

PARSA

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 15
July
2013

Message from the editor

Dear PARSA Members

Wow, the end of July already! PARSA 2013 is almost upon us...to be held from 22 to 24 September. The venue looks beautiful and we are looking forward to an interesting couple of days, sharing all the latest parasitological news from South Africa and abroad. For those members who have not had time to look at this picturesque location, a little teaser has been added to the newsletter. Remember this occurs at the same time as "Aardklop" so members can incorporate that unique experience while in the North West too.

Please keep in mind that ALL students are given discounts for the conference!! Also note the closing date for early registration (and hence cheaper rates) for PARSA 2013 is around the corner, **17 August 2013**, so please be aware and make your arrangements accordingly.

Thank you, Susan Dippenaar, for the report back on what sounds like a very successful 2nd International Workshop on Copepoda. For those interested in more info on this workshop, please look at the website as well.

Furthermore, take a look at some of the new journals available for publishing your parasitological work, as well as some of the parasitological conferences held worldwide for the rest of the year.

Thank you to all those members who have paid your annual PARSA membership fees! We truly appreciate it! We hope you have all received your membership certificate to verify your payment and membership status. Please let me know if you have not received your certificate (contact me at parsa.news@yahoo.com) and I will look into it a.s.a.p.

The next newsletter, to be sent out in October will be the last for this year so please make sure all the news articles for the rest of the year are sent in before then. Thank you!

Kind regards

Kerry



Dear PARSA member:

I sincerely hope you all had the opportunity to have a little break during the winter recess or at least took the opportunity to focus a little on research. The Excom also used the winding down of the academic semester to get together for our second Excom meeting of the year. The main purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the nominations for the Junior and Senior WO Neitz medals and appoint appropriate adjudicators. In addition we also discussed a request from the International Convention Centre in Durban to look at the possibility of submitting a bid to host the 2018 International Conference on Parasitology (ICOPA). Some of you might remember that we did bid at the 2010 ICOPA in Australia for the 2014 event, but was out "tequila-ed" by Mexico! However, the experience gained during that bid might help us if we consider doing it again. The Excom nominated Prof Banie Pentzorn (who lead the 2014 bid) to investigate this further and report back on the way forward at the 2013 PARSA AGM.

Talking of which, things are going full speed ahead with the planning of PARSA 2013. After extending the abstract deadline to 19 July we received around 50 abstract submissions. If there is any one that still wants to submit an abstract please contact me urgently and we will try make a plan. For those that did submit their abstracts, thank you very much, we are really looking forward to your presentations and posters. Also, all abstract acceptance letters will be sent out by 9 August so please remember the Early Bird registration deadline of 17 August.

In my previous letter I indicated that the 2014 International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife will be from 31 August to 04 September 2014 in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa. Unfortunately SANPARKS made a mess of the booking and the venue was double booked for that week. After some really hard work (and words) by Prof Banie, he managed to secure Skukuza for us for the week of 14 September. I can thus confirm that the congress will still be in the incredible venue of Skukuza, KNP but now from 14-17 September. Please take note that this conference will incorporate the annual PARSA conference as well, thus special sessions will be included for our non-wildlife parasitology members and colleagues. One of our major aims for this congress is to make it as cheap as possible for students in order for them to experience an international congress at an affordable price and in the process present their work to an international audience while rubbing shoulders with world renowned parasitologists.

Have a great third quarter of 2013.

Regards



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Next Issue...

For the next issue we are looking for the following contributions:

- Feature articles on research being done in your institute (with photos).
- Summary on the life and work of a respected and well-known parasitologist.
- Student abstracts from across southern Africa conveying the various research being done on parasites in Africa.
- Reviews and photos of the parasitological conferences and workshops attended.
- News to be distributed including job and bursary opportunities, post-graduate project opportunities and awards won by our PARSA members.

Due: October 2013

Please note...

Please note that most of this information is also available on the PARSA website as well as some additional information not present here. Check it out at:

www.parsa.ac.za



2013 Conferences

7th International Symposium on Monogenea (ISM 7)

4 August – 9 August 2013

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The local organizing committee of the 7th International Symposium on Monogenea is delighted to invite all to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 2013 for an exciting scientific meeting and a fantastic travel experience in Rio de Janeiro, the cidade maravilhosa (wonderful city).

http://zoo.bio.ufpr.br/ISM7/ISM7_Brazil.html



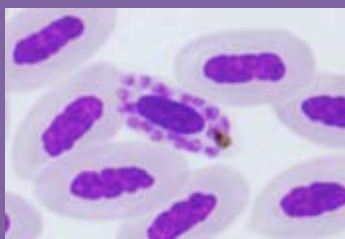
International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife

August – 11 August 2013

Vilnius, Lithuania

MalariaRCN is hosted by the Nature Research Centre and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. It will support lectures and will also provide partial support for students to attend this meeting. The conference will promote international exchange and enhance collaborations throughout the world for wildlife malaria research, and the conservation and health of terrestrial vertebrates.

<http://malariarcn.org/conference2013>



World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP)

25 August – 29 August 2013

Perth, Australia

WAAVP 2013 will bring together parasitologists from around the world to present and discuss the latest advances in their research as well as important issues relevant to veterinary parasitology. Our discipline embraces a broad and growing field of applied parasitology and WAAVP 2013 will provide the opportunity to look to the future as well as build on the successes over the last 50 years. This conference will celebrate WAAVP's 50th Birthday!

www.waa vp2013perth.com



24th Annual Molecular Parasitology Meeting

8 September – 12 September 2013

Woods Hole, United States

This meeting covers all aspects of parasite molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry, genetics and genomics, focusing on protozoan parasites. Presentations (talks and posters) by graduate students and post-docs are strongly encouraged. The meeting will start Saturday Sept 8 with dinner followed by an evening session at 7PM. The meeting will end on Wednesday Sept 12 with a morning session followed by lunch.

https://ws3.mbl.edu/iebms/wri/wri_p1_display.aspx?oc=10&cc=MPM-HOME



Latin American Congress of Parasitology XXI

6 October – 9 October 2013

Guayaquil, Ecuador

The XXI Latin American Congress of Parasitology will be held 6–9 October 2013 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The organizers are Dr. Edgar Montalvo Mendoza (President-FLAP) and Dr. Orlando Ramos Cruz (Secretary-FLAP). For further enquiries email: organizacion@flap2013.com.

www.flap2013.com



6th MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference

6 October – 11 October 2013

Durban, South Africa

The MIM conference is the largest gathering of the malaria community and therefore provides the ideal opportunity to showcase novel findings, innovations and ground breaking research. The conference will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in scenic Durban from the 6th to 11th October 2013.

<http://mim2013.mrc.ac.za/index.htm>



*PARSA 2013***Come join us...**

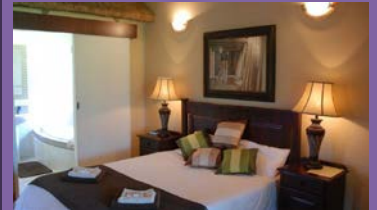
This year, the annual PARSA conference will be held at Stonehenge in Africa from 22 to 24 September. Stonehenge in Africa is situated on the banks of the Vaal River, in the beautiful town of Parys in the Free State. It is a mere 110 kilometres from Johannesburg which features both beautiful surroundings as well as modern facilities. As guests enter Stonehenge, they are greeted by large replication of the celebrated Stonehenge Monument and throughout the complex natural, strategically placed granite plinths reinforce the African ambience.

All the rooms are double or twin en-suite, and are appointed to ensure your stay will be one to be fondly remembered. With many activities and conferencing facilities, the warm and comfortable beds are a welcome sight to visitors. All rooms have TV's, heaters and fans. Stonehenge can assist and arrange return airport transfers and negotiate transport rates with coaches and mini-buses. Please contact Stonehenge for more information on these services.



So come join us and share in this great experience! Please note that discounted rates apply for registrations made before **17 August 2013**. All registrations are to be done online at www.savetcon.co.za. Click on PARSA logo and follow the online instructions. Accommodation can be booked directly with Stonehenge at stonehenge@icon.co.za.

We hope to see you there!!!





Student Research

Modjadji Lebepe and Tshepo Mangena (Msc Students, University of Limpopo)

As always it is nice to report on student research. Modjadji Lebepe and Tshepo Mangena (seen on the left) both received their Masters degrees at the University of Limpopo, under the supervision of Dr Susan Dippenaar.

Modjadji Lebepe received her MSc on the 24th of May 2013 for her dissertation entitled: Siphonostomatoids infecting selected mobulids (Rajiformes: Mobulidae) off the KwaZulu-Natal coast

Tshepo Mangena received his MSc on the 24th of May 2013 for his dissertation entitled: Preliminary systematics of the parasitic siphonostomatoid genus *Nemesis* Risso, 1826 (Eudactylinidae) from different elasmobranch host species



**ACTMP
2014**



Upcoming Conferences

6th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology (ACTMP) (2014)

The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) takes great pleasure to invite you to the Golden Jubilee of MSPTM and 6th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology (ACTMP) which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 5-7 March 2014. The theme for the congress is: GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN TROPICAL DISEASES: Bridging Gaps and Building Partnerships.

Please see the attached pdf document for more information and www.actmp2014.com

ICOPA XIII (2014)

Dear colleagues and friends On behalf of the Mexican Society of Parasitology and the Latin American Federation of Parasitology, I welcome you to our great Mexico City and to the exciting XIII International Congress of Parasitology from 10th to 15th August 2014. Our slogan "ancient parasites, old hosts, new knowledge" reflects the diversity of parasites, their hosts and their impact on global health and the environment; therefore it will contribute to gain new perspectives, ideas and networks.

For more information please look at www.icopa2014.com

2nd International Workshop on Symbiotic Copepoda

Susan Dippenaar (University of Limpopo)

The 2nd International Workshop on Copepoda was held from the 30th of June – 5th of July 2013 on the campus of the University of Limpopo. It was attended by 35 participants (excluding the tutors and organizers), representing seven different countries.

The workshop started off with registration and the VC's welcome dinner on the 30th of June which was held at Kurumba Lodge in Polokwane. The 1st of July consisted of oral research presentations of work done on symbiotic copepods and branchiurans and started off with a plenary lecture by Prof Jushey Ho (Professor Emeritus at the California State University, Long Beach, USA) on "The five wonders of symbiotic copepods". The plenary lecture was followed by 10 other oral presentations from participants representing South Africa (UL, UJ, UFS), Brazil, USA, Japan and Turkey. The following day was a workshop (lectures and practical work) on symbiotic copepods of invertebrates. This was mostly presented by Prof Rony Huys (Natural History Museum, London) alternated with a presentation on the preservation and curation of collected specimens by Dr Julianne Kalman Passarelli (Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, USA). The third day consisted of a workshop on symbiotic copepods of marine fish presented by Prof Jushey Ho who was assisted again by Dr Julianne Kalman Passarelli as well as by Dr Daisuke Uyeno (University of the Ryukyus, Japan).

The fourth day was spent on copepods symbiotic on freshwater fish which included branchiurans. This was presented by Prof Jushey Ho and Prof Annemarië Avenant-Oldewage (UJ). The last day included lectures on topics such as the process of preparing a manuscript, doing morphological illustrations and how to prepare them for publication as well as a lecture on "morphology vs molecules". These were all presented by Prof Rony Huys. Additionally, there was time for comments and suggestions on the workshop (organization, format, future planning etc.). The week long workshop was culminated at the farewell dinner held in the Polokwane Game Reserve after a game drive through the reserve.



All in all I believe that the workshop was a huge success and that especially our students learned a lot about a group of animals consisting of numerous representatives that are fairly unknown and they had fun while doing it. I also believe that the international exposure was very good for them to broaden their views about science and the people having a similar passion. The fact that they got to meet international people who they only knew as the authors of papers and books they use, meant a lot to them and I believe also encouraged them. I am grateful that I could organize such an event where it was possible for our students to attend and take part.

For more information on the programme and photos please look at the workshop website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/iwosc2013/home>





Journal News

Information on two new veterinary journals

Recently I received information regarding the launch of two new Veterinary Record journals: Veterinary Record Case Reports and Veterinary Record Open.

Both of these journals are being published in partnership with the British Veterinary Association.

1. Veterinary Record Case Reports

Veterinary Record Case Reports is an online resource that aims to publish a high volume of cases in all fields of veterinary medicine and surgery so that veterinary professionals, researchers and others can easily find important information on both common and rare conditions. All articles are peer reviewed and copy edited before publication.

<http://vetrecordcasereports.bmj.com/>

2. Veterinary Record Open

Veterinary Record Open is a peer review journal dedicated to publishing veterinary research across a range of topic areas including those of a more niche and specialist nature to that considered in the weekly Veterinary Record. Research from all disciplines of veterinary interest will be considered. All content will be published Open Access under a Creative Commons Licence and authors will be asked to pay an Article Processing Charge. This processing charge (APC) is issued on acceptance but the ability to pay does not influence editorial decisions. Publishing procedures are built around rapid peer review and continuous publication, with research being published online as soon as the article is ready.

<http://journals.bmj.com/site/vetrecopen/>

How does Veterinary Record Open differ from the Veterinary Record?

Veterinary Record is a weekly journal publishing a wide variety of content including research, reviews, news, features, correspondence and careers advice. Veterinary Record does have an Open Access option, but it can accept only a limited number of research articles and selects articles for publication based on the relevance to its readership including BVA members. Veterinary Record Open does not judge research on its importance or breadth of appeal and reviewers are asked to consider only its scientific rigour and ethics of the research.



Journal News

Information on two new open access journals

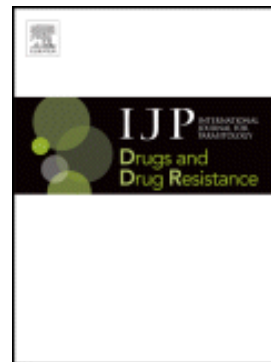
The ***International Journal for Parasitology – Drugs and Drug Resistance*** publishes the results of original research in the area of anti-parasite drug identification, development and evaluation, and parasite drug resistance. The journal also covers research into natural products as anti-parasitic agents, and bioactive parasite products. Studies can be aimed at unicellular or multicellular parasites of human or veterinary importance.

Types of articles considered include: Drug target validation and identification (chemical and/or genetic); Mechanisms of drug action and resistance; Studies on drug toxicity to the host; Reports of the development of drug resistance both in the field and laboratory; Computational approaches to drug discovery or drug-target identification; Development of assays directed at screening for inhibitors; Drug combination studies; Natural products as anti-parasitic agents; Bioactive products produced by parasites; Use of live parasites as immunomodulatory agents; Epidemiological aspects of the emergence and spread of parasite drug resistance; and Human clinical trials.

The ***International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife (IJP: PAW)*** publishes the results of original research on parasites of all wildlife, invertebrate and vertebrate. This includes free-ranging, wild populations, as well as captive wildlife, semi-domesticated species (e.g. reindeer) and farmed populations of recently domesticated or wild-captured species (e.g. cultured fishes).

Articles on all aspects of wildlife parasitology are welcomed including taxonomy, biodiversity and distribution, ecology and epidemiology, population biology and host-parasite relationships. The impact of parasites on the health and conservation of wildlife is seen as an important area covered by the journal especially the potential role of environmental factors, for example climate. Also important to the journal is 'one health' and the nature of interactions between wildlife, people and domestic animals, including disease emergence and zoonoses.

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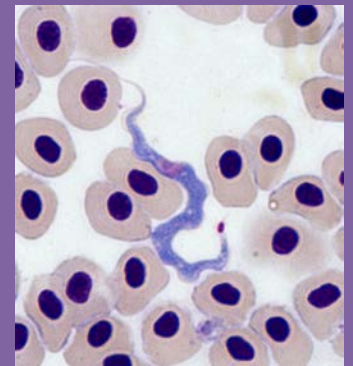
PARSA Application

The application form for new members is available on the PARSA website or from the PARSA secretary. The current joining fees are R80 per member thereafter it is R100 per year to maintain membership.

The application form can be sent to the PARSA secretary:

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Members

The Parasitology Society of Southern Africa currently has 135 members from around the world. Memberships of members that are 3 years in arrears will be terminated.