

Preface

Second International Congress on Symbiosis

The Second International Congress on Symbiosis took place at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts on April 13-18, 1997. Woods Hole, on Cape Cod, a bustling scientific community, is home to four scientific organizations: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Northeast Center of US Fisheries Service (NOAA); US Geological Survey; and MBL. In addition to 163 participants from 16 nations, high school and elementary school teachers from 3 states also joined the Congress on Wednesday evening to participate in a workshop on teaching various aspects of symbiosis to pre-college students. Lectures took place in the historic Lillie Auditorium. Poster presentations, other activities (the workshop and the International Symbiosis Society organizational meeting), meals and accommodations were in the Swope dormitory. The ambiance of the dormitory was particularly nice since many of the windows, including those in the dining room, overlook a picturesque inlet of Vineyard Sound, Eel Pond, with many moored boats.

The scientific program was quite varied covering almost all popular areas of symbiosis research. There were four plenary lectures. Eukaryogenesis and cell origins was the theme explored by Lynn Margulis in her address. John J. Lee, in his plenary lecture, reviewed our current knowledge of various aspects of "Living Sands" and outlined potential areas for future research on these algal-larger foraminiferal associations. Jonathan Erez chose a megaview of coral reef symbiosis at the ecosystem level as the theme of his plenary lecture. Colleen Cavanaugh and Charles Fisher shared a plenary lecture on adaptations to chemoautotrophic symbioses at oxic-anoxic interfaces.

There were nine symposia. Contributed paper sessions and poster sessions were grouped around these themes. Margalith Galun organized the symposium and the contributed papers and posters relating to the theme "Recognition and Specificity". Silvano Scannerini organized the symposium and related contributed papers and posters to "Evolution of Symbioses". The Symposium on "Agriculturally Important Symbioses" and contributed papers and posters were organized by Donald Phillips and Yoram Kapulnik. Hans-Dieter Görtz organized a symposium on "Symbioses Between Bacteria and Protists" and related contributed papers and posters. A Symposium on "Non-Mycorrhizal Heterotrophic Endophytes of Land Plants" and related contributed papers and

posters were organized by James White and Charles Bacon. Paola Bonfante organized a symposium "Mycorrhizal Fungi: Genomic and Functional Diversity" and related contributed papers and posters. Hajime Ishikawa and Paul Nardon organized a symposium and related contributed papers and posters on "Bacterial Symbioses in Insects". The symposium and related contributed papers and posters on "Chemoautotroph-Invertebrate Symbioses" were organized by Colleen Cavanaugh and Charles Fisher. The Symposium on "Kleptoplastids in Protists and Invertebrates" was organized by Michele Laval-Peuto.

Dr. Douglas Zook organized a workshop on using symbiotic examples in teaching biology. A number of the teachers he invited from the Northeast US were chosen to show techniques they use to foster thinking about symbiotic themes. They showed student journals, research papers, and posters to illustrate their methodologies.

After the formal presentations, the participants were divided into groups and given the opportunity to move among workstation demonstrations of termite flagellates, *Paramecium aurellia* with nuclear bacterial endosymbionts, lichens, and video of bacterial episymbioses of hypermastigida.

The International Symbiosis Society (ISS) was organized at an evening meeting during the congress. Dr. James White presented a draft Constitution that he and many others had written and reviewed. After much discussion a revised draft was adapted by the group without a dissenting voice. Dr. White was asked to send a revised version of the Constitution to all members. Dr. John J. Lee advised the membership of the legal steps he had to take to get tax exemption status recognition for the congress and also for the society. An election of officers followed. The following were elected: President: John J. Lee; Secretary: James White; Treasurer: Charles Bacon; Editor: Margalith Galun; Chair Nominating Committee: Hans-Dieter Görtz; Councilors: Colleen Cavanaugh, Laurine Hawkins, Hajime Ishikawa, Michele Laval-Peuto, Lynn Margulis, George Miller, Paul Nardon, Silvano Scannerini, and Thomas Taylor. These officers will serve a year, at which time a slate of officers will be nominated and elected by mail ballot as provided by the new Constitution and By-laws.

The Congress was organized by an international scientific board consisting of the above mentioned organizers of the symposia and Angela Douglas, Woodland Hastings, Leonard Muscatine, and Robert Trench. Dr. John J. Lee was Chair of the Organizing Committee and made all the arrangements for the meeting. Maria Correia, a doctoral candidate at CUNY, served as secretary of the meeting. At registration she was assisted by Jean Thorpe. Three other CUNY students, Jianjuan Chai, Saleem Bacus, and Jorge Morales served as projectionists.

John J. Lee, New York

