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Summer 2017

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, Volume 39, Number 1, Summer 2017

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ASP Newsletter

Vol. 39, No. 1.

Summer, 2017

The American Society of Parasitologists



Newsletter

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From the Editor

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.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Gardner - editor
slg@unl.edu



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92nd Annual Meeting of the ASP June 27 – July 1, 2017 Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas



The American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) is holding its 92nd Annual Meeting jointly with the International Coccidiosis Conference (ICC-12) at The Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas, from June 27 through July 1, 2017. Both ICC and ASP members, as well as non-members who typically attend these ASP meetings, have submitted abstracts for papers for oral presentations, poster presentations, as invited speakers, or as contributors to symposia or workshops.





Archives of the ASP Newsletter

Please check your back issues and send any paper copies older than 1999 to Scott at the Manter Laboratory, so that we can scan them and get them on line. The archive site is: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/parasitologynews/> and this runs back to Summer 1999. Since this was loaded up and started on the digitalcommons, the ASP Newsletter has been downloaded more than 18,520 times, and 1,900 times in the last year alone!

Vincent Connors Wins USC Upstate Award

Vincent A. Connors, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at the University of South Carolina Upstate was named the 2015-2016 recipient of the USC Upstate Annual Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarly and/or Creative Pursuits. His scholarly focus is on the immunobiology and ecology of parasites, with special emphasis on host-parasite relationships. This is the highest award given to Upstate faculty members for their research and scholarly activities at USC Upstate and recognizes Dr. Connors' long term pursuit of research.



Additionally, Dr. Connors (left in the photo above) also received the 2016 Commemorative Medal of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Kosice, Slovakia, on December 14, 2016.

Professor RNDr. [Pavol Sovák](#), Rector of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University (right in the photo above), presented Connors with the award for his contributions to science and education at the university during the completion of his Fulbright sponsored sabbatical stay at the University.



Dr. Connors traveled to the Slovak Republic during the fall to teach graduate seminars and classes in Symbiosis and Parasitism at Pavel Jozef Safarik University in Kosice. He also participated in research on tick borne diseases at the Slovak Academy of Science's Institute of Parasitology, also in Kosice. His teaching and research focused on parasitic diseases of humans and wildlife, both of which are extensions of his long-term studies of a wide range of parasites, ranging from a deadly human pathogen to parasites that effect the performance and health of economically important fish along the East Coast of the U.S.A.

Herman Zaiman Images Always Available on the Manter Laboratory Servers

This is the link that takes you to the images that are stored on the HWML servers of the complete Zaiman image database: <http://hwml.unl.edu/general-parasitology/zaiman-menu>.

Dr. Herman Zaiman (1917-2007), starting from the late 1960s, compiled an extensive collection of slide photos showing various medical aspects of the most common human parasites. Dr. Zaiman sold copies of this collection to medical schools for teaching purposes. Just before Dr. Zaiman died, he donated his complete collection of slides to the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology. The staff of the HWML scanned and converted all his slides to digital images and these are presented below for the benefit of parasitologists, world-wide.

Course - MalariaX: Defeating Malaria from Genes to the Globe

In collaboration with the Barcelona Institute for Global Health and the Swiss Tropical Public Health Institute, Harvard University is launching a free online course, "PH425x: Defeating Malaria from the Genes to the Globe.

-- *How can we eradicate malaria? Explore cutting-edge science and technology, and examine policies needed, to control and eliminate malaria--*

"MalariaX: Defeating Malaria from the Genes to the Globe" reviews the scientific and technological underpinnings of malaria, as well as the historical, political, social, and economic contexts in which control, elimination, and eradication efforts unfold. Through foundational lectures and supplemental interviews, featuring a wide variety of faculty from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, participants are guided through analysis of real world data and its effective use in problem solving. Learners will explore: the biology of the malaria



parasite, the mosquito vector, and the human host; challenges of eradicating malaria in complex ecosystems; scientific and technological approaches for malaria control and elimination; and how health systems effectively monitor and respond to malaria.

Learn more and enroll: [MalariaX: Defeating Malaria from the Genes to the Globe](https://www.edx.org/course/malariax-defeating-malaria-genes-globe-harvardx-ph425x#!).

URL: <https://www.edx.org/course/malariax-defeating-malaria-genes-globe-harvardx-ph425x#!>

Willis A. Reid, Jr. Student Research Grants

Call for Applications for 2018

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 (\$1,000) and one undergraduate student (\$500) doing research in the field of parasitology.

- Submissions must be received by January 20, 2018.
- Awardees will be notified by April 1, 2018 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. To join ASP, visit their website: <http://amsocparasit.org/>.

Documentation

The application packet must include:

1. The student must submit a proposal outlining the proposed research, along with a separate, detailed one-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). Style requirements include: maximum of three pages, double-spaced, 11 pt typeface minimum in MS Word, WordPerfect, or PDF format.
2. A brief curriculum vitae (one to two 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, 2018), awardees must submit a brief report (one to two pages) summarizing their research activities over the year, outlining what was accomplished, and the expenses incurred related to the initial proposal. See the ASP web page for current chairs of committees.



CLUFF HOPLA FLEA COLLECTION SURFACES

Dr. Cluff E. Hopla (1917-2008), former professor at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, was a world leader in medical entomology and zoonotic disease research. Although all of his students can attest that he was a virtual paragon of arthropod morphology, his primary interest was with fleas. When he died, his massive collection of Siphonaptera was stored in boxes in his home, and in the laboratory of his friend and colleague, Dr. Michael Kennedy at the University of Memphis. Recently, his daughter, a medical doctor in Tennessee contacted me at the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology (HWML) in hopes that we could help to make this important collection available again to the scientific community. The entire collection is comprised of over 40,000 individual microscope slides, one flea per slide, representing more than 300 species. Almost all specimens are fully identified, and beautifully mounted in Canada balsam, one flea per slide. The strength of the collection is Nearctic, from a wide range of representative hosts, especially rodents. With the excellent quality of the slides, we hope to develop an online identification tool through the use of high-resolution digital photos.



Dr. Hopla with a flying fox, circa 1945



Without a doubt, the collection will become a valuable resource for the scientific community. The Manter Lab is now searching for funding to fully integrate this collection into the HWML Arctos database. A CSBR proposal will be submitted to the Division of Biological Infrastructure of the National Science Foundation at the end of the summer.

Many years ago, Dr. Hopla gave me the opportunity to go to the field in Utah with his friend, colleague, and siphonaptera powerhouse, Dr. Robert Traub, touting me as just the person to help him collect the deer mice that he suspected to be infested with a new species of intradermal tungid flea (everyone knows about *Tunga penetrans*, of course). As we prepared to leave, Hopla and Traub quipped that if they combined their large flea collections, they would at last rival the Rothschild and Jordan collections in Britain at the Natural History Museum in Tring. As we drove off, Hopla chanted "collect, collect, collect!" Now, as the Manter Lab begins the formidable task of organizing and preserving Hopla's flea collection, I would like to solicit any interesting stories that you may have about Cluff Hopla, his career, his students, and his love of fleas. Also, it is clear from his notes that many specimens were loaned to colleagues through the years. This would be a good opportunity to send them back and get them repatriated to this important collection, so they too can be available for further study. Personally, I feel great about taking on this task, and giving back a little to the professor who believed in my future as a field biologist. But most of all, I am doing this because I know how much it would have meant to him.

Donald Gettinger

June 27, 2017

Senior Fellow, Manter Laboratory of Parasitology



Pulex irritans, male and female



Some Information for Summertime Travel

- [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.
 - [WHO - Public Health](#). This page lists the latest public health messages in an infographic sort of way. Easy for people to see, read, and understand.
 - [Giardia - CDC](#). This page has a lot of information about giardiasis (infection with *Giardia*).
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Protistans from the gut of a termite. Image courtesy of G. and C. Gardner



NSC Alliance Washington Report, Volume 8, Issue 6

- Policy News from NSC Alliance
- President Trump's Budget Request Would Cut Billions from Science
- Biology Community to Congress: Reject Budget, Fund Science
- NSC Alliance Weighs in on Federal Funding for Collections
- NSC Alliance Members Invited to Interact With Lawmakers This Summer
- House Science Committee Considers NSF Indirect Costs
- NAGPRA Review Committee Suspended
- NSC Alliance Board of Directors to Meet in Denver, Prior to Director's Summit

Policy News from NSC Alliance

Through the NSC Alliance partnership with the American Institute of Biological Sciences, we are pleased to provide NSC Alliance members with the following public policy update. With proper attribution to NSC Alliance, all material from these reports may be reproduced or forwarded. **We encourage you to share this report with colleagues at your institution. Anyone interested in receiving copies of the NSC Alliance Washington Report may subscribe at www.NSCAlliance.org -- it's free!**

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding any of the following items, please contact NSC Alliance director of public policy Dr. Robert Gropp at 202-628-1500 x 250 or at rgropp@aibs.org.

President Trump's Budget Request Would Cut Billions from Science

On 23 May, the White House released the details of its fiscal year 2018 budget request. The plan continued to call for steep cuts first outlined in the 'skinny



budget' released in March. Billions of dollars would be cut from science programs, including from every major source of federal funding for biological research.

Most federal research programs are facing cuts on the order of 10 percent or more.

- Science and Technology within the Environmental Protection Agency would be cut by \$255.7 million (-36.2 percent). Extramural STAR research grants would be eliminated, as would "voluntary" climate change programs. Sustainable Communities, which includes research on ecosystem services, would be cut by nearly 60 percent.
- Funding for the National Institutes of Health would be reduced by \$7.4 billion (-22.2 percent). The budget request assumes that Congress will provide the full \$496 million authorized for the agency in the 21st Century Cures Act. The funding rate for research grants would decline to less than 14 percent. The Administration also proposes to reduce the reimbursement rate for grantees' indirect costs.
- Funding for the Agricultural Research Service (excluding facilities) would be cut by \$237.1 million (-20.3 percent). Seventeen laboratories or work sites would be closed.
- The Department of Energy Office of Science would be cut by \$919.5 million (-17.1 percent). A 43 percent cut from Biological and Environmental Research is proposed.
- The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy would be terminated.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would lose \$900.1 million (-15.9 percent), including large cuts from research. The Sea Grant program and Office of Education would be eliminated.
- The U.S. Geological Survey's budget would be cut by \$163.0 million (-15.0 percent). The Ecosystems mission area would lose 17.3 percent, including the termination or significant reduction of several research programs.
- The National Science Foundation would lose \$819.3 million (-11.0 percent). Biological sciences research would be cut by 9.7 percent overall. Graduate research fellowships and funding for states that receive less federal research funding—the EPSCoR program—would be cut heavily.
- Forest and Rangeland Research within the U.S. Forest Service is facing a \$29.5 million cut (-10.2 percent).



-
- Science Support within the Fish and Wildlife Service would be eliminated.
 - Competitively awarded agricultural research grants would lose \$25.7 million (-6.9 percent).
 - Science within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration would be cut by \$53.1 million (-0.9 percent), but Earth Science would experience deeper cuts, including the termination of five research missions. NASA's education program would be eliminated.
 - The Institute of Museum and Library Services would be terminated.

The President's budget request is just the first step in the annual appropriations process. Congress is responsible for writing the twelve appropriations bills that collectively fund the federal government.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that the President's budget request is "a statement of their priorities that is not necessarily ours."

Biology Community to Congress: Reject Budget, Fund Science

A letter to Congress calls for lawmakers to reject the deep cuts to research and science education proposed in President Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget request.

"The budget cuts outlined by the Administration for 2018 would set back American innovation for years. Funding rates for programs that support foundational biological research are already extremely low, with roughly four out of five research proposals rejected by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The proposed budget would slash these funding rates even further for researchers at universities, colleges, marine labs, field stations, biological collections, and other non-profit research centers. Research conducted at federal labs would be harmed by likely staff reductions and cuts to research budgets."

The letter was signed by the NSC Alliance and forty other scientific organizations.

Read the letter at https://www.aibs.org/position-statements/20170523_multisociety_letter.html.



NSC Alliance Weighs in on Federal Funding for Collections

The NSC Alliance has provided testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding funding for certain programs that curate natural history collections. The testimony addressed programs within the Department of the Interior and Smithsonian Institution.

NSC Alliance stated, in part: "Scientific collections are critical infrastructure for our nation's research enterprise. Research specimens connect us to the past, are used to solve current societal problems, and are helping to predict threats to human health, methods for ensuring food security, and the impact of future environmental changes. Sustained investments in scientific collections are critical for our nation's continued scientific leadership."

Read the NSC Alliance fiscal year 2018 Interior testimony at <http://nscalliance.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/owt-interior-house-fy18-nsca-final.pdf>.

NSC Alliance Members Invited to Interact with Lawmakers This Summer

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is pleased to announce that Alliance members are eligible to participate in the 2017 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event.

This national initiative is an opportunity for scientists across the country to meet with their federal or state elected officials to showcase the people, facilities, and equipment that are required to support and conduct scientific research.

There is a pressing need for the scientific community to engage with policymakers about the value of natural history collections in research and education. As called for in the recent report from the Biodiversity Collections Network, "The community must do a better job of communicating outcomes and benefits of digitization efforts to policymakers, administrators, other scientists, and the public."

The Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event enables scientists, curators, museum professionals, and graduate students to meet with their



elected officials without traveling to Washington, D.C. Participants may either invite an elected official to tour their research facility or can meet at the lawmaker's local office. Meetings will take place mid-July through October, depending on the participant's schedule.

NSC Alliance members who participate will receive one-on-one support and online training to prepare them for their tour or meeting. The event is open to all types of natural science collections, including biological, geological, and anthropological collections.

Participation is free for NSC Alliance member organizations, but registration will close on July 18, 2017. To register, visit https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/congressional_district_visits.html.

House Science Committee Considers NSF Indirect Costs

Payments to universities and other entities that conduct federally sponsored research were the focus of a recent hearing by the House Science Committee.

So-called indirect costs are not directly identifiable with a specific research project, but are required for an organization to do the research. Examples of indirect costs include laboratory occupancy costs, libraries, IT, data transmission and storage, administration, and compliance with federal regulations.

Subcommittee Chair Barbara Comstock (R-VA) called indirect costs "legitimate and necessary," but expressed the view that the system is overly complex. Presently, every institution negotiates its own indirect cost rate with the government, which range from less than 1 percent to more than 60 percent. "It raises a question of whether we have created a system of haves and have-nots, where wealthy institutions benefit the most," said Comstock.

Ranking Member Dan Lipinski (D-IL) countered with evidence that reimbursed rates are 19 percent lower than negotiated rates. The National Science Foundation (NSF) spent \$1.3 billion last year on indirect costs, about one-fifth of its total research budget. The percentage of NSF's funding spent on indirect costs has been relatively stable since 2000.



NSF negotiates indirect cost rates for about 5 percent of its awardees. These are largely non-profits, such as research centers, scientific societies, and museums. All other grantees' rates are negotiated by other federal agencies.

Some lawmakers on the panel accused universities of making a profit on federally supported research because of reimbursement of indirect costs. One witness, who represented Duke University, said that the university loses money on research. "We absorb every incremental dollar of administrative or compliance activities... We're not making money on the research endeavor whatsoever."

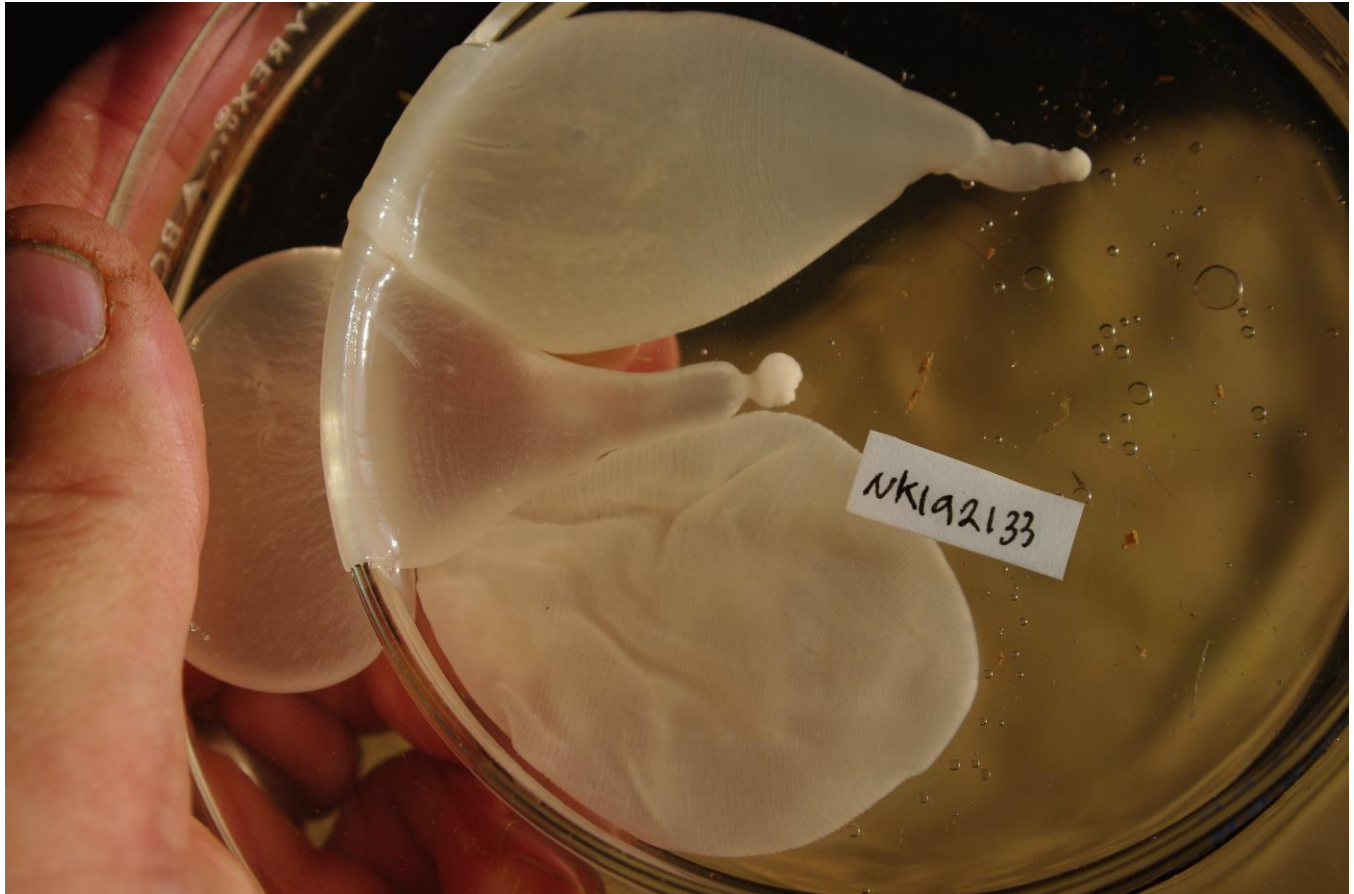
NAGPRA Review Committee Suspended

More than 200 advisory panels for the Department of the Interior have been temporarily suspended, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee. Committee meetings previously scheduled for July and August have been postponed. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke put all outside committees on hiatus as he reviews their charters and missions. Other impacted committees include the Bureau of Land Management's 38 resource advisory councils, as well as the National Park System Advisory Board, National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, and North Slope Science Initiative Technical Advisory Panel. An Interior spokesperson said the review of "the charter and charge of each Board/Advisory Committee" is designed to "maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act."

The review process has halted meetings of these groups through at least September 2017. Moreover, the appointment and nomination process for the NAGPRA Review Committee has been postponed until further notice. Two nominations are currently pending: one tribal position and the at-large position. One of the museum and scientific nominated positions will become vacant in November 2017.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit association that serves as an advocate for natural science collections, the institutions that preserve them, and the research and education that extend from them for the benefit of science, society, and stewardship of the environment. NSC Alliance members are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities, and other institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities. Website: www.NSCAlliance.org.

The NSC Alliance Washington Report is a publication of the NSC Alliance. For information about membership in the NSC Alliance, please contact dbosnjak@aibs.org.



Taenia larvae from a goat. Mongolia, 2010

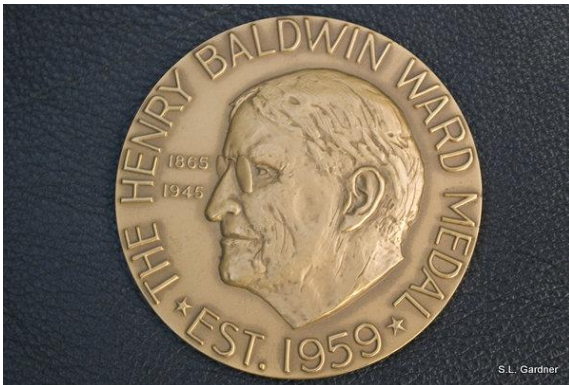


Note to Members of the ASP -

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.

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HENRY BALDWIN WARD MEDAL WON BY
FRANK SOGANDARES, 1959

Affiliated Societies

- Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists
 - Helminthological Society of Washington
 - New England Association of Parasitologists
 - Northern California society of Parasitologists
 - Parasitology Section, Canadian Society of Zoologists
 - Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists
 - Southeastern Society of Parasitologists
 - Southern California Society of Parasitologists
 - Southwestern Association of Parasitologists
-