

# **The Paratuberculosis Newsletter**

**June 2016**



**An official publication of the  
International Association for Paratuberculosis**

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 15 August 2016**

All contributions should be sent to the new editor  
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## **1. IAP Business**

### **IAP Board of Directors and Officers**

The IAP membership has elected the following for the **IAP Board of Directors**

Richard Whittington- Australia

Jeroen DeBuck- Canada

Gregers Jungersten- Denmark

Christine Fourichon- France

Heike Koehler- Germany

Shoorvir Singh- India

Peter Mullowney- Ireland

Norma Arrigoni- Italy

Victor Rutten- Netherlands

Frank Griffin- New Zealand

Joseba Garrido- Spain

Karen Stevenson- United Kingdom

Judy Stabel- United States

Mike Collins- United States

The Board of Directors has appointed the following **officers**:

President: Ramon Juste

Vice-President: Eiichi Momotani

Editor-in-Chief: Kumudika de Silva

Secretary-Treasurer: Ray Sweeney

**Financial Report for 2015****International Association for Paratuberculosis**

**112 Barnview Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348 USA**

**Financial Report--December 31, 2015**

	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Money Market</u>	<u>PayPal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Open (1/1/15)	\$ 10,779.62	\$ 13,884.76	\$ 337.50	\$ 25,001.88
Mid-Year (6/30/15)	\$ 36,164.59	\$ 13,888.20	\$ 480.75	\$ 50,533.54
Close (12/31/15)	\$ 35,385.77	\$ 13,891.70	\$ 1,412.63	\$ 50,690.10

**INCOME**

	<u>1/1/15 to 6/30/15</u>	<u>7/1/15 to 12/31/15</u>	<u>Annual Total</u>
Dues	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 1,630.00
Interest	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.50	\$ 6.94
ICP Deposit	\$ 16,431.05	\$	\$ 16,431.05
ICP Proceeds	\$ 9,017.82		\$ 9,017.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,602.31</b>	<b>\$ 1,483.50</b>	<b>\$ 27,085.81</b>

**EXPENSES**

	<u>1/1/15 to 6/30/15</u>	<u>7/1/15 to 12/31/15</u>	<u>Annual Total</u>
CreditCard/PayPal	\$ 70.65	\$ 48.12	\$ 118.77
12ICP travel reimbursement		\$ 1,278.82	\$ 1,278.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 70.65</b>	<b>\$ 1,326.94</b>	<b>\$ 1,397.59</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond W. Sweeney, VMD  
Secretary-Treasurer

## **2. Opinions**

### **Hypothetical liability from MAP causing Crohn's Disease**

*Gilles R. G. Monif, M.D.*

When political reality catches up with the science in accepting that MAP is not just associated with MAP, but that MAP is the cause of Crohn's disease, the issue of liability will become of paramount interest (1,2).

Liability arising from the potential MAP contamination of milk and milk-based products is projected to reside with the United States government. In its attempt to insulate agribusiness from added cost, a policy of not identifying MAP status in an animal's health certificate was implemented, allowing infected animals to be shipped across state and national borders (3). USDA compounded the problem by licensing diagnostic tests that the tests identified animals at risk for Johne's disease rather than the serological status of the animals (4). The net result has been the widespread dissemination of MAP among milk-producing animals and the secondary shedding MAP into the milk bulk tank milk or for fecal contaminating previous unadulterated milk (5,6). In matters concerning food safety, The Rio Declaration on Food Safety's precautionary principle places the obligation to act to protect the public welfare squarely on government (6).

Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration states against “*... the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capacities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full knowledge shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation the precautionary principle embedded in food safety*” (7). Given the responsibility of oversight and governance, the cost of added steps to protect the public health by reducing the amount of MAP entering the human food chain will reside with government.

MAP receptors lining the entire small bowel (8). The scale of MAP's penetration of milk-based products makes it, more probable than not, that the majority of individuals within industrialized nations has been or will be infected by MAP. The presence of MAP DNA in the blood of healthy subjects incorporated into a number of clinical studies supports the postulate that MAP infection is widespread in the general population (9-11). If the assumption made is correct, the number of afflicted individuals is comparatively small in contrast to the number of individuals theoretically infected by MAP. This discrepancy has the potential of being advanced in support of the argument that, in the presence of both acquired and inherent immunity, MAP infection is of limited health consequences.

The economical importance of milk derived protein, coupled with the adverse economical fallout of attempting to remove MAP from food sources, and governmental reluctance to do anything contrary to the interests of influential third parties may influence FDA to limit the significance of human MAP infection to a situation where acquired immunity

is not complete and to rule that for individuals whose immune system is intact, consumption of dairy products containing MAP DNA is of limited biological significance.

To be compliant with the Rio Declaration, governments will be pressured to institute and fund surveillance and herd management schema aimed at reducing the prevalence of MAP in the production area. More likely than not, producers will be paid a set fee per animal to cover the added costs.

The good news is that finally dairy producers will have the opportunity (at the government's expense) to lessen the MAP Milk Tax resulting from reduced milk production, lower slaughter weight and possibly lower reproductive outcomes imposed by subclinically infected animals (13).

The manufacturers of infant formula stand to bear the consequences of their business practices and governmental screw ups. Once potential adulteration of infant formula by MAP had been documented and then confirmed, they were under legal obligation to have instituted measures consistent with the precautionary principles regarding food safety embedded in The Rio Declaration and Article 5.7 of The World Trade Organization' Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (7,12). In the United States, infant formula manufacturers marketed their product in lieu of breastfeeding despite knowledge of the acceptance of the existence of a relationship between MAP and Crohn's disease and the well established fact that breastfeeding prevented Crohn's disease. The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) the Poultry Protection Inspection Act (21m U.S.C. 451 et seq.) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C 321 et seq.) are instruments of administrative law. They identify a food as being adulterated if it bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render it injurious to health and is not neutralized by its subsequent processing. Products that are adulterated under these laws cannot enter into commerce for food consumption. The failure of infant formula labels to provide the information necessary for a pregnant woman to make an informed decision is projected a decisive point within courts of law.

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