

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the ICFM

Minutes of the meeting of the International Commission on Food Mycology held at Freising, Germany, on Tuesday, June 4th, 2013

1a. Meeting opened at 17:10, chairman Ludwig Niessen presiding.

Present: Ludwig Niessen (chair), Rob Samson (vice chair), Lloyd Bullerman, Javier Cabañes, Sofia Chulze, Lisa Fredlund, Jens Frisvad, Rolf Geisen, Jos Houbraken, Su-lin Leong, Naresh Magan, Giancarlo Perrone, Emilia Rico-Munoz (Treasurer), Dojin Ryu, Marta Taniwaki, Ulf Thrane

Apologies: Graham Fleet, Monica Olsen, Ailsa Hocking, John Pitt, Johan Schnürer.

1b. Previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held at the ICFM workshop in Freising on Tuesday, June 8th, 2010, have been circulated, and amended after receiving comments. The final version was received and accepted.

2a. Election of new secretary

Before the meeting, Monica Olsen had indicated that she will resign as secretary. Su-lin Leong was elected to the post.

2b. Commission membership

Lloyd Bullerman, Graham Fleet, Ailsa Hocking, and John Pitt indicated that they will retire from Commission.

2c. Passing of Tibor Deák, March 2013

Tibor Deák was a long-standing member of ICFM, who made significant contributions to food microbiology, in particular, yeast research.

3. Update of the Freising meeting 2013

The venue at Kardinal Döpfner Haus is good, economical, and the finances of ICFM are in a good state. Three applicants who had registered (but not sent payment) cancelled at last moment, leaving ICFM to cover payment for their rooms. To avoid this situation at the next meeting, we will set the deadline for registration (incl. payment) before the abstract deadline.

Rob Samson and Ludwig Niessen commented that everything was well organized and ran smoothly. 10% more participants attended compared to the 2010 meeting (about 55 people total), and more posters were presented. The small size of conference is an advantage, especially for students to chat more with others over meals, etc.

Members agreed that it is a nice venue, and that the programme was good, with many talks on cutting edge topics in Food Mycology. The poster session was good, and this kind of small meeting is important for students who are the future of food mycology.

There was a discussion about meeting every 2 years instead of 3 years. Given that ICFM also organises symposia/workshops in conjunction with larger meetings in between our 'own' workshops, it was decided that the current time-frame of every 3 years is appropriate.

No industry participants attended this meeting, despite encouragement among contacts. The next meeting in 2016 will be advertised in Food Industry journals. **Action: Sofia Chulze (Latin America), Naresh Magan (UK), Emilia Rico-Muñoz (USA)**

The programme was discussed, if topics should be steered by calling for presentations within certain areas, or topics should be decided based on the abstracts offered. If we will be advertising the workshop to attract participation from industry, then general topics of relevance to industry should be included in the programme.

Decided that feedback and evaluation from current participants would be sought; at the end of the workshop, a survey was distributed and Ludwig Niessen will collate the results.

4. Business arising from minutes of the meeting held in Freising, 8th June, 2010

4.1 List of FAQ for the website as suggested in previous meetings has not yet been compiled, e.g. what is DG18, how do you detect HRM, etc.

Action: Jos Houbraken, Lisa Fredlund, Emilia Rico-Muñoz to write questions, suggested answers, and circulate to members before uploading to the website.

4.2 Sponsorship: Emilia Rico-Muñoz reported on setting up the sponsorship system with the form on the website; some feedback from companies was that the highest level should be changed from diamond to platinum. Giancarlo Perrone reported that International Society for Mycotoxicology had been very successful in getting sponsors for the last Mycored meeting, however that meeting had more participants (300+) than our ICFM workshop. This current meeting received sponsorship from four companies contacted via Emilia (BCN labs, Universal Sanitizers and Supplies, PepsiCo and Fiji Waters), and from IUMS.

4.2 ICFM flyer for distribution at meetings and conferences, plus to be available in digital form on the website. Rob Samson prepared a draft after the previous meeting, but did not receive feedback on it.

Action: Rob Samson to send the draft flyer to Giancarlo Perrone and Dojin Ryu for input. Action – ALL, take flyers to distribute at meetings and conferences.

4.3 Ludwig Niessen reported that the potential industry symposium to be held at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia 2012 was cancelled, as the contact person there had moved.

5. ICFM commission and statutes

The Statutes were circulated and discussed, in particular, the current statute that the maximum number of members is 15; from 2010-2013, 20 members were listed.

It was proposed by Rob that members who are not active within 2-3 years can be said to have forfeited their membership; provision for this is already made in the statutes (No 3).

Action: Naresh Magan to assess if the statutes require updating, and to suggest wording of potential changes.

This led to a broader discussion regarding membership of the Commission. Wider representation of countries is needed, especially from Asia. A number of potential candidates for membership were discussed from Indonesia, China, Japan and Canada. Ludwig Niessen will compile a list of potential candidates, which current members will vote on. **Action: Send contact details and information of potential candidates to Ludwig Niessen.**

Johan Schnürer and Monica Olsen had sent apologies, and it was noted that their current duties take them away from the field of food mycology. Both had indicated a willingness to either continue, or to resign for the Commission in order to make place for new members. **Action: Ludwig Niessen to thank Johan and Monica for their contribution.**

6. ICFM Website

Rob Samson would like more content for the ICFM website. For example, information on Workshops, congresses, courses, books published, etc. Significant publications in the field of food mycology can be highlighted, both those written by members and by others. Articles can be linked by doi, or the pdf can be upload (if open access). Nice pictures can be incorporated into the slideshow. Rob will email a username and password to all members, so that they can edit and update relevant pages on the website, e.g. literature, methodology, notice of workshops.

Action: ALL. Please link to ICFM website from own websites. Update with articles and news, as above.

Action: Javier Cabañes and Jens Frisvad to add articles and updates to the website.

The website will remain on the CBS server (€29 per year).

7. Future meetings with ICFM involvement

- 7.1 International Mycological Congress, Thailand 2014. Naresh Magan reported that he and Rob Samson have requested a Food Mycology session in the programme, but this is not yet confirmed. Proposed to have a similar format to that at IMC Edinburgh 2010 (half-day), with two or three keynote speakers, plus shorter presentations from students. A whole-day programme is a possibility, with topics spanning Food Mycology, Mycotoxins, and Food Fermentation.
- 7.2 ICFM food mycology session at XIV. International Congress of Mycology, IUMS, Montreal 2014. Ludwig Niessen reported Mycology + parasitology will be combined at this congress. Suggestions have been received for keynote presentations, and there will be a focus on interactions between eukaryotes and prokaryotes, eg. biofilms. ICFM has proposed a symposium.
- 7.3 Latin American Microbiological Congress, Iguazu Falls, Brazil, 12-15 October 2014. Marta Taniwaki reported that there will be 2 days on Food Mycology in association with the Congress. The Congress is expected to attract 600+ people, with an emphasis on Food Safety. ICMSF will be present, and ICFM could possibly organise some joint sessions with them. This is a good opportunity to promote Food Mycology

in Latin America, and members are encouraged to attend if possible (support available for accommodation).

- 7.4 Latin American Fusarium workshop, Argentina August 2014 (S. Chulze).
- 7.5 VII. Latin American Congress on Mycotoxicology, Cordoba, Argentina December 2013 (S. Chulze). Organised every 3 years. The need for key reference texts was discussed, possible distribution in pdf form. Sofia welcomes participation from members, to support Latin American colleagues (support available for accommodation).
- 7.6 Potential Meetings for ICFM input. Emilia Rico-Muñoz suggested that it would be strategic for ICFM to have a presence at IAFP 2015 in USA.
- 7.7 Rob Samson proposed that ICFM, together with Comcofs Bacteriology conduct a Food Safety Outreach programme in Yogyakarta, 2.5 days, possibly Spring 2014. A similar programme previously organised in Bali was much appreciated by the participants, with requests that it be repeated in Malaysia, Thailand, and in Yogyakarta (contact person Endang Rahayu). The programme was supported with funds from the ICFM budget, as well as receiving funding from IUMS. Giancarlo Perrone suggested that ISM could also be involved. It was agreed that such activities are worthwhile for ICFM to organise and support. **Action: contact Rob if interested in participating.**
- 7.8 Next ICFM workshop. Ludwig Niessen and Rob Samson volunteered to organise it here in Freising, 2.5 days in the middle of June 2016 (to minimise clashes with exams). At the end of the workshop, current participants were called to express preferences for dates, which were then set as 13-15 June, 2016.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Sponsoring: It is hoped that increased participation and interest in the next ICFM meeting from industry (via advertising in industry journals, etc) will lead to increased opportunities to seek sponsoring.
- 8.2 Promotion of young scientists from developing countries for attendance next workshop. It was decided to offer assistance grants for four PhD students from developing countries to attend the next ICFM meeting in 2016. The grant will comprise waiver of the registration fee, i.e. ICFM will cover the cost of accommodation, but students must organise their own travel. These grants will be announced with the next workshop, and also on the website. Students should send in their abstracts in advance of the normal deadline, and will be selected based on their abstract.
- 8.3 A financial overview was presented by Rob Samson; the ICFM funds are kept in a CBS account and it was decided to continue with this. The finances are balanced.
- 8.4 Discussion about promoting the recommended media and methods for food mycology, e.g. increasing the visibility of the methods section on the ICFM website. Ulf Thrane suggested that a summary of recommended fungal methods be submitted for publication in a journal. Emilia Rico-Muñoz suggested that ICFM prepare a 'Compendium of Methods for the Mycological Examination of Foods and Beverages', which could also be sold by ICFM. Ludwig Niessen noted that such a publication should clearly state that these are 'recommended methods', and are not legally binding. The publication should include molecular methods for fungal identification, especially recommendations about not relying on ITS sequencing to identify common foodborne *Penicillium* species. Discussion about if it should be in printed or digital

format or both; suggested that users can pay per download for individual chapters, rather than buying the whole book. Copyright, printing and tax issues will need to be discussed further. The Compendium could also be translated into different languages (Spanish, Portuguese initially), and sold at various workshops where ICFM members are involved. **Action: Su-lin Leong to coordinate compiling methods from pre-existing texts.**

- 8.5 Ludwig Niessen thanked Lloyd Bullerman for being on the ICFM for all these years, and welcomed Lloyd to continue participating and being interested in ICFM activities.

The meeting ended at 19:00.