



## Annual Congress 2008: Disease ecology in a changing world

Vevey, 23-25 October 2008

Basel, 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2008

Dear members of the Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

Following the joint meeting held in Strasbourg in 2007 with the French and German societies of Parasitology, we are organizing this year again our own annual congress. This event will take place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 in Jongny, near Vevey (Hôtel et Centre de Formation du Léman, Tél. 021 923 03 03). The committee of the SSTMP is looking forward to welcoming you to this meeting, which promises to be both scientifically exciting and socially attractive. Our official annual General Society Assembly (GA) will be held on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> - after the scientific programme and before the official dinner. Please send us your suggestions for the agenda until mid-September.

This year's theme is "**Disease ecology in a changing world**". We aim to review major changes in disease occurrence linked to social, climatic and other factors. We have invited speakers to cover issues such as urbanization, possible consequences of climate change and population movements. We hope to receive abstracts from society members on these issues and hence explore the range of ongoing activities in this area in Switzerland. As usual, we also welcome contribution on any other subject related to the field of tropical medicine and human & veterinary parasitology and the programme will largely be structured around the best abstracts we receive.

With the present mailing you will receive the following:

1) A registration form and an abstract guidelines form for submission to our Secretary, H. Ochs. We encourage electronic submissions of abstracts in the indicated format at the following address: [mail@sstmp.ch](mailto:mail@sstmp.ch). Please note the deadline date: 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

With regard to booking a room at the conference Center, please make this directly with them - but don't forget to mention the conference!

2) An address update form. **We are especially keen to receive updated email addresses** in order to be able to communicate more effectively via email with members in the future. The first experience in electronic communication is largely positive and we are now keen to reach all our members via this channel.

3) A form with the rules governing the **travel awards** given out by our society. Please review this form and prepare your comments in view of the GA. We take this opportunity to remind you of the possibility to apply for travel grants, for which we receive an annual subvention from the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (SCNAT). Eligibility criteria are detailed in the form.

4) A form with slightly modified rules governing the **society award**. Please review also this form and prepare your comments in view of the GA.

*This year we are inviting again nominations for the 2008 SSTMP award, to honour an outstanding young investigator or medical/veterinary doctor in the field of Tropical Medicine and/or Parasitology. Please send motivated nominations until the 15th of September to our Secretary.*

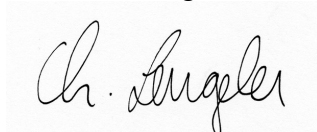
In 2006 and 2007 we were able to recruit a substantial number of **new members** thanks to your efforts. We would like to encourage all of you to continue to look out for potential new members. We are especially conscious of the need to attract the new generation of practitioners and researchers in order to ensure the long-term survival and attractiveness of our society. The relevant membership application forms are available for download from our web site (<http://www.sstmp.ch/>).

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the **annual PhD student meeting** organized by A. Hemphill <[andrew.hemphill@ipa.unibe.ch](mailto:andrew.hemphill@ipa.unibe.ch)> and Hans-Peter Beck <[Hans-Peter.Beck@unibas.ch](mailto:Hans-Peter.Beck@unibas.ch)>. This year the meeting will take place at the same site (Jongny, near Vevey) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October and 23<sup>rd</sup> morning. Having both the PhD student meeting and the main society meeting back-to-back will hopefully foster links between "generations". I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the PhD student meeting is meant as a forum for presenting work in progress in a relaxed environment, while the main society meeting should be reserved for substantial completed work. For more details and registration, please contact directly the organizers.

Specific information regarding the General Society Assembly will be reaching you in due course. As mentioned above, inputs to the agenda are welcomed.

As the new president of the SSTMP it will be a great pleasure to welcome you in Jongny, for what I hope will be an excellent and pleasant meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact the society for additional information.

With best regards



Christian Lengeler  
President SSTMP