

## Website update

An updated website will be running by the end of August, and there are a couple of changes that I would like to bring to your attention. There is going to be a move to make the Club more 'International', and there will be pages on the site aimed at attracting more interest from overseas researchers.

Regarding current members, there has not been a good response to Alex's call in the last newsletter for submission of information about members' research activities etc., for inclusion on the website. We now feel that a different approach might be preferable, that is to have research group/group leaders post information about their group activities. Several examples are now on the site. Please visit the 'Research Groups' link, and send me any information which you would like to post. Any comments/suggestions for an update are welcome; just send me a mail. Any Mac users out there? I have been told that there are sometimes problems loading the site on Macs. Would you agree?  
Mat Upton

## The beginning of an image library?

We are planning to build a library of biofilm-related images on the website. Copyright issues will be dealt with, unless the authors are happy to allow educational/open/free access. Due to limited file space at the hosting site, the images stored in the library will be of lower resolution. If you have images that you would like to submit, please contact me.  
Mat Upton

NB. The ASM already has an excellent image library ([www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)) within their curriculum resources. There are several videos and images of biofilms on the site, accompanied by detailed legends. The LTSN Biosciences is also developing an image library ([www.ltsn.ac.uk](http://www.ltsn.ac.uk)).  
Mat Upton

## Biofilm Journal

The new journal 'Biofilms' reflects the crossing of traditional subdisciplines and aims to fill researchers' need for a single multidisciplinary journal. Published quarterly, it contains original research articles and review articles covering the structure, formation and growth of biofilms, gene expression and transfer in biofilms as well as any other area where biofilms play an important role. Members of the Biofilm Club can now order this journal at a reduced rate. Visit the webpage for more information at [www.journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_BFM](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_BFM). If you would like to contribute, find out how to submit your paper to the journal at: [www.cambridge.org/journals/bfm/ifa](http://www.cambridge.org/journals/bfm/ifa)  
Extended abstracts from papers presented at our last workshop at the Eastman will be published in the Journal.

## Forthcoming meetings

*Alternative and Conventional Anti-Fouling Strategies. Aquatorium, Mulheim, Germany.* Conference of the IBBS(International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Society: [www.biodeterioration.org](http://www.biodeterioration.org)). September 13 - 15, 2004.

This two day meeting comprises a number of internationally recognised invited speakers considering aspects of control of fouling. Invited papers and posters are also welcome, but the deadline is fast approaching! The organiser, HansCurt Flemming is well known to Biofilmologists, promises an exciting and useful meeting  
<http://www.iww-online.de/IBBS2004>.

*Bioinformatics and exploiting Genomic Information.* Bristol. Meeting of OMIG (Oral Microbiology and Immunology Group) of BSDR (British Society for Dental Research), November 11 - 12, 2004. Revisiting the successful format of their meeting some 4 years ago, OMIG offer almost two days of presentations, posters and social interactions in a Bristol hotel(!)  
For programme and registration information, see the OMIG website  
([www.ncl.ac.uk/dental/oralbiol/omig/meetings.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/dental/oralbiol/omig/meetings.htm))

*Biofilms 2004: Structure and Activity of Biofilms*  
24-26 October 2004 - Las Vegas, NV, USA  
[www.erc.montana.edu/biofilms2004/default.htm](http://www.erc.montana.edu/biofilms2004/default.htm)

The question: what is the function of immersion oil?

And finally...

Did you know?

'bacterial slime exopolysaccharide is proteinaceous, containing 98% water and 2% carbohydrate'

'bacterial slime exopolysaccharide prevents desecration of the cell'



# Biofilm Club

## N E W S L E T T E R

[www.biofilmclub.co.uk](http://www.biofilmclub.co.uk)

July 2004

**Important - Renew your membership now!  
This is absolutely the last newsletter you  
will receive without renewal.**

The last newsletter of this academic year tells mainly of exciting things to come: some new publicity materials will be launched at the next (autumn) workshop; a website update; some forthcoming conferences.

But in order to participate, you must be a member, so please renew membership NOW! £10.00 for student members and £20.00 for all others for a 2-year membership. Includes BBC7 book, notification of and free registration at all Biofilm Club workshops, eligibility to attend BBC7, Gregynog, 7 - 9th September 2005.

Contact Dr David Allison, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK.

Please make sure to include your Email address as this will be used to circulate Club information in the future.

Payment should be made by a sterling cheque made payable to The Biofilm Club. Potential members in the USA may, if they find it easier, send \$30.00 cash.

Unfortunately we do not have credit card facilities and the encashment of dollar cheques costs us more than their face value.

### Club Committee:

**David Allison**, Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

[David.allison@man.ac.uk](mailto:David.allison@man.ac.uk)

**Jon Pratten**, General Secretary,

[jpratten@eastman.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jpratten@eastman.ucl.ac.uk)

**Dave Spratt**, workshop co-ordinator,

[d.spratt@eastman.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.spratt@eastman.ucl.ac.uk)

**Joanna Verran**, Newsletter Editor

[J.Verran@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:J.Verran@mmu.ac.uk)

**Mat Upton**, Webmaster. [Mat.Upton@man.ac.uk](mailto:Mat.Upton@man.ac.uk)

**Andrew McBain**, Gregynog 2005, and reports

[andrew.mcbain@man.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.mcbain@man.ac.uk)

This newsletter will be sent to all members electronically, unless you specified that you preferred a hardcopy version. Readers who expressed a preference generally called for an electronic version.

As you can see, this newsletter is somewhat shorter than usual. In the non-Gregynog year, when we have provided information about forthcoming autumn workshops in the summer newsletter, we have had fewer registrants, and have even had to postpone one meeting. We think that this is because the summer vacation separates the newsletter from the event. So, information on the next workshop will be disseminated in the new academic year when those of us at universities are once again fresh and awaiting our new intakes of students, and news about biofilm club activities. Our new committee members, Mat, Dave and Jon have been busy developing the website, forthcoming workshops, and new publicity materials. The next newsletter will have more information on all of these, and the workshop will provide an opportunity to see what they have done.

As a finale, to remind ourselves of the joys of exam marking, or to be thankful that we don't do it, here are some answers to a simple question given to first year undergrads, provided to us anonymously. If you can't guess what the question was, see overleaf.

'it traps light'  
'it provides lubrication'  
'it helps separate cells'  
it blocks out light'  
'it prevents the coverslip from slipping'  
it helps the lens glide about the slide'  
it increases brightness'  
'its used to stain microorganisms'  
'it kills bacteria'  
'it holds down the microorganisms'  
'it reduces surface tension'  
'it eliminates oxygen bubbles'