at the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, Ghana with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement, farming systems and vegetable research

Ms Katie Kendall, Masters Student at the University of Guelph, Canada with special interests in cropping and the environment and bioenergy

Mr Lawrence King, Agri-Environmental Affairs Manager at Bayer SAS, France with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Wing-Sham Lee, Post-doctoral researcher involved in establishing a virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS) system for cereals at Rothamsted Research.

The extent and mechanism of longer-term silencing is being studied. VIGS will also be used to study defence signalling in response to necrotrophic pathogens. Special interests include plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Dr Saioa Legarrea, Post-doc from Navarra, Spain with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and virology

Prof Carlo Leifert, Professor of Ecological Agriculture at Nafferton Farming Group with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Xiaolan Liu, Renewable Energy Research Coordinator at West Illinois University, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems and plant physiology & crop improvement

Prof Georges Lognay, Professor/Head of Department/Vice Dean of Faculty at the University of Liege, Belgium with special interests in biological control, food systems, pesticide application, chemical ecology (biogenic volatile organic compounds analysis) – GLP certificate for pesticide residues analysis

Mr David Macdonald, Biological

Consultant at Koppert UK Ltd with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, nematology, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Peter Meehan, PhD Student at Bioresources Research Centre, Dublin, Ireland with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Audun Midthassel, Part-time PhD Student/Part-time R&D Technician at BCP Certis with applied mycology and bacteriology and biological control

Dr Shamal Mohammed, Analyst at AHDB-HGCA, Stoneleigh with special interests in cropping and the environment

Mr Ian Munnery, Seed and Seed Technology at Elsoms with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Dr Nicoletta Nassi o Di Nassi, working on sustainability of energy cropping systems with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Bruno Ngala, Student at Harper Adams University College with special interests in cropping and the environment and nematology

Ms Adebosola Oladeinde, Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Illinois, USA with special interests in plant physiology & crop improvement and molecular biology

Dr Antonio Olmos, Senior Researcher at the Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias, Spain with a special interest in virology

Mr Georgios Partsinevelos, Research Technician at Benaki

Phytopathological Institute, Greece with special interests in biological control and integrated pest management.

Dr Paul Robson, Researching into genetics and physiology of bioenergy crops for improved yield, yield stability and crop composition with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Neri Roncucci, working on sustainability of energy cropping systems with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Ms Sharon Rynder, Energy Biosciences Commercial Manager at the Energy Biosciences Institute, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems, plant physiology & crop improvement, bioenergy crops and algal systems for biofuel

Dr Maria Salas Fernandez, Assistant Professor at Iowa State University, USA with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Brajendra Sharma, Senior Research Scientist working on biomass conversion to biofuels with special interests in cropping and the environment, non-food oils and energy crops

Mr Matthew Smith, Project Scientist at Exosect Ltd with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Ms Ashley Spence, PhD Student at the Institute for Genomic Biology, Urbana, USA with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Matthew Tallis, Post-doc Research Assistant at the University of Southampton with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Miss Jade Taylor, PhD Student at the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University of Reading with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, cropping and the environment, food systems,

pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Neal Ward, Technical and Systems Manager at Cantelo Nurseries Ltd with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Jan Weger, Researcher – main research topics are selection and breeding of lignocellulose energy crops (especially poplar, willow, miscanthus) for sustainable production of biomass and ecological aspects of growing energy crops in the landscape (hydrology, biodiversity) with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Ms Katherine Withers, Graduate Research Assistant – bioenergy cropping systems at the University of Guelph, Canada with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems, plant physiology & crop improvement and soil fertility and quality

Mr Andrew Wycislo, PhD Student/Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Illinois, USA with special interests in plant physiology & crop improvement and general production agronomy

Dr Nigar Yarpuz-Bozdogan, Associate Professor studying pesticide application methods and crop protection machinery, drift biobed with special interests in cropping and the environment and pesticide application

Dr Jisen Zhang, Post-doc at the Edward R Madigan Laboratory, Urbana, USA

Ms Lin Zhu, PhD Student at the University of Illinois, Urbana, USA

Deaths

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr J Y Ritchie, 7 Foxhills, Kegworth, Derby, UK

Prof B R Kerry MBE, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK

OFFICERS OF COUNCIL – 2011

President:

Trevor Hocking BSc, PhD, FSB. Emeritus Professor of Applied Biology, Crop Technology Unit, University of Wolverhampton, Compton Park, Compton Road West, Wolverhampton, WV3 9DX. Tel: 01902 323658; Fax: 01902 322103; Email: T.J.Hocking@wlv.ac.uk

Vice-President:

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AAB FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2012

- 28-30 March **Advances in Plant Virology**
The Convention Centre, Dublin, Republic of Ireland (Virology Group/SGM)
- 16 April **Effective application: exploring synergy between Agricultural Economics and Applied Biology**
The University of Warwick, UK (AES/CATE Group)
- 25 April **Insect Decline; The Causes and the Role of Agriculture in Mitigation**
Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK (SCI Conference)
- 19-20 June **Restoring diverse grassland: What can be achieved, where and what will it do for us?**
The Oxford Belfry, Thame, Oxon, UK (AAB/BES/BGS Conference)
- 5-6 July **2nd International Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators**
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium (Nematology Group/University of Ghent)
- 8-9 October **Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry**
Munich, Germany (PP&CI Group)
- 27-28 November **Crop Protection in Southern Britain**
East of England Showground, Peterborough, UK (AAB, BCPC, AICC Conference)
- 12 December **Advances in Nematology**
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, London, UK (Nematology Group)

AAB Conference Services are available to anyone in the scientific field.
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