

# SGM education and science promotion programme 2001/2002

The Society takes the promotion of microbiology education and careers very seriously. It employs professionals in this field to carry out the work, in conjunction with interested and enthusiastic members and Education Officer Liz Sockett. The staff organize events, produce appropriate resources and deal with all the enquiries that roll in daily by phone, fax, email and letter from teachers, pupils and the general public. Quite often they have to get out on the road and work long hours and at weekends but the team's commitment and enthusiasm rarely wanes! Here are some of the activities that are planned (or have taken place) in 2001/2002.

## Events

### ● 3–6 January 2001: Association for Science Education Annual Meeting, Guildford

Attended by 4,000 sciences teachers from all over the world. SGM had a large stand, which they shared with the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MISAC), gave away lots of resources and advice and demonstrated some living algae and protozoa using a video microscope kindly loaned by Martin Adams of University of Surrey. SGM also organized the *Living Science* section of the exhibition for the other bioscience bodies and participated in the Wellcome Trust symposium.

### ● 2–4 March 2001: Careers Enterprise & Jobs Live, Scottish Exhibition CC

### ● 11–12 March 2001: Careers & Jobs Live 2001, Birmingham NEC

### ● 26–27 April 2001: UCAS Careers Convention, Bath University

### ● 17–18 May 2001: UCAS Careers Convention, Newcastle

For many years SGM has been attending careers fairs for schools with other learned societies and the Institute of Biology under the banner of *Bioscience at Work*. This year we joined up with the Institute of Physics and Royal Society of Chemistry to promote all areas of science on a much larger stand. This collaboration has been very successful.

### ● 7 June 2001: Glasgow University

Teachers' workshop on microbiology and biochemistry, joint with Biochemical Society. John Grainger, former director of NCBE, Chairman of MISAC and a long-standing contributor to SGM educational activities, is running the practical workshop, whilst Tim Mitchell gives a talk on the latest aspects of antimicrobial resistance.

### ● 4–5 June 2001: Royal Institution Primary School Workshops

Dariel Burdass has been invited by the Royal Institution to run our popular workshops for primary school children in Staffordshire. These involve creative activities with model microbes, as well as demonstrating the power of yeast to blow up balloons.

### ● 30 June 2001: Aspects of Modern Medical Science

Participation in event organized by Cirencester Science Society. We will be mounting a display on food safety.

### ● October 2001: BAYSDAY, Royal Albert Hall

By request from the BA we will be repeating our microbiology workshops for primary school children.

### ● November/December 2001: Life Science Careers Conferences Bristol, London and Newcastle

Saturday events for undergrad and postgrad life science students – lectures, workshops and exhibition + CV analysis service. Joint venture between SGM, BS, BPS, BSI, PS and SEB. SGM does the administration for these events.

## Projects

### Current resources

- *Classifying Microbes* – a poster and set of teachers' notes for post-16, produced in association with PCET (c.£8)
- *Fermenter Investigations* pack (with NCBE) – pack of student and technical guides for post-16 (£15)
- Poster: *World of Microbes* (over 20,000 printed and distributed free to date)
- Set of three posters: *Microbes & Food* (free)
- Set of two posters: *Microbes & the Environment* (free)
- *Biotech* – teaching resources pack for 16+, with ABPI, BBSRC, BS and Wellcome Trust (now available on the web [www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk))
- *World of Microbes* – Microbiology teaching pack for primary schools: booklets, teacher's guide and poster on beneficial and harmful micro-organisms linked to Unit 6B Micro-organisms of the Science Curriculum (now available – see inside back cover)
- SGM website – greatly expanded education pages, including range of factsheets. Further work and a revamp in progress [www.sgm.ac.uk](http://www.sgm.ac.uk)
- *Microbiologists Make a Difference* – careers poster and leaflet (free)
- Set of careers factsheets for 16+ (also on website)
- SGM website – extensive web pages on careers; a separate site [www.biocareers.org.uk](http://www.biocareers.org.uk) is under development.

### In progress or planned

- Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MISAC)  
SGM acts as secretariat and deals with all enquiries from teachers, distributing the wide range of factsheets available (also on web at [www.biosci.org.uk/MISAC](http://www.biosci.org.uk/MISAC)). SGM administers the annual competition:
- 2001 – *Microbes & Food* – newspaper article (for pupils aged 11–16, in two age groups) judged at Marlborough House in April. Nearly 2,000 entries were received. Food and Drink Federation collaborated.
- 2002 – *I've got you under my skin* magazine feature on fungal infections (11–16, in two age groups) sponsored by British Mycological Society
- Poster set: *Microbes & the Human Body* (autumn 2001)
- Revision of *Practical Microbiology for Schools* teaching pack (Key Stage 4, GCSE) (summer 2001)
- *TB: A model organism* – factsheet for Key Stage 3
- Development of a set of practical activities for post-16

### Teacher & Technician Training

- A programme of training courses in practical microbiology for secondary school science teachers and technicians will be running from September, led by John Schollar of NCBE and John Grainger, Chairman of MISAC.
- Primary schoolteacher workshops will also be available on demand to support the practical activities in the new *World of Microbes* pack.

### Year of Science

See p. 71.

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