



FermentOgram Editorial Board
Mike Cotta, Prakash Masurekar and Joy
Doran-Peterson

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FERMENTOGRAM

...FERMENTATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY THE DIVISION O NEWSLETTER THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

NOTES FROM DIVISION O CHAIR

Increasing concerns related to climate change, dwindling fossil fuel resources, and needs for new biological agents are driving unprecedented research efforts on biofuels and natural biobased products. Division O researchers, educators, and students have the unique opportunity to provide biotechnological solutions to these challenges. Although it seems like we just returned from Philadelphia, planning has already started for the 110th General Meeting in San Diego. Help us plan for the upcoming meeting; showcasing the contributions of our members to produce the technologies and products of the future.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES!

ITS NOT TOO LATE TO SUBMIT SESSION IDEAS!!

Symposia suggestions for the 2010 meeting:

*We have some suggestions for symposium topics but are by no means locked into any at this point. Please submit ideas along with potential speakers to the ASM website: <http://gm.asm.org/sessionproposal>. The more concrete information you can provide the better. These are due before **July 17**.*

Divisional Lecturer:

*Likewise, we need a speaker for the Divisional Lecture. These can be a speaker from one of the symposium sessions or someone noteworthy that would speak on a topic of significant interest. These can potentially be entered online using the above mentioned link or directly to me: mike.cotta@ars.usda.gov. Although not clearly noted it would be best to have these by **July 17** also.*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PHILADELPHIA

The 109th General Meeting in Philadelphia was highlighted by a number of notable events. Division O sponsored symposia included "Biobased Materials" and "Extremophiles - Potential for Industrial Applications" (co-sponsored with Division Q) were very well attended and showcased research on new biocatalysts and biobased products.

The Divisional Symposium, "A Tribute to Mary Hickox Mandels: Mother of Cellulases, Back to the Future" offered both a historical look at the pioneering work of Mary Mandels and her Natick colleagues as well as new and future perspectives in this exciting area of research. Four poster sessions highlighting Divisional research were also part of the program. The Division also continued its history of supporting students and provided travel grants for six students. This is three above the number supported by ASM's Corporate Activities Program and is made possible by the generous support of Division O corporate sponsors. Thanks!

The meeting culminated in the Division O Mixer and Dinner where approximately 100 members and friends were able to visit and network in a relaxed and intimate setting. All seemed to enjoy this "Old Style Mixer" and would like to see it continue. Future activities such as this will be dependent on our ability to raise funds from sponsors.

Keep checking here and WWW.ASM.ORG for more General Meeting Information and deadlines