



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 43

Summer 2010



Dear Colleagues,

the time has come to announce the results of the last IHSS elections. I am very happy to inform, that the election process has been completed with a big response from the members. The turnout of 376 votes is a record number with respect to the recent elections. This is obviously the result of the adoption of the on-line voting system, which is really promising for the future activities of the Society.

I have the great pleasure to welcome Teddy Miano as Vice President/President Elect and Irina Perminova as new Board Member. Both of them are well known from their research on humic substances, but also from their enthusiastic involvement in the activities of the Society. I know that they will contribute significantly to the guidance of the Society during the next years.

The happiness associated with welcoming of excellent new IHSS officers is tempered however with the awareness that highly qualified individuals have offered their services and were not selected to contribute. But this is a price to pay for having a highly ranked and healthy society. I wish to thank the candidates for their dedication to stand for the election and serving for the society. Together with conveying our best wishes to the newly elected officers, I am sure all of you will join me in thanking our Past President Paul Bloom and Board Member Etelka Tombacz, for their invaluable service to the IHSS. They are now leaving the Board, but Paul Bloom will still serve as the Chairman of the Samples Collection.

We are just getting ready to attend the 15th IHSS International Meeting to be held in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Island, Spain. I have to mention that we received 47 applications for the IHSS Travel Award, enabling students to attend the upcoming conference. It is a very good sign

that so many young scientists are involved in the study of humic substances. Their applications were generally of very high level, so the Board decided to award 22 students, covering all travel and on site expenses.

My service as IHSS President is getting close to its end. I sincerely thank all members of the IHSS Board for their cooperation and support during my presidency. Following the election of the new Vice President, it is now time for me to leave the presidency in the hands of Ladislau Martin-Neto. I am deeply convinced that it will be a good time for the Society. I believe, that the next two years, when I will serve as Past President, will be still an exciting part of my life, full of hard work but also of real friendship in a great team.

Dear “humus folks”, I wish all of you a very good time at Puerto de la Cruz.

Yours sincerely,
Jerzy Weber
President of IHSS

ELECTIONS

Nomination Committee:

Dr. Kaye Spark of the University of Queensland (Australia) (Chair),

Dr. Elzbieta Jamroz of the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Environmental Protection (Poland),

Prof. Antonio Salvio Mangrich of the Universidade Federal do Paraná, Departamento de Quimica (Brazil),

Dr. Claire Richard of the Université Blaise Pascal, Laboratoire de Photochimie (France).

Results:

New Vice President

Dr. Teodoro Miano

Università di Bari

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Board Member

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Queensland, 18 May 2010

Kaye Spark

Chair Nomination Committee

TRAVEL SUPPORT AWARD

The call for the IHSS Travel Support Award 2010 was answered by 47 applications from students from 23 countries on all continents. This is a historic number of applications.

The Committee consisting of Ladislau Martin-Neto (Chair), Claudio Ciavatta and Etelka Tombacz, worked hard to evaluate all abstracts submitted. The overall quality of the submissions was excellent, demonstrating an impressive commitment of the applicants and indicating a worldwide good level of humic substances research. This is a relevant aspect for our Society because young researchers represent our future. Due to the very high scientific level of the 47 applications, it was possible to award 22 applicants, exceeding the previous highest historic number of 17 students awarded in 2008.

This decision has many consequences, mainly financial ones, but also additional work for the Board Members involved in managing this high number of awarded students, including approvals of flight ticket costs, payments for hotel and living expenses and others. Fortunately, the Organizing Committee of the 15th IHSS Meeting gave an additional support.