

Summary of the 18 th Meeting  
Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort  
Cumberland , Maryland  
September 28 – October 1, 2003

### **Meeting Summary-**

The 18th meeting of the ASR took place at the Rocky Gap Lodge and Resort in Cumberland , Maryland . The hardwood forests along the shores of Lake Habeeb served as a backdrop for the meeting. Autumn colors and cool morning temperatures invigorated the participants (especially the golfers). The conference was preceded by a satellite meeting on Saturday the 27 th , focusing on Bacterial Genomics and Proteomics as Related to Biodefense. Claire Fraser and Victoria Sutton gave excellent keynote addresses on comparative bacterial genomics and bioterrorism. Special Thanks to Abdu Azad for planning the satellite meeting and to NIAID for sponsoring the event.

The ASR meeting was kicked off the following day by Michael Ascher's seminar on the public health response to the threat of bioterrorism. Michael's talk was followed by a difficult pop quiz for the participants and a reception. The meeting continued with over two days of excellent presentations. ASR travel grants were awarded to four outstanding graduate student / postdoctoral presenters including Jeffrey R. Abbott, Jose C. Garcia-Garcia, Amanda Loftis and Jennifer Carmichael. Congratulations again to these award recipients!

Approximately 150 scientists from around the world were in attendance. A combined total of 122 presentations (54 oral presentations, 58 posters and 10 invited talks) covered topics including genetics, genomics, proteomics and molecular biology; pathogenesis and immunity; host cell interactions / metabolism; ecology and epidemiology; and animal models of disease and immunity. The presentations covered a wide range of *Rickettsia* , related organisms and their vectors. The quality of this year's talks was exceptional, and it was especially encouraging to see so many young scientists in attendance. The ASR is especially grateful to Burt Anderson , members of the organizing committee and Nancy Gilliam for creating a memorable event.

### **Minutes of the Business Meeting-**

- 1) An introduction was made by the president, Burt Anderson .
- 2) A finance report\* was given by the secretary- treasurer, Mike Minnick .
- 3) Burt Anderson presented four \$500 ASR Travel Grants to the awardees.
- 4) Five honorary ASR members were nominated by Herb Thompson, Abdu Azad, Dave Walker and Didier Raoult. All nominees\*\* were approved by ballot.
- 5) Four ASR officer nominees were brought forth by Wendy Brown on behalf of the nominating committee. An additional councilor-at-large nominee was included on the ballot.
- 6) President-elect Dave Silverman addressed the society and thanked Burt for an excellent meeting.

7) Jose Oteo discussed the June 2005 ASR meeting slated for Logrono, Spain. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fourth International Conference on Rickettsia and Rickettsial Diseases.

8) It was decided that the subsequent ASR meeting would be held in Asilomar, California, in the Fall of 2006.

9) A call was made by the president elect for any new business. The location of Logrono Spain was discussed (3 hours by car from Madrid ). The *Bartonella* meeting slated for August 2004, and the Latin American Rickettsiology meeting planned for September 2004 were mentioned.

10) Results of the election:

**President** - Dave Silverman

**Vice President** - Mike Minnick

**Secretary /Treasurer** - Roman Reddy Ganta

**Councilor-at-Large** - Suzana Radulovic

**\*\*New Honorary Members-** Phil Baker, Hui-Min Feng, Karim Hechemy, Barrie Marmion and Mike Stoker

11) The meeting was adjourned.

## **\*FINANCE REPORT**

(AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2003 )

### **INCOME-**

\$ 35,354.24 Balance Forward (from finance report of 1/11/02 )

\$ 612.50 Interest (First Interstate Bank)

\$ 25.00 Off-season membership dues

**\$ 35,991.74 TOTAL**

### **EXPENSES-**

\$ 3,000.00 ASR Travel Grants ( Slovenia , Rocky Gap)

\$ 233.25 Database management (Phronesis Technologies)

\$ 18.40 Copying charges

\$ 250.00 Check 224 (finally cashed by 2001 meeting attendee)

**\$ 3,501.65 TOTAL EXPENSES**

**AVAILABLE BALANCE-**

**\$32,490.09**