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● **message from the President**

I take over the Presidency of the ISSS with deep gratitude to Derek Bewley and Karen Koster, the immediate past President and Secretary, respectively, for the sterling jobs that both have performed in bringing the Society up to its present high standards. Also, thanks go to those other members of the Executive of 2005 – 2008, who have retired or resigned, for their input: Steve Adkins, Robin Probert and Peter Halmer.

New members of the ISSS Executive Committee are John Dickie (Secretary), Françoise Corbineau (elected member), and Roberto Benech-Arnold, Michael Holdsworth and Dolores Rodriguez (appointed members). Michael Black has been retained as an appointed member by popular demand! Our Regional Representatives, who have the task of promoting the ISSS and attracting new members, include: Sarah Ashmore (Australia and New Zealand); G. Raza Bhatti (Central Asia); Renato de Castro (Central and South America); Gerhard Leubner (Western Europe and Scandinavia); Norman Pammenter (Africa); Alison Powell (UK and Eire); Elwira Sliwinska (Poland and Eastern Europe); Song-Quan Song (Eastern Asia); and Christina Walters (North America). We await Yitzchak Gutterman's response about taking on the portfolio of Regional Representative for the Middle East.

One of the directions of the ISSS, started in the previous triennium, is active collaboration with Societies and organisations sharing the common ideal of work on, and knowledge about, seeds. In this tradition, Alison Powell is continuing the liaison between the ISSS and ISTA, and we now have a new Organisational Representative, in Greg Welbaum, an ISSS member who represents the ISHS.

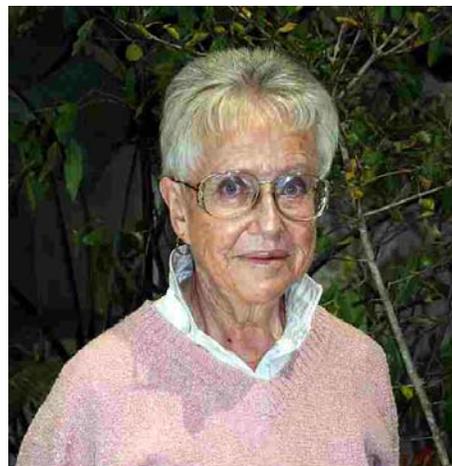
In terms of inter-society relations, the ISSS has the policy of modest sponsorship of symposia or sessions within other meetings which promote seed science. The ISHS is one such organisation, with the inter-society liaison promising considerable synergy. Our relationship with ISTA also merits a representative of that Society, in Alison Powell. This brings me to one of my aims for the current triennium: I had some interesting discussions with Françoise Corbineau and with Renato de Castro – who will be organising our 2011 Congress – about narrowing the gap between seed science *sensu stricto* and the technological aspects of seed handling that are the everyday business of many practitioners. We feel that we should put a lot of effort into bringing more seed science into

technology, and raising awareness of seed technology among our membership. In this regard, we have begun discussing plans to promote this sort of synergy at the next ISSS meeting, to be held in 2011 in Salvador (Bahia State) in Brasil.

Another aim expressed by Renato de Castro which we discussed during the Olsztyn meeting, is to raise awareness of seed science in the context of the opportunities offered by thinking in terms of the 'new biosciences and bio-economy'. I won't take this further at present, but look out for a feature by Renato in a forthcoming edition of the Newsletter.

I personally, am very keen on closer liaison between ourselves and the corporate world of the seed industry. The Olsztyn meeting provided the opportunity for some interesting discussions with members who represent that world, and have already borne fruit in potential Corporate memberships. As a result, Brigitte Hamman of Syngenta, who is based in Switzerland, has taken on the portfolio of Corporate Representative, and both she and Carole Desbois-Vimont with M. Gaudillat of the Clause Seed Company in France expressed enthusiasm about ISSS members becoming involved in research that is basic to some of the problems of the seed industry. Of course, some of our members are already involved in this type of collaboration, but I got the 'message' that there are many opportunities out there for our membership. I'll be asking both Brigitte and Carole to let the

ISSS membership know about these, by contributions to a forthcoming edition of the Newsletter.



President of the ISSS, Pat Berjak.

We start the new triennium of the ISSS on a high note, after the remarkably exhilarating 9th Congress in Olsztyn in July, when over a hundred new members joined – some new, and others renewing their membership after a lapse. My congratulations and thanks to Ryszard Górecki and his dedicated team of local organisers led by Katarzyna Glowacka, for an occasion that was highlighted by attention to detail and excellent organisation.

Our journal, *Seed Science Research*, continues to have a high profile, but regrettably, Marc Cohn the Editor, is standing down after 10 years of service to the seed science community. Many thanks, Marc: I hope that we can rapidly find a successor who is prepared to put in the considerable time and effort that being the Editor entails. On the matter of Editors, my thanks to Fiona Hay for her excellent work to date – and in the future – in editing the ISSS Newsletter. It would be a great perk if members would let Fiona have items of interest as features, or short reports, for the Newsletter.

Most of you probably know that our previous publisher, CABI, has given up on putting out any further journals, so *Seed Science Research* 'went over' to Cambridge University Press (CUP). We are presently trying to reach accommodation with CUP about how the matter of discounted subscriptions for the journal for ISSS members will be handled in practice. Our progress with this matter will be posted on the Society's website. On the matter of the website, it is presently in a transition stage, as Karen Koster hands over the Secretary's baton to John Dickie: it is probable that the ISSS website will now be hosted by Kew, and our thanks – in advance – to John (*et al.*) for its continuation.

I hope that members of the ISSS will feel free to communicate on matters of interest or concern, with me – or with any other member of the Executive, or one of the Regional Representatives, as appropriate. In the meantime, instead of conventional New Year's type greetings, may I wish all of our membership great success with, and progress in, their seedy undertakings!

Pat Berjak

● introducing new members of the ISSS executive

Roberto Benech-Arnold graduated in Agronomy (1984) from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and then began his research career by studying the germination ecology of weedy species through modeling approaches. After obtaining his MSc in Crop Production (1989), also from the University of Buenos Aires, he moved to the University of Southampton (UK) where he obtained his PhD in Biological Sciences (1991). During his period as a PhD student he got involved in the hormonal regulation of dormancy in cultivated species. In 1991 he returned to Argentina and was appointed Assistant Professor of Crop Production at the University of Buenos Aires. At the same time, he was admitted as Assistant Researcher of CONICET (the National Research Council) in IFEVA (Institute for physiological and ecological studies related to agriculture, an Institute belonging both to CONICET and UBA). Throughout the following years, his research interests remained both in modeling of dormancy and germination and hormonal regulation of dormancy. He has published nearly 80 peer reviewed papers on these topics.

In 2004 he founded the Laboratory of Seed Molecular Biology within IFEVA (where he has been a Member of the Board of Governors since 1997). He now holds positions as Professor of Crop Production (UBA) and Principal Research Scientist (CONICET). Roberto is also Chair of the Plant Production Program of the Graduate School "Alberto Soriano". He has been a member of the ISSS since 1999 and has served as Regional Representative for South America. Roberto Benech-Arnold has been Invited Professor in several universities around the world and has dictated several conferences as invited speaker in international meetings.

Michael Holdsworth graduated from the University of Leicester and following good advice from Harry Smith (then Professor of Plant Physiology at Leicester) carried out his PhD studies at the University of Nottingham School of Agriculture looking at the molecular biology of tomato fruit ripening under the supervision of Professor Don Grierson. He then moved, with the help of a fellowship from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, to UCLA, and spent several years analysing the role of transcription factors in ethylene and wound-regulated gene expression with Professor George Laties. Subsequently he moved to the John Innes Centre via the Cambridge Plant Breeding Institute and worked for five years with Professor Mike Bevan investigating the function of plant transcription factors, particularly in the cereal endosperm. He established his own research group at Long Ashton Research Station near Bristol where he continued to develop his interest in seed biology, and in particular dormancy and germination.

Michael is now Professor of Crop Science, and head of the Crop Science Section at the University of Nottingham School of Biosciences. He has a broad interest in crop physiology and genetics, as well as maintaining a research group investigating the molecular genetics and systems biology of Arabidopsis and cereal seed germination.

Dolores Rodríguez graduated with baccalaureate (1980) and PhD (1984) in Biology from the University of Salamanca (Spain). Her PhD studies about the hormonal regulation of gene expression during seed germination were carried out within the group of Dr. Gregorio Nicolás at the Department of Plant Physiology in Salamanca. Then she spent more than 2 years (1985-88) of postdoctoral research at the Department of Biochemistry in Cambridge University (UK) under the supervision of Prof. D.H. Northcote, where she learned cloning methods applied to plant molecular biology research. In 1988 she obtained a permanent position as Lecturer in Plant Physiology at the University of Salamanca and continued her research on seed physiology, starting molecular approaches to the study of seed development, dormancy and germination. Currently her work is mainly focused on the identification, characterization and function of proteins involved in hormonal signalling and related with seed dormancy and germination, by using physiological, molecular, genomic and proteomic approaches. She has been Professor of Plant Physiology since 2003.

Dolores has been an enthusiastic member of the ISSS since it was created in 1999, participating actively in many of the meetings organized so far. She was co-organizer of the VII

International Workshop on Seeds (2002) and organized the 2nd ISSS Workshop on Molecular Aspects of Seed Dormancy and Germination (2007). In addition, she has served as the Regional Representative of the ISSS for Western Europe from 2005 through 2008.

● meeting report

2008. July 6-11. 9th ISSS Conference on Seed Biology. Olsztyn, Poland. The conference, excellently organized by Ryszard Górecki and his team, had 250 attendees, including more than 100 new ISSS members (new or rejoining), 56 of whom were students. Over the course of four days, there were 26 lectures, including the Alfred Mayer Lecture given by Michael Holdsworth and the Michael Black Founders Lecture given by Ilse Kranner (who stepped into the breach when Matthew Daws was unable to attend). There were a further 56 oral presentations and more than 200 posters.

The conference also successfully trialed the Student Presentation Awards. There were 14 poster submissions and 15 oral presentation submissions. The President's prize for best poster was awarded to Krystyna Oracz (Warsaw University of Life Sciences and Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris 6) with honourable mentions for Vishal Bharuth and Meagan Goveia (both University of KwaZulu-Natal). The Daniel Côme prize for best oral presentation was awarded to Kerstin Müller (Albert-Ludwigs University) with honourable mentions for Sershen Naidoo and Wynston Woodenberg (both University of KwaZulu-Natal).



Attendees of the ISSS conference on seed biology. More photos can be seen at <http://www.seedbio2008.pl/>

● up-coming meetings and workshops

Meetings sponsored (in whole or in part) by ISSS

2009. June 8-11. 4th International Plant Dormancy Symposium. Fargo, North Dakota USA. This symposium is the fourth in a series following those in Oregon USA, 1995; in France, 1999; and in The Netherlands, 2004. Its goal is to bring together experts and stakeholders in a forum for exchange of information on dormancy in plants, development of collaborations, and sharing of ideas on plant dormancy mechanisms in vegetative buds, seeds, and other meristems from a variety of experimental plant systems ranging from agronomic, horticultural, and tree crops to model plants and weeds. For detailed information go to <http://www.plantdormancy.com>.

Meetings of interest to ISSS members (not sponsored by ISSS)

2008. October 9-11. Plant biomass for food and energy - future and reality. Baeza (Jaen), Spain. The use of renewable energy has become a goal for the future of the population since it has been recognized that burning fossil fuels and deforestation are major contributors to climate change. For more information: <http://www2.unia.es/EnvironmentWorkShops/>

2008. October 17-19. Eurobiotech 2008. Kraków, Poland. On behalf of the organizing committee we would like to invite you to join the CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF LIFE SCIENCES "EUROBIOTECH 2008", Krakow, Poland on the 17th-19th October 2008. More information at the Web site: <http://www.biotechnologia.krakow.pl>

2008. October 22-27. First International AOX Symposium. Évora (Alentejo), Portugal. A conference focusing on molecular markers for complex plant stress tolerance. For further information: <http://www.aox2008.uevora.pt>

2009. February 8-11. International Conference on Plant Abiotic Stress Tolerance. Vienna, Austria. Vienna is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world, situated in the heart of Europe. Due to its geographic and geopolitical location, it has become a popular conference city in recent years. Today, Vienna offers a range of sights from old historical palaces, classical concerts and outstanding opera performances to typical coffee houses and restaurants – all brought together in incomparable Viennese harmony. This conference will cover the following topics:

Plant Response to Cold and Heat Stresses

Plant Response to Drought, Salt, and Osmotic Stresses

Plant Response to Heavy Metal and Oxidative Stresses

Plant Response to Nutrient Stresses

Signal Transduction of Abiotic Stress Tolerance in Plants

Functional Genomics of Abiotic Stress Tolerance

Breeding and Biotechnology of Abiotic Stress Tolerance

The conference webpage (<http://www.univie.ac.at/stressplants/>) offers additional information on the city of Vienna, travel arrangements, the conference venue, registration and accommodation.

ISTA Workshops

2008. September 15-18. Workshop on Purity, Germination and Tetrazolium Test on Tropical and Sub-tropical Seeds. Cordoba, Argentina.

2008. November 3-7. Workshop on Seed Moisture, Germination and Vigour. Nakuru, Kenya.

2009. April 6-10. Seminar on Statistics in Seed Testing. Aussonne, France.

2009. April 18-21. Seed Vigour Workshop. Mashhad, Iran.

For detailed information click on the following link and select the event of interest:
<http://www.seedtest.org/en/workshop.html>

● news from our members around the world

Middle East

Yitzchak Gutterman has accepted the role of Regional Representative for the region. E-mail him at gutterma@bgumail.bgu.ac.il

Western Europe

Dr. Oscar Lorenzo, Lecturer at the Department of Plant Physiology in the University of Salamanca (Spain), and ISSS member since 2000, has received the 2008 FESPB Young Scientist Award. The Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology (FESPB) is proud for the FESPB Awards, which are awarded at its bi-annual FESPB Congress to two young scientists under the age of 35, for excellence in their scientific achievements. They are the Federation's most prestigious awards.

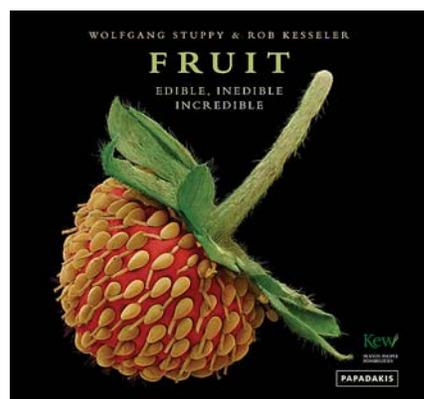
● publications

Fruit – Edible, Inedible, Incredible

Wolfgang Stuppy & Rob Kessler. Papadakis Publisher, London. ISBN 978-1901092-74-5

Following their award-winning title "Seeds - Time Capsules of Life", Wolfgang Stuppy & Rob Kessler have just published a new book. In "Fruit - Edible, Inedible, Incredible" the authors explore the astonishing natural history of fruits, one of nature's most significant "inventions". After a crash-course in carpology explaining the structural reasons for the baffling diversity of fruits, the various dispersal strategies plants have evolved over millions of years are discussed. Particular attention is paid to the co-adaptive evolution between plants and their animal dispersers. Anybody who believed that fleshy fruits were one of nature's most wonderful gifts, simply here to provide us with sweet and healthy treats will be brutally disillusioned. As it turns out, humans are only part of an elaborate plot that manipulates us and other mammals into becoming unwitting couriers of a plant's most precious asset: its seeds.

Like its companion volume "Seeds", this beautifully illustrated new publication captivates its readers with amazing hand-coloured scanning-electron micrographs showing breathtaking structural details of a wide variety of fruits and seeds from all over the world.



● minutes and reports from the ISSS annual general meeting 2008

ISSS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Financial year 2007-2008) July 2, 2007 18:30 – held in Salamanca, Spain

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the International Society for Seed Science, held in Olsztyn, Poland, on July 10th 2008, 16:30.

The Meeting was chaired by the President, Dr. J. Derek Bewley, with John Dickie (Secretary elect) as acting Secretary. The meeting was attended by 50-60 members.

1. The President called the meeting to order and presented the Agenda. No further items were added, there were no questions, and it was adopted.

2. The Minutes of the 2007 AGM, as published in the July 2007 Newsletter, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no questions and the minutes were adopted.

3. The President gave his report, which is appended to these minutes, and it was adopted.

4. The Secretary's Report (appended) was presented by the President, and adopted. It was pointed out that about 100 new members had been recruited as a result of registration for the present workshop in Olsztyn, some of whom are new, others renewals by lapsed members. All these new members are to be reminded of all the benefits of ISSS membership, and strongly encouraged to renew in subsequent years, taking advantage of the continuing four-years-for-three offer.

5. The Treasurer's Report (appended) was presented by the President. There were no questions and the Report was adopted.

6. Marc Cohn presented the Seed Science Research Editor's report (appended). As well as the annual Impact Factor hovering around the 2.0 mark, MC also commented on the long shelf life of some SSR papers, with some back to 1998 (and even 1991) continuing to be cited quite vigorously. There was a question from George Bassel regarding the current status on 'open access' to SSR. Marc Cohn responded that the change of publisher from CABI to Cambridge University Press (CUP) had delayed several matters, including this. A supplemental fee has not yet been discussed; and Marc Cohn reminded members that there are currently no routine publication or page charges, except for the use of data in colour.

George Bassel went on to ask about the situation w.r.t. indexing, in PubMed, or elsewhere; Marc Cohn responded that this is on the way. There being no more questions, Marc Cohn took the opportunity to announce his intention to step down as Editor, but not before his successor has been appointed. He has submitted a list of potential candidates along with his resignation letter to CUP.

7. New regulations governing award of Student and Oral and Poster Prizes (Daniel Côme Prize and President's Prize), previously notified as a motion in the January 2008 ISSS Newsletter (No. 13), were presented by the President, who called for a vote. Norman Pammenter asked how the judging of the posters and presentations will be conducted; Derek Bewley explained this with respect to what was written in the motion. The motion was carried *nem con*, and the regulation duly adopted. It was announced that Françoise Corbineau will present the Daniel Côme Prize, and past-President Ralph Obendorf the President's Prize. Elwira Sliwiska was thanked for designing the certificates for the Prize winners and for those receiving Honourable Mentions.

8. Next Conference on Seed Biology. The next meeting in this series will be in 2011, in Salvador, Bahia State, Brasil. During the Closing Ceremony, Renato de Castro, who made the successful bid for the 2011 Congress, would give a video presentation on outline plans for the meeting, stressing the advantages of that location.

9. The President introduced the new members of the Executive Committee: Bill Finch-Savage (President-elect), John Dickie (Secretary); Françoise Corbineau (Elected Trustee); Michael Black (Appointed Trustee); Roberto Benech-Arnold (Appointed Trustee); Michael Holdsworth (Appointed Trustee); Dolores Rodriguez (Appointed Trustee). He also thanked Karen Koster for her great service to the Society as its Secretary, and for the assistance and advice provided by Steve Adkins, Robin Probert and Peter Halmer, the retiring Executive Committee members.

10. Other announcements:

- i.) Seed Ecology III, 2010, Utah, USA. The organizer, Susan Meyer, is working on choosing the best local venue, in contact with the Executive Committee.
- ii) The 3rd Workshop on Molecular Aspects of Germination and Dormancy will be held in York, UK, organized by Steve Penfield; but there are no formal dates yet.
- iii) Mike Foley gave a presentation on the 4th International Workshop on Plant Dormancy, which he is organizing in Fargo, North Dakota, USA, June 2009. See:

<http://www.plantdormancy.com/?id=1&page=Home>

11. AOB. There was none.

12. Derek Bewley concluded by thanking the Executive for all the help he had received during his time as President; and introduced the new President, Pat Berjak. The President closed the meeting at 17:13h.

Appendix I. ISSS President's Report (Derek Bewley, July 2008)

This has been another very active year for the Society. It started with the Workshop on 'Molecular Aspects of Seed Germination and Dormancy' in July 2007 in Salamanca, Spain. This was followed by a second Workshop on 'Seed Ecology II: Seeds and the Environment' in October in Perth, Australia. Both were well organized, well attended, and much appreciated by all participants. There was considerable enthusiasm for holding a third workshop on each topic in 2010; that on the former will be held at York University, UK, and on the second in a to-be-determined location in Utah, USA. In addition we sponsored symposia in two other meetings, in September at the University of California at Davis, USA as part of the meeting on 'Translational Seed Biology: From Model Systems to Crop Improvement', and in Mendoza, Argentina in November at the '11th International Meeting on Pre-harvest Sprouting in Cereals'. Both helped us increase the profile of the Society in parts of the seed community that are not regularly featured in our conference or workshops. Reports on these meetings are available in the two Newsletters that have been published over the past year. A heartfelt 'thank you' to all involved in the organization of, and participation in, these meetings.

The culmination of our cycle of activities is the triennial Conference, being held this year in Olsztyn, Poland. As with all meetings of this size, success demands a huge dedication of time and energy by all those involved. Through regular correspondence, I am aware of the substantial commitments made by both the Organizing Committee and the Program Committee to bring this Conference to fruition, and on behalf of the ISSS I express my sincere appreciation.

Ongoing is the development of further ties with other societies, to sponsor joint efforts, either in the form of meetings, or the provision by our Society of expertise and advice. We have had ties for several years with the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), and there is a regular exchange of information concerning meetings, workshops, courses, etc. Presently we are in correspondence with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) with respect to joint opportunities, and we will be providing some monies for a symposium at their upcoming meeting in October 2009, the '5th International Symposium on Seed, Transplant and Stand Establishment of Horticultural Crops: Integrating Methods for Producing More with Less', to be held in Murcia-Almeia, Spain. As mentioned in my last report, also under consideration is the possibility of our Society holding a regular third Workshop on a triennial basis, on topics related to storage, gene banks, longevity, etc.

With this report, I end my three-year tenure as the President of the ISSS. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience, made considerably easier by a committed Executive, who have helped and advised me as the Society has developed. Special thanks go to Karen Koster, our hard-

working Secretary who sadly will be stepping down this year, to Ken Thompson our able Treasurer, and to Pat Berjak, who will now be taking on the reins of President, and who will be guiding us through the next three years of development. I wish her all the best in this endeavour. Also, thanks to our Representatives in the various regions of the globe, and to our Newsletter Editor, Fiona Hay, for keeping us well informed on the activities of the Society.

J. Derek Bewley

Appendix II. ISSS Secretary's Report, including Membership Report (Karen L. Koster, 24 June 2008)

Membership report

The number of ISSS members has remained somewhat stable for the past two years and as of June 24, stands at 250 (Fig. 1). This number includes two institutional members, the Botanic Gardens Trust of Sydney and the University of Valencia Botanical Gardens, and 37 students. The total number of ISSS members is likely to increase substantially when new members who have joined in conjunction with registration for the 9th ISSS Conference on Seed Biology are added to our roster. Preliminary data show that 122 new members have been recruited to the society by giving them the option to join as they register for the conference. Forty-nine of these new members are students who will be attending the conference in Olsztyn. We look forward to welcoming them to our society.

A major benefit of ISSS membership is the reduced registration fee associated with ISSS sponsored conferences. The projected surge in membership numbers associated with the 9th ISSS Conference in Seed Biology in Olsztyn, Poland corroborates the importance of this incentive. Similar large increases in members occurred in 2002 and 2005 when the triennial International Workshops on Seeds (now renamed as the ISSS Conferences on Seed Biology) were held in Salamanca and Brisbane. Once the new members recruited in association with the Olsztyn conference are added to our roster, membership will stand at an all-time high of more than 350 members.

The ISSS Conference in Olsztyn and the other conferences, workshops and symposia sponsored by the ISSS are made possible, in part, by your membership fees to the ISSS. Our mission is to "foster and promote research, education, and communication in the scientific understanding of seeds," and these regional and international meetings help the society fulfill this mission. As the society has grown, additional conferences, workshops, and symposia have been made possible, as described in the President's Report.

In addition to the reduced registration fees for ISSS sponsored conferences, ISSS members also can receive reduced subscription prices for *Seed Science Research*, the official journal of the society published by Cambridge University Press. Yet another benefit of ISSS membership is a 25% discount on books published by CABI. More details on these offers can be found on the ISSS website at www.SeedSciSoc.org.

Members of the ISSS represent 39 countries, with the largest numbers of members located in the USA, Spain, Australia, The Netherlands, and France (Table 1), as in previous years. However, it is anticipated that a large number of new members from Poland will be added to our membership as a result of the 9th International Conference on Seed Biology. Western Europe & Scandinavia boasts the largest number of ISSS members followed by North America and Australia/New Zealand. The anticipated increase in members from Eastern Europe and Russia will place that region among the leaders in ISSS membership.

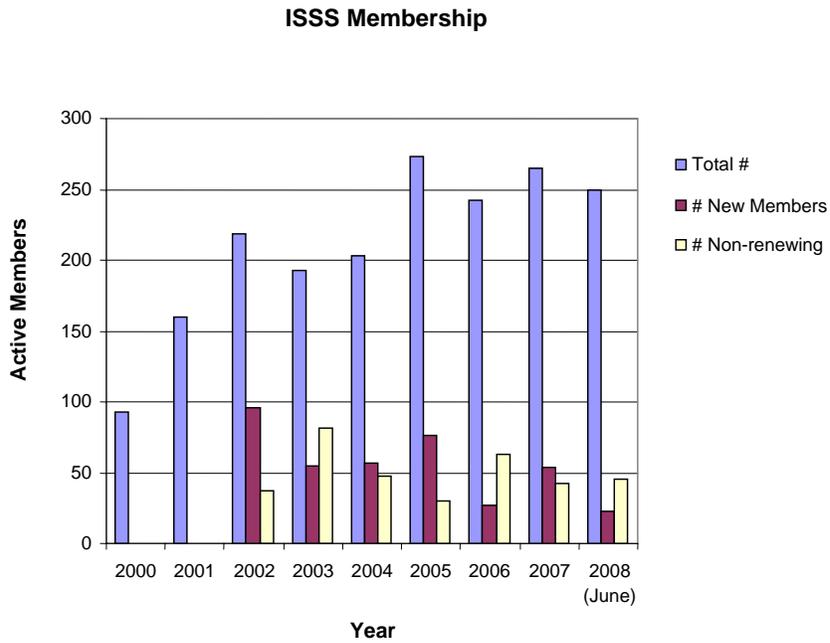


Figure 1. ISSS Membership Subscriptions 2000-2008. The blue bars represent the total number of active subscriptions for each year. Brown bars represent first-time members each year. Yellow bars represent the number of non-renewing members from the previous year.

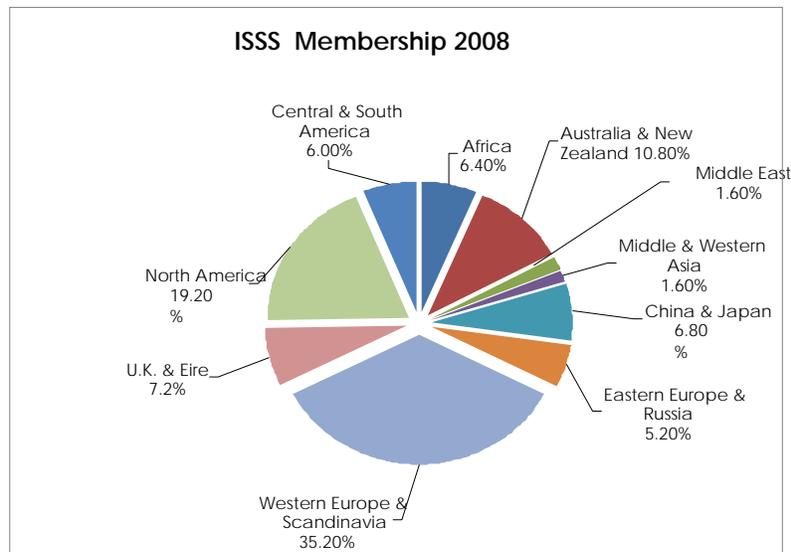


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of ISSS Members in 2008. ISSS members were grouped according to the ten geographical regions defined by the Executive Committee.

Table 1. Distribution of ISSS Members by Country (2005-2008).

Country	# Members				Country	# Members			
	2005	2006	2007	2008		2005	2006	2007	2008
Argentina	4	3	6	5	Jordan	1			
Australia	39	23	23	25	Kenya	1		1	
Austria		1		1	Latvia				1
Belarus	1	1	1	1	Malaysia	1			
Belgium	2	1	1	2	Mexico	6	7	5	4
Brazil	3	4	2	5	Nepal			2	
Bulgaria				1	New Zealand	1	2	2	2
Canada	5	9	7	6	Nigeria			1	2
China	8	6	12	10	Norway	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	3	3	2	3	Pakistan	2		1	1
Denmark	2	2	1	2	Poland	9	4	5	4
Finland			1		Portugal				1
France	21	17	19	18	Russia	2	2	2	2
Germany	6	5	5	6	Scotland	1	1	1	1
Ghana			1		South Africa	11	11	13	14
Greece	7	7	4	5	South Korea		1		
Guyana			1	1	Spain	12	11	32	26
Hungary	1	1	1		Sweden	5	5	5	5
India	2	1	2	2	Switzerland			1	2
Indonesia	1	1			Thailand		1	1	1
Iran				1	The Netherlands	19	18	20	18
Israel	6	7	2	4	Turkey	1	1	1	1
Italy	1	1	1	1	UK	29	19	17	17
Japan	5	4	5	6	USA	48	47	44	42

Report on Election of New Members to the Executive Committee

The terms of all ISSS Executive Committee members other than the Treasurer end at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in July 2008. After six years of service to the society – three as President-Elect and three as President – Derek Bewley will step down at the conclusion of the 9th ISSS Conference on Seed Biology. Under his superb leadership the society has grown stronger and more vibrant. Patricia Berjak, who has capably served three years as President-Elect and Chair of the Meetings committee, will assume the Presidency.

A call for nominations for the elected positions on the Executive Committee was sent to the membership on March 31, 2008. Several members nominated Professor William Finch-Savage for the position of President-Elect. No other nominations were received, so Professor Finch-Savage will assume that office at the conclusion of the AGM.

Dr. John Dickie was nominated for the position of ISSS Secretary. No other nominations were received; therefore, Dr. Dickie will assume office at the conclusion of the AGM in July.

Dr. Françoise Corbineau was nominated for the Elected Trustee of the Executive Committee. No further nominations were received, so she will assume office at the end of the AGM in July.

According to the ISSS Constitution and Statutes, the remaining four members of the Executive Committee are appointed by the President, with the mandate of maintaining a majority of Trustees resident in UK. The following ISSS members have been appointed to serve as Trustees on Executive Committee: Michael Black (UK), Robert Benech-Arnold (Argentina), Michael Holdsworth (UK), Dolores Rodriguez (Spain).

Congratulations to the new members of the Executive Committee and thanks for their willingness to serve the society. Thanks also to the outgoing Executive Committee members, Steve Adkins, Robert Probert, and Peter Halmer, for their thoughtful work on behalf of the ISSS during the past three years.

Executive Committee Members (2008-2011)

- Patricia Berjak (South Africa), President (berjak@ukzn.ac.za) (2008-2011)
- Bill Finch-Savage (UK), President-Elect (bill.finch-savage@warwick.ac.uk) (2008-2011)
- John Dickie (USA), Secretary (jdickie@kew.org) (2008-2012)
- Kenneth Thompson (UK), Treasurer (ken.thompson@sheffield.ac.uk) (2006-2010)
- Françoise Corbineau (France), Elected Trustee (francoise.corbineau@upmc.fr) (2008-2011)
- Roberto Benech-Arnold (Argentina), Appointed Trustee (benech@agro.uba.ar) (2008-2011)
- Michael Black (UK), Appointed Trustee (msblack@waitrose.com) (2008-2011)
- Michael Holdsworth (UK), Appointed Trustee (Michael.Holdsworth@nottingham.ac.uk) (2008-2011)
- Dolores Rodriguez (Spain), Appointed Trustee (mdr@usal.es) (2008-2011)

Appendix III. ISSS Treasurer’s Report (Ken Thompson)

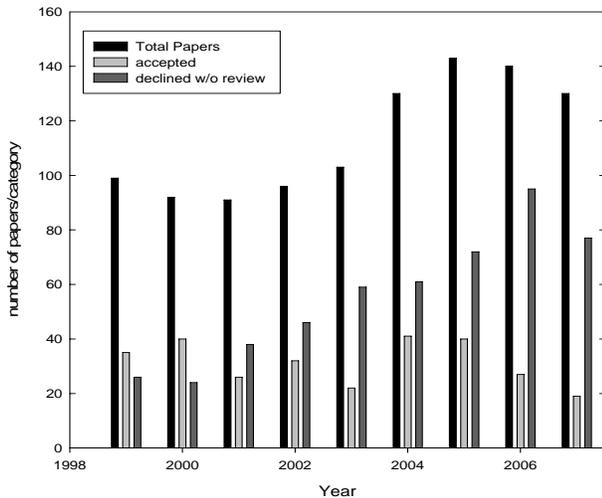
Compared with 2006-07, subscription income was almost unchanged, but there was no book royalty income. We also made more charitable payments than last year, and both these factors contributed to a small decline in our balance over the year. The loss looks much larger because a payment from the Brisbane meeting, which was temporarily in our hands at the time of the last report, was paid to CABI for the books from that meeting that were distributed to delegates.

Income and expenditure for the period 01 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£		£
Subscriptions	4630.39	Charitable payment 1: 11th Int Symposium on Preharvest Sprouting, Mendoza 2007	600.00
Interest	493.74	Charitable payment 2: Seed Ecology II, Perth 2007	1000.00
		Charitable payment 3: Translational Biology Meeting, Davis 2007	600.00
		Charitable payment 4: Seed, Transplant, Stand establishment Symposium, Murcia 2009	1000.00
		Charitable payment 5: 9th ISSS Symposium, Olsztyn	2700.00
		flowers for Daniel's funeral	43.00
		Credit card and other bank charges	187.30
		To CABI for copies of Brisbane book: Seeds; Biology, Development and Ecology	7525.00
Total income	5124.13	Total expenditure	13655.30
Excess income over expenditure	-8531.17		
Brought forward from previous year	34903.94		
Balance carried forward 31 March 2008	26372.77		

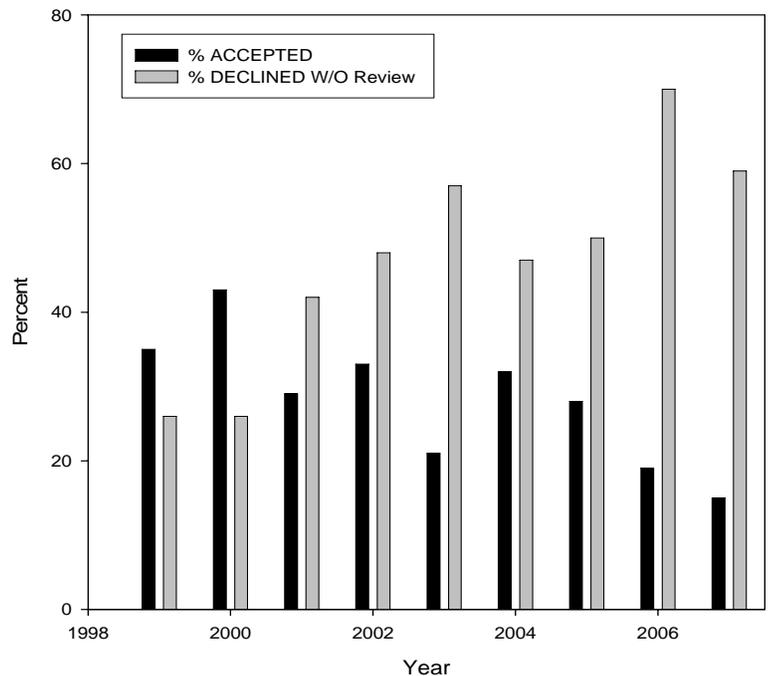
Appendix IV. Report from the Editor of Seed Science Research (M.A. Cohn, 4 July 2008)

FIG. 1
Seed Science Research: 1999-2007



I am pleased to report continued success for *Seed Science Research*. The total number of submissions has held steady for the past several years, and the projected numbers of submissions for 2008 is a bit greater than 2007 (130 mss). Our acceptance rate has ranged from 15 to 43% on a yearly basis (Fig. 2), and the average acceptance rate is 28% for the 1999-2007 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). We receive many papers that are outside the scope of the journal or are not substantial enough for further consideration.

FIG. 2
Seed Science Research: 1999-2007
(Percentage basis)



Our impact factor (for those of you who like to, or have to, keep score) is very acceptable for a quarterly publication; a value of 1.83 for 2007 and 2.09 for 2006. Our 5-year impact factor (average citations/paper/year) for 2002-2006 is 5.93. 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 2008 publication year, and heartily thank the associate editors, editorial board members, production staff at CUP and our team of peer reviewers. We couldn't do it without your help.

Cheers, MAC