



International Union for the Study of Social Insects

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Storm brewing over Bingil Bay beach, Far North Queensland

Greetings from Bingil Bay, my new home in the wet tropics of Far North Queensland, 2 hours south of the location of IUSSI2014.

This newsletter contains my financial report, the outcome of the IUSSI travel grants to sections, a reminder for calls for nominations and election procedures at the IUSSI San Diego. Also a call for a new Editor in Chief as Miriam Richards has decided to step down. Last but certainly not least, I am very eager to hear about plans sections might have to host the IUSSI2026 meeting.

Read on!

Madeleine Beekman

Grant Program to Support Attendance at the 2022 Congress

Outcomes

The Financial subcommittee (myself, Rachelle Adams, Mark Brown and Heike Feldhaar) decided to allocate an additional \$9700 US to the initially allocated amount to maximise our support to PhD students and young postdocs (the latter at the discretion of individual sections). Despite spending \$179,700 US we still needed to reduce the amounts requested to spread our support widely. I did not receive any requests for funding from the Andean-Caribbean or Indian section. In total an amount of \$243,400 US was requested.

The amounts allocated are based on expected travel costs and the number of students to be supported as per the sections' proposals.

I understand that each section has its own deadline for allocating their share to successful recipients. Because we decided to allocate more funds than initially anticipated, we do not actually have sufficient amounts in the account at this stage to pay every section in full. We are awaiting our annual payments from Springer, which we normally receive in May. It would therefore be a great help if section treasurers can contact me directly to discuss how to move forward.

And now the amounts allocated:

Australasian: \$30,000 US
African: \$22,950 US
Japan: \$21,250 US
Italian: \$12,775 US
Brazilian: \$20,000 US
French: \$15,900 US
Central European: \$14,625 US
NW European: \$26,500 US
North American: \$15,700 US

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Report of Secretary-General Madeleine Beekman

Financial report covering the period January 1 – December 31, 2021

This has been a very simple year financially. The accounts have been approved by the Financial Subcommittee.

Accounting December 31, 2021				
		Savings	Checking	Total
Beginning Balance		\$998.55	\$137,798.85	\$138,797.40
INCOME	Annual income		\$ 47,603.39	
	Interest	\$ 15.65		
	Internal transfer	\$ 130,000.00	\$ (130,000.00)	
Total		\$ 131,014.20	\$ 55,402.24	
EXPENSES	Government fees		\$ (125.00)	
	Cover IUSI encyclopedia		\$ (1,000.00)	
	Payment encyclopedia editor		\$ (7,500.00)	
	Tax return		\$ (1,000.00)	
Total			\$ (9,625.00)	
Ending Balance		\$131,014.20	\$ 45,777.24	\$176,791.44

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General

Reminder: 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.

Job description

Secretary-General of the Union

Duties: Maintains financial and membership records; collects and disburses funds; arranges for tax returns to be filed with the United States Internal Revenue Service and the State of Ohio; reports 2-3 times a year to the Financial Subcommittee, and once a year to the general membership via an Annual Report published in *Insectes Sociaux*; communicates with sections concerning Union business; supports work of the Financial Subcommittee as an *ad hoc* member; serves on the Executive Committee to conduct business, including negotiation of contracts and decisions that cannot await the General Assembly; prepares materials for the quadrennial Congress, including solicitation of Hamilton Award, agenda for the International Committee and General Assembly, and any proposed changes in governance documents.

Time Required: 1 hour per week on average; about 2 hours/week in Congress years

Stipend: 1000€ per year

Profile: Mid- to late-career IUSSI member with experience in a Section. Facility with spreadsheets and international banking are essential.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

Time for a new EiC at *Insectes Sociaux*

Miriam Richards

After 8 years as an Associate Editor and 4 years (12 years!) as Editor-in-Chief, I plan to step down at the end of 2022, in order to make time to pursue some new research projects that I have started during my current sabbatical, to finish up some old ones, and not least of all, to spend time on activities that fall under the heading of “It’s now or never”.

The position of Editor-in-Chief is highly rewarding and interesting and a wonderful way to contribute to the social insect research community. One very positive aspect of working with *Insectes Sociaux*, is that authors and reviewers are generally positive and pleasant. In general, my philosophy has been to look for positive reasons to accept papers, rather than negative reasons to reject them. Working in this way seems to create a positive experience for everyone. One of the best aspects of being Editor is writing an Editor’s Highlight article for each published issue. I have learned so much about new topics doing this, some of which I really knew nothing about beforehand. It has also been gratifying to help authors dealing with difficult times imposed by the covid-19 pandemic, which continues to make life more difficult for many of our authors, especially those with children. It is difficult to revise manuscripts when kids need attention!

I invite anyone who might be interested in this position to contact me to discuss it in more detail. The current timeline is to have a new EiC in place shortly after the Congress in San Diego. I will be happy to remain in place until the end of 2022, to help the new EiC to work into the position – this means there will be two EiCs for a short time. IUSSI is also due to negotiate a new contract with our publisher, and I will be happy (?) to take the lead on that activity, while the new EiC focusses on publication activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Job description

Editor-in-Chief, *Insectes Sociaux*

Duties: Receives all submitted manuscripts (from 100 to 140 per year), and handles final decision of acceptance/rejection for all submissions. There are currently four Associate Editors and one Reviews Editor. How many manuscripts are assigned to each editor each year depends on both the type of research and on the nature of the research. How the manuscripts are assigned is based on decisions to keep workload as manageable as possible for editors. As EiC, I have generally managed about 25% of manuscripts. The EiC also communicates regularly with the Social Media Editor, who manages the “Interview with a Social Insect Scientist” series, and who also assists authors to publish blog posts about their published articles.

Manuscript handling goes through an efficient online system “Editorial Manager” system run by Springer. This system is fairly easy to learn and some assistance is provided by staff located in India. The EiC does the final check on all page proofs of all published articles; decides on the contents of 4 annual issues; organizes an annual poll

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for “Best Paper Award” among Editorial Board members, communicates with the Editorial Board, and serves on the IUSSI Executive Committee to conduct business, including negotiation of contracts and decisions that cannot await the General Assembly. The EiC also coordinates occasional changes in membership of the Editorial Board, the Social Media Editor, and the Associate Editors.

Time Required: highly variable, 1-2 days per week on average, but could be more if the EiC directly handles more manuscripts.

Remuneration: Our contract with Springer stipulates an annual budget of 15,000 €. **It is our practice to pay modest royalties to the editors in accordance with the number of manuscripts handled.**

Profile: Mid- to late-career member with a good scholarly record, publication(s) in *Insectes Sociaux*, and a permanent academic position. He/she should have good knowledge of English, a great sense for precision, and extensive reviewing and/or Editorial experience.

Nomination procedure EiC at *Insectes Sociaux*

First I would like to thank Miriam for all the years she has dedicated to our journal. I wish her well with all new plans. Her willingness to stay on for the remainder of the calendar year will greatly facilitate the smooth move to a new EiC.

The procedure is basically the same as the procedure for a new SG. We would like to receive nominations via sections, so if you are interested, contact Miriam for more information, and your section if you want to be nominated. Elections will be held during the executive meeting at the San Diego meeting.

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

The deadline for abstract submission has been extended to March 1. The registration portal should be available soon, so keep an eye on the Congress website at: <http://burkclients.com/IUSSI/meetings/2022/site/>

Contact us at IUSSI2022@gmail.com with any questions.

Twitter Announcements: Follow @IUSSI_NAS and/or #IUSSI2022