

**Summary of the 23rd ASR Meeting  
August 15-18, 2009, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA**

**Meeting Summary-**

The 23rd meeting of the ASR took place at the Crown Plaza Hilton Head Island Beach Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA. The organizing committee, together with the Veterinary Medical Continuing Education (KSU VMCE) group at Kansas State University, worked hard to ensure a scientifically stimulating and enjoyable meeting.

The conference was kicked off on August 15, 2009 with a welcome reception and keynote address by Dr. Denise M. Monack, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. The conference included 7 sessions; two on 'Host, Vector and Pathogen Interactions'; a session each on Pathogenesis; Clinical Aspects, Diagnosis and Treatment; Ecology, Epidemiology and Infection in Animals; Immunity and Vaccine Development; and Genetics, Physiology and Functional Metabolism. In addition, three poster sessions were organized. Together a total of 51 oral presentations and 87 poster presentations were given in two and a half days.

The meeting was attended by 171 registered participants representing 10 different countries. It was an excellent forum for exchange of the most recent scientific developments on all topics related to Rickettsial research. The meeting received generous support from the National Institutes of Health in the form of a conference grant supporting (competitive grant funding by R13 grant mechanism). The funding, together with the ASR budget funds, aided considerably in bringing together rickettsial scientists to share their progress and to encourage many young scientists. Specifically, the funds were used to support travel of 25 students and young scholars (post-doctoral associates and junior level faculty members) in the form of ASR travel awards to attend the meeting. The scientists who received the ASR travel grants represented 6 different countries from around the globe. The ASR is especially grateful to the members of the planning committee, to Marci Ritter of the KSU VMCE for her hard work in coordinating the meeting and to the KSU business office for managing the NIH R13 grant.

**Minutes of the Business Meeting-**

- 1) An introduction was made by the president, James Samuel.
- 2) A finance report\* was given by the Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Heinzen.
- 3) Robert Heinzen presented ASR Travel awards.
- 4) ASR officer nominees were brought forth by Mike Minnick on behalf of the nominating committee. The ASR members elected the new Executive Committee by secret ballot\*.
- 5) The newly elected President, Roman Ganta addressed the society and thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and the Planning committee for organizing an excellent meeting. The outgoing President, Jim Samuel, together with Roman Ganta opened the forum for discussion for the upcoming international and national meetings.

6) The ASR Executive Committee agreed to work in collaboration with the KSU VMCE group in identifying a suitable site for holding the 24th ASR meeting.

7) The meeting was adjourned.

**\*FINANCE REPORT (As of April 2010)**

**Deposits**

Balance Forward (as of January 19, 07)	\$49,885.62
Unused funds at KSU beyond January 07	\$999.58
NIH R13 conference grant award (2009)	\$15,349.00
23rd ASR conference registration income	\$58,717.00
ASR membership dues	\$2,750.00
Interest income	\$731.96
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$128,433.78</b>

**Expenses**

23rd ASR meeting organization expenses	\$66,031.69
Expenses for maintaining PO Box	\$212.00
Expenses for non-profit tax filing fee and renewal	\$50.00
ASR web site maintenance fee	\$100.00
ASR travel awards to support 22nd International meeting	\$5,000.00
ASR travel awards to support 23rd national meeting	\$12,000.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$83,403.69</b>
<b>Available balance</b>	<b>\$45,030.09</b>

**\*\*Results of the election:**

**President:** Roman R. Ganta

**Vice-President:** Guy Palmer

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Jason Carlyon

**Councilor-at-Large:** Juan Martinez