

clinical microbiology

Value

WHAT DOES ASM OFFER
CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS?



AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY



ASM

clinical microbiology

WHAT DOES ASM OFFER CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS?

MOST CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGIST MEMBERS OF ASM HAVE CHOSEN DIVISION C AS THEIR PRIMARY DIVISION

- Division C is the largest ASM Division with almost 5,900 (as of 2008) full members world-wide, with 3,700 in the US.
- The US Division C comprises 16% of US full members.
- The distribution by degree for US members is BS (39%), MS (24%), PhD (19%), MD (13%) and other (4%). Many members (43%) are employed in hospitals. Another 15% are affiliated with universities and 18.5% are found in industry.
- About 44% say diagnosis and testing is their primary job function; this is most frequently aligned with employment in hospitals and clinical laboratories.
- The majority of members employed within the academic sector identify research as their primary function.

focus

ASM FOCUS ON CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Value

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Clinical microbiology as a profession faces a number of challenges, including the prospect of losing some of its identity in the burgeoning field of clinical laboratory science. Increasing automation in diagnostic laboratories has enabled non-microbiologists to perform testing that previously required specific microbiology training and experience. Compounding this development has been the introduction of immunologic and molecular diagnostic assays that resemble classical chemistry tests more than microbiology tests. The long-standing boundaries between the clinical laboratory specialties have begun to blur.

However, this loss of identity clearly has not been accompanied by a diminishing need for individuals with clinical microbiology expertise.

The question before me is who is looking out for the interests of clinical microbiologists? In my view the American Society for Microbiology is doing this exceedingly well. Clinical microbiologist members of ASM dedicate innumerable hours to support and advance the microbiological sciences through volunteer activities. Working in tandem with a competent and dedicated staff at the Society's Headquarters, many successes have been realized and they are well worth noting and celebrating. The goal of this brochure is to do just that – respond to the question – what is ASM doing for me as a clinical microbiologist? I am pleased to present in the content that follows the numerous ongoing initiatives and benefits and the remarkable progress that has been made by the Society on behalf of myself and my colleagues in clinical microbiology.

Joseph Campos, PhD, Secretary, ASM



Joe Campos, Director of the Microbiology Laboratory at Children's National Medical Center, Washington DC, has been a member of ASM since 1974. He has been Dean of the American College of Microbiology and chaired the Committee on Laboratory Practices in Microbiology. He has been a member of the American Board of Medical Microbiology, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and has served on several editorial boards and other committees during his association with ASM.

advocacy

ASM REPRESENTS MY INTERESTS REGARDING REGULATORY AND OTHER ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE PRACTICE OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Two committees of the ASM Public and Scientific Affairs Board (PSAB), the Committee on Professional Affairs and the Committee on Laboratory Practices, specifically address issues that affect the professional interests of clinical microbiologists.

MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT OF CLINICAL LABORATORY TESTS

Members of the PSAB Committees on Professional Affairs and Laboratory Practices serve on the College of American Pathology's Pathology Coding Caucus and participate in an annual public meeting sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine appropriate coding and reimbursement for new tests to be included on the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. They are also involved in the CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and are monitoring recommendations from CMS on changes regarding payment or nonpayment for hospital-acquired infections.

MEDICARE COST SHARING AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROPOSALS

Efforts to oppose Congressional and Federal policy proposals on laboratory test copayments and competitive bidding were successful as a result of the work of the Clinical Laboratory Coalition, of which ASM is a charter member. In addition, when ASM sent alerts to its membership encouraging the use of ASM's Legislative Communications Site to contact Congress and express opposition to the copayment proposal, ASM members dispatched over 450 email messages to legislators. To date, Congress has not approved any laboratory copayment proposals.

The ASM worked with the Clinical Laboratory Coalition to end a federal demonstration program that would have mandated bidding by clinical laboratories that perform laboratory tests reimbursed under Medicare. A temporary injunction issued by the U.S. Federal District Court in Southern California prevented the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from moving forward with the demonstration program. Congress approved the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which repealed the section of the Society Security Act authorizing the Medicare laboratory demonstration program.

CLINICAL LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS

ASM monitors federal regulations that affect microbiology-testing issues. Members and staff regularly attend Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) meetings and interact with CLIAC staff on microbiology issues.

ASM PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN QUALITY CONTROL GUIDELINES

CLIAC staff approached the ASM regarding quality control (QC) testing of commercially available microbiology identification systems required by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). ASM surveyed member users of commercial microbial identification systems to determine QC failure rates and then presented the data to CLIAC and the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) in 2006.

ASM recommended that CLSI – an organization that brings together government, industry and professional society partners to formulate consensus guidelines – develop a guideline to allow for streamlined QC. The CLSI used ASM's survey data as a basis for its M50-A document, "Quality Control for Commercial Microbial Identification Systems, Approved Guideline."

Subsequently the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a memorandum to State Survey Agency Directors informing them of its acceptance of the new QC standards published in the CLSI M50-A Guideline. CMS will incorporate the new QC standards into its next revision of the CLIA Interpretive Guidelines for Laboratories and Laboratory Surveyors. The ASM has contacted the College of American Pathologists and the Joint Commission encouraging them to modify their QC standards by accepting the changes outlined by the CMS memorandum to State Survey Agency Directors.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Examples of policy that ASM has monitored and commented on include CLIA waiver of laboratory tests, Analyte Specific Reagents (ASR), and In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Assays (IVDMIA).

LABORATORY RESPONSE NETWORK AND GUIDELINES

The ASM has been an advocate for its members regarding issues surrounding the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), managed by the CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). In coordination with the CDC and APHL, ASM developed guidelines to assist “sentinel” clinical microbiology laboratories in recognizing microorganisms that might be agents of bioterrorism. The ASM created a webpage with 12 “Sentinel Level Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Guidelines” including a laboratory readiness plan and a packaging and shipping guideline.

The ASM serves on the LRN Partners Work Group, which meets twice yearly to discuss LRN matters, and on the Laboratory Preparedness Exercise Workgroup, which provides review and consultation on exercises that help prepare laboratories for dealing with potential agents of bioterrorism.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION MEETINGS

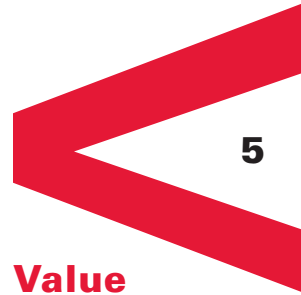
The ASM participates in CDC-organized meetings and represents the interests of clinical microbiologists. Examples include:

- CDC-APHL tuberculosis drug susceptibility-testing meeting
- CDC-APHL meeting on the role of laboratories in enteric disease surveillance and response
- CDC-APHL meeting on pandemic influenza diagnostics for clinical laboratories
- CDC National Laboratory Training Network planning meeting on biosafety and biosecurity in clinical laboratories
- CDC’s Blue Ribbon Panel for clinical laboratory safety issues

The ABMM/ABMLI reception at the General Meeting is a popular networking event for doctoral-level certified microbiologists and immunologists as well as current trainees in the CPEP-accredited programs.

certification

ASM OFFERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE VALUABLE COMPONENTS IN MY PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND LICENSURE



The American College of Microbiology (ACM) is part of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM) and serves the professional interests of clinical microbiologists. Two primary activities are certification of microbiologists and the accreditation of postdoctoral training programs.

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED MICROBIOLOGISTS

The NRCM certifies individuals at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels in clinical, consumer and industrial, and biosafety microbiology.

AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Federal and state governmental agencies recognize ABMM certification as a significant component of licensure requirements to direct high complexity laboratories engaged in the diagnosis of infectious diseases. The CLIA '88 final rule recognizes the ABMM as an approved certification board.

AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL LABORATORY IMMUNOLOGY

Federal and state governmental agencies recognize ABMLI certification as a significant component of licensure requirements to direct high complexity labs engaged in the diagnosis of immunological diseases. The CLIA '88 final rule recognizes the ABMLI as an approved certification board.

COMMITTEE ON POSTDOCTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In 1961, the AAM established the Committee on Postdoctoral Educational Programs (CPEP) to develop standards for training doctoral-level microbiologists, and later immunologists, in clinical microbiology and immunology. There are currently ten microbiology and two immunology programs accredited by CPEP.

expertise

ASM HELPS ME OBTAIN THE EXPERTISE I NEED TO DO MY JOB BETTER

The Professional Development Committee of the Meetings Board develops pre-meeting workshops, teleconferences, webinars and other on-line professional development activities. ASM is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the California and Florida Departments of Health as a provider of continuing education credit for physicians (CME), microbiologists, pharmacists (CPE) and clinical laboratory scientists and personnel.

ASM WORKSHOPS

Workshops are held prior to the annual ASM General Meeting and the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC). At least half the workshops at the General Meeting are dedicated to topics in clinical microbiology; an additional 25% are in clinical laboratory management and communications. At ICAAC, workshop topics are divided between management of infectious diseases and laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases.

TELECONFERENCES AND WEBINARS

Teleconferences are one-hour targeted topics in clinical microbiology. Reaching hundreds of clinical microbiologists at the same time, each teleconference is an interactive live broadcast. In these sessions participants listen to a 45-minute presentation followed by the opportunity to ask questions immediately. Live teleconferences are archived as webinars and can be accessed for a two-week period.

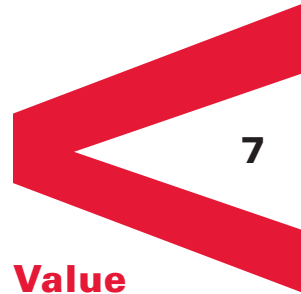
ASM CE PORTAL

With ASM's varied professional development programs, the ASM CE Portal is the Society's single online source for accessing and tracking all continuing education activities. An annual transcript is maintained for all members who need to manage their continuing education records, and a year-end summary of the information is easily available.

The attendance at the General Meeting for individual sessions developed by Division C exceeds the number of registrants who identify themselves as members of the Division.

information

**ASM KEEPS ME UP TO DATE
ON THE LATEST INFORMATION
AFFECTING MY PROFESSION
BY PROVIDING AUTHORITATIVE
REFERENCES FOR MY EVERYDAY USE**



The ASM disseminates peer-reviewed scientific findings through its meetings and publications, guided by the ASM Meetings and Publications Boards, respectively.

ASM GENERAL MEETING

Clinical microbiology is the largest single group among the 27 scientific disciplines attending the General Meeting. An annual 15% of the total scientific attendance is comprised of primarily Division C members. Elected leaders within the field of clinical microbiology develop invited sessions and morning interactive programs and schedule posters directed at current topics.

INTERSCIENCE CONFERENCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS AND CHEMOTHERAPY (ICAAC)

ICAAC is the global premier meeting for the infectious disease community, and 20% of the 35-member ICAAC Program Committee are clinical microbiologists. ICAAC participants include physicians, microbiologists, researchers, pharmacists, and healthcare professionals from around the world. Of the total ICAAC attendees, approximately 10% identify themselves as a member of the clinical microbiology scientific specialty.



EXHIBITS

An annual Exhibit that provides learning opportunities for meeting attendees is held at the General Meeting and ICAAC. Displays of diagnostic and laboratory equipment and supplies, laboratory services, publications, pharmaceutical and other related companies allow attendees a one-stop experience to view and discuss the latest supporting products and services.

ASM JOURNALS

With over 90 years of publishing experience, ASM journals continue to be an authoritative source for the latest in microbiology research. ASM's 11 journals, including the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* and *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*, publish high-impact scientific findings in both basic and clinical microbiology and are ranked in the top 10 microbiology journals according to ISI impact factors. In fact, *Clinical Microbiology Reviews* (CMR) was ranked #1 in the most recent impact report released by Thomson Reuters.

ASM'S CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

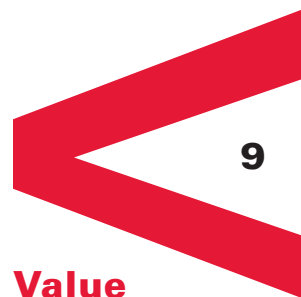
The Cumitech series (short for *Cumulative Techniques and Procedures in Clinical Microbiology*), published by ASM Press, consists of consensus reports in booklet form on topics of special interest to clinical microbiology and immunology laboratories. Topics covered in recent Cumitechs include laboratory diagnosis of upper respiratory tract infections and infections in solid-organ transplant recipients. A complete PDF collection of in-print Cumitechs is also available in an online subscription-based format.

ASM Press publishes other important reference works in clinical microbiology and immunology. Of particular note are the *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*, currently in its ninth edition; the *Manual of Molecular and Clinical Laboratory Immunology*, seventh edition; the *Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook*, second edition (available in both print and electronic formats); *Clinical Laboratory Management*; and *The Microbiology Bench Companion*.

ASM's focus on clinical microbiology is demonstrated by the extent to which critical issues are being addressed across the organization.

peers

ASM HELPS ME CONNECT WITH PEERS



Value

ASKIT

“AskIt” is an online, ASM-hosted question-and-answer clinical microbiology forum. Through the “Ask a Question” box, individuals post questions to a panel of 52 experts representing specific areas of clinical microbiology, including bacteriology, virology, serology, culture testing, bioterrorism, competency, laboratory management, and quality control. Answers are posted publicly for all to read. AskIt also features previously answered questions in an easily accessible database of over 4,000 questions that have been accumulated since its creation in 2002.

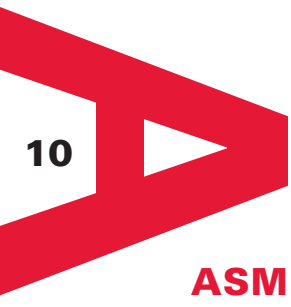
LISTSERVS

ASM hosts “ClinMicroNet,” a listserv that provides for communication among approximately 600 ASM members who are doctoral-level clinical microbiology laboratory directors or laboratory managers with national standing and peer recognition. ASM also hosts the “DivCNet” listserv, an email-based discussion group which is open to all clinical microbiologists. This service is intended for individuals who work in, or have an interest in, clinical microbiology laboratories. This forum may be used to discuss any topic related to clinical microbiology, ASM, ASM Division C, or other topics of interest to the membership.

CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY ISSUES UPDATE

The Office of Public Affairs prepares and electronically distributes a monthly newsletter called the Clinical Microbiology Issues Update. The newsletter provides timely information on a wide variety of issues and topics of interest to clinical microbiologists, including legislative and regulatory policy updates on Medicare reimbursement, CLIA information and meeting summaries, FDA Guidance Documents, LRN issues, antimicrobial resistance testing issues, bioterrorism, and emerging infectious diseases. More than 3,400 ASM members subscribe to this newsletter, which is also archived online.

The service component to the Lab Cap Program has been a rewarding experience for ASM members, including clinical laboratory scientists, researchers, clinicians, and professors.



opportunity

ASM GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY EXPERTISE WITH COLLEAGUES IN LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

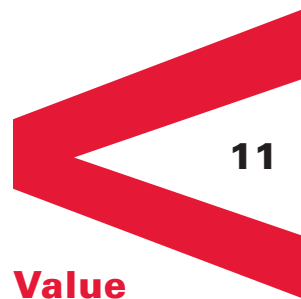
Since 2005, through its International Laboratory Capacity Building (Lab Cap) Program, a standing committee under ASM's International Board, the ASM has been harnessing the expertise of its global members to strengthen laboratory capacity in resource-limited countries. The mission of this program is to build clinical microbiology laboratory capacity by developing and packaging training tools, monitoring and evaluating program progress and impact in order to identify best practices, and creating sustainability at national levels through quality-assured programs and working with in-country partners.

Because of its relationship with the CDC, Lab Cap is assisting with the development and facilitation of courses for the new African Centre for Integrated Laboratory Training, a multi-organizational project based in South Africa. Its mission is to provide integrated hands-on training courses to expand laboratory capacity in Africa for diagnosis and monitoring of major infectious diseases including HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

ASM Lab Cap volunteers come from a broad variety of clinical microbiology laboratories across the globe, specializing in bacteriology, mycobacteriology, mycology, and parasitology. Lab Cap volunteers have traveled to Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, India, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, and Zambia as consultants to provide guidance on laboratory infrastructure renovations and selection of TB diagnostic tools. Lab Cap is also strengthening clinical microbiology services for bacteriology, parasitology, and mycology in countries such as Botswana, China, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand, and Zambia.

recognition

**ASM PROVIDES PEER-
RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



ASM recognizes the many contributions and achievements of clinical microbiologists through its Scientific Awards Program. The following is a list of awards that are specifically available for clinical microbiologists:

BECTON DICKINSON AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Becton Dickinson Award for Research in Clinical Microbiology, honoring outstanding clinical research accomplishments.

BIOMÉRIEUX SONNENWIRTH AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology, for promotion of innovation in clinical laboratory science and the advancement of clinical microbiology as a profession.

TREK DIAGNOSTICS ABMM/ABMLI PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD

TREK Diagnostics ABMM/ABMLI Professional Recognition Award, honoring outstanding contributions by ABMM or ABMLI Diplomates to the professional recognition of clinical microbiologists and/or immunologists.

SCHERAGO-RUBIN AWARD

Scherago-Rubin Award, in recognition of an outstanding bench-level clinical microbiologist.

what's next

WHAT'S NEXT IN ASM'S CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY ACTIVITIES?

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ASM is contributing additional funds towards the next steps in the competitive bidding lawsuit. Amending the complaint will allow the plaintiff laboratories the opportunity to demonstrate to the Court the reasons CMS should be required to return or destroy the bid applications that remain in CMS' possession.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASM is seeking approval from additional professional accreditation organizations to provide continuing education credit to targeted audiences in clinically related fields.

CE CREDIT FOR CUMITECHS

Continuing education credit will be offered for reading and reviewing Cumitechs and other text-only learning activities.

JOURNALS

CMR articles will be enhanced with professional quality full-color illustrations and author biographies with photos.

ASM PRESS

The next edition of MCM(10) is due to publish in 2011 in both print and electronic versions. It will also have an accompanying DVD of over 1,000 illustrations that don't appear in the book.

NETWORKING

ASM will introduce a social network site. Although the features planned for the ASM site are typical ("friending" and messaging), on the ASM site friending can be based on member directory demographic and scientific interest data. Only active ASM members will be able to create a group (public or private). The ASM site will also include support for individual blogs along with file sharing and collaborative authoring.

INTERNATIONAL

The Lab Cap program has developed a website and online database to rapidly identify volunteers for its projects based on their qualifications.

We will continue to monitor developments in clinical microbiology and work to ensure that the professional and educational needs of clinical microbiologists are met.



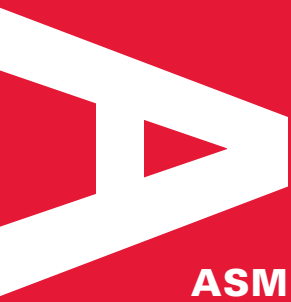
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