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American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 38, no. 2, Spring 2016

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ASP Newsletter

Vol. 38, No. 2.

Spring, 2016

The American Society of Parasitologists



Newsletter

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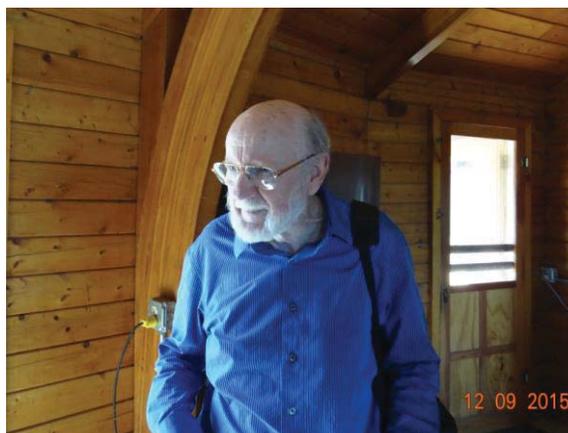
From the Editor

As you have seen in the past, we have included interesting and, sometimes, controversial non peer-reviewed white papers in the *ASP Newsletter*. Send me a link to your favorite lecture on parasites or consider providing an actual parasite lecture. Your contribution is valuable and anything sent in to me will be considered for publication.

There are only a very few items that I have rejected over the years.

Sincerely,

SLG - editor



William C. Campbell, Winner of the Nobel Prize

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President Mark Siddall - A Letter to the ASP Membership

This has been a terrific, and terrifically busy year to have had the opportunity to serve as your president. Thanks to the service and dedication of all of ASP Council, a few of the items that I had hoped to accomplish took shape immediately, including a streamlining of the bylaws and reformulating our committees, which in most cases now ensure student appointees to them.

By far the most exciting event of my term, of course, has been Bill Campbell's receipt of the Nobel Prize in Medicine with all of the excitement



and momentum that the prize carries for parasitology in general and the Society in particular.

The significance of Dr. Campbell's contributions not only to science, but to this society, which has been his home for over half a century, were detailed by President Elect Esch in "[Our Nobel Laureate, Dr. William C. Campbell](#)" in our own Journal as well as for the public in "[A Noble and Laudable Nobel Laureate: William C. Campbell](#)" by myself. I am thrilled that Dr. Campbell will be part of the presidential symposium in Edmonton where he will be receiving the society's prestigious Eminent Parasitologist Award.

Accompanying Bill on stage for the president's symposium entitled 'Magic Bullets and Windows of Opportunity', will be two distinguished, and terrific friends of mine: Dr. Jane Carlton is Professor and Faculty Director of Genomic Sequencing at NYU and was the 2010 Stoll Stunkard lecturer in Colorado Springs, and Dr. Frank Richards, Director of the Carter Center's River Blindness Elimination Program, Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program, and Schistosomiasis Control Program.

My own 'Countdown to Zero: Defeating Disease' exhibition that I curated jointly with the Carter Center opened at the American Museum of Natural history in New York in 2015 with an extended run at least to January of 2107. Of all of the exhibitions I have curated in my 17 years at AMNH it is this one of which I am the most proud. The motivation was, from the start, to be out-in-front of the story of Guinea-worm eradication; to celebrate its extinction as it was happening instead of waiting until it was



gone from humanity. The ASP remains an important part of the telling of this story of human triumph. From the inception of the exhibition to it's being cloned and installed simultaneously at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in February, the number of people on our planet infected with *Dracunculus medinensis* has plummeted from more than 400, to exactly 22.

We are a society of ecologists, of cell and molecular biologists, of taxonomists, of geneticists, and genomicists. Above all else, we are a society of scientists that are compelled by the power of questions more than we are compelled by methods alone. As thrilling as this year has been in terms of our intersections with human parasitology, I confess that these are not what motivate me in my own career, and nor were they what thrilled Bill Campbell about Parasitology as a grad student attending his first ASP meeting in Wisconsin. For me, vertebrates are just the packages that the interesting stuff comes in. For me, Parasitology is like a never-ending birthday, a never ending holiday, unwrapping package after package, giddily anticipating and never knowing what's inside until the package unwrapped. Whether it was Apicomplexan hematozoa as a grad student, oyster parasites as a post-doc, leeches for most of my career, the bed-bug genome this last year, or Myxozoa, Haplosporida, tapeworms, trematodes, nematodes, bacteria or viruses... all of these have intersected with my fascination with parasites. I hope to put sense to this career of parasitological free-association in my presidential address and I look forward to seeing you there.

Meanwhile, of course there have been various matters with the potential to affect the membership and with which I and your Council have been grappling. Importantly, we were operating without a clearly articulated Harassment Policy, in particular as it concerns attendees to our meetings, but more generally as well. Vice President Perkins and her committee have now seen to the formulation of a strong policy, and one that includes a responsible representative for each Annual Meeting; Sara Brant has volunteered for Edmonton. Lee Couch took over the Herculean role of serving as your Secretary Treasurer in January. While the Society is presently on solid financial footing, she along with President Elect Jerry Esch and Bob Grieve, Chair of the Business Advisory Committee, are grappling with the creation of a long-term budget, and with the uncomfortable fact that the Journal presently costs the Society more than the revenue it brings to us. Research funding for basic science continues to be more difficult to acquire than when I was a young faculty member. The decision at NSF to suspend funding for Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR) was particularly disconcerting this year, in response to which I made a personal visit to the Division of Biological Infrastructure at NSF in Arlington in April. Whether in response to the collective voice of the scientific community or not, NSF restored this funding in late May (*but with a cut in the budget for the CSBR program by more than 50% -ed.*)

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your President. It is my fervent hope that we continue to transform this into one that is more of a Society of Parasitologists of the Americas in the coming years. To those ends, I note that we have agreed to meet in Cancun two years from now when Dr. Perkins is to be your President. Dr. John Hawdon on the other hand, gets to preside over our joint meeting with the other ASP, the



Australian Society, in 2019 in Hawai'i.

It is terrifically important that members stand for election and allow themselves to be nominated. If you are interested in serving in any capacities, or on the Society's various committees (<http://amsocparasit.org/about/committees>) you should let that be known respectively to the Nominating & Tellers Committee, or to those in the line of succession for the Presidency (Jerry Esch, Susan Perkins, and John Hawdon).

Mark Siddall
Curator and Professor, Invertebrates
American Museum of Natural History
President, American Society of Parasitologists
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91st Annual Meeting of the ASP. July 11-14, 2016. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

[See the call for papers- here.](#)



The 91st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists will be held July 11-14, 2016, at the Westin Edmonton, an AAA 4-diamond-rated hotel at 101 Ave and 100 St in the city center of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. All conference activities will occur at the Westin, with the exception of a planned evening at the Muttart Conservatory. The conservatory has 4 pyramids, 3

representing major biomes (desert, temperate, and tropical) and 1 that has seasonal exhibits. We will have exclusive access to the conservatory, and a catered dinner.

Located on the North Saskatchewan River, between prairie and farmlands to the south and the boreal forest of the north, the area was first settled by Europeans in about 1795, although the early settlement history of the area is still hotly debated. Eventually, Fort Edmonton became a fur trading hub. A series of forts was built on the flats north of the river, below what is now the downtown area. The railway arrived on the south side of the river in 1891, where the community of Strathcona developed. Edmonton was chosen as the capital city of Alberta when the province formed in 1905, and Edmonton and Strathcona amalgamated in 1912. Although Edmonton has a history of booms and busts, the city today is the hub of a diversified regional economy, including agriculture, education, manufacturing, technology, the petrochemical industry, and government services. It is also a major service centre for aviation, forestry, mining and petroleum in the north, and has earned as 1 of its nicknames, "Gateway to the North". The Edmonton of 2015 is a multicultural city with a population of about 1 million, and is the northernmost large city in North America.

Edmonton will be a great place to bring your family, with sights and activities to appeal to everyone. Within easy walking distance of the Westin you will find numerous restaurants, bars, cinemas and shops, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Winspear Concert Hall, the Citadel Theater and the Edmonton Public Library. A longer walk, or a short bus ride, gets you to the Provincial Legislature building, the 124th Street gallery and boutique area, and the river valley trail system. By bus or car you can go to Old Strathcona area (popular for its bars, restaurants and eclectic shops), West Edmonton Mall (with its water park and indoor amusement center), Fort Edmonton Park, the John



Janzen Nature Center, Rutherford House Provincial Historic Site, the Valley Zoo, the Alberta Aviation Museum, the Telus World of Science, and Edmonton Northlands (thoroughbred or standard bred horse racing). Interesting day trips around Edmonton include the Devonian Botanical Gardens, Elk Island National Park, and the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. Edmonton also has a string of festivals throughout the summer, such as the Edmonton Street Performers' Festival and A Taste of Edmonton that usually occur around the dates of the ASP meeting. National Geographic Magazine has listed Edmonton as one of its top 10 world travel destinations for summer 2015!

If you want to plan a pre- or post-meeting trip, and have a vehicle, Edmonton is within a day's drive of several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as Banff and Jasper National Parks, and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, in the Rocky Mountains to the west, Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo Jump and Dinosaur Provincial Park to the south, and Wood Buffalo National Park to the north. Alberta's other major city, Calgary, is also just a few hours south of Edmonton, and many will likely make their air connections to Edmonton through there. Although most Edmontonians will not admit it, Calgary is also worth a visit.

Edmonton is easily accessible by air, not only with non-stop connections to major cities across Canada, but also to Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Seattle and other US cities, as well as several international destinations. There is convenient access from the airport to downtown by bus, shuttle, or taxi. Once at the conference, people will find numerous dining, shopping and sightseeing options within easy walking distance of the hotel. For exploration a bit further afield, Edmonton has a well-developed and inexpensive public transit system, with much of the city accessible via a convenient light rail transit system that stops right next to the Westin, as well as bus service to other areas.

Edmonton in July is usually quite pleasant, with average min/max temperatures about 12C/ 23C and rainfall usually occasional and light. We are one of the sunniest places in Canada, and in July expect >16 hr daylight plus a lengthy dusk and dawn.



Discrimination and Harassment Policy for the American Society of Parasitologists

Statement of Policy

In accordance with the bylaws of the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP), the Society will afford an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. The ASP will not tolerate actions, statements, or contacts that discourage the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas. This includes unequal treatment or harassment of any person based on their age, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, sexual orientation, race, color, national or ethnic origin, religious identifications, beliefs or practices, disabilities, veteran status, or any other reasons or expressions that are unrelated to their scientific merit. Harassment, sexual or otherwise, shall be considered as a form of misconduct and violators will be subject to disciplinary actions, including expulsion from a society function or from the society itself.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment does not refer to occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. It refers to behavior that is not welcome, is personally offensive, debilitates morale, and therefore, interferes with a collegial atmosphere. The following are examples of behavior that, when unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment: sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions; verbal comments or physical actions of a sexual nature; sexually degrading words used to describe an individual; a display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; sexually explicit jokes; unnecessary touching. What is perceived as acceptable to one person may be unwelcome by another. Those who have positions of authority or higher rank should be aware that others may be reluctant to outwardly express objections or discomfort regarding unwelcome behavior or language.

Other Types of Harassment

Remarks and behaviors based on other protected characteristics are also unacceptable to the Society. These include stereotyping, slurs, derogatory jokes or statements, and any hostile or intimidating acts.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all attendees and participants at ASP meetings and functions, including social functions, tours, or off-site activities during the course of meetings and functions, and include all members, guests, staff, contractors, and exhibitors.

Reporting an Incident

If any individual covered by this policy believes that they have experienced or witnessed harassment or bullying they should contact the society's designated individual [whose name will be posted in meeting programs, and the society website with names and emails included]. No complainant will be required to discuss any incident with a respondent, no respondent will be required to discuss any incident with a complainant. All individuals (complainant or respondent) may bring an accompanying individual of their choice with them for support at any point when they discuss the matter with the society's designated individual, or during any course of an ensuing investigation. Because allegations of discrimination, harassment and misconduct are sensitive matters with the potential to negatively impact the reputation of individuals, institutions, and/or our Society, confidentiality and discretion throughout the process is expected from all parties involved and is assured from the ASP's designated individual and all



involved in the investigation.

Regardless, a complainant may speak in confidence with the society's designated individual without involving an official report, an investigation or a respondent. All complaints that are received will be treated seriously, and will be addressed promptly if that is the wish of a complainant. Any incidents of sexual assault should be immediately reported to the police. Note that many local and regional governments also consider a variety of behaviors to be reportable crimes regardless of the wishes of the complainant, respondent or of the society.

Investigation

Following the official report of an incident, the Society's designated individual, in consultation with ASP Council, will name an impartial investigator, usually an elected officer or Council member, and the respondent will be promptly notified. No one who has a conflict of interest with respect to the complainant or respondent will serve in this role. A complainant will be asked to file a formal written complaint, the respondent will be notified immediately and prior to any discovery procedures. A respondent will be invited to respond to the complaint and allowed to bring evidence. The Council of the society reserves the right to interview other individuals as witnesses at its own discretion. The investigator is allowed to seek counsel if they are in doubt as to how to proceed. When the investigation is complete, the findings will be communicated to the elected officers, as well as both to the complainant and respondent. Those officers without a conflict of interest will decide on appropriate disciplinary actions.

Retaliation

The Society will not tolerate any form of retaliation against individuals who report an incident, against those who are subject to a complaint, nor against those who participate in an investigation. Retaliation will be considered a form of discrimination in and of itself and offenders will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including ejection from the society.

Disciplinary Action

If an individual harasses, retaliates, or knowingly makes a false claim, they will be subject to disciplinary action. These actions might range from a verbal warning to a request to leave the meeting or function without refund of fees and a reporting of the incident to the person's employer. Should repeated complaints, patterns of inappropriate behavior, or other events emerge, the society's by-laws permit its Council to exclude and eject members through a process that has no appeal.

Appeal & Questions

Should any person be dissatisfied with the result of an investigation or disciplinary action, they may appeal to the President of the Society, or to the highest ranking officer without a conflict of interest. Questions concerning the policy can be directed to an ASP officer or the ASP designated individual.



Willis A. Reid, Jr. Student Research Grants

Keep in mind that there are student research grants available to student members of the ASP - apply next year!! (-ed)

Call for Applications

In 2004, the American Society of Parasitologists began a new program to provide small grants to students studying parasitology. At this time, the ASP is able to fund one graduate student (\$1000) and one undergraduate student (\$500) doing research in the field of parasitology.

- Submissions must be received by January 20, 2016.
- Awardees will be notified by April 1, 2016 and awards dispersed on that date.

Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate level ASP student members affiliated with institutions or major professors who have limited or no grant money to support student research. **Both** the student and his/her major professor must be members of the ASP at the time of application. ([Applications for membership may be found at http://amsocparasit.org/](http://amsocparasit.org/)).

Documentation

The application packet must include:

1. A brief proposal written by the student (**maximum** of **3** pages, double-spaced, 11 pt typeface minimum in either MS Word, WordPerfect, or PDF format only) outlining the student's proposed research must be submitted, along with a separate, detailed 1-page budget of how the money will be spent. Money can only be used for supplies, equipment, and travel expenses for research (**not** to attend and present results at meetings).
2. A brief CV (1-2 pages).
3. A letter of support from the student's major professor stating why the student needs funding and explaining why the student is a good candidate to receive the grant.

NOTE: At the end of one year (April 1, 2017), awardees must submit a brief report (1-2 pages) summarizing their research activities over the year, outlining what was accomplished and the expenses incurred related to the initial proposal.

Please submit proposals to:

Dr. Ghislaine Mayer
ghislaine.mayer@manhattan.edu

OBITUARY -

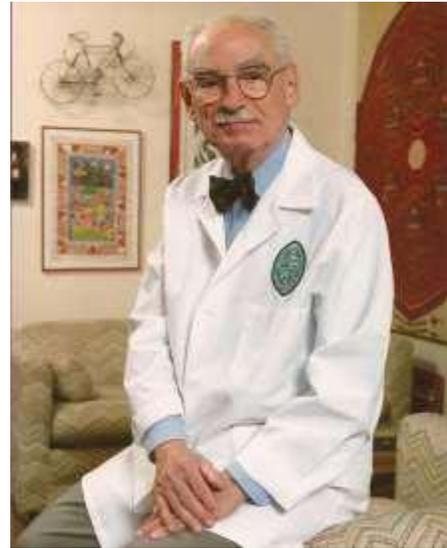
Antonio D'Alessandro MD, MPHTM, PhD

Un hombre excepcional e insustituible, médico salubrista especialista en medicina tropical y parasitólogo argentino, educador genuino y de rigor infinito.

Nació el 6 de abril de 1926 en Buenos Aires, Argentina y falleció el 28 de febrero de 2016 en esta misma ciudad a la edad de 89 años y con más de 6 décadas de una prestigiosa y productiva trayectoria profesional.

Estudió la carrera de Medicina en la Universidad de Buenos Aires, fue Practicante y Medico Interno de la Sala Dr. Cosío Hospital de Clínicas. En 1952 obtuvo el título de Doctor en Medicina Cum Laude y Premio a la mejor tesis doctoral, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Argentina. La gran admiración hacia su tío Juan Bacigalupo, eminente médico y parasitólogo Argentino ya fallecido, lo lleva desde 1945 a 1956 a desempeñarse como asistente y luego Jefe de la Clínica de Enfermedades Parasitarias Instituto de Parasitología, piso 13 de la Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires. En 1956 parte a los Estados Unidos de América radicándose en Nueva Orleans. Guiado por sus mentores y maestros Profesor Paul C. Beaver y el Profesor Rodney Jung en 1957 obtiene el Master en Salud Pública y Medicina Tropical (MPHTM) y en 1961 un Doctorado en Parasitología y Medicina Tropical (PhD) en el Departamento de Medicina Tropical, Universidad de Tulane. Perteneciendo a la misma Universidad en 1961 el Dr. John CS Paterson lo manda al Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas, CIDEIM, en Cali, Colombia, hecho que cambio su vida.



Fue el primer Director del CIDEIM y asimismo Jefe de la Misión Técnica e Investigador Principal de dos programas de este Centro: tripanosomiasis y echinococcosis en humanos y en animales de Colombia. Fue igualmente Profesor de Medicina en la Universidad del Valle, mantuvo una consultoría activa en el Hospital de la Universidad del Valle e incluso contribuyó activamente a la fundación de la Escuela de Medicina en Cali, Colombia. A su retorno a Tulane desde Colombia fue el profesor responsable del programa en Salud Publica y Medicina Tropical a una generación de médicos en entrenamiento a los cuales ofreció una mezcla de experiencia clínica, pericia parasitológica y percepción humanística.

En los 23 años de permanencia en CIDEIM, facilitó el aprendizaje de innumerables investigadores en diferentes aspectos de parasitología, medicina tropical y salud internacional. Contribuyó de forma multidisciplinaria al estudio de una variedad de parásitos e infecciones parasitarias. Participó activamente en los primeros estudios exploratorios del proyecto leishmaniasis en el Municipio de Tumaco, posicionando al CIDEIM como institución líder a nivel mundial en la investigación, la prevención y el control de esta enfermedad.

Junto a al Dr. Dale Little de la Universidad de Tulane, investigaron paragonimiasis en casos humanos de Perú y Ecuador y su relación con las especies de *Paragonimus spp.* encontradas en zarigüeyas de zonas de Cali, Colombia, como así también los primeros casos de onchocercosis en este país. Iniciador de los estudios de *Trypanosoma rangeli*. En el campo de la



Echinococcosis, junto con su colega y amigo el Dr. Robert Raush, llevaron a cabo estudios que tuvieron un impacto determinante en el entendimiento de las especies indígenas *E. vogeli* y *E. oligarthrus*, revelando un papel decisivo en el contexto ecológico para la transmisión y perpetuación de la echinococcosis neotropical poliquistica y unquistica en América del Sur. Antonio D'Alessandro y Robert Raush "padres y maestros de la Echinococcosis Neotropical" establecieron el diagnóstico microscópico diferencial entre los quistes de las cuatro especies de *Echinococcus*. Describieron la histogénesis, el mecanismo de patogénesis y reconocieron las características clínicas, diagnósticas y terapéuticas de la echinococcosis poliquistica.

En Honduras, dirigió dos cursos internacionales de educación continua en parasitología, con apoyo de la Organización Mundial de la Salud y la Organización Panamericana de la Salud/Washington/Honduras en 1994 y 1995. Estimuló la creación de un laboratorio docente para la práctica de alumnos de medicina dentro del Servicio de Parasitología del Departamento de Laboratorio Clínico, Hospital Escuela Universitario, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, que funciona desde 1997.

La producción científica del Dr. D'Alessandro incluye numerosos artículos con revisión de pares en revistas nacionales e internacionales y capítulos de libros sobre temas en echinococcosis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, céstodos, filariasis, amebiasis y otros temas diversos. Fue miembro de Sociedades Científicas nacionales e internacionales. De regreso a su país natal en el año 2008, el Dr. D'Alessandro continuó activo en el área científico-técnica y cultural. En el año 2011 fue nombrado Asesor de la Echinococcosis Neotropical y otras zoonosis, Departamento Parasitología, INEI-ANLIS "Dr. Carlos G. Malbran", Ministerio de Salud de la Nación, Argentina asesorando y participando activamente en la documentación de los casos de Echinococcosis Neotropical y otras parasitosis en el noreste del país.

En 2014 fue nombrado Miembro consultor del Grupo de Echinococcosis Neotropical del Cono Sur y Pan-Amazonia, promoviendo junto con miembros del Grupo la inclusión de la Echinococcosis Neotropical en la Clasificación Internacional de Enfermedades, CIE-10, logrando así su gran anhelo... que esta enfermedad desconocida y olvidada por muchos sea considerada en el diagnóstico diferencial de masas poliquisticas. Tal como lo manifestó en el año 2001 "...esta enfermedad interesante que ya no es una curiosidad, sino un problema médico de fácil manejo... no deberían tomarla como una simple curiosidad exótica, mas deben tener el conocimiento para reconocerla y considerarla en el diagnóstico diferencial de masas poliquisticas que afectan a múltiples órganos, principalmente el hígado... el número de casos reconocidos de la enfermedad poliquistica es probablemente la punta del iceberg". Por otra parte, el Dr. D'Alessandro fue un hombre de vasta cultura universal y apreciador del arte general y en especial del arte precolombino.

Quien en el año 2015 donó su colección de 401 piezas precolombinas datadas entre el 1500 AC y el 1500 DC al Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Argentina (MALBA). La colección se conformó durante los más de veinte años de residencia del Dr. Antonio D'Alessandro y su esposa, Raquel Montenegro, en Colombia. La colección "D'Alessandro de arte precolombino" permanece de forma permanente abierta al público.

Por sus innumerables méritos mereció diversas distinciones que llevaba con gran orgullo pero con la sencillez de un hombre que había recorrido numerosos caminos en su vida profesional y personal y que regresaba con un haber de sabiduría que lo hacía distinguirse entre muchos.

Algunos de ellos fueron:

- Doctor en Medicina Cum Laude y Premio a la mejor tesis doctoral. Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, en 1952.



- Premio Lederle al mejor trabajo de Ciencias Básicas: Ciclo de vida del *Echinococcus vogeli*, nuevo agente de la hidatidosis poliquistica, en 1978.
- Miembro fundador de la Federación Latinoamericana de Parasitología, FLAP, 1963.
- Miembro Comité Asesor y Técnico del Tropical Disease Research, TDR, OMS/WHO, Ginebra, Suiza, de 1983 a 1986.
- Profesor Emérito, Departamento de Medicina y de la Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, 1984, año que retorna a la Universidad de Tulane, en Nueva Orleans, Estados Unidos.
- Condecorado por la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad del Valle por servicios a la misma como profesor durante más de 30 años en 1993.
- "Maestro de la Parasitología Argentina" otorgado por la Sociedad Argentina de Parasitología, por importantes contribuciones a esa especialidad, en 2000.
- Condecorado con la distinción "Cave Canes" por la Filial Argentina Sociedad Internacional de Hidatidología, por su trayectoria y aportes en el campo de la Hidatidosis, en 2014.
- Diploma de Mérito al Reconocimiento en la contribución en el campo de la Equinococosis por Asociación Internacional de Hidatidología. XXVIth World Congress on Echinococosis, Bucharest, Romania, en 2015.

El Dr. Antonio D'Alessandro nos regalò el lujo de su sabiduría y experiencia; su elevado sentido del respeto y la ética profesional; con alto concepto de la amistad y la familia. Nunca más lo veremos llegando a los eventos científicos o reuniones, con su inigualable presencia: moñito al cuello y bastón en mano, con su andar tranquilo su disponibilidad, su escucha atenta y su intervención precisa, y su inigualable sentido del humor. Pero los grandes pensadores, los grandes maestros y los hombres de bien no se van aunque mueran. De Antonio quedarán, en todos nosotros, siempre sus pensamientos y sus actos para seguir imitando.

La vida para él se resumía en dos líneas... Poco antes de su partida expresó: *"estoy agradecido a la vida, a este regalo extra que me da la vida... no le tengo miedo a la muerte porque vivo la vida y estoy en paz"*. Y así era, vivía cada día como si fuera a vivir mil más haciendo llegar constantemente sus consejos con una infinita positiva visión de futuro.

Los gigantes como el Dr. D'Alessandro no desaparecen; dejan huellas eternas; echan fuertes raíces; son generadores de talentos y seguidores; multiplican sus semillas, dejan legados y hacen escuelas.

De una gran amiga, discípula y nieta del corazón

Katherina A. Vizcaychipi Servicio
Inmunología Parasitaria
Departamento Parasitología
INEI-ANLIS
"Dr. Carlos G. Malbran" MSN, Buenos
Aires, Argentina.



Some Information for Summer-Time Travel

[SEE THE Q&A WITH DANIEL R. BROOKS at the Rare Disease Report - online.](#)

Dan states that: "I believe we should adopt the biodiversity Precautionary Principle, which states that incomplete knowledge is not reason not to act. And in fact, there is much knowledge about the natural history of pathogens and vectors that can be exploited to develop policies designed to "find them before they find us." [My group of colleagues proposed last year a protocol with the acronym DAMA \(Document, Assess, Monitor, Act\).](#)" **Brooks, D.R., et al., 2014. Finding them before they find us: Informatics, parasites, and environments in accelerating climate change. *Comparative Parasitology* 81:155-164.**

- **[The CDC Zika Virus Information Page](#)** This page provides information about Zika virus, distribution, Zika and pregnancy, Zika and travel, and countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.
- **[The Institut Pasteur Zika information page.](#)** This page gives good information on Zika from the French perspective.
- **[European Commission - Public Health.](#)** This page lists latest developments in Zika virus distribution and research.
- **[WHO - Zika virus data.](#)** This is the WHO page on the current Zika virus outbreak.

Key Facts from the WHO web site:

--Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by species of mosquitoes of the genus *Aedes*.

--People with Zika virus disease can have symptoms including mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days.

--There is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of both microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Links to other neurological complications are also being investigated.



National Science Foundation claim to reinstate the the CSBR program actually another 50% cut in funding for the Program: Collections in Support of Biological Research

The recently reinstated CSBR program in the Division of Biological Infrastructure at the National Science Foundation sounds good at first mention ([See Nature Article](#)). But when you look at the way the NSF has been cutting support for collections over the past few years, it is actually resulting in another big cut (50%) in funding of natural history and biodiversity resources in the US. Various people around the country who read of the "reversal" of the track that the NSF has taken when they announced the decision to reinstate the CSBR program (on a two year cycle) indicated that they were delighted. This is because they are not thinking of biological resources and collections in the US in the long term.

Looking at the funding from 5 years ago to the present shows "cut creep" moving into the system. Since about 2010 with various cuts and combining programs (the living stocks and the natural history collections program - without a concomitant increase in budget), this actually resulted in a cut in the budget of the collections grants to the present time of about 75%. There is now an internal NSF review of the CSBR program occurring and the whole program depends on the results of the internal review. This writer encourages anyone interested in the natural history museums, collections, and biodiversity resources of the USA to keep the pressure up on the NSF by calling and writing directly to **France A. Córdova**, who is the director of the NSF and express your views. Email: fcordova@nsf.gov Phone: (703) 292-8000

Signed: *Anonymous*

(This was submitted by a reader and passionate supporter of biodiversity preservation, collections, and natural history and has asked not to have her name revealed. -ed.)



The relevance of supporting your Scientific Society.

During this brief essay I want to talk about scientific societies, in particular ASP and its regional societies. I will ask the readership to share their thoughts on the strengths of our society. In addition, I will offer a testimony of the direct benefits resulting from my participation in ASP, the regional and national meetings.

During the annual meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists held in Quebec, Canada in 2013 I had the chance to get re-acquainted with several colleagues. It was very rewarding to chat with people one has not seen in as long as 16 years. During this encounter, we had the chance to remember field experiences and realized that we remembered things very differently. In some cases we realized that one of us have forgotten events that, to the other part appeared crucial to the experience. It is frequent to realize this selective memory of events with siblings, family members and with people who were part of the crew of fieldwork. However, our conversations transitioned into more intellectual fields, ranging from the abnegated endeavor of doing science in different countries to the tenets of our discipline. As part of these conversations, we got engaged into the long-term goals of the American Society of Parasitologists and other organismal societies. During the same discussion, we compared ASP to other scientific societies, their missions and their tendencies.

One gets to discuss these topics as a result of a common objective. In this particular case, I was inspired to inquire about those topics because I was elected as a Council Member. As such, I sat in the Council Meeting for the first time and was impressed by the fact that several topics in the agenda revolved around the dwindling membership of the Society and Journal subscriptions. Nobody seemed to have a firm answer that explained our decline when other national societies opened sections to study parasites and parasitism (as an example, the Section of Disease Ecology in the Ecological Society of America was founded in 2014 <http://esa.org/history/disease-ecology-section/>).

Some of my colleagues pinpointed the fact that the ASP is an organismal society. Thus, it does not have a paradigm, a cohesive topic, and as a first consequence this would hinder its ability to attract new members that try to make contributions into the topics that propel science. The concept makes some sense, since there is no unifying theory that unites all of the topics covered during the meetings of the ASP. However, I was left thinking that some societies do not have a unifying theory or paradigm as well. If one seeks in the mission statements of non-organismal societies (i.e., the ones listed in the previous paragraph), one will note that they are not any different than the purpose of the ASP.

The mission of ASP is to promote the study of parasites and parasitism. And as such, the membership of ASP has made substantial contributions to science and the wellbeing of humankind. As highlighted in the previous Newsletter, the effects of Avermectins in worms were first presented in an annual meeting of the ASP in Chicago, IL in 1978.



Little do I have to explain to the readership the transcendence of these discoveries. But apparently we need to highlight the relevance of the findings of our membership and the communication of these findings to our colleagues.

With the annual meeting about to start in Edmonton, Alberta, I wonder if the membership considers it important to share their findings with their peers. I do agree that it may be important to communicate our findings to non-parasitologists, yet I suspect that presenting these ideas to the critical core of colleagues is fundamental. I wonder if the membership can share with me the most impacting presentations, papers, and concepts one has learned during the annual meeting of ASP. Feel free to send me a postcard (from Edmonton) or an e-mail with your impressions. These long lasting concepts are -in my opinion- what makes the ASP relevant.

The second part of this contribution also deals with the benefits of attending the annual meeting or the meetings of the affiliate societies (find the complete list of regional Parasitological societies here <http://amsocparasit.org/about/local-societies>) or at the end of this newsletter. I must tell you that I am a member of four of those and I will use the lines below to convince you that being a member of these societies does give enormous benefits as an individual. I should start by saying that I had the privilege to serve as President of SWAP in 2008. I also should say that I served as a president of SWAP fairly early in my career, when traditionally that post would be left to seasoned academics. I feel that one of the reasons for this happenstance included the fact that the participation of more senior faculty in these meetings declined dramatically in the early 2000's. One could list several circumstances that resulted in this decline, including retirement and increase of workloads, among others. Thus, younger faculty and academics are left to play the important roles in these societies. Therefore, it is imperative that the younger faculty (we are all young, as long as we continue learning) increases participation in the meetings. Sometimes I heard colleagues identifying societal participation as a burden. These same colleagues state that participation in meetings takes a substantial amount of time and results in no direct benefit.

I do not intend to force people into attending and participating in these societal meetings. Sometimes there are more important things to do that prevent participation. However, I want to stress that this participation does have positive results and I offer a personal testimony.

First, I feel that my participation regenerates my intellectual curiosity. As faculty in a research institution there are not a lot of opportunities to engage in deep scientific conversations with most of my peers. This is not because of the lack of interest, rather is the result of lack of time for promoting interactions and increasing one's background on topics not directly related to one's research. When I attend the meetings, I have the chance to interact with colleagues and students who introduce me to new and exciting problems in parasitology.

Second, it strengthens my professional background. I credit my current position with my participation in parasitological meetings. I am now a tenured associate professor.



Serving as an officer in any scientific society provides the opportunity to learn the ropes in how to run (business) meetings. That is right, even after memorizing the Robert's Rules of Order practical experience with your friendly colleagues is key. It grants the proper experience so one does not make rookie mistakes when serving in an institutional wide committee (academy or industry). Acting as an officer also gives one professional experience and in every academic department this service counts towards workload. The most important aspect, is that this participation affords the chance to interact with one's peers. This is a golden opportunity because these individuals may vouch for your work sometime in the future. Just consider the process of promotion and tenure. In most cases you require letters from peers who are not your collaborators. The list of individuals who can evaluate your work may come directly from the membership book of the ASP. It is more likely that these people make an effort in evaluating your materials if you contribute to their societal goals (this is an idea taken from TC Kuhn).

I hope you all have a great time in Edmonton. Feel free to send me your impressions from the meetings and ideas on how to increase membership in ASP. You can also share your thoughts directly with any member of the ASP Council.

Best regards.

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Note to Members -

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news of parasitological interest. Please send your text electronically to the editor as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W TIF files at 300 dpi.

Thanks: slg@unl.edu

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