

Dear members of the cestode community,

The upcoming cestode workshop in Smolenice (June 15-20, 2008) will include a working group entitled, "Cestode Recipes: Laboratory Techniques for the study of cestodes".

The goal of this working group is to assemble a draft of a book that will be published in the format of a manual on laboratory techniques focused on cestodes. I, as well as potentially Claire Healy and others, would assemble and edit this manual. However each individual contributor would be given credit for authorship on his/her contributions.

Our hope is to receive contributions prior to the workshop so that we can organize and compile them in a logical sequence for discussion at the workshop. In order for this working group to function effectively, it is essential that I receive contributions before the workshop begins, preferably by May 31st, 2008. I have provided a preliminary list of topics below. I would be happy to receive submissions on any of the topics, or others that you think might be appropriate, listed in the outline below. If your techniques have already been published, please send me the citations. My hope however, is that these contributions will provide more details than are typically provided in a Materials & Methods section of a journal publication.

We have discussed the generation of this manual at the last 2 workshops. Hopefully at the workshop in Smolenice we will actually be able to make this happen. This endeavor has the potential to facilitate sharing the vast amount of expertise in the cestode community among one another, and it will help future scientists who work on these adorable creatures!

Your submissions, please.

Sincerely,

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## CESTODE RECIPES

### Laboratory Techniques for the study of Cestodes

#### General comments

#### I. Field collection methods and host tracking

#### II. Fixation

##### A. Fixation

1. histology
2. whole mounts

##### B. Fixation for electron microscopy

1. Scanning Electron Microscopy
2. Transmission Electron Microscopy

##### C. Fixation in situ

#### III. Processing of fixed material

##### A. Staining specimens

##### B. Mounting specimens

##### C. Skinning specimens

##### D. Sectioning

##### E. Scanning electron microscopy

1. Post-fixation
2. Drying
3. Mounting

##### F. Transmission electron microscopy

##### G. Egg preparations

##### H. Other specialized preparations (e.g., hook preparations, etc)

##### I. Vouchering specimens for molecular study

#### IV. Labels

#### V. Long-term storage of specimens

#### VI. Maintenance of living cestode specimens and cestode life cycles

##### A. Maintenance of free-existing stages

##### B. Maintenance of host animals

##### C. Invertebrate hosts

##### D. Vertebrate hosts

##### E. Manipulation of live material

##### F. Infection of hosts

#### VII. Appendix of Reagent recipes (fixatives, stains, mounting media)