

Schools Membership costs only £10 a year. For this, a named teacher representative will receive *Microbiology Today* each quarter, advance notification and copies of new microbiology teaching resources, and discounted fees for attendance on SGM training courses and workshops. Application forms are available at [www.sgm.ac.uk](http://www.sgm.ac.uk)

## Over to you...

Contributions are welcome from teachers who have interesting microbiology material to share, such as novel investigations, useful tips or good sources of information. A copy of the post-16 resource *Practical Fermentation* (worth £15) will be sent to any school whose submission is published. The editors of *Microbiology Today* reserve the right to edit any material.

Enquiries:  
[education@sgm.ac.uk](mailto:education@sgm.ac.uk)

Website:  
[www.microbiologyonline.org.uk](http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk)

## School Membership takes off

At the end of 2002 SGM had 320 School Members and the majority have already renewed for 2003. Feedback has been excellent and we have enjoyed meeting teachers from member schools at courses, the summer school and on our stand at the ASE annual meetings. Our various publications have been well received and continue to be distributed widely to schools throughout the UK and several overseas locations.

## Practical Microbiology for Secondary Schools

This new resource for Key Stages 3, 4 and post-16 students, contains 21 safe, tried and tested practicals and includes two open-ended investigations. Many of the experiments can also be adapted for project work. The book, based on an earlier long out-of-print SGM teaching pack, but substantially updated and redesigned, was put together by a MISAC working party and edited by Janet Hurst (SGM) and John Grainger (MISAC).

Each investigation is in the form of a double-page spread, comprising a teacher guide and student worksheets which clearly set out the requirements for each activity and the procedure to be followed. The text is accompanied by helpful line drawings. The worksheets are arranged in four main themes: Life forms and processes; Microbes in the environment; Microbes and food; Health and hygiene, but each

activity is stand-alone and offers students the opportunity to develop their investigative skills.

The book includes sections on good microbiological laboratory practice and practical techniques and tips plus details of further resources.

● Price: £10 (inclusive of postage and packing).

Contact Yvonne Taylor at SGM Headquarters to purchase a copy (email [y.taylor@sgm.ac.uk](mailto:y.taylor@sgm.ac.uk)); cheques should be payable to SGM.

A copy of *Basic Practical Microbiology: A Manual* (the detailed notes that accompany our training course) is supplied free with each order.

## Basic Practical Microbiology Courses

Around 230 teachers and technicians have now received training in basic practical microbiology at the Society's one-day accredited courses delivered by Dr John Grainger (MISAC Chairman) and Dr John Schollar (NCBE Co-Director). Places are still available on the courses being held this summer

The two remaining courses this academic year are:

- Queen's University of Belfast 11 June
- University of Exeter 4 July

The course costs £40 (£30 to School Members), which covers course materials, certification, lunch and refreshments. Schools are offered a £100 flat sum per teacher per day to assist with supply cover.

Full details of the courses and a booking form are available on [www.microbiologyonline.org.uk](http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk)

## Coming soon...

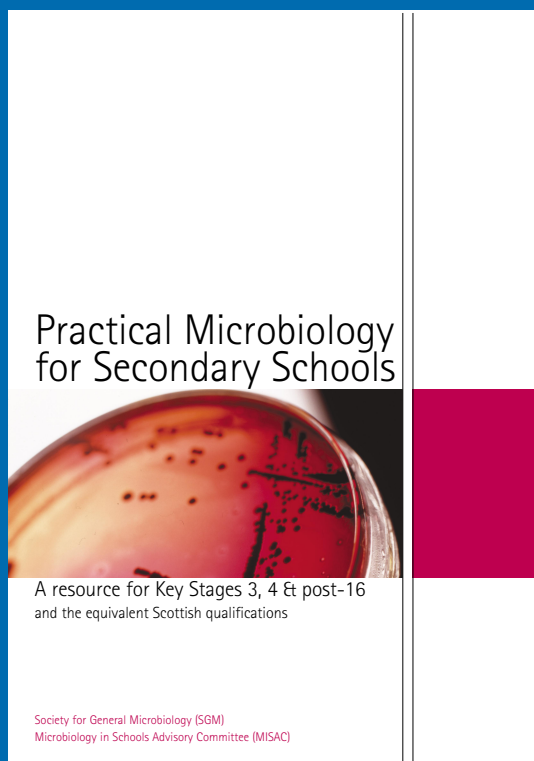
### *Tuberculosis: can the spread of this killer disease be halted?*

Compiled by Dariel Burdass, this new factsheet covers the latest developments in the fight against TB, a disease which is rapidly making a comeback worldwide. Useful background information on TB in history, the organism that causes the disease, how the infection spreads and how the human body fights it precede descriptions of diagnosis methods and recent research into vaccines and drugs to control TB. The factsheet includes a glossary and a list of further resources. It is targeted at post-16 students, but will also be useful for those studying GCSE Applied Science.

## MISAC Competition 2003

### *Your Body is a Fortress: a barrier to microbial invaders*

Don't miss this excellent assessment opportunity for your Key Stage 3 and 4 students. The closing date for the competition, sponsored by the SGM, is 31 March.



Entrants should submit an eye-catching A3 annotated diagram of the human body, highlighting non-specific defences to infection by microbes. There are cash prizes for both schools and pupils. Each school that enters receives a pack of microbiology teaching resources and all students submitting entries which are scientifically correct are sent a certificate. See [www.microbiologyonline.org.uk](http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk) for full details and an entry form.

## New Microbiology Code of Practice for Scottish Schools & Colleges

The Scottish Schools Equipment Research Centre has completely revised an earlier publication *Safety in Microbiology*. It covers microbiological work in Scottish schools right across the age range from primary to further education colleges. The code of practice offers a set of preventative and protective measures produced as a result of model risk assessments. To obtain a copy, contact SSERC ([www.sserc.org.uk](http://www.sserc.org.uk) or email [sts@sserc.org.uk](mailto:sts@sserc.org.uk)).

Safety information for schools in England and Wales is available on the SGM education website [www.microbiologyonline.org.uk](http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk)

## How the Mushroom Got its Spots

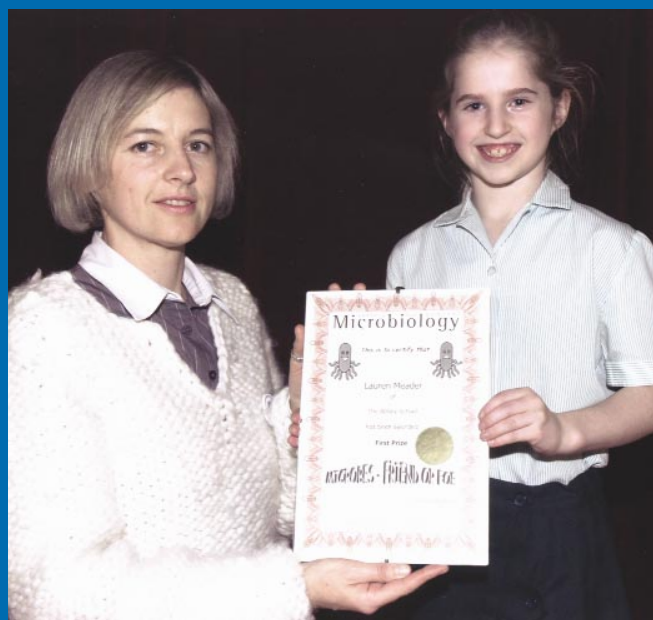
The new booklet from the British Mycological Society and the BBSRC provides an explainer's guide to fungi. It has been written by SGM member and BMS Education Secretary Sue Assinder and her colleague Gordon Rutter. It is aimed at anyone faced with talking about fungi to non-specialists, either in schools or to the public and includes some practical activities and quizzes plus information about organizing fungal forays as well as lots of fascinating facts about fungi. Safety issues are carefully considered.

Copies of the book are free from: The Librarian, British Mycological Society, Joseph Banks Building, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE (email [v.barkham@rbgkew.org.uk](mailto:v.barkham@rbgkew.org.uk)).

## Primary Poster Success

To mark Science Year, the SGM ran a popular competition for primary schools. Pupils had to create a poster entitled *Microbes: Friend or Foe?* which described the roles that different harmful and beneficial micro-organisms play in our lives (see *Microbiology Today* August 2002, p.139 for details).

The first prize of £150 for the school was won by 8-year old Lauren Meader, of the Abbey School, Reading. Recently Dariel Burdass, who runs SGM education activities, went along to the school to present the prize and to give Lauren her winner's certificate.



ABOVE: Dariel Burdass presents a certificate to Lauren Meader, who won first prize in the SGM competition. COURTESY READING EVENING POST

The school opted to use the money to help pay the Quantum Theatre Company's fee for performing its show *The Mysterious Disappearance of Mr Winchlever*, which brings alive scientific concepts using humour. They will also take Lauren's class on a trip to the Science Museum at SGM's expense.

## A national network of science learning centres

The Wellcome Trust and the Department for Education and Skills are establishing a national network of centres where science teachers can enhance their professional skills by learning more about contemporary scientific ideas, undergoing training in effective teaching approaches and gaining experience in modern scientific techniques. The aim is to improve science teaching, to inspire pupils by providing them with a more exciting, intellectually stimulating and relevant science education and to raise morale in the teaching profession. £51 million is currently out to tender and bids are invited from single organizations or consortia that have the capability and capacity to develop and manage the proposed national centre and regional centres that will support its work. The announcement of the successful bidders is expected in October 2003. See [www.dfes.gov.uk/sciencecpd/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sciencecpd/) for details.

