

Summary of the 60th Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists.

The 60th Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists was held on June 5-7, 2008, at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, Illinois. Fifty two persons registered for the conference. Dr. Robert Sorensen of Minnesota State University, Mankato served as Presiding Officer, and Dr. Milton McAllister the University of Illinois made local arrangements and served as Program Officer. Dr. Herbert Whiteley, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Illinois, welcomed conference participants and provided some opening remarks. Fourteen platform presentations and 12 posters were presented by members. The C. A. Herrick Award and \$300 for outstanding poster was awarded to Nathan Peterson of the University of Wisconsin for his poster "Localization of glyco-type expression in miracidia and sporocysts of *Schistosoma mansoni* using confocal immunofluorescence microscopy." The G. R. LaRue Award and \$300 for outstanding platform presentation was awarded to Erica Mize for her presentation "Describing the spatial distribution of parasites on *Peromyscus* species in southern Michigan." Kyle Luth of Wabash College received the R. M. Cable undergraduate award and \$100 for his oral presentation on "Population dynamics of *Crepidostomum cornutum* in its crayfish second intermediate host." Honorable mention awards and \$100 were given to Apichat Vitta of Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand for the poster "Construction and immunoscreening of *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* cDNA expression library." and Jillian Detwiler of Purdue University for her talk on "Phylogenetic analyses of globally distributed echinostome parasites and comparative population genetics of North American species". Nathan Peterson was chosen as the AMCOP nominee for the American Society of Parasitologists' student travel grant award for 2009.

The symposium on Friday afternoon was presented by Dr. Laura J. Knoll of the University of Wisconsin, Madison who spoke on "Identification of genes necessary for chronic infection by a parasite." and Dr. Alexa Rosypal of the University of North Carolina who spoke on "Emergence of canine leishmaniasis in the United States." The banquet speaker was Dr. Dennis Minchella of Purdue University who spoke on "PC (Post Cable) parasitology at Purdue."

There was a very successful silent auction which included books, reprints, T-shirts and other items of interest to parasitologists.

AMCOP 61 will be held in June of 2009 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. Additional future meeting sites as determined by the meeting sites committee are:

- AMCOP 62 – 2010: Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
- AMCOP 63 – 2011: Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN
- AMCOP 64 – 2012: Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
- AMCOP 65 – 2013: Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

At the business meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Woodmansee presented the minutes of AMCOP 59, the treasurer's report for 2007 and the interim financial report for 2008. These were approved upon the recommendation of the Auditing Committee.

Several items were covered at the annual business meeting. The travel grant program (initiated at AMCOP 59) was reviewed and it was decided that the program should continue but that the value of the grants should be increased to \$200 each. The group entertained the idea of sponsoring an online repository of images and videos of parasites for educational purposes. It was suggested that the American Society of Parasitologists web site would be an alternative. Shelly Michalski will continue to investigate the possibilities. She was asked to contact the AMCOP Policy Committee if any action needs to be taken before next year's conference. The group examined the possibility of retaining a company to enable online conference registration and payment of fees via credit cards but there was concern over the cost and no action was taken. The Secretary/Treasurer was tasked with securing the domain name www.amcop.org for future use.

Committee reports were received and approved as follows: Auditing (Eric Wetzel and Thomas Platt), Symposium Suggestions (Emily Koppel, Sara Erickson, Erica Mize), Meeting Sites (Tom McQuiston and Daniel Howe), Nominating (Ramon Carreno and Joe Camp), and Resolutions (Darwin Wittrock and James Coggins).

Officers elected for 2009 were: Dr. Daniel Howe, University of Kentucky as Presiding Officer and Dr. Ramon Carreno, Ohio Wesleyan University as Program Officer. Dr. Douglas Woodmansee, Wilmington College will serve the second year of a two year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

Submitted July 16, 2008

Douglas B. Woodmansee
AMCOP Secretary-Treasurer