



2007 Annual Report

International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics

Administrative offices: 502 Mace Blvd. Suite 12, Davis California 95618 USA
530.753.0681; www.isapp.net

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Introduction

ISAPP is an international non-profit collaboration of scientists dedicated to advancing the science of probiotics and prebiotics. The mission statement of ISAPP is: To engender and disseminate information on high quality, multidisciplinary, scientific investigation in the fields of probiotics and prebiotics, and to advance the development of scientifically substantiated, health-promoting probiotic and prebiotic products worldwide. ISAPP is the only scientific organization dedicated specifically to probiotics and prebiotics, bringing together scientists from all pertinent disciplines, including food science, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, nutrition, molecular biology and medicine. As a scientific society, ISAPP strives to have all activities focused on science, not the promotion of any specific commercial products.

For additional details, see website www.isapp.net

Message from the President

This year, we held an open ISAPP in the heart of London England, thanks to the local organizational efforts of Bob Rastall, Glenn Gibson and Pam Webb. We decided on two main themes, covering animal health and developing countries, as neither tend to be the focus of conferences and have not been discussed previously at ISAPP. The application of probiotics and prebiotics to animal health is in its infancy in terms of science, but a number of products are available for this rapidly expanding market. From horses to dogs, cows, pigs and chickens to fish, applications are numerous. The well attended event heard of the challenges in taking probiotics especially to the developing world due to lack of cold storage networks and population poverty, yet there is an enormity of human need for such products.

For the first time, ISAPP was able to actively involve student participants from different countries and their presentations added significantly to the conference. We also had posters for the first time, and this generated further interactions. Comedian Jimmy Bright entertained at the dinner and while some jokes went right over the top of people not acquainted with an English accent, overall it was a fun night.

Several ISAPP Board members participated in an international conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, organized in large part by Boris Shenderov. This was a very good event in a magnificent setting. Special credit goes to Dr. Kamiya from Japan who chaired a long session that was all in Russian! Following the conference, several ISAPP members attended the



International Dairy Foundation's Elie Metchnikoff Award celebration in Russia, where ISAPP President Dr. Gregor Reid and his colleague Dr. Andrew Bruce won the award for Nutrition and Health and their work on developing probiotics for urogenital health in women. The competition was fierce with many outstanding scientists nominated.

The year ended with a commitment from ISAPP to continue to expand its activities to countries outside of the mainstream conference locations. In particular, efforts will be made to participate in events in Indo-China, Eastern Europe, Africa and South America. The addition of Natalie Delzenne to the Board was welcomed, and her knowledge of prebiotics would add to the existing expertise. Thanks to Bob Rastall for his term on the Board and for providing support for the 2007 conference. Now that Ian Rowland has moved to join the Reading team, the real fun begins – at least in Reading!

2007 Highlights

- ISAPP report on the status of the field as it pertains to safety evaluation and interpretation of antibiotic resistance phenotypes and genotypes present in probiotics. Report from meeting held December 13, 2007 found at http://www.isapp.net/docs/ACE-ART_ISAPP_meeting_report_jan_30.pdf.
- ISAPP sponsored the 2nd International Workshop on Gut Microbiota in Health and Disease: Potential Role of Probiotics, to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, April 26 – 28, 2007. This meeting brought international experts together to highlight changes in views on beneficial gut microbiota-host crosstalk, probiotics and their role in prevention and alleviation of gastrointestinal, atopic, auto-immune, and functional bowel diseases..
- ISAPP sponsored a symposium titled "Probiotics: Mechanisms of Action, Current Research and Application for Pediatric Disease" at the 2007 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting (Toronto May 5-8, 2007). Dr. Michael Cabana, University of California San Francisco, chaired the session, featuring the following speakers and topics:
 - Probiotics and the Prevention of Diarrheal and Infectious Diseases, Andi L. Shane, Emory University School of Medicine
 - Probiotics, Eczema and Airway Disease, Dr. Erica Isoulari, University of Turku, Finland
 - Effects of Probiotics on Pathogenic Adhesion to Gastrointestinal Cells, Philip M. Sherman, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto
 - Experience with Probiotics for Necrotizing Enterocolitis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Maria M. Oliva-Hemker, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- ISAPP sponsored a symposium at the 107th General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology in Toronto in 2007. Board member, Todd Klaenhammer, and former Board member, David Mills, gained approval to convene a session titled "Genomics of probiotic lactic acid bacteria". Speakers and topics that were covered:
 - Eugene Koonin, National Center for Biotechnology Information, speaking on "Comparative genomics of lactic acid bacteria"
 - James Steele, University of Wisconsin, speaking on "Genomic analysis of *Lactobacillus casei*"
 - James Versalovic, Texas Children's Hospital, speaking on "Genomic Variation within the Probiotic Species *Lactobacillus reuteri*"
 - Paul W. O'Toole, University College Cork, speaking on "Comparative genomics of *Lactobacillus* species"
 - David Mills, University of California – Davis, speaking on "Genomic and glycomic analysis of bifidobacterial enrichment in infants by human milk oligosaccharides"



- ISAPP collaborated with Dr. Stanislav Sitkin to develop a program on "Probiotics, Prebiotics, Synbiotics and Functional Foods: Scientific and Clinical Aspects" held in St. Petersburg, Russia May 15–16, 2007.
- ISAPP sponsored the Second International Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria in Tucuman, Argentina



October, 2007 Board of Directors

President

Gregor Reid, B.Sc. Hons Ph.D. MBA
Lawson Health Research Institute
Room F2-116, 268 Grosvenor Street
London, Ontario, N6A 4V2, Canada
Tel: 519-646-6100 x65256; Fax: 519-646-6031.
Laboratory, Lawson Health Research Institute,
Room 369
Tel: 519-646-6100 x65120
gregor@uwo.ca

Vice President

Glenn Gibson, Ph. D.
Food Microbial Sciences Unit
School of Food Biosciences
The University of Reading
Whiteknights
PO Box 226
Reading
RG6 6AP UK
Tel: +44 (0)118 935 7220
Fax: +44 (0)118 935 7222
g.r.gibson@reading.ac.uk
www.fst.rdg.ac.uk/research/fmsu/Index.html

Secretary

Jim Versalovic M.D.
Departments of Pathology
Baylor College of Medicine,
Texas Children's Hospital
6621 Fannin St, MC 1-2261
Houston TX 77030, USA
Tel: 832-824-2213
Fax: 832-825-0164
jxversal@texaschildrenshospital.org

Treasurer

Karen Scott PhD
Microbial Ecology
Gut Health Division
Rowett Research Institute
Greenburn Road
Bucksburn
Aberdeen
AB21 9SB
Tel: 01224 712751 ext 2224
K.Scott@rri.sari.ac.uk

Bruno Pot, Ph.D.
Bacteriology of Ecosystems
Institut Pasteur de Lille (IBL)
1, rue du Prof Calmette
BP245

59019 Lille Cedex
France
Tel. Direct: +33 (0)3 20871189
Tel. Secretary: +33 (0)3 20871187
Fax: 33(0)320871192
bruno.pot@ibl.fr; bruno.pot@pandora.be

Harsharnjit S. Gill, BVSc., MSc., Ph.D.
Primary Industries Research Victoria
Australia
Phone:
Mobile:
Fax:
harsharn.gill@dpi.vic.gov.au

Todd Klaenhammer, Ph.D.
Department of Food Science
North Carolina State University
P.O. Box 7624
Raleigh, NC 27695-7624 USA
919-515-2972
919-515-7124 fax
klaenhammer@ncsu.edu

Bob Rastall, Ph.D.
School of Food Biosciences,
The University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
P.O. Box 226,
Reading RG6 6AP,
U.K.
Email: r.a.rastall@reading.ac.uk
<http://www.food.rdg.ac.uk/people/afsrast/>
Tel: (0118) 931 6726
Fax: (0118) 931 0080

Ian Rowland, Ph.D.
Northern Ireland Centre for Food and Health
University of Ulster
Coleraine, BT52 1SA
Northern Ireland
Tel: 44(0)2870 32 3039
Fax: +44(0)2870 32 3023
Mobile: 07967 725254
i.rowland@ulst.ac.uk

Executive Director

Mary Ellen Sanders, Ph.D.
Dairy and Food Culture Technologies
7119 S. Glencoe Ct.
Centennial, CO 80122-2526 USA
303-793-9974 phone
mes@mesand

