

Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function

SoilCIP

Newsletter for April 2009



'New' mass spec at N Wyke

Roland Bol, Liz Dixon and Jenni Dungait have been given a Thermo-Finnigan GC-C-IRMS system worth £200k by Astra-Zeneca (Sweden). This is based on the 5-year research strategy for the development of stable isotope techniques at NWRes. In return, to express their thanks, NWRes has made a small donation to a charity (SOS Children) Villages.

New Forest Research Centres

Forest Research has launched three new research centres in order to deliver the rapidly changing, cross-cutting and challenging requirements of its public and private-sector clients. The Centre for Forestry and Climate Change (CFCC), led by Andy Moffat, will research the effects of environmental and climate change on forestry and how the sector can play its part in adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change. It will also develop entomological, pathological and environmental sciences in order to deliver a holistic understanding of climate change and forestry. The Centre for Forest Resources and Management (CFRM), led by Helen McKay, will research, develop and provide guidance on methods of quantifying, improving and managing Britain's forest resource in a cost-effective, safe, sustainable and socially beneficial way. It will also provide technical support for field experimentation, monitoring and surveys through Forest Research's field station network. The Centre for Human and Ecological Sciences (CHES) is led by Chris Quine. CHES will research and develop the role of trees, woodlands and forests in society and within integrated sustainable landscapes. It will achieve this by continuing to develop and apply a broad range of skills from the human and ecological sciences. It will also provide statistical support across the Agency. More at <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7QQE94>.

RothC carbon cycling model

Kevin Coleman tells me that there are now 908 registered users of RothC from 76 countries. This is testimony to the usefulness of the model. We will be hoping to attract more users at the 'Soil Organic Matters' meeting at Rothamsted in June.

PRESS RELEASE, 9 April 2009

Biosciences Federation welcomes Universities UK guidelines on funding open access publishing

The Biosciences Federation supports the recommendations made by the recent Universities UK report on open access publishing. This report lays out guidelines to make it easier for researchers to access funds to satisfy funding bodies' open access mandates. The report recommends:

- Higher Education Institutions should each set up a dedicated budget to pay author-side open access publication charges.
- Funding bodies should clarify how they will provide support for researchers to meet their open access policies, especially regarding the payment of open access publishing fees.

The guidelines also note that authors should make use of resources such as the Biosciences Federation's "[Authors' guide to UK funders' policies on open access](#)".

An earlier [report](#) by the Biosciences Federation identified that, although funders were increasingly insistent on published research being open access, researchers experienced considerable difficulty in accessing the appropriate funds to do this. This new report, produced by Universities UK and the Research Information Network, brought together representatives from relevant stakeholders including funding bodies, publishers, institutional administrators and the Biosciences Federation to produce guidelines on how to implement fee-paid open access sustainably.

Dr Richard Dyer OBE, Chief Executive of the Biosciences Federation said:

"The Biosciences Federation has been aware for some time that the main stumbling block to effectively implementing open access policies is the need for a sustainable model of funding. This report represents an important step towards achieving this. If these guidelines are implemented, we will have a joined-up approach that will enable authors to satisfy funding bodies' requirements without relying on unfunded mandates. This can only be good for science, researchers and the learned societies to which they belong. The learned societies are important because of the huge financial and professional support they provide to the scientific community in the UK and beyond."

The unification of the Institute of Biology
& the Biosciences Federation
– working towards a single voice for UK biology



INSTITUTE
OF BIOLOGY

BIOSCIENCES FEDERATION

The unification of IoB and BSF, Press Release London, 23rd April 2009

Members of the UK's two leading biology organisations, the Institute of Biology (IoB) and the Biosciences Federation (BSF), have voted overwhelmingly in favour of unification to form a single organisation, the *Society of Biology*. This positive development takes the IoB and BSF a step closer to the creation of an

organisation that combines the expertise of the learned societies and other biology organisations with the professional skills of the IoB and its individual members.

For more information, see: www.newbio.info.

Click [here](#) for the on-line version of this Alert



IUSS Alert – 48 (April 2009)

Information for and from the global soil science community

Including:

All proceedings of 18 World Congresses (1927-2006) have been scanned and are available as PDF on the IUSS website (under World Soil Congresses).

A new issue of Pedometron has been published in March: www.pedometrics.org

New publications: Biochar for Environmental Management, Edited by J. Lehmann and S. Joseph. Earthscan, 2009. ISBN 9781844076581; Soil Carbon Sequestration and the Greenhouse Effect, 2nd edition, edited by Rattan Lal and Ronald F. Follett. Soil Science Society of America, 2009. ISBN: 978-089118-850-6.

Keith Goulding, 1st May 2009