



IUSSI - North American Section

IUSSI-NAS 2019 Newsletter

Dear IUSSI-NAS Members,

As 2019 comes to a close, the members of the Executive committee want to wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. This year is the end of a mini-era, with both our secretary Jenny Jandt and our treasurer James Nieh ending their terms this year. It is hard to imagine how we will function without them! I am also transitioning from the President's role, with the gavel officially passed to our new Prez, Stephen Pratt last month at our annual business meeting. I know that he, along with our newly-elected secretary Sarah Lawson and treasurer Chris Smith, will steer the ship wisely over the coming year. And I can attest that the State of the Union (for the Study of Social Insects) is strong. Our society has experienced an exceptional year for membership: as of yesterday, we are up to 262 members, including 100 students! It is fabulous to see the social insect research community so actively engaged. We are hoping to keep the fire burning with a growing presence on social media, which now has its own official committee. If you have not yet joined the IUSSI-North American Section Facebook group, you too can join 133 of your closest friends, and both get and contribute regular updates and announcements about the goings-on of our society and many affiliated networks and groups. We will be highlighting our rising stars (ie students) over the course of this year, so keep an eye out for their cool research and pics. Our @IUSSI_NAS Twitter activity has also really been ramping up, and many of you volunteered yourselves at the business meeting to help craft content for Instagram.

Planning is well underway for two big-ticket items that our section will be hosting in the next few years: first, the NAS breakout meeting at the Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona next October 16-18. If you have not been to a breakout meeting before, definitely come. It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with students, mentors, and colleagues at every career stage in an intimate and focused setting. We're a pretty nice bunch, to boot. And the Chiricahua mountains are awesome. Second, of course, is the 2022 International Congress in San Diego, California July 3-8. I know you've all got it on your calendars already! Our goal is to make the congress fun, informative, and a showcase of diversity and inclusion within our discipline. To do that, we need many voices to contribute to shaping its format and content. If you are at all interested in getting involved, there is a LOT to do and the many committee chairs would love to hear from you! Details in Jenifer Fewell's letter below.

I have enjoyed serving as President this past year, and look forward to seeing many of you at future meetings and reading about your work in *Insectes Sociaux* (Yes! Submit manuscripts!).

Cheers,
Sara Helms Cahan
Past President, IUSSI-NAS

IUSSI 2022 Congress Update

Dear IUSSI Members

The North American Section is working on plans for the 2022 IUSSI Congress. The meeting will be held from 3-8 July, at the Marriott Marquis, San Diego Harbor. It should be a great venue. The hotel has extensive conference facilities, and is located directly across from San Diego's Gaslamp district. The trolley to Balboa Park and other local sites runs right past the hotel. Additionally, we will have a fantastic view of the July 4th fireworks on the harbor.

Our meeting program committee will be chaired by Stephen Pratt (Stephen.Pratt@asu.edu); the local hosting committee by James Nieh (jnieh@ucsd.edu); and the meeting secretary will be Jenny Jandt (jenny.jandt@otago.ac.nz). We additionally have diversity/inclusion, finance/fundraising, website, and graduate/postdoctoral committees. Committee assignments will be posted online as we develop them. If your members have particular interests in participating in one of those committees, please email Jenny Jandt or Jennifer Fewell (j.fewell@asu.edu).

At the recent NAS meeting, discussions on format and protocols produced an initial set of suggestions for the meeting. When the website officially goes online, we will open a "suggestion box" for further input.

Suggestions voted for by the NAS membership include:

1. Limiting presentations to one oral presentation per speaker regardless of category, plus one poster as presenter. Co-authorship on posters and oral presentations remains unlimited.
2. Including a balance of symposia and thematic contributed sessions throughout the meeting, rather than all symposia or all contributed sessions.
3. Symposia will include a limited number of invited core presentations, with additional presentations chosen by organizers from contributed papers, which can then be revised to fit the symposium.
4. Emphasis on diversity of presenters - including career stage - in choosing symposia and invited speakers.
5. Inclusion of a separate student competition symposium (oral presentations), with potential inclusion of a similar competition for early postdoctoral students

We are enthusiastic about making this an inclusive, scientifically productive, and enjoyable meeting; we look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you in San Diego.

Jennifer Fewell
IUSSI President

Stephen Pratt
Congress Program Officer