

Editorial

When I applied to the graduate program at the American University of Beirut, I was aware of what biology is about, all its branches and the philosophy behind a lot of hypothesis in the field. More specifically, I knew how to find a book and how to digest the data found in it and may be to handle few experimental applications to familiarize my self of how to work in a laboratory. But now I can recognize that what I didn't know at the time is the most important thing in the life of a future scientist. Simply, I didn't know how to conduct research, I knew nothing about scientific research and that, is what I learned when I joined the IBSAR group. IBSAR defined new terms for me. New terms like scientific project, project grants, scientific conference, collaboration between different universities, interdepartmental collaboration and collaboration between different laboratories of related interests (During IBSAR meetings I experienced a chemist working with a molecular biologist and discussing with a pharmacologist to bring the whole image together). I learned about the legislations that accompany the work in the lab, my rights and other's rights. Do you believe that before IBSAR I didn't know what a funding agency is and that to maintain your fund you should update a progress report (what you've done and what is your next step...).

As I traveled to join the PhD program in a respectful University (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) in a very competitive environment I recognized that IBSAR updated me to the edge, I am familiar with all what is going on around me, I can understand every one's movement and objective, every thing is clear I know what questions to ask and what answers I should get. Believe me these are very important things to get results and start elaborating efficiently and produce ideas during the first two months of your arrival to a place where every body is ready to get the first impression about you. This will make you owe respect because you are giving and not only taking and this is important for a PhD student.

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For your precious contribution to this invaluable newsletter, including the editorial section contact M. Daouk at me11@aub.edu.lb
Submission deadlines 20th of each month.



News

Biotech phase II report. The final report of the biotech project phase II was submitted to Mercy corps in October. A copy is available with Mona Daouk for those interested.

IBSAR Pamphlet. A pamphlet for IBSAR has been completed (Included in this newsletter)

IBSAR's Internal Scientific review. An internal review of all activities under the biotech project will be conducted

Objective: To critically evaluate the research process and findings of the biotech project under IBSAR, to elucidate causes for discrepancies, and to identify gaps.

Aim: To maintain contact at early stages to develop and encourage "promising" findings and capitalize on our successes.

Proposed deadline:

Teams have to submit the review report to the executive committee November 28.

Activity	Partners	Suggested reviewers
Domestication	S. Talhouk, Baalbaki	Saliba, Abu Fakh Hammad, Mohtaseb
Insecticidal	Abu fakr-Hammad	S. Talhouk, Baalbaki
Anti-microbial	Barbour	R. Talhouk, Baalbaki
Inflammation	R. Talhouk, Homaidan, Barbour	Baalbaki, El Sabban

Activity	Partners	Suggested reviewers
Anti-cancer	Mohtaseb, Darwiche, El Sabban	R. Talhouk, Homaidan
Toxicology	Sabra	Darwiche, R. Talhouk
Metabolic	Hwalla	Saab, El Sabban
Socio economic	Kabbani, Jamali, Abdallah	S. Talhouk, Barbour
Extraction / Profiling	Saliba, Bouhadir	mohtaseb, El Sabban, Abu Fakh Hammad

Executive committee will review and distribute compiled reports on December 12.

Meetings, contacts & Seminars

Meetings

IBSAR meetings Mark your calendar! IBSAR meetings have resumed and the schedule is set for the Fall semester 2003-2004 as follows:

Date	Group	Speakers
Oct. 16	Anti inflammatory	Homaidan and Talhouk.
Oct. 30	Business plan	El Zein
Nov. 13	Clinical	Saab
Nov. 27*	-	
Dec. 11	Insecticidal	Abu Fakh Hammad
Dec. 25**	-	
Jan. 8	Anti Cancer	Mohtaseb, Darwiche and El Sabban
Jan.22	Anti microbial	E. Barbour

*Eid Al Fitr

** Christmas vacation



IBSAR Meeting of October 16.

Presentation by R. Talhouk, F. Homaidan and E. Barbour entitled: " **Anti inflammatory experimental models: adaptation to bio-prospection of plant medicinal compounds**". The partners gave a brief review of the progress achieved in the past 6 months. They presented the results and discussed future tests to be conducted. They also raised issues related to batch variability.

IBSAR Meeting of October 30

Mr. Wael El Zein, Consultant from Addima consulting, gave a presentation on: "**IBSAR Business Plan**" in which he defined the business plan and proposed a preliminary model for IBSAR.

Executive committee meetings.

IBSAR executive committee meetings schedule is set for the Fall semester 2003-2004. Minutes of meetings will be published on IBSAR website.

Date	Time
Thursday, 23 Oct.	4:00 -5:00 pm
Thursday, 20 Nov.	4:00 -5:00 pm
Thursday, 18 Dec.	4:00 -5:00 pm
Thursday, 15 Jan.	4:00 -5:00 pm

Contacts

IBSAR meeting with staff members from the office of the Honorable Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

On the first of October, IBSAR received a delegation from Toledo consisting of Mr. Steve Katich, Staff Director and Mr. Daniel Foote Staff Assistant in the office of Honorable Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Mr. Yehya Shousher who has been a strong supporter of our program accompanied Messrs Katich and Foote. The guests visited AUB's core facilities, and were briefed about the project's achievements and prospects.

An evening reception was organized in the biology/FAFS garden to honor the visitors and give them the opportunity to get acquainted with faculty, students and staff.





TWNSO-GEF-UNEP International Conference on “Implementing Programmes to Conserve Biodiversity in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in Developing Countries”. Rabat, Morocco (August 27th -30th 2003).

The conference dealt with the following issues and themes:

A. Overview of Problems and Prospects for developing Successful Policies and Programs to Conserve and Sustainably Use Biodiversity in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions of Southern Nations

B. The Role of the Global Environment Facility in Protection of Arid and Semi-Arid Regions

C. Strategic Issues in Protection of Biodiversity in Drylands: The View From the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

D. Why There Should Be Strong Linkages Between the CBD, CCD, and CCC to Better Protect Biodiversity in Drylands

E. How Stronger Linkages Can Be Established Between the CBD, CCD, and CCC to Better Protect Biodiversity in Drylands

F. How Institutions and Donor Groups Can Work More Effectively to Increase Capacity Building for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions

(summary prepared by S. Talhouk who participated in this meeting)

Seminars

Thesis Seminar.

A. Abu Hatab (Major: Interfaculty Graduate Environmental Sciences Program) presented her thesis seminar entitled: “Effect of provenance on essential oil composition of two native Lebanese plants: *Salvia Triloba* and *Origanum ehrinbergii*”

Workshop: “Traditional Whip Production Systems and New Methods of production for Lebanese nurseries” October 20, 2003

Within the context of assessing the needs of Lebanese nurseries in Lebanon, IBSAR conducted a workshop on new nursery production systems and their



applicability in Lebanon. The expert, Dr. D. Stuve, Professor at the Ohio State University, discussed different approaches to improve the production methodology of ornamental trees in Lebanese nurseries. He emphasized the need to use readily available and economically feasible material and promote the production of native plant species.





Fund Raising

Funds received!

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Proposals Submitted

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Publications from IBSAR

MSc. thesis. A. Abu Hatab, Major: Interfaculty graduate Environmental Sciences program on: **“Effect of provenance on essential oil composition of two native Lebanese plants: *Salvia Triloba* and *Origanum ehrinbergii*”**. Graduate committee: S. Talhouk (advisor), H. Mohtaseb, and N. Saliba.