



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

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General enquiries about the Institute should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary:

istr-secretary@istr.org.uk

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

istr-membershipsecretary@istr.org.uk

2010 ISTR Autumn Symposia



Managing the nasties

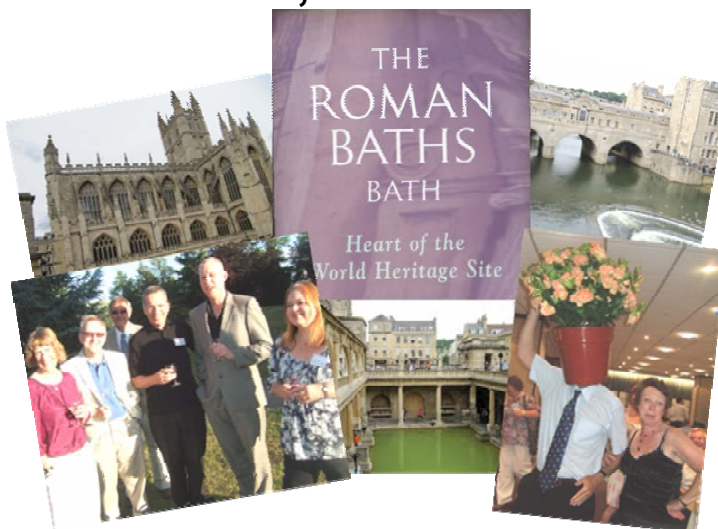
(drugs, chemical weapons, explosives etc.),
17 November 2010,
Windmill Hotel, Coventry

Biosafety Section Symposium

What's new in Biotransport, zoonoses
and other issues,
18 November 2010,
Windmill Hotel Coventry



AGM, Bath 2010



Members enjoyed another memorable annual meeting preceded by a visit to the city and tour of the Roman Baths and, later, once again the after dinner speaker got certain members to do silly things. Many thanks to our hosts, Pete Jewel and team and ISTR Events Secretary David Heath.

AGM Elections

Dr Arthur Mitchell and Dr Phil Baillie were elected, unopposed to the honorary posts of Secretary and Treasurer. Following a change to the constitution approved by the AGM, two new committee members were elected, Julia Cotton, College Safety Auditor, Imperial College London and June Freeland, Biological Safety Adviser, University of Strathclyde.

The AGM also approved three new Fellows in recognition of their outstanding service to the Institute.



Rob Wood, ISTR
Chair 2002-2005
and Treasurer
2005-2010.



Heather Sheeley
ISTR Chair
2005-2008



Mark Cheshire
ISTR Membership
Secretary

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another issue of the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is a service to and for members. In this issue you will find news of members, details of forthcoming *ISTR* activities, reports of recent meetings a summary of Executive Committee business. If you have any item that may be of interest to other members please let me know.

From time to time, as a further service to members, advertising material may be enclosed with the *Bulletin* but this does not necessarily mean that the *ISTR* endorses the particular products.

The *ISTR* is not responsible for individual views expressed in the *Bulletin*.

Contact the Bulletin editor at istr-website@istr.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Institute has admitted the following into membership

Further details may be found in the updated, on-line version of *ISTR Members' Handbook* in the members' only section of the *ISTR* website.

Full Members:

Mr Gerrard W Burke, Dr Martin Dare-Edwards, Mr Gavin Dearsley, Mr Lawrence Dickson, Dr Robert C Eason, Dr Ian R Graham, Mrs Lesley Harvey-Smith, Mr Neil Hawthorne, Mrs Caroline Langhurst, Mrs Helen Longland, Dr E J McMinn, Ms Rosalind Packer, Mrs Catherine Parry, Dr Stephen H Stanley

Associate Members:

Mr Paul Goode

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary: istr-membershipsecretary@istr.org.uk



ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Officers

Chair (2008-2011)



Mark Hoare,
Health and Safety Manager
University of Birmingham

Vice-Chair (2009-2011)



Jayne Thomas

Secretary (2010-2011)



Dr Arthur Mitchell,
MRC Regional Health and Safety
Co-ordinator, Edinburgh

Treasurer (2010-2011)



Dr Phil Baillie,
Assistant Health and Safety
Adviser, London Metropolitan
University

Members

(2009-2011)



Eileen Tully
Health and Safety Officer,
Dublin City University

(2009-2011)



Catherine Davidge
Safety Coordinator,
University of Manchester

(2009-2011)



Pete Jewell
Dept Safety Co-ordinator
and RPO, Biology and
Biochemistry, University of
Bath

(2010-2012)



Julia Cotton
College Safety Auditor,
Imperial College London

(2010-2012)



June Freeland
Biological Safety
Adviser, University of
Strathclyde

Co-opted (2010-2011)



Mark Cheshire
(Membership Secretary)



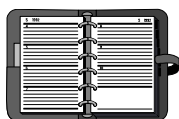
Dr Fred Young
(Bulletin Editor) (Website)
Health and Safety Adviser,
University of Birmingham



David Heath
(Events Secretary)



Heather Sheeley,
(European Liaison)
Biosafety Programme Lead, CEPR,
HPA



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2010 ISTR Autumn Symposium

Managing the nasties (drugs, chemical weapons, explosives etc.), 17 November 2010, Windmill Hotel, Coventry. Topics covered include not only preventing access to terrorists and other criminals but also advice on handling these substances legitimately to help ensure they are kept secure and handled safely, without imposing draconian management measures.

2010 ISTR Biosafety Section Symposium

What's new in Biotransport, zoonoses and other issues, 18 November 2010, Windmill Hotel, Coventry.

An update with recent information for biotransport issues, where are we on the Single Regulatory Framework and the ISTR accreditation scheme. Zoonotic issues looks at what it is and how it may affect you.

2011 ISTR AGM and Summer Symposium



This will be held in Dundee on the 5 and 6 July at the Apex City Quay Hotel and the topic is "Suitable and sufficient risk assessments - 19 years on".

For more information contact the Events Secretary: istr-eventssecretary@istr.org.uk

ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005



The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place at the University of Bath on 6 July 2010, and followed the Agenda sent to all members in advance of the meeting.



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

I thought to begin my report to the AGM by thanking our retiring Honorary Treasurer, Rob Wood, for the work he has put in over the last 5 years. The Honorary Treasurer ensures that we (ISTR) are on a sound financial base by not only making wise banking decisions but also by giving financial forecasts in the form of reports to the EC. These forecasts allow the EC to make decisions on, for example, subscriptions for the coming years and costings for our symposia and workshops. Considerable effort is required by the Honorary Treasurer and on your behalf I would formally like to record our thanks to Rob. Prior to becoming Honorary Treasurer, Rob was also a past chair of ISTR, so as an individual he has held important positions within the EC and we wish him well for the future.

Executive Committee

Last year we decided to expand the Committee but at the same time retain the expertise of David Heath



(Symposium organiser) and Mark Cheshire (Membership Secretary) through co-option, each having a specific portfolio. This appears to be working well and I suggest we continue to follow this model. Fred Young continues to maintain the Bulletin and our

IT activities. Each committee member is allocated tasks throughout the year allowing the workload to be distributed. I take this opportunity to thank them for the work carried out; much of this goes on in the background but all contributed to the continuing success of our organisation.

European Working Party

Dr Paul Jackett is representing ISTR on a CEN Working Party that is looking to introduce an accreditation scheme for biological safety officers across Europe. Paul will address the AGM on this but I would like to thank Paul for representing us on this very important project.

Sponsorship Scheme

Since being launched we have had one successful applicant for our sponsorship scheme, Ann Diment from University of Edinburgh. I am hopeful that others may follow in Ann's footsteps and apply for some sponsorship. A reminder that details can be found on our web site.

Executive Meetings

We have held five EC meetings since the last AGM. In Nottingham on 1 July 2009, in Birmingham on 8

October 2009 and 11 March 2010 and in Edinburgh on the 16 December last year. A meeting was also held here in Bath this morning. Our agendas are usually very full and thanks to Mark Hoare (Chair) for ensuring that we cover all the points during the meetings but at the same time allowing adequate discussions to take place.

Future Challenges

The present economic climate will present us all with challenges and ISTR will be no exception. I still believe that we should aim for a membership of 300 so this is a goal that we should strive to attain. All of us can help by publicising and mentioning ISTR at meetings and when talking to colleagues. Our meetings over the last year have been successful but continuing to meet these standards will present new challenges. The EC will be looking at whether we should contact all of our members, perhaps by questionnaire for their views on our symposia, to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our members.

Finally, I would like to thank you the members for your continuing support.

*Dr Arthur Mitchell
Hon Secretary*



HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial position of the Institute is solid with a second year of substantive growth. The Institute's accounts now stand at £41,308 – the first time in our history where we have more than £40,000 in holdings. Some of this is due to a last gasp grab of bank interest before business interest rates plummeted, some due to much more stable membership subscription income, and some is from the three events organised by our ever-resourceful committee.

Investment income for the year approached £800, but I must warn that this is likely to be the highest bank interest that we will receive for some time. I would predict next year's interest to be less than £200 as although personal interest rates are poor, business rates are abysmally low.

Membership income is now over £4,000 per year (up 100% since we increased the subscription fees by 25%), and provides substantial support for the running of the institute.

Subscriptions are, by design, still subsidised by the income from events, so that the running costs of the Institute rely upon successful event organisation. Although income from events is down a little on 2008/9, it is the second highest annual income on events that the Institute has achieved and is almost £5,000 better than the long-term average. Thank you for your support at these events and congratulations must go to the organising teams.

A tight rein has been maintained on the executive committee's expenses, but changes in composition (the committee increasing in size) and the continuing expansion of ISTR's role in Biosafety accreditation and European safety guidance has resulted in increased expenses. New support for members has also been funded in the form of sponsorship for personal development.

PROPOSAL FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

The proposal regarding subscription fees is that they should remain at £20 per member and associate member and £10 one-off payments for retired members.

And finally ...

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years, but due to changes in my work I am stepping down as your Treasurer. There is an excellent nomination to take my place, I will continue to keep an eye on things as a member of the Institute for as long as you will have me.



*Rob Wood
Hon Treasurer*



CHAIR'S REPORT

Introduction

The past year has been another successful year for ISTR.

- Membership has held up (see separate report).
- We have held three successful events.
- The Biosafety Accreditation Scheme Level 1 is ongoing and a number of people have completed it. Level 2 started in January. (A report will be given at the AGM).
- The finances are in good health (see separate report).

Apart from the bullet point about the Biosafety Accreditation Scheme, which has moved on since last year, they are the same points with which I started last year's report.

You may think from this that ISTR is stagnating and unambitious and we should be pushing forward on new initiatives and a large increase in membership. However, I believe the ISTR is an organisation which meets the needs of its members. It delivers high quality events and networking opportunities in our specialist disciplines at a low cost. It is also well respected by other bodies both in the UK and abroad. Having said that new members are always welcome but serving our current members is our primary aim.

Events

Last year's Annual Summer Symposium 'Green but Safe' was held at University of Nottingham. The social trip was a visit to Nottingham Castle. We were so environmentally friendly, i.e. 'green' that we decided not to (forgot to!) order a coach to take us there. After this, and our coach problems the year before, we have put extra effort in ensuring our transport arrangements to the Roman Baths this year go without a hitch.

In November we again held the Autumn Symposium at the Windmill Village Hotel. Coventry. The first day we looked at the carriage of dangerous goods and the second day animal issues.

Our Spring Skills Workshop was again held at The University of Birmingham. The subject was local exhaust ventilation based on the new HSE guidance. This was an excellent event and included going out and looking at a variety of ventilation systems in use at the University. As with previous skills workshops the numbers on the course was limited to enable delegates to get the maximum benefit. However, due to popular demand, we hope to repeat it this autumn.

ISTR Website

The ISTR website had been hosted at the University of Birmingham since it was first launched. The University had advised us that the server that it was

on would soon be closed down due to its age. However, as we were planning to change servers the University server broke down and we were left without a working website. May I thank Fred Young for finding a new internet service provider and transferring the website to it as quickly as he did. May I also place on record my thanks to the University for the service they gave us in hosting the ISTR website.

ISTR Bulletin

The Bulletin was again published in November and May.

ISTR Award

There have been no applicants for the award this year which is a shame. Can I encourage you to look at the information on the website and perhaps nominate an appropriate person?

ISTR Sponsorship Scheme

This has been introduced this year and one person, Ann Diment, has taken it up. Ann will give a report on what she used the sponsorship for at the AGM. Again, can I encourage you to look at the information on the website and apply if appropriate?

Representation

Paul Jackett represented ISTR on the *Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN)*. This is a committee which is looking at Accreditation for Biological Safety Officers across Europe. The committee members are particularly interested in our Biosafety Accreditation Scheme.

Executive Committee

Last year I talked about the need to have 'new blood' on the Executive Committee. Four new people did join the committee and their contribution has been of much value. Unlike last year when most of the Committee were up for re-election there should be only one vacancy this year and this is only because our Treasurer is standing down. However the Executive are proposing at the AGM to increase the Committee by two. This is to keep the 'new blood' flowing, for succession planning and to help spread the load of the existing Committee members. As I said last year there are no passengers on the Executive Committee!

Finally

To close I would like to thank everyone who has supported ISTR over the last year especially the Executive Committee. Particular thanks must go to Rob Wood who is standing down as Treasurer and from the Executive Committee. Rob has been involved with the running of ISTR for many years, including being a past Chair.

Mark Hoare
Chair

ELECTIONS

Elections for the honorary officers' posts of **Treasurer and Secretary** are held annually. As there was only one nomination for each of the posts Dr Phil Baillie was elected for the first time as Honorary Treasurer and Dr Arthur Mitchell was re-elected Honorary Secretary.

There were two new **Executive Committee** vacancies to fill as a result of the AGM's approval of a motion to increase the number of ordinary committee members from 3 to 5. There were just two nominations and Julia Cotton and June Freeland were declared elected.

Election of Fellows

Rob Wood, Heather Sheeley and Mark Cheshire were elected for their outstanding service to the Institute and are seen here with Chair Mark Hoare.



Rob Wood was elected Vice-Chair in 2000 and served as Chair from 2002-2005 while at the University of Lincoln. Rob then served as Treasurer until this AGM when he felt he should not stand again as his present post at Eton College had taken him out of the mainstream of high technology and research.



Heather Sheeley was elected Vice-Chair in 2003 and served as Chair from 2005-2008. Heather is currently co-opted to the Executive Committee to keep it abreast of developments in Europe.



Mark Cheshire, a founder member of IUSO (predecessor to ISTR) was ISTR Membership Secretary from 2001-2005 while at the University of Bristol. In 2007, having not completely settled into retirement, Mark returned to the post of ISTR Membership Secretary.

Comments on the ISTR BSP scheme and CEN WS 53

This update was presented to the AGM by Paul Jackett

Background and progress of the ISTR scheme.

The ISTR Biosafety competence scheme is now fully operational. Accredited training providers for Level 1 (Practitioner) started their courses in 2009. At this level we now have at the last count 14 people registered as Biosafety Practitioners on the ISTR website, and this is encouraging. We estimate that approximately 70 people have attended accredited courses, with a very high pass rate.

The Biosafety Professional scheme started this January. We now have our first people registered for the scheme and indeed our first portfolio submitted under the 'grandparent rights'.

It is very important that we focus over the next months on ensuring that we have the infrastructure in place to assess submitted portfolios to the required standard. ISTR has supported this venture to the hilt and we are certain that ISTR's reputation as a safety organisation will be enhanced as the scheme gains pace and recognition from all parties.

To that end, Anton De Paiva, who coordinates the scheme on ISTR's behalf, is compiling a list of first

line assessors and mentors to be contacted in the coming weeks and Heather Sheeley is providing a scheme of standardised marking for portfolios which will ensure a level playing ground for all.

CEN workshop agreement

The European Biosafety Association (EBSA) is a major sponsor of a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA), entitled CEN WS 53 'Biosafety professional competence'.

The purpose of this workshop is to reach a consensus on the competencies required for a biosafety professional. Attendees are principally from EU states plus Switzerland, but other representatives have come from USA, Canada, Japan, China and Australia.

In view of the high relevance of this workshop to our own scheme, ISTR has sponsored me to represent it in the workshop. The first meeting was in December 2009 and the second in May 2010. Both meetings were held at the Dechema site in Frankfurt. The final meeting will be held in May 2011.

The UK is also represented by MRC, University of Edinburgh (representing the university sector), HPA and Astra-Zeneca.

The workshop is far from plain sailing and both meetings have been affected by strong campaigns to alter its original direction and purpose. Many changes that have been agreed however so far are positive and have ensured that all nations represented on the workshop remain included in the consensus.

I can say confidently that progress so far indicates that the current ISTR BSP scheme will fit substantially with the proposed CWA. With another 12 months to go before the third and final meeting there is still time for further changes, so it would be premature to look at the two schemes in too much detail for similarities and differences.

The actual CWA draft has moved away in the substantial text from two levels to setting overall competencies. It is our understanding that these equate to the BSP (Level 2) in our scheme. In the Informative Annex on training programmes however, they retain two levels of training (basic and advanced) with our Biosafety Practitioner learning outcomes consistent with the recommended 40 hours tuition.

There will be one further consultation on the draft involving workshop participants in the late summer. I will seek a broader range of opinions if possible in this very brief period. However, after that final consultation of workshop members, the document is available for comment from the wider public and I will ensure that ISTR members are informed through [hasnet-istr](#) and [hasnet-istr.biological](#). I encourage people to comment.



Future plans for ISTR

Given that the CWA regards 'Basic' as the first stage of achieving competence, ISTR may wish to consider at some time in the future making completion of Biosafety Practitioner mandatory before progressing to a Biosafety Professional portfolio. At present grandparent rights operate and candidates have until the end of this year to decide if they wish to claim these rights and until December 31st 2011 to submit a portfolio. Thereafter submissions can only include materials from five years before the submission date and after five years experience (which can, but does not have to, include the 2 years for Practitioner). Since Level 1 provides the initial broad knowledge base for most of those attending the courses, who by and large have no other formal H&S training, I would recommend ISTR considers making Level 1 mandatory after a further period with sufficient notice given, for example notification in 2011 that it will be required for all diplomas initially registered from January 2013. This would not have to be an entry requirement, but could be part of the portfolio process itself.

I must stress this is a personal view based on the way the CWA is developing and on logical evolution as well as the encouraging number registered as Practitioners who have indicated they may wish to progress to the portfolio. I am fully aware that this view is not shared by some, including some of the original working group.

Finally

I would like to thank ISTR for their moral and financial support both for the ISTR scheme and for my attending the CWA workshop. I feel certain the CWA is very worthwhile and will be productive.

Although I am retiring in November this year, I will be pleased to complete my participation in the workshop on ISTR's behalf.

*Paul Jackett
July 2010*

Before the AGM

Members and guests enjoyed a visit to the City of Bath where there is much more besides the Georgian terraces.

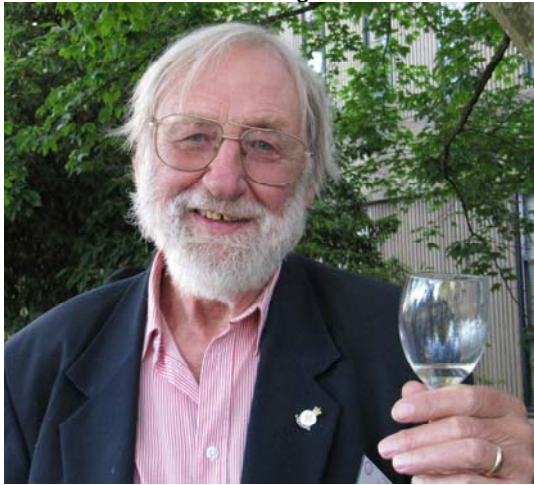


The visit included a guided audio tour of the Roman Baths. The hot spring that rises through the Pennyquick fault from limestone aquifers many thousands of feet below ground is said to have been first discovered and exploited in 836 BC by the British king Bladud. The later Roman Baths is below the modern street level and has four main features, the Sacred Spring, the Roman Temple, the Roman bath house and a museum of finds from Roman Bath. After the Roman withdrawal from Britain, the baths silted up, fell into disrepair and eventually destroyed. The baths were modified at various times and the spring is now housed in eighteenth century Georgian buildings at ground level that were extended in the nineteenth century Victorian period.





It was good to see retired members Jag Cook, Vince Turner and David Watson



..and later...





An after dinner speaker from the Natural Theatre Company...got some of us to do silly things...



Bath is the home town of the Natural Theatre Company. The company produces original and inventive comedy theatre, including outdoor street theatre and is world-famous for both its indoor and outdoor comic-visual theatre, having played on all five continents in 66 countries. For more information see <http://www.naturaltheatre.co.uk/>

NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT the University of Bath, July 2010

David Heath, ISTR Events Secretary, has produced the following account of the symposium proceedings (members may download presentations from the ISTR Members' web page)

64 delegates attended the summer symposium on 'new and emerging technologies. Before the AGM on 6th we had a visit to the roman baths where our Chairman injudiciously dipped his hand into the waters,



only to be pointed out that there lurks a toxic algae. Fortunately he survived for the AGM and the excellent dinner. The following day we were formally welcomed to the University by the Dean of Science, professor Chris Jennison who reminded us of the long history of the city. He too warned us about the algae and other medical matters, in particular the reputation of the city hospital and the horrors of 'Devonshire colic' attributed to lead poisoning from drinking cider in olden times.

Synthetic plant products

Professor Robert Edwards, Durham University

Our first speaker of the day, Professor Robert Edwards from the University of Durham talked about synthetic plant products, or more precisely Bio-refining and synthetic biology, as a way of producing novel fuels. Fossil fuels are the result of ancient sunlight (energy) stored underground, the hope is that ambient sunlight can be captured now to produce green fuels. Unfortunately the current processes using conventional plants are not very efficient as the plants need lots of energy to process them into viable fuels

such as bio ethanol. What is needed is a new generation of plants which can be converted more easily using lower energy inputs to get the outputs. This is where synthetic biology lends a hand, the main emphasis currently is via GM. Professor Edwards' Group (SPPI) is working with the Agchem industry to produce GM plants which better convert sunlight to crops which are more easily digested via enzymes or microbes to produce fuel at an economic price.

Biosensors in textiles

Dr Shirley Coyle, Dublin City University

Dr Shirley Coyle is a member of the adaptive sensors group in Dublin. Whatever the garment, a sensor can be incorporated. Some are fashion statements but some have much more important applications, such as ergonomic monitors, capable of measuring spinal posture while seated at a workstation, measuring knee angle to prevent sports injuries and pressure sensors in shoes to monitor gait. Conducting polymers can be incorporated into stretch fabric to monitor breathing rate and carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide sensors can be incorporated onto fire fighters tunics to monitor their working environment, linked to alarms to warn of life threatening situation.

The Diamond Light Source; how it works, a service to institutions

Paul Bonner, DLS.

The Diamond Light source is a research tool available to many members and Paul Bonner, one of their radiation experts, explained how it works. It is essentially a very bright light source, millions of times brighter than the sun, emitting beams of light from infrared through to x rays. These are concentrated onto target specimens submitted by researchers from around the world and enable studies to be performed on virtually any material, from viruses to concrete to cancer treatments to the Mary Rose warship. Paul

explained the 'usual hazards' of large machinery, high voltage, radiation, high /low pressure and temperature and the controls in place to prevent exposure of staff to the hazards. 100,000 Tons of concrete fully contain the x ray beam with energy of 10^{12} grays/hr. All experiments must have an individual risk assessment, submitted by the researcher 3 weeks before their allotted run time. No risk assessment, no experiment.

Perception of risk; getting the right message to the public

Ed Sykes, Royal Institution.

The morning ended with Ed Sykes from the Royal Institution explaining the need to get the message across to opinion formers, as well as the general public, that new science has a lot of benefits to offer. His talk was entitled 'Science on the frontline' and the important message was to get to the front and get in first with our stories of good science, before the worry mongers start putting out the negative rumours. 90% of the public get their information from the media, so getting your message across via the media is vital – get the media on your side by briefing them BEFORE those who may be hostile to your science have their chance. Ed had 5 key points to briefing:

- Brief the media early
- Brief on the benefits
- Brief on the risks
- See every threat as an opportunity
- Brief the right journalists – the specialist science journalists

To help get the message across, the Royal Institution has a database of 3000 eminent scientists who can be called upon to reinforce the 'good news' on new technology.

RESEARCH LICENSING REGIME

FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS FOR RESEARCH, DIAGNOSIS, TESTING AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

The following information has been submitted by the Specialist Service Centre for Imports in advance of the presentation scheduled for the ISTR Symposium in November.

The importation of animal products into the UK or the EU could pose a risk to animal and public health. Legislation is in place to control that risk. Under European legislation, most animal products imported into the UK or EU must be accompanied by a Health Certificate. However, derogations from this requirement exist for some products. One area where such a derogation exists is for the import of certain products for research purposes. These products can be imported under a licence provided specific criteria can be met. These criteria include, but are not limited to:

- When the study has been carried out the products are destroyed or re-dispatched, with the exception of the quantities used for the analyses;
- These products cannot be further distributed in the UK or EU.

Health certificates which provide guarantees of the origin and health status of the imported material are not required.

The Research Licensing Regime provides licences and authorisations for organisations and individuals to import such scientific specimens comprising animal derived material into England. The type of research can vary and may include, for example, a pharmaceutical company developing a medicine, a food manufacturer doing quality testing, or a university student carrying out research as part of their studies.

In 2008, Defra and the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) reviewed procedures for the importation of animal products for these purposes with a view to setting up a more simplified, risk based, and proportionate system. As a result, some new general licences have been issued while some previously existing licences have been changed or withdrawn. These general licences are to allow products which are considered to be of negligible risk to be imported with minimum burden to the importer. It has removed the need for all importers to apply for a specific licence, provided that they can meet the relevant conditions. Copies of current general licences and guidance notes for their use are available on the Defra website at: [<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/index.htm>]. Importers using these licences and authorisation are asked to notify Animal Health (an agency of Defra) of their intention to use it.

For other products which are not considered to be of negligible risk, a specific licence is required. Applications for these are assessed by Animal Health using a risk-based approach considering factors such as the type of product, the health status of the animal from which the product is derived, the animal health status of the country of origin and the processing the product has undergone. Application forms for specific licences are available at: [<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/docs/forms/ahealth/iappo1.htm>].

The derogations in EU legislation referred to above are not applicable to commercial consignments. Animal products imported under the Research Licensing Regime cannot be used for commercial purposes. For instance, if you wish to import material to store and supply to a third party for them to carry out research, this must be done under commercial

import rules. All commercial consignments must enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post (BIP) where checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met. Once consignments are cleared at the BIP, they are eligible for free circulation throughout the European Union and are not subject to the same conditions as those imported under a research licence.

It is important to note that imports of most animal pathogens or products containing these pathogens are not permitted under this regime. These must be imported under a pathogens licence. Further information on imports of animal pathogens is available at: [<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/pathogens/index.htm#licenceiapo>]

Regional contact details for further information on imports of animals.

England: Animal Health, 01245 454 860, [AHITChelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk] [<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/animaltrade/imports/research-samples.htm>]

Scotland: The Office of the first Minister, 0131 556 8400/ 08457 741 741, [veterinarydivision@scotland.gsi.gov.uk] [<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/ImpExp>]

Wales: Rural Affairs Department, 02920 823 592 [<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/importsexports/?lang=en>]

Northern Ireland: Veterinary Service Trade Section, 028 9052 0807 [tradeadminpost@dardni.gov.uk]

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at the University of Bath in May and July 2010. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

Skills Development Workshops

The very successful and oversubscribed LEV workshop will be repeated, subject to availability of leader and demand for it.

ISTR Sponsorship Scheme

Two applications for sponsorship were received. Ann Diment, Safety manager and Biological safety Officer, School of Biomedical Sciences, Edinburgh University was granted £250 towards the costs of attending the EBSA conference in Slovenia in April 2010. Ann will be invited to give a presentation on her benefit from

the Scheme at the AGM. An application from another member was not successful because it was not within the Scheme criteria.

Committee composition

An expansion of the Executive Committee to five ordinary members was considered – a proposal will be put to AGM to change the Constitution.

2011 and 2012 AGMs

The 2011 AGM will be hosted by the University of Dundee at the Apex City Quay Hotel and Spa.

A venue for the 2012 AGM will be sought in Ireland.

ISTR SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

The sponsorship scheme is aimed to assist ISTR members and associates attend conferences, symposia or workshops that would benefit their careers. The Executive Committee has agreed a fund of £500 per annum will be made available from 1 September 2009 up to 31 August 2012 and the maximum award over the three year period will be the sum of £250 to any one individual.

Eligibility

The sponsorship scheme is for ISTR members and associates, primarily, but not exclusively, in relatively junior health and safety roles.

Applications

Applicants should submit a short abstract detailing

their position, place of work and reason for applying for sponsorship. Each application should contain two supporting nominees who must be full ISTR members.

Applications should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, [istr-secretary@istr.org.uk]. The decision of the ISTR Executive Committee on any sponsorship application will be final.

Report from Successful Applicant

Successful applicants are expected to produce a short report to the Executive Committee on the conference, symposia or workshop they attended. This report will be published in the ISTR Bulletin.

ISTR AWARD

The ISTR Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safety in Technology and Research is given in recognition of the effort and success of a named member who has, in the view of the Executive Committee, made a significant contribution to safety in the field of technology, science or research through a publication, scheme, device, campaign, training material or other.

The award comprises of an engraved glass object and a small monetary award agreed by the Executive

Committee from the Institute funds.

Presentation of the ISTR Award takes place at an AGM. Nominations can be made at any time but have to be received by mid-April at the latest for consideration by the Executive Committee before the next AGM. The nomination form and further information can be downloaded from the Members' section of the ISTR website at [http://www.istr.org.uk/members/cmем.shtm#award].

ISTR'S ELECTRONIC INTERFACE



HASNET-ISTR Email Discussion List



This is a closed email discussion list. That is, only ISTR members are given access to it. Members need do nothing; members are automatically added to the list by the Membership Secretary using the email address supplied by the member. Queries about HASNET-ISTR should be addressed to the Membership Secretary [istr-membershipsecretary@istr.org.uk].

The Executive Committee would like to see members make a lot more use of HASNET-ISTR



Bulletin

Whilst this copy of the ISTR Bulletin has been posted to you, an electronic version in Adobe Acrobat pdf format and in colour can be downloaded from the member's only section of the ISTR web site: [http://www.istr.org.uk/members/cmем.shtml]

ISTR on the World Wide Web: <http://www.istr.org.uk/>