



## International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics

Date: March 18, 2011

### Re: ISAPP and the future

Dear All,

The Board of Directors (BoD) of ISAPP thought that it would be informative to outline some of our future plans and suggested directions. Of course, we would welcome any input into this and also thank you for all your continued support.

ISAPP is a non-profit organisation supported by the generosity of an Industry Advisory Committee (IAC). These funds are primarily used to host an annual meeting, which has invited attendees only (details at [www.isapp.net](http://www.isapp.net)). This also supports the ISAPP Student Fellow Association (SFA), communication activities, sponsorship of related organizations and conferences, and the Executive Director's administrative and outreach activities. However, as ISAPP moves towards the end of its first decade (in 2012), we are thinking of ways to expand our activities.

The ISAPP mission 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”. We view ourselves as unbiased group of scientists striving to communicate about and facilitate research on probiotics and prebiotics. We are in position to be the world's leading scientific organization that sets the agenda in our disciplines and becomes the “go to” society for scientific direction in probiotics and prebiotics, as well as an opinion body for legislators, healthcare professionals, relevant media, Government regulatory bodies and industry.

The following summarises the BoD's recent discussions on expanding our activities:

#### 1) Expand Global Activities

To date, ISAPP has predominantly focused its leadership and meetings around Europe and North America, admittedly reflecting the majority of international science in probiotics and prebiotics. We hope to maintain this strong foundation, but also reach out to other centres where probiotics and prebiotics are more recently being studied. To this end, a short term objective is to increase numbers of excellent scientists from previously underrepresented geographical regions (e.g., Asia, South America, Africa, Australia, and India) at our meetings, starting this year. The longer view is to see if we can formalize our connections with representation in these Continents. To that end, we will entertain discussions with scientists on how we might all benefit from each other's organizational strengths, perhaps leading to

regional and independent societies linked to ISAPP (e.g., separate BoD, IAC in different global regions).

To facilitate information dissemination and more contact with different regions of the world, the BoD will institute a Scientific Lecturer program. When ISAPP is requested to sponsor a program internationally, we will ask our sponsored lecturers to present some ISAPP slides which relay information about us and convey accurate science on probiotics and prebiotics (in addition to the slides the lecturer will present on his or her research).

ISAPP may also sponsor special topic sessions (potentially in different parts of the world), on hot topics (vaginal applications, animal applications, metabonomics, etc.).

## 2) Continue to Engage with “Alumni”

For reasons of logistics, finance (all invited academics have their travel costs covered) and scientific output, our annual meetings are small. Typical attendance is ~100. We do not intend to expand our meeting numbers, but we have concerns on how to engage the many excellent scientists who would like to be regular attendees at our meetings, but cannot be accommodated due to size and cost limitations. We also strive to involve fresh faces, incorporate scientists from underrepresented geographical regions and ensure that our future continuity is secure by involving young scientists. Suggestions on how to do this include creating an ISAPP ‘membership’ including past attendees and interested scientists, developing committees to cover topics that consistently are of relevance (e.g. immunity, gut health), instigating working groups to take responsibility for certain activities (such as the SFA, or Late Breaking News session, or industry liaison), or attending and organising symposia or lectures on behalf of ISAPP.

We also intend to create a means whereby former Board members and Alumni could provide a historical account as to the foundations of ISAPP thereby mentoring future Board members and young scientists, and possibly liaising with the BoD and IAC, as well as taking on specific projects such as help with meeting/discussion group issues, host meetings, and respond to emerging topics.

Our future meetings will also explore the opportunity for open registration components in parallel or satellite sessions.

## 3) Student and Fellows Association (SFA)

The SFA was formed less than 2 years ago and, because of the efforts of a few very hard-working people had made a positive impression. Their website shows interest and input from 78 young and energetic scientists. The SFA sustains involvement with the ISAPP Board and has been developing ways to widen the network of labs, share techniques, organise lab visits, publicise new positions, and provide information about opportunities in industry, etc. If you are an early career researcher in probiotics and prebiotics then please consider joining up.

The BoD wishes to extend the activities of SFA and will seek finances to ensure this. One example is to evolve and expand the role of SFA in our annual meetings by

inviting more input on the scientific programme and developing parallel activities so that more SFA researchers are able to attend.

4) ISAPP website

This is constantly being upgraded, but we will also look towards including more links (e.g. YouTube videos, iTunes podcasts, etc). We will also consider posting a videocast of the wrap up sessions from our Annual Meetings.

We hope that the above can be achieved within the next 2-3 years. This remains an exciting time for science in probiotics and prebiotics, and we hope you will join us with constructive input on this journey. Please feel free to contact myself or any Board member as we move along.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue circular stamp or watermark behind it.

Glenn Gibson  
President, ISAPP