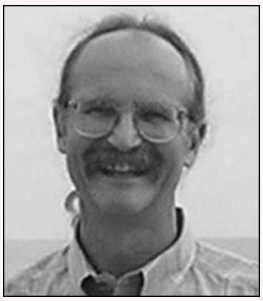
# ASM News

## 2005–2006 Election Results

### National Officers, 2005–2006




**Stanley R. Maloy**, San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif., is the new president of ASM for a 1-year term beginning 1 July 2005.

**Diane E. Griffin**, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md., is the new president-elect of ASM for a 1-year term beginning 1 July 2005.

**Judy A. Daly**, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, has been elected as secretary of ASM for her eighth term beginning 1 July 2005.

**Ronald B. Luftig**, Louisiana State University Health Science Center, New Orleans, has been elected as treasurer of ASM for his seventh term beginning 1 July 2005.

### Proposed Amendments to the ASM Bylaws

All proposed amendments passed. For an updated version of the Bylaws, see the ASM website at www.asm.org

### Division Councilors at Large

The following Division Councilors at Large were elected to two-year terms beginning 1 July 2005.

**Caroline R. Genco,** Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.

**Robert A. Weisberg,** National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.

**Christon J. Hurst,** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Divisional Group Representatives, 2005–2007

Two of the four divisional groups elected group representatives for 2-year terms beginning 1 July 2005.

*Divisional Group I* (*Diagnostic Microbiology and Epidemiology*): **Carolyn M. Black,** Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga.

*Divisional Group IV* (*Molecular Microbiology, Physiology, and Virology*): **Linda J. Kenney,** University of Illinois, Chicago.

### Divisional Officers, 2005

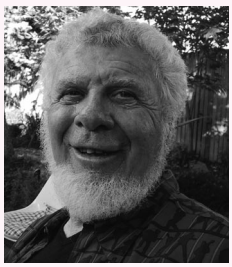
The members of ASM's 27 divisions elected officers for terms beginning 1 July 2005. Chairs and chairs-elect serve a one-year term, and alternate councilors serve a two-year term. The results of the election are listed on p. 92.

## 2005 General Meeting Award Laureates

The Committee on Awards is pleased to announce the 2005 General Meeting awardees. Many very worthy nominations were received for each award, making the work of each Award Selection Committee as enjoyable as it was challenging. The Committee on Awards thanks everyone who participated in the awards program by making nominations or by assisting in the selection process, thus ensuring that ASM continues to honor the best in microbiology. Biographical sketches of the 2005 awardees appear below and in the next two issues of *ASM News*.

### Abbott-Laboratories Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology

The Abbott-Laboratories Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology is presented to **Leonard A. Herzenberg,** Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. Herzenberg is honored for the technological advances he has made in clinical immunology and basic science, and the impact of those advances. Herzenberg developed the Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter (FACS) in the late 1960s as a tool for characterizing, counting, and sorting viable normal and neoplastic cells. By the late 1970s, FACS were being built and sold to laboratories all over the world. Now, in 2005, there are an estimated 30,000 instruments for FACS in use.

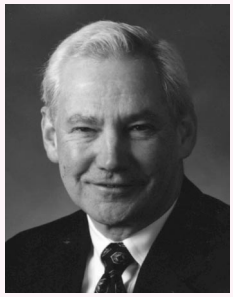

Herzenberg

Herzenberg studied the generation of immortal cell lines (hybridomas) that can produce unlimited amounts of monoclonal antibodies with Cesar Milstein. Herzenberg went on to lead a team in developing fluorescently labeled monoclonal antibodies and other fluorescent cell tags. These studies laid the foundation for modern approaches to understanding the immune system. They also provided clear demonstrations of how monoclonal antibodies and the FACS can be used as complementary tools in immunology and cell biology. Additionally, the current use of monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of B cell lymphoma, rheumatoid arthritis, and other autoimmune diseases is attributed both to Herzenberg's FACS technology and to his development, in collaboration with Vernon Oi and Sherrie Morrison, of functional, chimeric antibodies by molecular methods—the first key step towards "humanizing" monoclonal antibodies, which is essential for generating these highly effective therapies. Herzenberg's FACS laid the groundwork for a wide variety of clinical applications, including monitoring in HIV infections, classification of leukemias and other tumors, and monitoring the progression of bone marrow transplants.

Herzenberg, an American Academy of Microbiology Fellow, was nominated by Mario Roederer, Vaccine Research Center, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.

### ASM Graduate Microbiology Teaching Award

**Stanley Falkow,** Ph.D., of Stanford University, is honored with the ASM Graduate Microbiology Teaching Award. Falkow is recognized as a leader in the field of microbiology and for his exemplary teaching of esteemed graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Falkow's students have gone on to achieve influential academic positions and now serve as mentors to their own prestigious trainees, while others work in biotech companies, medicine, and important government positions. Two former students have gone on to receive ASM's Eli Lilly and Company Research Award, while three others have received the Squibb Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America.


Falkow

Falkow's legacy of students covers over 40 years, from his time at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, through his current position as the Robert W. and Vivian K. Cahill Professor of Microbiology, Immunol-

ogy, and Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, Calif. His broad range of interest in microbial pathogenesis has produced top-notch researchers and educators who have had an enormous impact on the field of pathogenic microbiology. Additionally, Falkow has trained hundreds of medical students and continues to teach infectious diseases to medical students at Stanford University.

In 2003, Falkow received the Abbott-ASM Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions to the microbiological sciences. He has been the recipient of a number of other awards and is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Microbiology, and the American Academy of Arts and Science.

Falkow, a former president of ASM, was nominated by Alison Weiss, Ph.D., of the Department of Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, and Microbiology at the University of Cincinnati.

## BD Award for Research in Clinical Microbiology

This year's BD Award for Research in Clinical Microbiology is presented to **Lance R. Peterson,** M.D., of the Department of Pathology at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Evanston, Ill. Peterson is being recognized as one of the leading clinical microbiologists and most accomplished researchers of the past two decades.

Peterson

Peterson began as chief of the Microbiology Laboratory Section at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minn., then was director of the Clinical Microbiology Division at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Ill., and is currently Director of Microbiology and Infectious Disease Research at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare. Peterson has mentored countless technologists, medical students, and fellows in clinical research and scientific writing.

Peterson has published hundreds of scientific papers, presented abstracts at scientific meetings, and authored dozens of book chapters, letters, and brief reports. He is a sought-after, world-renowned scientific lecturer, whose work has focused on areas of scientific interest that are at the forefront of clinical microbiology and infectious disease.

More recently, Peterson has been a leader in demonstrating the epidemiology of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, the impact of molecular typing on health care-associated infections, the use of computer data mining to reduce nosocomial infection rates, and application of rapid molecular diagnostics to infection control. Peterson, while directing a clinical laboratory and seeing patients as an infectious diseases consultant, also procures funding, mentors other scientists, creates focused research groups, and publishes novel clinical data. Peterson has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy,* and the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.*

Peterson, an American Academy of Microbiology Fellow, was nominated by Richard B. Thomson, Jr., also of the Department of Pathology at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare.

## Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award

**Carolyn Hovde Bohach,** Ph.D., is being presented the Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for her outstanding accomplishments in the classroom. As a professor at the University of Idaho, Bohach's laboratory maintained the high level of funding necessary to pursue essential work in understanding the relationship between *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and cattle, and vaccine development with collaborators at the National Institutes of Health. Recently, she has investigated temperature-regulated genes in *E. coli*, and discovered that Shiga toxin has potent antiviral activity for mammalian cells. By maintaining an active research program, Bohach has provided a fertile environment for training postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students.

Bohach

Bohach has developed curricula dealing with information and concepts that are notoriously difficult to comprehend—replication of DNA, transcription of DNA into messenger RNA material, mechanisms of disease, regulatory cascades of the mammalian immune system, and DNA rearrangement leading to tremendous an-

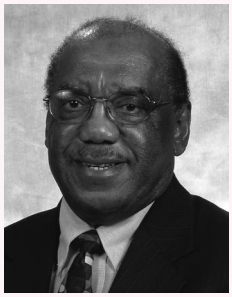
tibody diversity. Bohach's outstanding teaching style is reflected in record enrollment numbers for her survey course, "Introductory Microbiology." This course prepares science majors for their upper-division classes and enlightens nonmajors on these extremely relevant subjects.

Bohach carries out her strong teaching component and manages to maintain one of the premier research programs at the University of Idaho. She serves as chair of the departmental curriculum committee and has developed a seamless Master's program for the department, which enables undergraduates to pursue an advanced degree. Bohach has served on National Institutes of Health (NIH) and United States Department of Agriculture grant review panels and administers the NIH program that enhances biomedical research and provides student research training in Idaho.

Bohach was nominated by Scott A. Minnich, Ph.D., of the University of Idaho.

### William A. Hinton Research Training Award

**Willie A. Turner,** Ph.D., is honored with the William A. Hinton Research Training Award for his work as an accomplished professor and mentor. Over the past 40 years, Turner has mentored minority scientists at various levels of professional development. Turner became a member of ASM in the early 1960s while a graduate student at Ohio State University. Upon graduation, he joined the National Institutes of Health, where he worked as a research virologist; 1971 marked the beginning of Turner's distinguished career at Howard University in Washington, D.C., as Professor and Chair of the Microbiology Department. At that time, Howard University only granted M.S. degrees, and Turner was an instrumental driving force in creating the Ph.D. program. During his time at Howard University he established active research programs in virology, pathogenic microbiology, immunology, cell biology, mycology, and parasitology, and assisted the faculty in garnering research grants and contracts.


Turner

Turner's influence in the fields of virology and microbiology reaches far beyond Howard University. He is a sought-after scientific speaker and an active member of the National Advisory Council—AIDS Consortium of Morehouse Medical College, and has served on several National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Howard Hughes Study Sections and Advisory Committees.

Turner has demonstrated outstanding teaching skills at Howard University, being involved in five different microbiological courses taught to medical, graduate, dental, nursing, and pharmaceutical students, and he teaches both the Basic Oncology and Integrative Oncology courses at Howard University Cancer Center.

Turner and his colleagues have trained thousands of students in microbiology, and he has mentored four dozen postdoctoral fellows. He also serves on the thesis committees for all of the M.S. and Ph.D. graduates from the microbiology department at Howard University.

Turner was nominated by Agnes A. Day, Ph.D., of the Department of Microbiology at Howard University College of Medicine.

## ASM To Launch Minority Mentoring Website

Minority students and early career scientists often face inordinate hurdles in pursuing their interests in science and engineering, including a sense of isolation and a lack of good role models. Online mentoring is one resource that can help to keep such individuals on their chosen career track. With the help of the Underrepresented Members Committee, the Membership Board will launch just such a service beginning in February 2005. The Minority Mentoring Program will help match students and professionals with mentors who can offer career advice, discuss current research, review a paper for publication or a grant, or provide one-on-one training through his or her laboratory.

The Minority Mentoring Program will be managed online. This approach will allow individuals from geographically diverse areas to connect easily. By registering, a student or young professional can search ASM's Minority Mentor database and contact one or more individuals whose interests match theirs. Any ASM member is encouraged and welcome to serve as a mentor. To access the website, please visit http://www.asm.org/MinorityMentor/MinorityMentorIntro.aspx.

## Connecting Branches to Student Activities

As the new chair of the Student Membership Committee for the ASM, one of my responsibilities is to encourage the establishment and maintenance of Student Chapters. I also want to increase the number of student members in the national ASM organization as well as in the local Branches. If we want the future of microbiology to be vibrant, each of us needs to help to recruit students in some way. One way to do this is through local ASM Branches. Some Branches have been associated with universities, and students are an integral part of Branch activities. Other Branches have been instrumental in clinical microbiologists' networking activities and may or may not actively involve students. Each of us appreciates that interested students represent a robust pipeline of future faculty, investigators, clinicians, and technologists, as well as people to fill sales, government, and industrial positions. How can Branches support student activities? Here is a list of examples:

- Host a symposium or poster session at which undergraduate and graduate students can present posters and papers. Give prizes for best poster in a category; it doesn't have to be a big prize—a gift card or a book from ASM Press would be fine.
- Participate in a local science fair as a judge. Schools and districts are always searching for judges; sponsor a prize for the best project involving microbiology. Give a prize to the student and one to his/her teacher (prizes can be an ASM book—for example, *Infections of Leisure* or *The Other Side of the Microscope* are popular titles).
- Invite a microbiology educator (or a panel of several) to talk about their teaching activities—you will be surprised how creative and innovative they are.

### Contacts

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**Norman P. Willett**
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- Partner with a community college colleague in teaching microbiology.
- Sponsor an undergraduate student's summer project in your lab.
- Organize a career day for microbiology students. Have members of your Branch give talks about their different careers—what they do and how they trained for their jobs.
- Have an annual lecturer whom the students invite—many very busy and prominent scientists are much more likely and willing to accept if invited by students.
- Help to sponsor a Student Chapter by providing funds for a group of faculty to network. I have organized such a group in eastern Pennsylvania, with the help of the Eastern Pennsylvania ASM Branch and have written about the details of this network of about 17 other microbiology educators in *Focus on Microbiology Education*. We have funding to meet three times each year—once each semester (faculty only) to talk about teaching (in the spring) and research (in the fall) and once during the summer so that our students can present posters at a symposium that features a keynote speaker.

Those whose jobs do not involve much contact with students will find these activities energizing, and you will see great promise for the future of microbiology. If all who students see are professors, they might not realize that there are other jobs for those with our training. For those who are educators, this is an opportunity to expand your network and to meet potential guest speakers or research mentors for your students. Branches have several free student memberships to give to interested students; perhaps the officers of the Student Chapter could be considered to receive those benefits.

We look forward to a reinvigoration of Student Chapters and Branch interactions. If you are a student or full member of ASM or would like to become one, or if you are interested in local Branch activities and helping with Student Chapters, please feel free to contact Amy Cheng Vollmer, Chair, Student Committee, about student activities. The grass roots activities of the Student Membership Committee are coordinated through the ASM Membership Board, chaired by Toby K. Eisenstein.

**Amy Cheng Vollmer**

# ASM Report

**Division Officers, 2005 (terms begin 1 July 2005). Elections for alternate councilors are held on alternate years; asterisks indicate elections to be held in 2005.**

| DIVISION | CHAIR | CHAIR-ELECT | ALTERNATE COUNCILOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A**<br>*Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* | **Barry N. Kreiswirth**<br>Public Health Research Institute<br>Newark, NJ | **Karen Bush**<br>J&J Pharmaceuticals<br>Raritan, NJ | * |
| **B**<br>*Microbial Pathogenesis* | **Joanne N. Engel**<br>University of California<br>San Francisco, CA | **Michael S. Donnenberg**<br>University of Maryland/<br>School of Medicine<br>Baltimore, MD | **Brad Cookson**<br>University of Washington<br>Seattle, WA |
| **C**<br>*Clinical Microbiology* | **David L. Tison**<br>MultiCare Health Systems<br>Tacoma, WA | **Diane Halstead**<br>Baptist Medical Center<br>Jacksonville, FL | * |
| **D**<br>*General Medical Microbiology* | **Ming Tan**<br>University of California<br>Irvine, CA | **Timothy Yahr**<br>University of Iowa<br>Iowa City, IA | **Susan E. H. West**<br>University of Wisconsin<br>Madison, WI |
| **E**<br>*Immunology* | **Catherine C. Davis**<br>The Procter & Gamble Co.<br>Cincinnati, OH | **Stefan H. E. Kaufmann**<br>Max-Planck-Institute for<br>Infection Biology<br>Berlin, Germany | * |
| **F**<br>*Medical Mycology* | **Theodore C. White**<br>Seattle Biomedical Research<br>Institute<br>Seattle, WA | **Arturo Casadevall**<br>Albert Einstein University/<br>College of Medicine<br>Bronx, NY | **Christine Morrison**<br>CDC<br>Atlanta, GA |
| **G**<br>*Mycoplasmology* | **Daniel R. Brown**<br>University of Florida<br>Gainesville, FL | **Michael J. Calcutt**<br>University of Missouri-Columbia<br>Columbia, MO | **Barry Cole**<br>University of Utah School<br>of Medicine<br>Salt Lake City, UT |
| **H**<br>*Genetics & Molecular Biology* | **Tina M. Henkin**<br>The Ohio State Univeristy<br>Columbus, OH | **Paul Babitzke**<br>Penn State University<br>University Park, PA | **Michele Igo**<br>University of California<br>Davis, CA |
| **I**<br>*General Microbiology* | **Dennis Grogan**<br>University of Cincinnati<br>Cincinnati, OH | **Louis S. Tisa**<br>University of New Hampshire<br>Durham, NH | * |
| **J**<br>*Ultrastructure & Function* | **David Popham**<br>Virginia Tech<br>Blacksburg, VA | **John Kirby**<br>Georgia Institute of Technology<br>Atlanta, GA | **Ken F. Jarrell**<br>Queen's University<br>Kingston, ON<br>Canada |
| **K**<br>*Microbial Physiology & Metabolism* | **William Metcalf**<br>University of Illinois<br>Urbana, IL | **Robert Kadner**<br>University of Virginia<br>Charlottesville, VA | * |
| **L**<br>*Nosocomial Infections* | **Neil Fishman**<br>University of Pennsylvania Health<br>System<br>Philadelphia, PA | **David Henderson**<br>NIH Clinical Center<br>Bethesda, MD | **Louise-Marie Dembry**<br>Yale New Haven Hospital<br>New Haven, CT |
| **M**<br>*Bacteriophage* | **Eric Miller**<br>North Carolina State University<br>Raleigh, NC | **Sankar Jankar Adhya**<br>NCI/NIH<br>Bethesda, MD | * |

Continued

## Division Officers 2005

| DIVISION | CHAIR | CHAIR-ELECT | ALTERNATE COUNCILOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| **N**<br>*Microbial Ecology* | **Laura G. Leff**<br>Kent State<br>Kent, OH | **Marc E. Frischer**<br>Skidaway Institute of Oceanography<br>Savannah, GA | **Klaus Nusslein**<br>University of Massachusetts<br>Amherst, MA |
| **O**<br>*Fermentation & Biotechnology* | **Charles Abbas**<br>Archer Daniels Midland Co.<br>Decatur, IL | **Hans Blaschek**<br>University of Illinois<br>Urbana, IL | * |
| **P**<br>*Food Microbiology* | **Stephen J. Knabel**<br>The Pennsylvania State University<br>University Park, PA | **Martin Wiedmann**<br>Cornell University<br>Ithaca, NY | **Amy C. Lee Wong**<br>Food Research Institute<br>Madison, WI |
| **Q**<br>*Environmental & General Applied Microbiology* | **Hilary M. Lappin-Scott**<br>University of Exeter<br>Exeter, UK | **James Maki**<br>Marquette University<br>Milwaukee, WI | * |
| **R**<br>*Evolutionary & Genomic Microbiology* | **Jeffrey Lawrence**<br>University of Pittsburgh<br>Pittsburgh, PA | **Anthony Michael Dean**<br>University of Minnesota<br>St. Paul, MN | **Martin G. Klotz**<br>University of Louisville<br>Louisville, KY |
| **S**<br>*DNA Viruses* | **Mary Kathleen Rundell**<br>Northwestern University<br>Chicago, IL | **Theresa Compton**<br>University of Wisconsin<br>Madison, WI | * |
| **T**<br>*RNA Viruses* | **Peter W. Mason**<br>University of Texas Medical Branch<br>Galveston, TX | **Cornelia Bergmann**<br>USC Keck School of Medicine<br>Los Angeles, CA | * |
| **U**<br>*Mycobacteriology* | **Robert S. Wallis**<br>University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey<br>Newark, NJ | **Issar Smith**<br>International Center for Public Health<br>Newark, NJ | * |
| **V**<br>*Clinical & Diagnostic Immunology* | **Steve Callister**<br>Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center<br>La Crosse, WI | **Brian DuChateau**<br>The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin<br>Milwaukee, WI | **John Schmitz**<br>UNC Hospitals<br>Chapel Hill, NC |
| **W**<br>*Microbiology Education* | **Marion F. Fass**<br>Beloit College<br>Beloit, WI | **Jeffrey C. Pommerville**<br>Glendale Community College<br>Glendale, AZ | * |
| **X**<br>*Molecular, Cellular & General Biology of Eukaryotes* | **Jac A. Nickoloff**<br>University of New Mexico School of Medicine<br>Albuquerque, NM | **John M. Logsdon, Jr.**<br>University of Iowa<br>Iowa City, IA | **Rebecca S. Hartley**<br>University of New Mexico<br>Albuquerque, NM |
| **Y**<br>*Public Health* | **Lisa Jackson**<br>Group Health Hospital<br>Seattle, WA | **Ralph J. Timperi**<br>MA State Laboratory Institute<br>Boston, MA | **Brian D. Sauders**<br>Cornell University<br>Cortland, NY |
| **Z**<br>*Animal Health* | **Thad B. Stanton**<br>National Animal Disease Center<br>Ames, IA | **Thomas Besser**<br>Washington State University<br>Pullman, WA | * |
| **AA**<br>*Free-Living, Symbiotic, and Parasitic Protists* | **Louis Weiss**<br>Albert Einstein College of Medicine<br>New York, NY | **Kasturi Haldar**<br>Northwestern University<br>Chicago, IL | * |

## Education Board

### National Conference Highlights Student Biomedical Research

When registration opened for the 2004 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), the purpose was to continue a four-year legacy of managing the largest, professional conference for biomedical students. Robert Cochran and 24 of his classmates made a 12-hour trip from Alabama for a three-day event they feel will give focus to their undergraduate studies. They were among the 1,600 young scientists gathered at the Hyatt Regency Dallas from 10 through 13 November for a scientific conference created to help them measure their strength as scientists and determine where and how to advance in a field where they are underrepresented. "These are the future scientific leaders of America . . . know how cerebral and bright they are from looking at the abstracts. I am impressed," acclaimed Dallas Mayor Laura Miller during the ABRCMS news conference.

ABRCMS connects high-achieving minority student researchers to resources that will advance their academic pursuit, be it doctoral studies or clinical research. According to Clifford W. Houston, conference chairman, ABRCMS showcases the acumen and potential of these scholars as next generation scientists. More than 300 representatives from graduate programs at U.S. colleges and universities, government agencies, foundations, and professional scientific societies joined ABRCMS in the exhibits program.

Participants met the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., renowned neurosurgeon Ben Carson, M.D., and John Alderete, Ph.D., ASM member and professor of microbiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. "It's going to be hard. In the academy minorities feel alone. . .Hang in there. Work hard. Persevere. Don't give up," says Alderete. Named one of the most influential Hispanics by *Hispanic* magazine, Alderete challenged the student researchers to look outside of their origins and think big. "You can no longer afford the status quo. Do more and do it better."

Timesa Hoover, senior biology major from Grambling State University agrees. Her ABRCMS experience resulted in a winning poster presentation in quantitative sciences which, she said, will be submitted to the Mathematical Association of America. A week earlier, Hoover's presentation, "When Zero Is a True Zero," won first place at the Louisiana Research Conference in New Orleans.

A unique component of ABRCMS is the scientific and professional development sessions. Eight scientific sessions and 18 professional development sessions led by leading researchers brought full circle a message and call for the minority researchers to stay determined in their research and to work to diversify scientific fields. 15 of the nation's leading scientists and researchers scientists joined Baldomero M. Olivera, Ph.D., distinguished professor of biology at the University of Utah, who captured students' attention with a video-enhanced presentation, "Conus Peptides: from Venoms to Drugs." James Gavin, M.D, Ph.D., president of the Morehouse School of Medicine; Carol Carter, Ph.D., professor of molecular genetics and microbiology, State University New York at Stony Brook; and Richard Superfine, Ph.D., associate professor of physics and astronomy, North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented their findings in the areas of health disparities, microbiology, and nanotechnology, respectively.

During the three-day conference, approximately 1,000 students made poster and oral presentations that represented nine scientific disciplines in the biomedical sciences.

Scientist and faculty researchers from university laboratories judged the student presentations.

ABRCMS culminated with an eventful awards ceremony and dance. Seventy-three undergraduate students were recognized for their scientific presentations during the closing awards banquet. Nine professional scientific societies and a research hospital sponsored the awards, offering each student $250. Several professional societies offered free membership to all ABRCMS student participants and waived registration fee for any ABRCMS student participant registering to attend their national scientific meeting.

The vanload of students traveling back to Oakwood left the conference with an excitement for research and an appreciation of the possibilities beyond Huntsville—and a winning poster presentation. "This is great. This is great," said Alexandrine Randriamahefa, Ph.D., professor of biology at Oakwood College. "We traveled so far for this."

The 2005 ABRCMS will be held on 2–5 November in Atlanta, Ga. Registration opens in April. For scientists and faculty members, plan to volunteer as an abstract reviewer, poster session judge, and on site mentor. Visit www.abrcms.org for more information.

**Irene Hulede**
Irene Hulede is Manager, Student Programs, at ASM.

## International Affairs

### Latin American Congress of Microbiology

The XVII Latin American Congress of Microbiology was held 17 through 21 October 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, simultaneously with the X Argentine Congress of Microbiology. ASM had a significant participation in this event. ASM President James Tiedje drew a large audience to his plenary conference on "Genomic Windows on Microbial Communities." Michael Dunne, Jr. (Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.), whose participation was supported by the ASM International Requests for Assistance program, contributed with his knowledge in a round table on "Accreditation and Certification." ASM staff hosted a booth to respond to inquires from international ASM members and distribute information on the benefits of ASM membership.

A highly successful full-day workshop was sponsored by ASM on "Microbiology Education in Latin America" and organized by Ramón de Torres and ASM Ambassador Cristina Cerquetti. This workshop, which was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience of over 100 people, was aimed at identifying the difficulties faced by microbiology teachers in the region. Participants from Argentina, Uruguay, Perú (ASM Ambassador Humberto Guerra) and Brazil (ASM Ambassador Leda Mendonça-Hagler) shared their teaching experiences and discussed with

the participants the solutions to common problems. The main conclusions of the workshop will be posted on the website of the Argentine Association of Microbiology. One of the conclusions from the workshop was to start a Latin American Microbiology Forum for discussion through the web. The Argentine Association of Microbiology will provide space in its website for this. ASM members will be especially encouraged to express their ideas and suggestions related to microbiology teaching. A desired goal is that exchanges through the web will lead to a comprehensive evaluation of microbiology teaching in the region and international proposals to improve it. Such proposals would be discussed in a second workshop on microbiology education during the next Latin American Congress of Microbiology in Santiago de Chile in 2006. Participants in the workshop were also encouraged to join the ASM's Spanish-language discussion group "red microbiologia," which can be found at: www.asm.org/subscribe.asp.

**Christine Cerquetti**
Christine Cerquetti is the ASM Ambassador in Argentina.

### ASM Signs Memoranda of Understanding with Two Spanish Universities

In October the ASM's Council Policy Committee voted to ratify Memoranda of Understanding between the ASM and two Spanish universities. The first Memorandum resulted from negotiations conducted by Anne Morris Hooke, chair of the International Committee (IC) and IC member Ricardo Guerrero ably assisted by International Affairs Director, Lily Schuermann, with officials of the Universidad de Salamanca–Francisco Justo del Rey Iglesias (Professor of Microbiology and Genetics), Angel Domínguez Olivarri (chair of Microbiology and Genetics), and Arturo Perez Eslava (Vice-Rector of Investigation). This agreement will allow the IC and the University to pursue funding to support Latin-American microbiologists for one or two years of postdoctoral training at the Universidad de Salamanca, the oldest Spanish language university in the world (it was founded in 1218).

The second agreement was negotiated with Joaquin Tintoré Subirana, Director, and Ramón Rosselló Mora, member, of the Institut Mediterrani d'Estudis Avançats (IMEDEA, http://www.imedea.uib.es/) in Palma de Mallorca, again with the goal of supporting post-doctoral studies for Latin-American microbiologists in Mallorca. IMEDEA is a joint research center of the Spanish Research Council and the University of the Balearic Islands; the latter was established in 1978.

The goal of these agreements is the natural extension of the IC's current International Fellowships Program (whereby ASM funds short-term (three to four months) training for Latin-American pre- and postdoctoral students in North American laboratories. The Spanish initiative will eventually result in four to six postdoctoral fellowships awarded annually for studies at the two institutions and will benefit ASM members on two continents—young scientists in Latin America and established microbiologists in Spain.

ASM Ambassador Cristina Cerquetti and Ramón de Torres at the XVII Latin American Congress of Microbiology.

## Membership

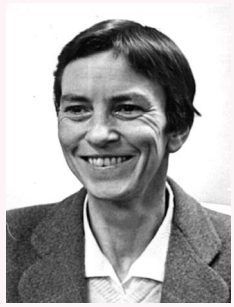
### South Central Branch Meeting

The South Central Branch held a successful and well-attended meeting on 5-6 November 2004 at the College of Veterinary Medicine (Wise Center) at Mississippi State University (MSU). The meeting gathered 163 attendees and 86 oral or poster presentations were made in bacteriology, virology, immunology, eukaryotic microbiology, and applied and environmental microbiology.

Awards for outstanding presentations by Ph.D. students (the McCleskey Award) went to Banu Elibol of Mississippi State University, Girish Jamnekar of MSU, and Robert Sample of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The Strawinski Award for the outstanding presentation by an M.S. student was presented to Jerilyn Belle of MSU. Kate D. Ryman, an Assistant Professor at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, La., was the recipient of the Randall Award, presented annually to an outstanding young faculty member.

The meeting was cosponsored by MSU's Department of Biological Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Research, and Life Sciences and Biotechnology Institute. Karen Coats, Branch President and meeting organizer, notes that "MSU was delighted to host such an outstanding group of microbiologists. In keeping with the tradition of the branch, the presentations by undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty were of very high quality, reflecting the important contributions scientists in our region are making to their various fields of microbiology." For more information about the South Central Branch, please contact Karen Coats at kcoats@biology.msstate.edu.

### Deceased Members


Lascelles

On 15 July 2004, **June Lascelles**, Professor Emerita of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed away at age 80. June devoted her life to microbiology and to those she taught and supervised. She had a tremendous and infectious enthusiasm for research on a wide variety of microorganisms, and she is particularly well known for her work on the purple nonsulfur photosynthetic bacteria. Her pioneering physiological and biochemical studies, which frequently exploited mutants, provided fundamental insights into tetrapyrrole bio-

synthesis and other metabolic processes, laying down foundations and concepts that are still achieving new relevance in the postgenomic era. Her industry and thoroughness are legendary, as well as her plainspoken forthright opinions, great sense of humor, and her exceptional ability to help and enthuse research beginners.

June Lascelles was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. She attended the University of Sydney during World War II, graduating in 1944 with a B.Sc. degree in Biochemistry. She then embarked on a career in microbial biochemistry that was to continue without interruption for the rest of her life. She remained in the Biochemistry Department as a Research Scholar/Teaching Fellow, and then a Linnean Macleay Fellow, and was awarded an M.Sc. degree in 1947. During this period her research focused on the metabolism of molecular hydrogen by *Escherichia coli*. In 1947, as one of the most promising biochemistry students in Australia, June was awarded a prestigious Royal Exhibition of 1851 Overseas Research Fellowship, and she elected to go to the Microbiology Unit of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford. Her mentor there was D. D. Woods, whose research centered on the synthesis of folic acid and the mode of action of sulfonamides. Her studies with lactic acid bacteria and *Staphylococcus aureus* established that pAB is converted to folic acid and that these factors are involved in the biosynthesis of the amino acid serine. After receiving a D.Phil. degree in 1952, June stayed in Oxford engaged in independent research and teaching in the Microbiology Unit, until she was appointed as a University Lecturer in Microbial Biochemistry in 1960.

*See the online version of this issue for the full text of this obituary.*

**John R. Guest**
University of Sheffield
Sheffield, United Kingdom

**Howard Gest**
Indiana University, Bloomington

**Faye E. Austin**, former Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, died after a long struggle with cancer on 1 September 2004 at the age of 53. Austin was born in Christiansburg, Va., and went to college at Madison College in Harrisonburg, Va., obtaining her B.S. degree in medical technology in 1973. From 1974 to 1976, she worked as a medical technologist in the clinical laboratory of the VA hospital in Durham, N.C. She received her M.S. degree, magna cum laude, from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg in 1978 and her Ph.D. in Microbiology from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1984. She held a postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Herbert Winkler at the University of South Alabama, where she studied host amino acid incorporation by the obligate intracellular bacterial parasite, *Rickettsia prowazekii*.

In 1988, she accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, and in 1995 obtained tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. At the University of Louisville, she established her short academic career in research, teaching, and service. Being a microbial physiologist at heart, Austin initially focused her research efforts on aspects of rickettsial physiology; however, at that time, another vector-borne disease, Lyme disease, was taking center stage, and she decided to turn her attention to the causative agent, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This move was not a great stretch for her since she had studied a related spirochete, *Treponema pallidum*, in graduate school. With funding from the National Insitutes of Health, Austin and her graduate students identified hemolytic activity associated with *B. burgdorferi* and were the first to identify and characterize the borrelial antioxidant enzyme superoxide dismutase (SOD), which is a critical enzyme that helps the bacteria deal with oxidative stress. Her work also focused attention on the roles of molecular oxygen and carbon dioxide as regulatory signals in the physiology and virulence of *B. burgdorferi*. It was well known at the time that *B. burgdorferi* lost infectivity for mice upon serial passage in vitro in an aerobic atmosphere. Austin was the first to show that during continuous in vitro culture in a microaerophilic environment, the spirochete maintained its infectivity. She continued the research to identify which proteins were regulated at growth in different oxygen concentrations and to study their potential roles in pathogencity in a neonatal rat model of Lyme disease. She was also interested in studying the molecular basis of microbial pathogenesis in other model systems, including adhesion of bacteria to contact lenses and corneal tissue. Unfortunately, much of this work was interrupted by her progressing poor health, which ultimately forced her to take permanent medical leave from the university in 2000.

*See the online version of this issue for the full text of this obituary.*

**Chris A. Whitehouse**
Frederick, Md.
**Lisa R. Williams**
Louisville, Ky.
**Traci Smith**
Raynham, Mass.
**Tonya Nichols**
Cincinnati, Ohio