EDITORIAL

Dear fellow Society members, I am pleased to send the latest copy of the European Chitin Society Newsletter and with it my best wishes for the New Year.

This Newsletter is rather in the form of an holding issue as it falls in between conferences so there are no meeting reports to include. However, next year promises meetings in Bangkok, Thailand; Trondheim, Norway and Acapulco, Mexico details of which are included here. The next world conference in Montreal, Canada is also trailed.

Elements of this Newsletter will appear on the society web site details of which are also included in this issue. In time we would expect the Newsletter in its entirety to be on the web site, although we recognise that some members will still appreciate receipt a hard copy through the post.

Finally, it is once again my sad duty to inform the membership of the death of another prominent member of the chitin research community. In this case I must report the death of Professor Graham Gooday on October 10th after a prolonged illness. An obituary is included in this Newsletter. I would like to pay my respects to Graham who helped me in my first forays into chitin research when the subject itself and the personalities involved were unknown to me. The large number of contacts I have in the field today grew from the kind introductions which Graham gave to me initially

George M Hall.

Obituary - Graham Gooday

Profesor Graham Gooday, one of the world authorities on chitin biochemistry, died on October 10th after a prolonged illness.

Graham trained as a biological chemist at Bristol where he went on to do a PhD after ayear as a VSO teacher in a secindary school in Sierra Leone. During his PhD he worked on mating in zygomycete fungi. He went on to do postdoctoral work, first at Leeds working with one of the world's premier botanists, Irene Manton (FRS), before moving to Glasgow to work on chitin synthesis related to fungal hypha growth with the eminent mycologist Sir John Burnett. He moved to Aberdeen in 1972 where he spent the rest of his career. He continued to work in these areas and in particular on chitin synthesis and degradation by fungi, viruses of insects and parasitic nematodes. He also studied chitin turnover in estuarine environments by chitinase and via chitin deacetylation. He developed the technique of autoradiography for analysis of individual fungal cells to show that chitin is incorporated in the wall of the fungal hyphaa only at its tip. This remains a seminal piece of work in the field of fungal growth. In total he published over two hundred research papers not only on fungi and chitin biology but also in studies of algae, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, plants and human biochemistry.

The successes in his distinguished career have been recognised in many ways. In 1978 he became the first ever recipient of the Fleming Medal of the Society for Microbiology for outstanding contributions to microbiology by a young scientist. He was elected an FRSE in 1989 and became President of the British Mycology Society in 1993. He worked for numerous grant-awarding councils and professional bodies. He remained throughout his career one of the foremost authorities in world mycology.

Graham was known for a characteristic generosity of time in helping others. Many of his former students remain active in the fields in which they trained with him. All of them were marked and supported by his enthusiasm and interest in their careers. Consequently, Graham Gooday was one of the most respected and liked scientists in his field. He has a wife and three adult children and will be remembered fondly by countless friends and colleagues.

Professor Neil Gow
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
University of Aberdeen

THE BRACONNOT PRIZE

The rules and selection criteria for the Braconnot Prize have been given in previous issues of the Newsletter (most recently in *June, 2001, No 14*) and reproduced here are the abstracts of two theses for consideration. The protagonists are: Joanna Marszalek from the Faculty of Process and Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Lodz, Poland and Sabina Prochazkova Strand from the Norwegian Biopolymer Laboratory (NOBIPOL), Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Further notices have been circulated since the last Newsletter for meetings in Bangkok and Trondheim and information concerning the 2nd Ibero-American Symposium on Chitin and Chitosan, Acapulco, Mexico 10-15 November 2002 is included here.

The 5th Asia-Pacific Chitin-Chitosan Symposium will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 13-15 March 2002. Details of the Second Announcement and Final Call for papers can be found at: http://www.mtec.or.th/APCCS or e-mail: conferences@mtec.or.th. if anyone has difficulty in making these connections I have hard copies of the announcement which I will be glad to pass on by post.

The 5th EUCHIS meeting will be held in Trondheim, Norway from 26-28 June 2002. Details of the Second Circular and Final Call for papers can be found at: http://kibt.chembio.ntnu.no/euchis02 or e-mail: euchis@adm.ntnu.no. A copy of the details is attached here.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The second Summer school on Chitin and Chitosan was held at the University of Ulm and organised by Professors K-D Spindler and M Spindler-Barth. Thirteen participants from seven countries took part and a synopsis of their programme follows.