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● **message from the president**

Since there are already two reports from the President in this Newsletter, I will be brief. This edition is a little later than usual in order to incorporate a report on the AGM. Thanks to all members who participated by voting. Welcome to Fiona Hay as our Newsletter editor, and thanks to our hardworking Secretary, Karen Koster, for helping out with the production of this edition. Also, welcome back to Ken Thompson, who has very effectively and efficiently served as our Treasurer for the past four years. We have learned that our Society-affiliated journal, *Seed Science Research*, has been sold recently by CABI to Cambridge University Press. More information on this will be in the next Newsletter, when more is known about how this will impact subscription rates, etc. It is with sadness that we report on the passing of one of our fellow seed researchers, Daphne Osborne. She was a participant in the very first of the seed workshops in Israel in 1980, and an active participant in subsequent ones, as well as in the workshops in South Africa on desiccation. Her contributions as a scientist, mentor and colleague will be long remembered.

--J. Derek Bewley

tribute to Daphne Osborne



Sadly, Daphne is no longer with us.

Daphne was a world-renowned scientist with a long and distinguished career. She initially worked in the field of plant growth regulators, amongst other achievements identifying ethylene as a plant hormone and confirming its rôle in defoliation. Her experience with plant hormones led to an interest in control processes and so to work on DNA, RNA and proteins. Much of this work was carried out with seeds, and so Daphne contributed significantly to the field of seed biology. Running as a thread through out her work was a deep and abiding interest in developmental biology. 'Distinguished' is indeed a word that can be used to describe her career: she published close to 200 papers, none of which could be considered to be low-key. Twenty papers in *Nature* and several in *Science* (including her first publication) attest to the calibre of her work.

Daphne had a passionate interest in her subject, a passion that she shared with researchers world-wide. She was adventurous and travelled and worked extensively outside Europe and north America, and by this sharing of experiences and activities she did an enormous amount for the advancement of science in the developing world. In recognition of this she was awarded D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) by the University of Natal.

But Daphne was not just a scientist; she was also a person, and it is as a person, rather than a scientist, that I will remember Daphne. Most of us will be familiar with her scientific contributions, but not all of us have had the privilege of knowing her personally. I am sure many have shared my experience – as a young post-graduate student I cited her extensively, and viewed her with what amounted to awe; and then I met her and discovered a real warm person. She took an interest in, and was always willing to give time and help to younger members of the scientific community, although her incisive mind immediately identified errors or problems. Her criticisms, however, were always gentle and constructive.

It was during the latter part of her career that I really got to know Daphne. She was warm and charming, and had a delightful, almost wicked, sense of humour. She had an active mind that made her a stimulating companion, and she took an interest in things outside her career. She has been known to go on a week-end rally with classic and vintage car enthusiasts, and charmed the most dour of them. She had an almost child-like appreciation of nature – how many other people can really consider the common toad to be beautiful?

Daphne Osborne had a fine intellect that led to a distinguished scientific career, and she had a warm, engaging personality that made her a delight to know. Daphne, we will miss you.

-- Norman Pammenter

● election results

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kenneth Thompson (University of Sheffield, UK) will serve a second term as the ISSS Treasurer. Ken has served in this important role since 2002 and, as his term was due to expire this year, a call for nominations was sent to the ISSS membership in April. Ken was nominated by several members and he generously agreed to serve a second four-year term. No other nominations were received. Due to requirements of the Charities Commission of England and Wales, with whom the ISSS is officially registered as a charitable organization, the society's holdings and financial transactions must be centered in England and Wales. As a result, the ISSS Treasurer must be a resident of one of those countries. Ken has served the ISSS well as Treasurer during his first term and we are delighted that he has agreed to continue to serve the society.

● welcome to our new editor

Dr. Fiona Hay has agreed to serve as the new editor of the ISSS Newsletter. Fiona has previously written for *Samara*, the International Newsletter of the Partners of the Millennium Seed Bank Project at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK), and we look forward to her taking the helm of the ISSS Newsletter. Please send news and information for inclusion in the newsletter to Fiona Hay (f.hay@rbgkew.org.uk), Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Wellcome Trust Millennium Building, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TN United Kingdom.

Due to the responsibilities of his new position at the University of Plymouth, Chris Wood recently resigned from his role as the ISSS Newsletter editor. We thank him for his contributions to the ISSS and we wish him well in his new position.

● meetings and workshops

Numerous upcoming meetings are being sponsored in whole or in part by the ISSS. More information will be posted on the meetings page of the ISSS website as it becomes available.

2006. September 6-8. 3rd International Seed Health Conference. Microorganisms on Seeds - Harmfulness and Control. Bydgoszcz, Poland. For further information, check the conference website: http://wr.atr.bydgoszcz.pl/fitopatologia/seed/seed_health.html or contact fitopato@atr.bydgoszcz.pl

2007. January 14-17. 5th International Workshop on Desiccation Sensitivity and Tolerance in Seeds and Vegetative Plant Tissues. Drakensberg, South Africa. Interest in the phenomenon of desiccation tolerance and sensitivity has grown over the past ten years or so, and is likely to continue growing in the future. To cater for this interest, four previous International Workshops have been held

in South Africa, the inaugural meeting being in 1994. A guiding principle of these Workshops has been to hold them at attractive locations removed from the hustle and bustle of large cities, so that the delegates have time and opportunity to interact and relax in each others company.

The 5th of these workshops will be held at The Nest Hotel Resort and Conference Venue, situated in the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains, adjacent to the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site. (These dates provide an excuse for northern hemisphere colleagues to escape winter for a few days, and the venue is truly beautiful!)

Although the first four Workshops concentrated on seeds and vegetative tissue, the topic is much wider than that, and contributions from zoologists and microbiologists working in the field of desiccation are welcome.

Further details can be found on the website <http://www.sles.ukzn.ac.za/deswork/> and contact can be made at the address deswork.biology@ukzn.ac.za

2007. May 7-9. ISTA Seed Symposium 2007. Diversity in Seed Technology. Iguassu Falls, Brazil. The **28th ISTA Seed Symposium** will be held as part of the ISTA Congress in Iguassu Falls, Brazil from 7-9 May 2007. The Seed Symposium provides a unique opportunity for interaction between scientists working on basic aspects of seed science and those involved in applying this scientific knowledge to seed quality evaluation and improvement. The theme for the 28th Seed Symposium is:

Diversity in Seed Technology

The symposium will consist of six oral sessions and two poster sessions. Each will be chaired by a lead speaker well known for their research in a topic covered by the session. Lead speakers are: **Michael Kruse** (University of Hohenheim, Germany), **Mirian Eira** (EMBRAPA, Brazil), **Gary Harman** (Cornell University, USA), **Roberto Benech Arnold** (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), **Kent Bradford** (University of California, USA), **Hugh Pritchard** (Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, UK).

The Call for Papers has now been announced and can be found on the ISTA website at <https://www.seedtest.org/en/seed-symposium2007.html>. The website gives details of online abstract submission and brief abstracts of the presentations to be given by the lead speakers.

We hope to see you in Iguassu Falls!

Alison A Powell
Convenor, ISTA Seed Symposium

2007. September 9-13. 2nd ISS Meeting on Seed Ecology: Seed Ecology II, an international meeting on seeds and the environment will be held in Perth, Western Australia. According to organizer Kingsley Dixon, planning is well advanced with the website up and running and keynote speakers locked in. Interest in the conference has been outstanding and it promises to be a high note in seed ecological research. The meeting will include three days of oral and poster presentations at The University Club of Western Australia, a conference banquet and pre-conference & mid-conference field trips to experience Western Australia's superb flora. The organising committee can be contacted via Seedecology2007@bqpa.wa.gov.au, for further information. Check out the website for details: www.seedecology2007.com.au. Calls for papers will be made in August 2006.

2007. July 1-4. 2nd ISS Workshop on Molecular Aspects of Germination and Dormancy. Salamanca, Spain. Organizers: Dolores Rodríguez, Carlos Nicolás and Oscar Lorenzo. A preliminary program has been posted on the ISSS website meetings page: <http://www.usd.edu/iss.meetings.html>. Confirmed invited speakers: **Alison Kermod** (Simon Fraser University, Canada), **Kent Bradford** (University of California, Davis, USA), **Ruth Finkelstein** (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA), **Peter McCourt** (University of Toronto, Canada),

Gerhard Leubner (Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet, Freiburg, Germany), **Bill Finch-Savage** (Warwick HRI, UK), **Isabel Diaz** (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain), and **Gregorio Nicolas** (University of Salamanca, Spain). Registration and housing reservations will begin in October 2006. Contact Dolores Rodríguez at mdr@usal.es or iss07@usal.es for additional information.

2008. July 6-11. 9th ISSS Conference on Seed Biology. Olsztyn, Poland. Visit <http://www.seedbio2008.pl/> for further information.

Other meetings of interest to ISSS members

2006. August 13-17. 27th International Horticultural Congress of ISHS. Seoul, Korea. (www.ihc2006.org/home/eng)

2006. September 12-15. ISTA Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee Seminar. Verona, Italy. More information, including a registration form, has been posted on the ISSS meetings website: www.SeedSciSoc.org/meetings.html

2006. December 3-6. ISHS 4th International Symposium on Seed, Transplant, and Stand Establishment of Horticultural Crops. San Antonio, Texas, USA. For more information, see: <http://sest2006symposium.tamu.edu/>

2007. Preharvest Sprouting in Cereals. Argentina. Organizer: Roberto Benech-Arnold.

breaking news about seeds

Preventing transgenes in seeds reaching the next generation.

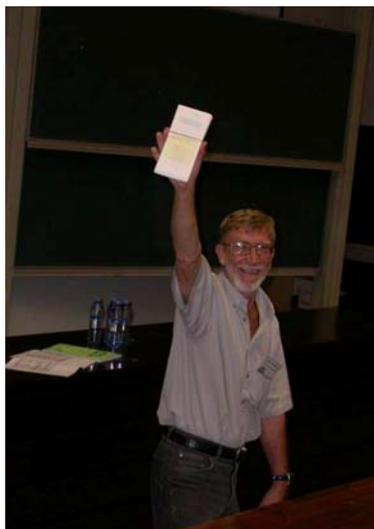
Researchers Dr Jan-Peter Nap of Plant Research International, Wageningen, Dr Ludmila Mlynárova of the Molecular Biology Group, and a colleague from New Zealand have developed a new method in which a genetically modified plant destroys its transgenes once it has manufactured its pollen. This makes it possible to avoid the spread of transgenes, and to use plants as molecular factories in a cleaner way. Nap recognizes that the technique will be associated with the so-called terminator technology, a genetic modification which prevents transgenic plants from making viable seed, and which enables seed companies to ensure that farmers have buy new improved seed each year, rather than save it. But in this case a plant does produce seed, and it is only the production of transgenic pollen that is prevented, so that no transgenes can be transferred to wild relatives or other crops through pollen. The new technique makes use of a *cre*-gene, which can delete genetic material between two markers, the loxP-sites. By using a genetic switch, the promoter NTM19, which is only turned on during the first phase of pollen formation, removes the transgenes from the pollen. When Nap and his colleagues tested the system in tobacco plants, only two out of 16,800 seeds (0.024 per cent) produced from pollen from the transgenic plant still contained transgenes. One possible disadvantage is that, because of the absence of transgenes from the pollen, it will be more difficult to maintain pure breeding lines. See the article in the Wageningen University newspaper at: <http://www.wb-online.nl/index.php?/krant/article.php?id=3005> for more information.

If you have any interesting information about seeds, either from your research, the news, or from meetings you attended, please send it to the Editor of the ISSS Newsletter, Fiona Hay at RBG Kew (f.hay@rbgkew.org.uk).

● news from our representatives around the world

Africa

Our African Representative, Norman Pammenter, telling the audience at a recent meeting of the South African Botanical Society about the ISSS, with brochures in hand.



Australia and New Zealand

Steve Adkins reports that the book "Seed Science Research: Advances and Applications" (expected title), CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK, is nearing publication. This book contains presentations from the ISSS Brisbane Workshop, May 2005. It will be sent out free to all those registrants who attended the meeting. Publication expected within the next six months (Hopefully!)

Western Europe and Scandinavia

The initial steps towards creating a "fail-safe" seed vault, carved into permafrost and rock, have been made on the island of Svalbard, Norway. The setting up of the Svalbard International Seed Vault (SISV) is being spearheaded by the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Norwegian government which is covering the US\$3 million cost of building the vault.

The Global Crop Diversity Trust is an international, non-profit organisation that works to support the conservation of crop collections. The SISV will have capacity to store three million seed samples - replicates of every known crop variety as well as varieties yet to be developed. The seeds, sealed inside watertight foil packages, should remain viable for hundreds or thousands of years. Even if electricity fails, the vault temperatures should never rise above about -3.5°C. Further security is provided by its remote location and the prowling of polar bears. Crop diversity will be conserved even in the event of major natural or man-made disaster and samples will only be released if all other seed sources have been destroyed or exhausted.

See www.croptrust.org for more information.

North America

Marc Alan Cohn, Editor-In-Chief of Seed Science Research, is to be given the 2006 Seed Science Award by the Crop Science Society of America. This award is the highest honor given to seed scientists by the CSSA. Marc will be recognized at the Crop Science Society of America awards program during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, November 12-16, 2006, in Indianapolis, IN, USA. ISSS congratulates Marc for this special recognition of his many contributions to seed science and to the ISSS.

minutes and reports from the iss annual general meeting

ISSS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Financial year 2005-2006) July 5-12, 2006 – held online via the iss mailing list

As there was no large gathering of ISSS members scheduled near July 2006, the AGM was held electronically, via the ISSS listserv (iss@usd.edu). For the period July 5 through July 12, the listserv was opened to postings by all subscribers to enable electronic discussion of agenda items. All reports were posted on the ISSS website (www.SeedSciSoc.org) prior to the online AGM. Agenda items were considered to be approved if no dissenting comments were posted by members. The only item requiring a vote by the membership was #7, the proposed amendments to the ISSS Constitution. Voting was conducted via e-mail of ballots to the ISSS Secretary (Karen.Koster@usd.edu), who tallied the votes. Voting began June 9, when the ballots were sent to the membership, and concluded on July 14, 2006.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of minutes of last Annual General Meeting (12 May 2005, Brisbane)
--published in the June 2005 ISSS Newsletter No. 8: online at
<http://www.SeedSciSoc.org/>
3. Presidents' Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Report from the Editor of *Seed Science Research*
7. Amendments to the ISSS Constitution. (These were originally posted in the January 2006 ISSS Newsletter No. 9 and were posted on the Governance page of the ISSS website.)
8. Any other business

ISSS President Derek Bewley called the meeting to order on July 5, 2006 with the comments below, which were sent to the membership via the mailing list. All ISSS members were considered to be present via their subscription to the mailing list.

From the President

The elected Executive of your Society is accountable to its membership, and while much of the time they are busy behind the scenes, each year at the Annual General Meeting the President, Secretary and Treasurer present Reports of their activities to all members for scrutiny. For the first time, this year's AGM is being held online, because there are no meetings of the Society at which members can voice their opinions (there will be in 2007 and 2008).

The Executive and Representatives of the Society are open for comments and ideas year-round, but the AGM provides a special time for communication. It is also the time that matters pertaining to the operation of the Society are put to the membership for ratification. This year, changes to the definition of the Corporate and Institutional membership are proposed; the Society is still in its fledgling stage, and some of the original operational ideas have turned out to be either inefficient, or of little benefit to the Society. Hence changes are proposed; in this case to more easily attract Corporate and Institutional membership, and to more clearly define the regulations for the election of a Representative for this category. Please vote on the proposed changes.

Your comments on the proposed changes and on the Reports are welcome. Following the vote, a full report of the AGM will be sent to the Charitable Commission of England and Wales, by whom we are granted tax-free status. The AGM report will also appear in the ISSS Newsletter.

Your continued interest and support of our Society is much appreciated.

J. Derek Bewley

1. Adoption of the agenda, which had been sent to the membership electronically on June 9, 2006. The agenda was approved without dissent.
2. Adoption of minutes from the AGM held at Brisbane, May 12, 2005. These had been made available to the membership via ISSS newsletter # 8 (June 2005) and the ISSS website (www.SeedSciSoc.org). The minutes were approved without dissent.
3. ISSS President J. Derek Bewley's report was posted on the ISSS website for comment by the membership and is included here as Appendix I. The report was approved without dissent.
4. ISSS Secretary Karen Koster's report (Appendix II) was also posted on the website and approved without dissent. The re-election of ISSS Treasurer Kenneth Thompson was reported. As no other nominations were received, Dr. Thompson will serve a second term (2006-2010) in this important position.
5. Thompson presented the Treasurer's report (Appendix III). The ISSS continues to be financially sound, as income has exceeded expenditures for the past year. Contributions to support ISSS symposia and conferences will increase in the next years, as there are several meetings in the near future.
6. Marc Cohn's report as the Editor of *Seed Science Research* (Appendix IV) was approved without dissent. The official ISI impact factor for the journal is 1.892 for citations in 2005 to papers published in 2003-2004. *Seed Science Research* is now ranked in the top 25% of plant science journals rated by ISI.
7. Proposed revisions to the ISSS Constitution and Statutes were announced in the January 2006 ISSS Newsletter (#9), which was announced and posted on the ISSS website January 6. The intent of the proposed revisions was to make the option of Corporate Membership more attractive to larger companies and institutions. To do so, the Executive Committee recommended allowing the Corporation or Institution to designate up to 12 employees to receive ISSS membership privileges. Modification of this membership category necessitated

one amendment to the ISSS Constitution and two amendments to the ISSS Statutes and By-Laws. Voting was carried out by electronic ballot. All three amendments were passed without dissent by the voting members of the ISSS.

8. No further items were raised and the electronic AGM was concluded on July 14, 2006.

Respectfully submitted by Karen L. Koster, ISSS Secretary

Appendix I. ISSS President's Report (Derek Bewley)

In some respects this is an 'off' year for the Society, lying between our major triennial meeting and the topic workshops. However, the Executive has been very active reviewing and refining our Constitution, and the Statutes and Rules in order to improve the efficiency of operation of our Society, to make its operations more transparent to all members, and to promote more inclusive activities involving our members. These include drawing up clear Guidelines to those who wish to apply for finances for the support of international and regional Society meetings, and of specialized symposia. In addition a clearer definition of Corporate membership and representation has been made, which is being put to the membership at the present AGM for ratification.

A major effort is being made to expand our activities to bring together seed scientists and to introduce non-members to the Society. In particular, the availability of financial support has been enhanced in order to support Symposia organized by our members at non-ISSS meetings. As reported in our last Newsletter, the first of these was arranged by our Central and South American Representative Renato de Castro at the Brazilian and Latin America Congress held in Brazil, and a further one will occur at the International Seed Health Conference later this year in Poland, thanks to our Eastern Europe and Russia Representative Elwira Sliwiska. Regional meetings of seed scientists are also being encouraged, to be organized by or in collaboration with our Regional Representatives.

The Organizers of the 8th International Workshop on Seeds have provided a comprehensive Report based on their experiences with the organization of the meeting, and on feedback from participants; this will be most useful for the organizers of future meetings. A number of important recommendations were made in the Report. One recommendation that has already been adopted is that the triennial meeting no longer be termed a workshop; the next one in 2008 will be the 9th ISSS *Conference on Seed Biology*.

New brochures advertising the Society have been printed and distributed to all our Representatives and Executive members for distribution. Also several new banners with our logo have been printed so that they can be displayed at meetings. We still do not have a Representative for the Central and Western Asian Region; nominations and volunteers are being sought.

The clarity of the Society website has been much improved by Karen Koster, allowing better access to information about us and our activities.

In closing I thank the Society Executive for their advice and support throughout the many exchanges of correspondence that have taken place over the past year, and especially to our Secretary Karen Koster and Treasurer Ken Thompson for the time and effort that they have committed to our Society over the past twelve months. Thanks also to the Regional and Corporate Representatives for playing their part in broadcasting the existence and activities of the ISSS.

J. Derek Bewley
President May 17, 2006

Appendix II. ISSS Secretary’s Report, including Membership Report (Karen L. Koster)

Membership report

ISSS membership for 2006 stands at 228, down somewhat from the high of 273 members registered for 2005 (Fig. 1). The high number of subscriptions for 2005 was associated with members who joined on the occasion of the International Workshop on Seeds held in Brisbane in May 2005. Seventy-six new members joined the society in 2005; however, 43 of those did not renew their memberships for 2006. A similar drop in membership was noted in 2003 after the International Workshop on Seeds in Salamanca. Many people join the ISSS to obtain the discounted registration fee for ISSS sponsored conferences. There is only one ISSS sponsored conference being held in 2006 (3rd International Seed Health Conference: "Microorganisms on Seeds - Harmfulness and Control," Bydgoszcz, Poland, September 6-8, 2006), while three are planned for 2007 (see the ISSS website www.SeedSciSoc.org/meetings.html for information). It is hoped that more people will join to take advantage of ISSS registration discounts for future meetings.

For 2006, the ISSS welcomed 13 new members and 5 former members who rejoined after a lapse in membership. Our mission as a society is to “foster and promote research, education, and communication in the scientific understanding of seeds.” Membership fees are used to support seed conferences, workshops, and symposia around the world. In addition to reduced registration fees at ISSS conferences, member benefits include reduced subscription costs to the journal *Seed Science Research* and savings on seed-related books published by CABI. We would be glad to hear suggestions from the membership on how we can continue to fulfill the goals of the society and improve our service to the seed science community.

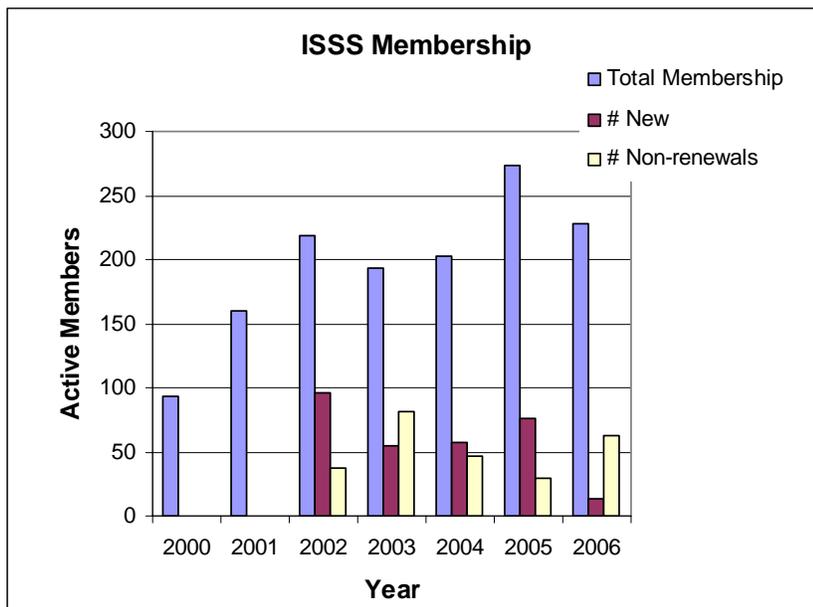


Figure 1. ISSS Membership Subscriptions 2000-2006. The blue bars represent the total number of active subscriptions for each year. Brown bars represent first-time members each year. Yellow bars represent the number of non-renewing members from the previous year.

The ISSS is truly an international society, with members distributed around the world. By geographic region, the largest concentrations of members are found in Western Europe and Scandinavia (31%), North America (24%) and Australia and New Zealand (11%) (Fig. 2). ISSS members reside in thirty-four countries (Table 1); the greatest numbers are found in the USA (47), Australia (23), the UK (20), the Netherlands (18), and France (17).

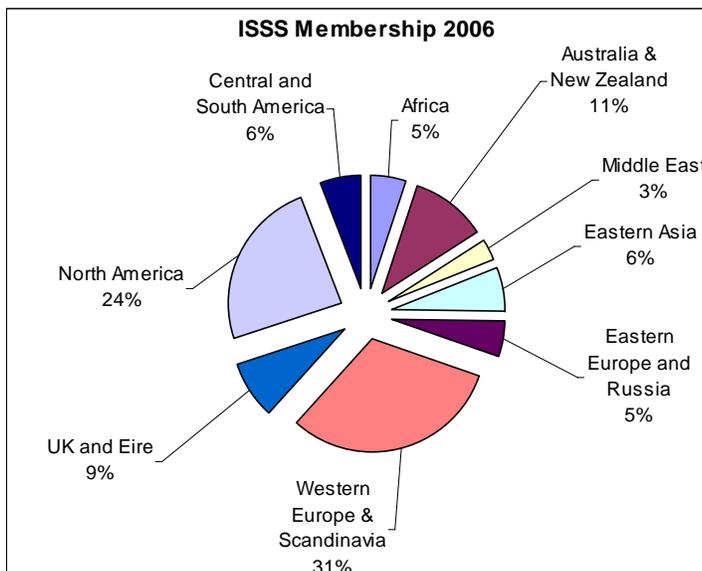


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of ISSS Members in 2006. ISSS members were grouped according to the nine geographical regions defined in the ISSS Constitution & By-laws.

Table 1. Distribution of ISSS Members by Country (2005-2006)

Country	# Members		Country	# Members	
	2005	2006		2005	2006
Argentina	4	3	Jordan	1	
Australia	39	23	Kenya	1	
Austria		1	Malaysia	1	
Belarus	1	1	Mexico	6	7
Belgium	2	1	New Zealand	1	2
Brazil	3	4	Norway	1	1
Canada	5	9	Pakistan	2	
China	8	6	Poland	9	4
Czech Republic	3	3	Russia	2	2
Denmark	2	2	Scotland	1	1
France	21	17	South Africa	11	11
Germany	6	5	South Korea		1
Greece	7	7	Spain	12	11
Hungary	1	1	Sweden	5	5
India	2	1	Thailand		1
Indonesia	1	1	The Netherlands	19	18
Israel	6	7	Turkey	1	1
Italy	1	1	UK	29	19
Japan	5	4	USA	48	47

Election of Treasurer for 2006-2010

The term of the ISSS Treasurer ends in 2006. Due to requirements of the Charities Commission of England and Wales, with whom the ISSS is officially registered as a charitable organization, the society's holdings and financial transactions must be centered in England and Wales. As a result, the ISSS Treasurer must be a resident of one of those countries. Dr. Kenneth Thompson (University of Sheffield) has served one term of office (2002-2006), is eligible for re-election, and indicated his willingness to serve. A call for nominations was sent to the ISSS membership on April 3, 2006, and Dr. Thompson was nominated by several members. No other nominations were received. Therefore, Kenneth Thompson will serve as ISSS Treasurer for a second term, from 2006-2010. Congratulations and thanks to Ken for his excellent service in this important position!

Publications Report

The proceedings of the 8th International Workshop on Seeds held in Brisbane in May 2005 should be published later this year. The anticipated title is "Seed Science Research: Advances and Applications" and the book is being published by CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK.

The Founding Editor of the ISSS Newsletter, Dr. Michael Black, retired in 2005 and was succeeded by Dr. Christopher Wood, who edited the January 2006 volume. Recently, Chris assumed a new position in the Graduate School at the University of Plymouth (UK) and is no longer actively working in seed biology; therefore, he has resigned as our newsletter editor. The ISSS Executive and Publications Committees were consulted for candidates, and Dr. Fiona Hay of RBG Kew was appointed to act as editor of the ISSS Newsletter. Fiona has experience on the editorial team of SAMARA, the international newsletter for partners of the Millennium Seed Bank, and we anticipate that she will edit the ISSS Newsletter with panache.

The ISSS website (www.SeedSciSoc.org) has been expanded and modified to improve navigability. Members are encouraged to submit notices of seed-related conferences, links to other websites, and other relevant information for inclusion on the website. Please contact ISSS Secretary Karen Koster (Karen.Koster@usd.edu) with your suggestions and comments.

Several members have expressed interest in the possibility of making membership renewal payments online. Last year we consulted with the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASBP), who have this service on their society website; however, the costs charged by their host server to ensure secure transactions were prohibitive. The ISSS website is currently run at no cost to the society and is hosted on the server of the University of South Dakota (home institute of the ISSS Secretary). The ISSS Executive Committee will continue to seek an inexpensive, yet secure, venue for membership transactions.

Appendix III. Treasurer’s Report for 2005-2006 (Ken Thompson)

Income and expenditure for the period 01 April 2005 to 31 March 2006

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subscriptions	2133.42		
Royalties - <i>Seed Biology: Advances and Applications</i>	73.73	SeedSciSoc.org Website	47.00
		Domain Name registration fee (10 years: 2004-2014)	
Royalties - <i>Biology of Seeds: Recent Research Advances</i>	846.70	ISSS Brochures	120.00
Interest	199.48	Credit card and other bank charges	151.51
Total income	3253.33	Total expenditure	318.51
Excess income over expenditure	2934.82		
Brought forward from 2004- 2005	19123.43		
Balance carried forward 31 March 2006	22058.25		

Compared with 2004-05, income was down, but we made no charitable payments, so our overall balance improved.

Note that a payment of \$1000, for the ISSS Seed Symposium at the X Brazilian Plant Physiology Congress 11-16/09/2005, should have been paid, but owing to difficulties encountered in actually transferring the money, will now appear in the next financial year.

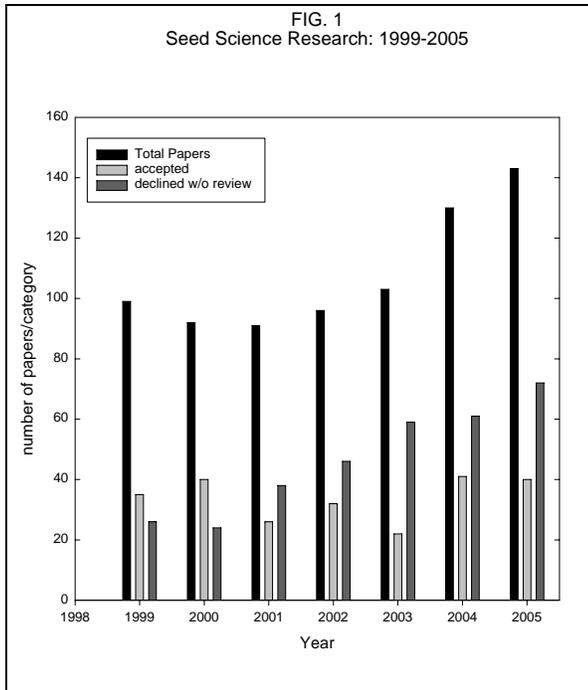
Appendix IV. Report from the Editor of Seed Science Research (M.A. Cohn)

Date: 7 June 2006

From: M.A. Cohn, Editor, *Seed Science Research*

To: ISSS Membership

RE: Editor's 2006 Update

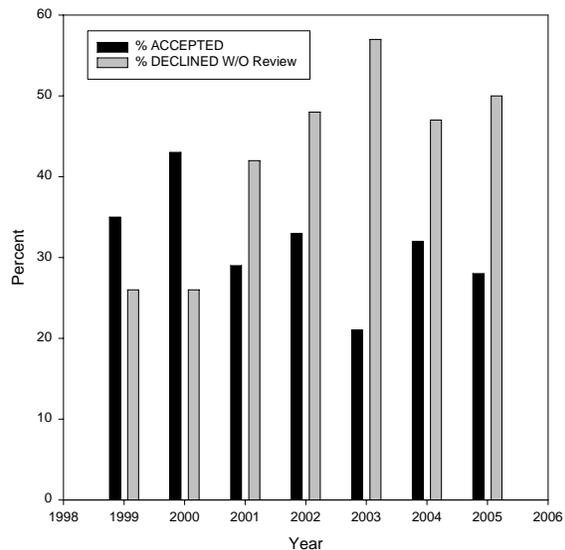


I am pleased to report continued success for *Seed Science Research*. The total number of submissions has been increasing nicely for the past several years, and the projected numbers of submissions for 2006 are comparable to 2005. Our acceptance rate has ranged from 21 to 43% on a yearly basis (Fig. 2), and the average acceptance rate is 32% for the 1999-2005 interval. These acceptance rate values would be higher were it not for the large number of manuscripts that must be declined by the editors without further peer review (Figs 1,2). Unfortunately, we still receive many papers that are outside the scope of the journal or are not substantial enough for further consideration.

Our impact factor (for those of you who like to, or have to, keep score) is very acceptable for a quarterly publication; the official ISI impact factor for SSR during the 2003-2004 period is 1.892, and the unofficial estimated average impact for 1999-2005 is 5.04!¹ The editors continue to strive to process and evaluate submitted manuscripts as quickly as possible. However, there are only so many hours in a day, and there are times when we do have other activities besides SSR.

I look forward to a productive 2006 publication year, and heartily thank the associate editors, editorial board members, production staff at CABI and our team of peer reviewers. We couldn't do it without your help. Cheers, MAC

FIG. 2
Seed Science Research: 1999-2005
(Percentage basis)



¹ The long-term value was obtained by summing the total citations for each year's volume of SSR and dividing by the number of papers for that year, yielding an 'impact factor'. The 'impacts' for each year were then averaged.

Appendix V. Executive Committee Members and Representatives (2005-2008)

Executive Committee

J. Derek Bewley (Canada), President (dbewley@uouelph.ca) (2005-2008)
Patricia Berjak (South Africa), President-elect (berjak@ukzn.ac.za) (2005-2008)
Karen L. Koster (USA), Secretary (kkoster@usd.edu) (2004-2008)
Kenneth Thompson (England), Treasurer (ken.thompson@sheffield.ac.uk) (2006-2010)
Steve Adkins (Australia), Elected Trustee (s.adkins@mailbox.uq.edu.au) (2005-2008)
Robin Probert (England), Appointed Trustee (r.probert@rbgkew.org.uk) (2005-2008)
Bill Finch-Savage (England), Appointed Trustee (bill.finch-savage@warwick.ac.uk) (2005-2008)
Peter Halmer (England), Appointed Trustee (phalmer@germains.com) (2005-2008)
Michael Black (England), Appointed Trustee (msblack@waitrose.com) (2005-2008)

Regional representatives (2005-2008)

Steve Adkins (Australia) for Australia and New Zealand (s.adkins@uq.edu.au)
Norman Pammenter (South Africa) for Africa (pammente@ukzn.ac.za)
Elwira Sliwinska (Poland) for Eastern Europe and Russia (elwira@mail.atr.bydgoszcz.pl)
Christina Walters (USA) for North America (chrisv@lamar.colostate.edu)
Renato Delmondez de Castro (Brazil) for Central and South America (renatodc@ucsal.br)
Songquan Song (China) for Eastern Asia (sqsong@xtbg.ac.cn)
Cliff Bray (UK) for UK and Eire (mqbsscmb@manchester.ac.uk)
Dolores Rodriguez (Spain) for Western Europe and Scandinavia (mdr@usal.es)
Haim Nerson (Israel) Middle East (herson@volcani.agri.gov.il)

Organizational Representative (2005-2008)

Alison Powell (UK) for ISTA (a.a.powell@abdn.ac.uk)

Corporate Representative (2005-2008)

Peter Halmer (UK) for Germain's, Ltd. (phalmer@germains.com)

- for details on the regulations that govern the iss, see the [member's handbook](#) and the [statutes and rules](#) posted on our website (www.SeedSciSoc.org).

● recent publication on seeds

Seeds: Time Capsules of Life

Rob Kessler and Wolfgang Stuppy

A new popular scientific book has just been published on seeds. With its stunning imagery and 'scholarly but highly readable' account of the natural history of seeds, "Seeds - Time Capsules of Life" is an essential source book not only for those fascinated by the natural world, but also for artists and designers, and anyone interested in the development of biological structures.

The diversity of shapes and sizes encountered in seeds is endless and ranges from the impressive Seychelles nut at 20 kg to the dust-like seeds of the orchids. No matter how small, packed into every seed is the complete genetic information needed to give rise to a new plant. Seeds may travel thousands of miles and wait, if necessary, for hundreds of years before they germinate.

Using seeds collected in the UK and many of the Millennium Seed Bank Project Partner Countries, the highlight of the book is images taken with a scanning electron microscope (SEM) that have been artistically enhanced by Rob Kessler. The images afford an unprecedented view into a most astonishing microcosm, where the tiniest examples present us with the most exquisite beauty and sophistication.

Papadakis Publisher (in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) 264pp, £35. ISBN 1901092666 (hb). An American edition will be published by Firefly in the fall.

● notice of upcoming publication on seeds (discount for iss members)

The Encyclopedia of Seeds: Science, Technology and Uses

Edited by M. Black, Kings College London, UK, J.D. Bewley, University of Guelph, Canada, and P. Halmer, Germain's Technology Group, Kings Lynn, UK

This encyclopedia is the first scholarly reference work to cover all the major scientific themes and facets of the subject of seeds. In its approximately 900 pages, this volume comprehensively outlines the latest fundamental biological knowledge about seeds, interwoven with the principles of agricultural seed processing, storage and sowing, the food and industrial uses of seeds, and the roles of seeds in history, economies and cultures.

With contributions from 110 expert authors worldwide, the editors have created 560 authoritative articles, illustrated with plentiful tables, figures, black-and-white and colour photographs, suggested further reading matter and 670 supplementary definitions. The contents are alphabetically arranged and cross-referenced to connect related entries.

Subjects include:

- ○ anatomy, structure, composition; the molecular biology, biochemistry, physiology, pathology and ecology of development, maturation and germination, dormancy, storage and deterioration; the modeling of germination and seedling emergence; genetic modification; preservation in gene banks.
- ○ production and processing for crop cultivation - multiplication, conditioning, handling and storage; germination, purity, vigor and health testing; treatments and enhancements such as

priming, coating, disinfection, inoculation, and chemical and biological protection; planting systems; descriptions of individual crops, and of industry structures, organizations, laws and regulations;

- ○ sources of food, food additives and beverages, poisons, pharmacological and psychoactive substances, and fibers and other manufactured products.

August 2006 c. 900 pages HB
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