

19 Sept 2008

To: Conveners of ISHAM Working Groups.

Dear Convener,

I herewith have the pleasure to invite you for a public meeting to be held at the forthcoming ISHAM meeting in Tokyo, 25-29 May, 2009 (<http://www.congre.co.jp/isham2009/>).

At this meeting we would like to discuss the progress of and cooperation between ISHAM Working Groups. We would like to have a brief update of your results and plans, such as joint publications, shared databases, planned workshops, etc. We also would like to know your needs regarding ISHAM providing facilities and publicity. The meeting will be open to any active member of your group. Below please find the agenda of this meeting; precise time and place will be announced shortly before the beginning of the congress. Could you please distribute this agenda to all members of your group?

We hope to meet you all in person. Please prepare a very short overview of your Working Group, including aims, number of members, results, plans, as a short **powerpoint presentation of maximally 5 minutes**. If you are unable to attend, could you please send another representative of your Group. We appreciate your feedback.

With kind regards,
Neil Gow and Sybren de Hoog, Working Group coordinators

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Agenda of the meeting for ISHAM-affiliated organizations

1. Why affiliation? Why ISHAM?

ISHAM presently is the largest and most active organization in medical mycology, offering a basis for close international collaborations. Involvement enhances chances for funding. Funding by ISHAM may be limited, but Groups benefit from its infrastructure.

2. Synergy between Working Groups.

A number of Working Groups collect etiologic agents of disease, or at least have a biodiversity component, such as Fungiscope, the groups on Zygomycetes, Scedosporium, black yeasts, sinusitis, cystic fibrosis, etc. We strongly recommend to deposit and exchange fungal strains, for exact identification and later reference. Please note that a case report with good clinical information but without the etiologic agent is not even publishable. For identification and maintenance we may suggest to contact one of the major reference centers, such as the Centers for Disease Control (Atlanta, USA), the Research Center for Pathogenic Fungi (Chiba, Japan), the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (Utrecht, The Netherlands), or similar institutes where state-of-the-art facilities are available.

3. Publication of progress and results.

*There is a new area on the ISHAM website: “**Guidelines, Recommendations, and Essential Reviews**”. This area has also been created for the ISHAM Working Groups to publicize their outcomes. In addition, we suppose that the experts in the different areas can be found in the Working Groups, and therefore we also request you to suggest us important papers that deserve to be posted in the area. Please send your suggestions to de.hoog@cbs.knaw.nl. Reports of activities of your Working Group can be posted at the WG area of the ISHAM website and can be accompanied by an e-alert to members. ISHAM may also help you to start your own specialized website*

4. International agenda.

You have free possibility to announce your meetings on a worldwide basis. ISHAM e-alerts are very well received, and reach opinion leaders in many countries.

5. Medical Mycology.

Activities in Working Groups may lead to special issues of ‘Medical Mycology’. In 2008 and 2009 two Working Groups have made use of this possibility: special issues will appear soon.

6. Transmission ISHAM items to your members.

We all benefit from a larger mycological community. Please transmit news items and publicity to your members.

7. Education and training.

Working Groups may wish to organize courses or educational meetings on their topic. ISHAM may provide facilities; please specify your needs.

8. Priorities for fungal biology and disease research.

A document may be prepared for distribution to potential sponsors reflecting a consensus of affiliated organizations. Contemporary needs are specified that require investment (e.g. immunology, genomics, barcoding, diagnostics, high quality and independent clinical trials, education, data-base studies to define and measure burden of fungal infections, etc.). This could help affiliates to appeal to international and local organizations for funding.

9. Needs and wishes.

What else do you expect from ISHAM? Any ideas are welcome.