



Aerobiology Instruction and Research

Introductory Fungal Spore Identification

Including Information on Bioaerosol Samplers

A 4-Day Workshop
(New Expanded Format)

Amherst, Massachusetts
11-14 January 2010

Faculty:

Michael L. Muilenberg, M.S. (co-director)
Christine A. Rogers, Ph.D. (co-director)



Organized by A.I.R.



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Introduction

The ability to visually identify airborne fungal spores is a highly specialized skill. It takes commitment and time in order to develop the competence to accurately identify the wide variety of airborne spore types and differentiate them from other biological and non-biological particles. Our experience in managing pollen and spore certification programs has shown us that individuals gain greater competence in a shorter amount of time if they are given intensive instruction in both the biological aspects and hands on technical skills required for identification. We therefore offer this workshop which will be conducted over 4 days to allow ample time to describe and demonstrate a variety of spore types, as well as allow registrants to scan and identify these particles from air sample slides and tape samples. There will be ample time to address any questions about spore identification as well as sampling instruments.

A microscope will be provided to each participant for their use during the identification workshop. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own sample “unknowns” (air samples or bulk samples) for assistance with identification.

Workshop Description – Introductory Fungal Spore Identification (4 days)

This course is designed to help the “novice” fungal spore analyst learn necessary aeromycology fundamentals, including: microscopy, fungal reproduction, spore morphology, and learn to identify common spore types. The workshop is geared toward beginners, but will also allow those who have counted for a few months to a year to expand their knowledge and improve their skills. Registrants will learn to identify characteristics of a number of ascospores, basidiospores, and mitospores (asexually formed spores). In addition to identification, aerobiological aspects will also be discussed (concentrations, seasonality, etc.). The bioaerosol sampler portion of the workshop will concentrate on Hirst-type Sampler (Burkard spore traps), Air-O-Cells and other impaction-type spore traps. Topics covered will include: set up of the samplers, application of adhesives to impaction surfaces (Burkard slides, or drums), mounting the recoveries for microscopic analysis, counting particles and reporting data, as well as maintenance of the equipment. Instruction will be in the form of lecture, demonstration, and individual study of reference material and actual air-sample slides. This intensive four day workshop has been expanded from its original 2.5 day format to allow addition time for reinforcement of recognitions skills, review, and more one-on-one instruction.

Upon completion of the introductory workshop, participants will have the necessary skills to set up and operate different types of bioaerosol sampling equipment and be familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of each, prepare samples for analysis, accurately count and identify a variety of spore types, and calculate airborne concentrations. These skills will be useful for those intending to analyze, monitor, or study indoor or outdoor airborne spore concentrations.

Faculty: Dr. Rogers and Mr. Muilenberg are partners of Aerobiology Instruction and Research, LLC, (A.I.R.), are members of the Aerobiology group, Department of Public Health, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and have appointments at Harvard University School of Public Health.

Michael L. Muilenberg, M.S. (co-director). Senior Research Fellow, Univ. of Massachusetts; Instructor, Harvard School of Public Health.

Mr. Muilenberg has extensive experience in the set-up, operation, evaluation, and theory of aerobiological sampling equipment. He is a partner in A.I.R. and has broad knowledge of both pollen and fungal spore identification. He has taught identification workshops for over 25 years, including for the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), the American College of Asthma Allergy and Immunology (ACAAI), the University of Michigan Medical School, the PanAmerican Aerobiology Association, and with other organizations. He was in charge of the quality control portion of the AAAAI Network for over 10 years, is currently Sec/Treas (former President) of the Pan-American Aerobiology Association, and is on the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Certification Board, setting up a program to certify spore and pollen analysts.

Christine A. Rogers, Ph.D. (co-director). UMass Assistant Professor, Adjunct Asst. Prof., Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Rogers studied temporal and spatial aspects of airborne pollen and pollen forecasting for her doctorate at the University of Toronto and has been counting and identifying airborne particles since 1985. She is a partner in A.I.R. and has taught pollen identification at the AAAAI and ACAAI Aeroallergen Identification Workshops for several years. She joined the group at Harvard School of Public Health in 1998 and took a leading role in the Aeroallergen Network quality control program. She is currently Assistant Professor in Public Health at University of Massachusetts. She is President of the International Association for Aerobiology and on the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Aerobiology Certification Board.

When

The Workshop will be held Monday, 11 Jan 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m., through 3:00 p.m. on 14 Jan 2010. See the complete schedule below.

Where

The Workshop will be held on the University of Massachusetts campus in the Aerobiology Laboratory of the School of Public Health, Rm N226 Morrill-1, 639 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01003. For information about the UMass Campus, visit the university website at www.umass.edu. Click on “Visit Campus”, then “Campus Maps” to locate the Morrill Science Center. If you stay at the Campus Center (see below), contact the front desk or the Information Desk on the 2nd level for directions to Morrill-1.

Registration

The registration fee is \$900 for the Introductory Fungal Spore Identification. In addition to four days of instruction, registrants will receive a syllabus, an informative aeromycology/ID book (Mycology of the Air), and a box of reference slides of known fungal spore types.

Accommodations

Please make your own arrangements for accommodations. Rooms are available on the UMass campus at the Campus Center Hotel. Sleeping room rates are under \$100/night which includes continental breakfast, parking, and free high speed internet. For reservations, call 877 822-2110. Other hotels are available in Amherst and Hadley within a few miles of the campus; contact the organizers if you would like help in selecting a hotel or bed & breakfast.

For more information contact Mr. Muilenberg at 413 545-3052 (or 617 504-7215), or Dr. Rogers 413 545-3051.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Workshop Schedule

subject to change

Monday, 11 Jan 2010		Wednesday, 13 Jan 2010	
9:00-9:15	Introductions, Overview	9:00-10:00	Basidiomycetes: spore formation, ecology, morphology
9:15-10:30	.Intro. to fungal taxonomy/morphology	10:00-10:15	Break
10:30-10:45	Break	10:15-11:30	Microscopy: basidiospore morphology
10:45-12:00	Differentiating type (including phyla) of fungal spores	11:30-12:00	Basidiospores on air sample slides; Microscopy
12:00-1:15	Lunch	12:00-1:15	Lunch
1:15-1:45	Microscope use	1:00-2:00	Air sample collection; Air-O-Cell, Allergenco-D, Burkards, etc.
1:45-2:30	Reference slides; Identification of common types; Microscopy	2:00-2:30	Counting methods, calculations from raw counts to particle concentration
2:30-3:30	.Mitospores: types of spore formation, morphology	2:30-2:45	Break
4:00-5:00	Microscopy: mitospore morphology	2:45-4:30	Microscopy – analysis of air sample slides
Tuesday, 12 Jan 2010		4:30-5:00	Identification of non-fungal particles
9:00-10:30	Microscopy; identifying mitospores on air sample slides	Thursday, 14 Jan 2010	
10:30-10:45	Break	9:00-9:30	Lecture/Microscopy: Basidiomycetes: rusts, smuts
10:45-12:00	Principles of airborne particle collection, sampler types. Demos	9:30-10:15	Microscopy: identification of spore “unknowns”, air sample slides
12:00-1:15	Lunch	10:15-10:30	Break
1:15- 2:00	Hands-on Experience (prep. of rods, slides, drums, sample processing, etc.)	10:30-11:00	Lecture/Microscopy: Zygomycetes/Oomycetes
2:00-2:45	Ascomycetes; morphology, ecology, aerobiology	11:00-12:00	Microscopy: identification of spore “unknowns”, air sample slides
2:45-3:00	Break	12:00-1:15	Lunch (on your own)
3:00-4:15	Microscopy: ascospore morphology	1:15-1:45	Outdoor fungal concentrations, temporal and spatial variability
4:14-5:00	Ascospores on air sample slides; Microscopy	1:45-2:45	FUN Quiz (Microscopy)
6:30-????	“Banquet”	2:45-3:00	Questions/Discussion; Adjourn



Introductory Fungal Spore ID/Bioaerosol Sampler Workshop (11-14 Jan 2010)

Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Affiliation: _____ FAX: _____

Address: _____ email: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Number of months experience counting: fungal spores? _____,

Where will you be staying during the Workshop?: _____

Intro Fungal Spore Identification Bioaerosol Sampler – 3.5 days (\$900): _\$ _____

Total Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to **Aerobiology Instruction & Research.**

Send this form, along with a check, to: Michael L. Muilenberg
P.O. Box 45
Amherst, MA 01004 USA

If you need additional information, telephone Michael Muilenberg at 617 504-7215 (cell) or
email: aerobiology@yahoo.com

or Christine Rogers at 413 545-3051
email: aerobiology@yahoo.com