



## International Union for the Study of Social Insects

Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General  
Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution (BEE) Lab  
School of Life and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Sydney, Sydney, 2006 NSW, Australia



My life the last two months while Australia kept me out

Greetings from Sydney, as Australia finally allowed its citizens to return (but only to two states; the others remain closed). Hence, no more excuses not to catch up on IUSSI business.

This newsletter contains loads of information; information on grants to sections to attend the 2022 IUSSI conference in San Diego, information on how to select a new Secretary General, and information on how to nominate colleagues for the Hamilton Award and the inaugural West-Eberhard Prize, and more.

Read on!

*Madeleine Beekman*

International Union for the Study of Social Insects: [www.iussi.org](http://www.iussi.org)

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## **Grant Program to Support Attendance at the 2022 Congress**

**Proposals due from Sections January 5, 2022**

The quadrennial Congress is one of the major Union activities, and we wish to encourage attendance. The Financial Subcommittee has judiciously reserved funds for this purpose, and we now request proposals from sections for travel grants.

While our priority is supporting students, we wish to give Sections the latitude to make decisions on disbursement to others. No proposals from individual or other organizations will be considered for this grant program. See separate documentation for details on the application process.

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## **Election procedure Secretary-General of the IUSSI**

All good things come to an end. The IUSSI2022 will be my last meeting as Secretary-General, as I will then have reached the maximum period allowed (8 years). The new Secretary-General will be elected at the International Committee meeting that will be held during the IX International Congress of the IUSSI in San Diego. The International Committee is composed of the Officers of the Union and of representatives from each Section: one representative for each Section of up to 30 members, two representatives for each Section of 31-60 members, and so on. Each section can nominate one person for the role of Secretary-General. Self-nominations are allowed, but names will have to be put forward through the sections. Nominations are required at the time of the International Committee meeting. Of course sections can put a name forward prior to the meeting if they have a suitable candidate.

During the International Meeting we will also elect the other IUSSI office bearers: members of the financial subcommittee (3 members required), archivist, and webmaster. I am particularly looking for new members of the financial subcommittee, so drop me a line if you are interested.

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## **XX International Congress of the IUSSI**

Another important happening at the Congress is the selection of the location of the next International Congress. Nominations come from sections, and proposals are presented during the International Committee meeting. I look forward to hearing from sections who are considering putting in a bid. Again, get in touch if there is anything you like to discuss.

## **Hamilton Award for lifetime achievement**

**Nominations by Sections due March 15, 2022**

Eligibility: senior scientist whose scientific contributions are profound, and who has broadly influenced colleagues and students.

Monetary value: US\$1000 and a plaque

The Hamilton Award was established in 2006 in memory of William D. Hamilton (1936-2000) to honour a senior scientist for their lifetime contribution and achievements to the biology of social insects. In addition to their profound contributions to the scientific field, awardees are also acknowledged for the influence they have had on colleagues and students. The award is presented at the quadrennial Congress of the IUSSI. The successful candidate's acceptance speech, presented at the Congress' closing ceremony will be published in *Insectes Sociaux*.

Each section can nominate one candidate for the Hamilton Award. The nominee does not have to be a member of that section. The Secretary-General will convene a committee of Section Presidents, and this committee will review all valid nominations to identify the next recipient of the Hamilton Award.

## **West-Eberhard Prize for a Junior Scientist**

**Nominations by Sections due March 15, 2022**

Eligibility: 5 years full-time equivalent post PhD defence.

Monetary value: US\$750

Selection process: The Marie-Jane West-Eberhard Award was established in 2018 and will for the first time be awarded in 2022. Members of IUSSI sections in good standing should nominate promising junior scientists from any section to represent those sections. Junior members of IUSSI sections in good standing can also self-nominate to their section. If necessary, each section will rank candidates and put forward the highest-ranked candidate. The Secretary-General will convene a committee of Section Presidents, and this committee will review all valid nominations to identify the winner.

The successful candidate will be given a slot at the IX International Congress to present their work.

## **IUSSI2022 Update from the organising committee**

The organizers of the **2022 IUSSI Congress** are excited to share with you important new information about the congress, which will be held at the San Diego Marriott Marquis from **July 3-7**. The congress will include opportunities for remote participation by those unable to attend in person.

The program committee has selected 32 symposia from the proposals submitted by IUSSI members. These symposia offer a broad array of topics covering the wide interests of our membership, and they feature a diverse lineup of invited speakers who have confirmed their participation. Invited participants will make up less than half of the talks at the Congress, so there will be many open slots available to be filled with contributed abstracts. The call for abstracts will be posted shortly on the Congress website, along with descriptions of the symposia.

**The deadline for abstract submission will be February 14, 2022.** Because some submissions may not fit well in any symposium, the Program Committee will create thematic sessions based on the content of these submissions to maximize the opportunities for our membership to present their work. To further increase opportunity and diversity, each Congress participant will be limited to a single oral presentation. Finally, the selection of speakers will place strong emphasis on ensuring a diversity of speakers, in terms of career stage, institution, gender, nationality, and other axes of diversity.

The congress will feature a keynote address by **Raghavendra Gadagkar** of the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, as well as five plenary addresses by **Corrie Moreau** of Cornell University, **Geraldine Wright** of the University of Oxford, **Leticia Aviles** of the University of British Columbia, **Peter Kofi Kwabong** of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and **Sylvia Cremer** of The Institute of Science and Technology, Austria.

We will be taking full advantage of the conference location at the self-proclaimed America's finest city, with **4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks** during our opening social event, a Zoo night at the world renowned **San Diego Zoo**, and a closing banquet at the **San Diego Natural History Museum**. For more information on places and activities of interest in and around San Diego check out the Congress website at: <http://burkclients.com/IUSSI/meetings/2022/site/>  
Contact us at [IUSSI2022@gmail.com](mailto:IUSSI2022@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Greetings from Miriam Richards, Editor-in-Chief, Insectes Sociaux.**

I want to bring two items to everyone's attention.

1. Pandemic publishing. Initially, when the pandemic began in early 2020, there was no obvious effect for Insectes Sociaux. Even as other journal editors were expressing alarm on social media, at Insectes Sociaux, manuscript submissions did not decline and manuscript reviews continued at their usual pace. However, by early 2021, it became clear that the pandemic's effects were really beginning to bite. Manuscript submission this year are down by about a third, potential reviewers are more frequently declining invitations, often citing increased child care and other responsibilities, and both reviewers and authors are more frequently requesting extensions. What seems to have happened is that for the first months of the pandemic, there was a supply of nearly complete manuscripts available that authors were able to finish and submit. After that supply was used up, submissions declined. The good news is that manuscript submissions seem to be on the rise again, as pandemic restrictions subside in many countries.
2. The next IUSSI Congress is scheduled for San Diego in 2022. Symposia are in the planning stages. We invite symposium organizers to consider guest editing special issues or collections to be published in Insectes Sociaux after the Congress (aiming for publication in 2023). I will be sending details to symposium organisers very soon about ideas for special issues or smaller collections of papers based on the symposia.

## Section meetings

The **Australasian Section** has a new domain, and is now ensconced within University of Sydney's Molecular Ecology, Evolution, and Phylogenetics Lab (MEEP) laboratory:

<https://meep.sydney.edu.au/iussi/>

### AGM & Symposium

We are convening a symposium at the online **Australian Entomological Society conference** hosted by Adelaide crew - so all times are Australian Central Daylight Saving Time. Our symposium will occur over two sessions on Wednesday 8th December and will be followed by an **Annual General Meeting** at 5.30pm. Registration details as follows (free for student members):

<https://www.aesconferences.com.au/2021-conference/registration/>

The **North-West European Section** is excited to be hosting the 2021 NWE-IUSSI Winter Meeting on Friday 17th December. Due to the Oxford department of Zoology currently residing in temporary accommodation whilst our new laboratory is being built, this meeting is being held in the Department of Plant Sciences. Following the success of last year's online meeting, the current plan is to have blended talk sessions where presentations are broadcast online so that people can watch if they are unable to attend.

Attendance at the winter meeting is only open to members. Conference fees for section members are £50 for full members and £25 for student members for physical attendance. The on-line participation fee is £10 for current (2021) section members (which includes all those who attended last year's meeting). Anyone who joins the section now is entitled to attend on-line for free (but of course must pay the 2021 membership fees).

Abstract submission is open until Wednesday 1 December 2021.

More details can be found at <https://iussi.org/NWEurope/meetings.htm>