

## ASM News

### Outgoing Treasurer Ensured ASM's Financial Position

On 1 July, **James Tiedje**, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Microbial Ecology at Michigan State University, replaced **Ronald Luftig**, Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at New Orleans, as the new ASM Treasurer.

The eight fiscal periods of Luftig's financial oversight have left the Society in a much better financial position than it was when his term began. Annual revenue has increased approximately 20%, and strategic reserves increased approximately 30%.

As Treasurer, Luftig revised the ASM Investment Policy and overhauled the Society's investment portfolio, moving from a 100% managed portfolio to one that is 70% indexed. This has resulted in a 70% savings in management fees for the investment portfolio.

In addition, he established a second annual Finance Committee meeting in the Spring where operational and strategic issues can be reviewed outside the traditional budget planning document in the Fall and improved the fiduciary approval schedule of Society finances by streamlining the audit approval process. As Treasurer he also created a team approach by recruiting ASM members to the Investment Subcommittee and Audit Committee with expertise from Industry, Investment Management, and Academic Finance.



Tiedje



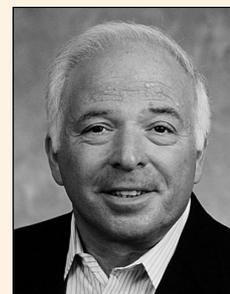
Luftig

"In all, Ron's tenure as Treasurer improved ASM's financial efficiency while continuing to provide the resources to allow the Society to operate at the top of its peers in serving the scientific community through the broad variety of ASM products and services," says Tiedje, a past president of the Society and a former member of the Public and Scientific Affairs Board.

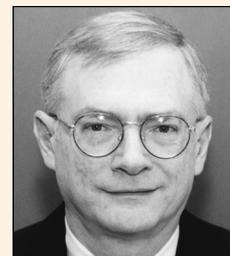
### New Chair Takes Helm of Publications Board

After serving 9 years as Chair of the Publications Board, **Samuel Kaplan**, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics at the Medical School, of the University of Texas, Health Science Center, Houston, is stepping down to be replaced by **Thomas Shenk**, the James A. Elkins Jr. Professor in the Life Sciences in the department of Molecular Biology at Princeton University.

During his term, Kaplan led the ASM Journals Program through a period of great change in scientific publishing, as readers increasingly shifted to online publications from print journals and pressure grew to offer free public access to biomedical research articles. From the outset he pioneered free public access to ASM journals online, initially offering free access to full-text journal articles 12 months after publication, a period that has since been reduced to 4 months. He also ensured that all ASM journal content was made available



Kaplan



Shenk

through PubMed Central and PubMed Central International, with full access after the initial access-control period, and introduced publish ahead of print for accepted manuscripts. He made all 11 ASM journals online available as a single package or subpackages to members and nonmembers to insure increased access to all journal content to the collective readership. Effective January 2009, the online ASM journals are the publications of record.

Kaplan oversaw the debut of a new ASM journal, *Eukaryotic Cell*, in 2002 to cover growing research on algae, fungi, and protozoans. Six years later he pioneered the move of *Eukaryotic Cell*, along with *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology*, to online-only publication.

Kaplan has also been a consistent supporter of ASM Press. He has endorsed the mission to produce high-value publications at all levels of the publishing spectrum for the microbiology community. ASM Press has expanded its program under his leadership to include not only scientific reference and textbook products but publications that reach out to the community at large.

Together with Michael Goldberg, Kaplan introduced the free availability of the online version of *Microbe* in 2006.

“When Sam assumed chairmanship, the ASM journals program looked very different than it does today. Throughout his tenure, though, he has emphasized that the quality of the science published is most important, above all other considerations,” says Shenk, a past ASM president who most recently served as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Virology*.

## New ASM President Takes Office

**Alison D. O'Brien**, Professor & Chair in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., began her term as the new ASM President on 1 July 2008.

Most recently, O'Brien served as Editor-in-Chief for *Infection and Immunity*. She has also been speaker, councilor, and chair of ASM Division B; a member of the ASM presidential nominating committee, the ASM awards committee, and the ASM/CDC postdoctoral fellowship award committee; chair of the ASM Centennial Book Project committees for division II; and invited col-

loquium member for the American Academy for Microbiology.

“I feel strongly that there are a number of areas in which ASM should provide leadership. These general topics include publications, education and training in our discipline, and communication with Congress and the lay public of the importance of microbiology to human health, the environment, and the development of new treatment and prevention modalities,” O'Brien said in her election statement.

She succeeds Clifford Houston, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston.

## Surveys of ASM Members and Former Members

Periodically the ASM Membership Board surveys our members to learn more about their interactions with the society and to understand how to better serve them. This year two important groups were contacted. The first survey mailed to members of ASM that were in their 3rd, 4th, and 5th years. The initial question, “How do you connect to ASM?,” was a new query to elicit the mechanisms respondents used to stay in touch with the society. *Microbe* magazine (73%) and ASM Journals (72%) received the highest responses, with the ASM Website (47%) and meetings and conferences (47%) tying for third place. ASM Listservs (24%) and The ASM President's Newsletter (22%) followed (Table 1).

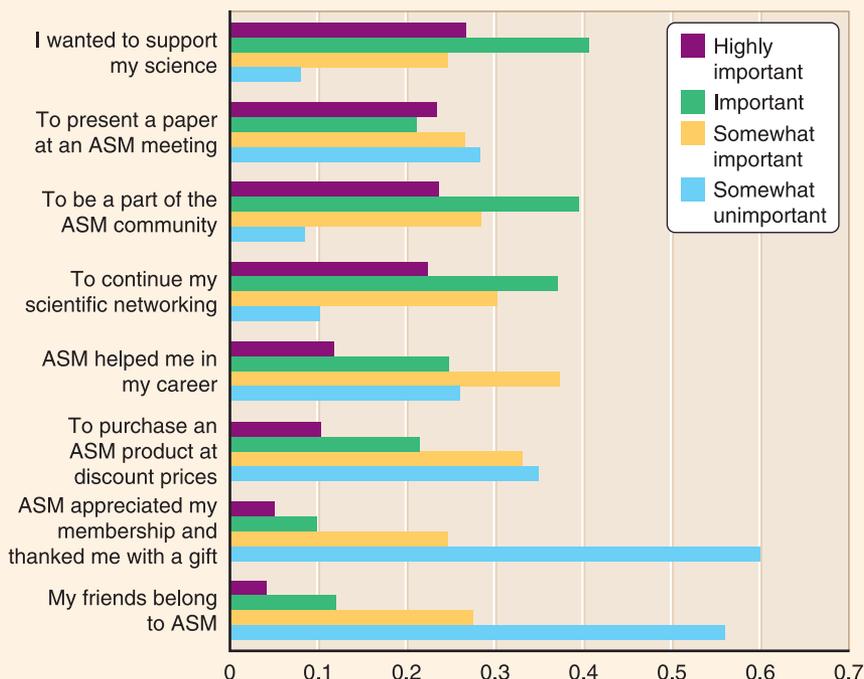
The answer to the question “Overall, how satisfied are you with your ASM membership?” was gratifying to the Membership Board because it indicates that members do feel well served. Eighty-five per cent of respondents indicated they were either extremely or mostly satisfied with their membership. Only 1% indicated they were mostly dissatisfied, with 14% undecided. In an earlier question, which asked whether the value of ASM membership had changed from the previous year, the vast majority, 88%, said member value had remained the same.

When asked the question, “Will you renew ASM membership in 2009?” the results were similar, with 69% of respondents indicating they would renew and 23% saying that it was “likely” that they will renew. Only 8% total



O'Brien

Which of the following factors affected your renewal in 2008?



Factors affecting member renewal in recent member survey.

indicated a “possible,” “unlikely,” or “no” renewal at all. When this question was crossed with “How do you connect to ASM?” those that claimed no connection were also the members that indicated they would not renew.

The two most important factors influencing member renewal were support of the science of microbiology and a desire to be part of the ASM community. Other factors included ASM career assistance, to present a paper at an ASM meeting, and to purchase ASM products at member

rates (see graph). Finally, on a scale of 1–10, members were asked to identify how inclined they were to recommend ASM membership to a colleague. Twenty-four percent were “highly inclined,” and 85% were more inclined than not inclined.

The next survey was e-mailed to those who failed to renew membership in the last 6 years. The questions sought to identify reasons for dropping membership. When asked why former members first joined the Society, the reason of highest importance was “to support my science,” with the next highest reason “to network within my science.” The next reasons, in order of importance were to “obtain a reduced registration rate on an ASM meeting or conference,” “obtain a purchase discount on ASM journals,” and “present a paper or poster at an ASM meeting.” These reasons tracked the responses of members in years 3–5 when asked to select the most important factors influencing their renewal.

In answer to how long former members had previously retained ASM Full membership, 47% said 2–5 years, with 17% indicating 6–10 years. Twenty per cent were members for more than 10 years. When cross tabulating the survey, we found that 65% of members for more than 10 years cited retirement as the most important factor in their departure from ASM. Members in the 2–5 year category indicated they were too busy to participate in Society activities (45%) or no longer had a need to network (35%). Of the members that stayed for 6–10 years, 27% indicated they had changed career and ASM was no longer relevant to their profession. Sixteen percent of first-year members did not renew. Responses were evenly split among all categories.

The final question to former members inquired whether they would ever rejoin ASM. Of 1,834 responses, 68% said “Yes” and 32% said “No.”

Support of the science is increasingly important to new members, as is networking with peers as part of the ASM community. Most felt very positive about the relationship with ASM. Even those who lapsed were willing to rejoin, and many requested renewal forms. In the comments section of both surveys, respondents were highly complimentary of ASM programs and services. Many

**TABLE 1. Members’ responses to the survey question “How do you ‘connect’ to ASM?”**

Response checked <sup>a</sup>	% of respondents
I read <i>Microbe</i> , the ASM news magazine	73%
I read ASM journals	72%
I check the ASM website	47%
I attend ASM meetings and/or conferences	47%
I belong to an ASM listserv(s).	24%
I read the ASM President’s newsletter	22%
I regularly speak with ASM members	18%
I download ASM podcasts	6%
I read the New Member newsletter, ASM Rapid Resources	5%
Other, please specify	3%
I am volunteering on an ASM committee	2%
I don’t connect to ASM	2%

<sup>a</sup>Respondents were instructed to check all answers that applied.

former members explained career changes that compelled a society change, but let us know that their time with ASM was valued and important. In the past five years, ASM has increased media to provide a myriad of ways for members to receive both targeted scientific and general Society information. Our assessment is that these tools have improved and added value to the member experience, as well as making Society resources visible and readily available to members. Our study confirmed that the more connected the member, the better the member experience.

### International Committee Becomes International Board

ASM International Committee (IC) programs, activities, and external funding have expanded significantly in the recent years. As a result, during the 108th ASM General Meeting in Boston, Mass., the ASM Council approved the motion to elevate the CPC International Committee to become the International Board (IB), effective 1 July 2008. International Board Chair Keith Klugman and International Affairs Director Lily Schuermann were congratulated and recognized for this milestone achievement by all international committee members, ASM Ambassadors, staff, partners, and peers during the CPC International Committee Reception.

Keith Klugman, Emory University Professor of Global Health, became chair of the Interna-

tional Committee in July 2005. At the start of his term as chair he called for the organization of a strategic planning retreat to implement his vision for the international committee. This provided clear direction which facilitated the coordinated expansion of ASM's international programs. "I am delighted that the Council Policy Committee and Council have acknowledged the importance of ASM's mission to improve knowledge of microbiology globally, and as such have accepted the International Board as an essential pillar of the Society," Klugman stated.

The International Affairs staff now totals eight talented and multilingual professionals in ASM headquarters who work closely with several committees of volunteers, international members, international organizations, and other international scientific networks. "Addressing the needs of the international microbiology community is full of exciting challenges. Our dedicated volunteers and staff, along with key partners, are committed to developing effective programs which are successfully meeting those challenges," added Klugman.

The newly approved International Board includes a well-developed structure comprised of three committees—the International Membership Committee (IMC), the International Education Committee (IEC), and the International Laboratory Capacity Building Committee (Lab Cap); eight separate review committees for grants and awards; and representation to other organizations.

The IMC, through the Ambassador Program and Global Outreach Program, enables ASM to assess the needs of the international microbiology community and to operate with the cultural sensitivity required of an organization with 30% of its membership residing outside the United States. Through the Ambassadors, ASM is able to develop collaborative relationships with national, international, and umbrella scientific organizations worldwide. The IEC enables ASM to develop international educational programs that consider the needs, cultural distinctions, and circumstances of various regions of the world. Through the Lab Cap Committee, ASM is becoming an internationally recognized leader in the global fights against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other opportunistic infections.

The International Board has been highly effective in securing external funding to develop



ASM International Affairs staff members Todd Peterson, Lily Schuermann, Mah-Sere Keita Sow, and Lynnee Galley with International Board Chair Keith Klugman.

its programs. The IMC has received funding from UNESCO and GlaxoSmithKline to support the Ambassador and Global Outreach programs. The IEC has secured project-specific and long-term funding to support its efforts on fostering international scholarly exchange. Funding for the IEC includes foundations such as the Ellison Medical Foundation, foreign organizations such as the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, and collaborating societies such as the Australian Society for Microbiology. Lab Cap has secured long-term funding through cooperative agreements with entities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build microbiological laboratory capacity in resource-limited settings. Several proposals are currently underway to explore additional funding sources and collaborative projects.

It has been a long and dynamic journey since the late 1980s, when Moselio Schaechter and others began advocating for the creation of an international body at ASM. Schaechter, who is still an active member of ASM, comments that “the elevation of the International Committee to Board status is a dream come true. It is indeed a testament to the importance ASM places on the worldwide development of the microbiological sciences.”

For more information on the International Board and its programs, please visit [www.asm.org/international](http://www.asm.org/international). Members are also encouraged to subscribe to the ASM International Alert to stay informed on all of ASM’s international programs and activities.

**Keith Klugman**

Chair, International Board

**Lily Schuermann**

Director, International Affairs

## Certification Exams Now Offered Online

The American College of Microbiology is pleased to announce that its three certification board exams are now offered online. Traditionally, the hard copy exams were administered once a year at a proctored site.

The certification boards—the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM), the American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology

(ABMLI), and the National Registry of Microbiologists (NRM)—have received a favorable response from applicants and examinees. “It has always been the Boards’ intent to make the exams available online, and they have closely monitored the online testing arena for years,” states J. Michael Miller, Dean of the American College of Microbiology. “The technology has greatly improved recently and identification of a testing vendor that has over 250 testing centers worldwide made this an easy decision for the College.”

To facilitate the transition to online testing, a few changes have been implemented to make applying even easier. Candidates now apply online, and supervisors submit their references online. “We saw a tremendous spike in the number of ABMM applications with this transition, and examinees have responded positively to the online application process and exam delivery,” remarks ABMM Board Chair Mark LaRocco.

Each board exam is offered daily during a particular month. The ABMM is offered in June, the ABMLI is offered in August, and the NRM is offered in October. “The benefit of the transition has been multifaceted,” says Donald Singer, SM(NRM), NRM Board Chair. “The worldwide online delivery allows us to reach microbiologists who could not travel to take the exam or who were unable to examine on the annual exam date. Examinees now have the convenience of selecting their testing site and exam date.” Certification is a voluntary process in which individuals are recognized for demonstrating required skills and knowledge. It is achieved by demonstrating education and experience requirements and by passing a multiple-choice question exam. Many seek it to obtain a tangible and coveted credential that will set them apart from others who have similar education and experience. It gives employers a tool to help them make the right hire—a microbiologist or immunologist who has been “tested” and “certified” by the world’s largest microbiology organization.

“My ABMLI certification has been invaluable to me throughout my career. It has provided networking and professional opportunities that I doubt would have been available to me otherwise. The boards are delighted to see so many people around the world now applying for certification,” says ABMLI Board Chair Barbara Detrick.

Visit [www.microbiologycert.org](http://www.microbiologycert.org) to learn more about ASM's three unique certification boards and to read testimonials of its value.

**Peggy McNult**

Manager, American Academy of Microbiology

## NRM Elects New Board Chair

**Donald C. Singer** has been elected Chair of the National Registry of Microbiologists (NRM). "Don brings over 30 years of pharmaceutical industry experience to the Board and is anxious to vigorously promote the Board to eligible microbiologists and industry," says outgoing NRM Board Chair Roy Almeida.

Singer has volunteered his time to the NRM for over 10 years as both a member and chair of the Consumer and Industrial Exam Development Committee. Certified in 1989, Singer has been one of the NRM's best cheerleaders. "NRM certification is a tangible credential that you can add to your resume that shows current and future employers you are a certified microbiologist. It says that you are recognized by a national certification board that is supported by the world's largest microbiology education organization," states Singer.

"People enter the lab today in nontradi-

tional ways, and employers have few tools to evaluate their skills. We talked with and surveyed dozens of NRM Registrants in the past few months and repeatedly heard that 'NRM certification got me the interview and the job.' Employers were not always aware of the NRM, but once they learned more about it they used it to ensure their microbiologists had been tested and recognized for their expertise," adds Singer.

Singer's goal during his three-year tenure as chair is to raise awareness of the NRM. "I will reach out to eligible microbiologists and illustrate the value and importance of certification. It is not only a way to demonstrate microbiology expertise, employers use it to impress their clients," says Singer.

The NRM certifies microbiologists at every educational and career level. It administers examinations at testing centers worldwide in biological safety, consumer and industrial, and consumer products and quality assurance with a concentration in food/dairy or pharmaceutical/medical device/cosmetics. Applications are accepted year round; examinations will be offered every day in the month of October. To apply for NRM certification, please visit [www.microbiologycert.org](http://www.microbiologycert.org)



Singer

## Meetings

### 109th ASM General Meeting— 18–20 May 2009

The 109th General Meeting will be held on 18–20 May 2009 in Philadelphia, Pa. This city and the surrounding region will have much to offer to the participants of the 109th General Meeting. It is a life sciences hotbed with a number of universities focused on microbiology.

The Abstract Submission Site opens in November with an early January deadline. Abstract submission information will be published on the General Meeting website in early September. Members-Only Registration for the 109th General Meeting opens mid- to late November. Please refer to the website at that time for details.

To keep abreast of plans for the 109th General Meeting, subscribe to the General Meeting alert. This e-mail alert is accessible at <http://www.asm.org/subscribe.asp>. Just log onto the subscription page with your membership username and password and provide your e-mail address.

ASM looks forward to welcoming you in Philadelphia! Mark your calendars now with the dates of the 109th General Meeting: 18–20 May 2009.

## Education Board

### Conference for Undergraduate Educators Partners with Members, Branches, and a Professional Society

On 30 May to 1 June 2008, more than 300 microbiologists and biologists convened amidst the woods, lawns, lakes, and shoreline of the Beverly, Mass., campus of Endicott College to attend the 2008 ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE). This year's theme, "15 Years of Teaching Excellence," suited the event not only because 2008 marked the 15th anniversary of the conference but also because ASMCUE continues to showcase excellence with its increased distinction in the world of biology educators. In 2008, the growing prominence of the conference was indicated by (i) the attendance of international participants from Australia, Canada, England, Jamaica, Mexico, and

Sweden; (ii) the results of a postconference survey in which an overwhelming number (98%) of attendees said they would recommend ASMCUE to their colleagues; and (iii) the fact that for the first time, the conference received financial support in the form of three travel awards—the Northeast Branch Travel Award, the ASMCUE Textbook Author Award, and the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Travel Award—by groups other than ASM.

The Northeast Branch Travel Award supports undergraduate faculty members of the Northeast Branch of ASM with subsidies to attend ASMCUE. "This new initiative continues the long-term commitment of the Northeast Branch to educators and students," says Jeffrey Klinger, the Branch president. "We feel it is one of the highest-value investments we can make to insure continuing interest in, and commitment to, microbiological sciences." In 2008, six Branch members received awards (see below). The Northeast Branch has more than 250 members from New England hospitals, medical schools, colleges, universities, health departments, and industries. The Branch is represented on the ASM Council and draws support from it, but functions independently.

The ASMCUE Textbook Author Award supports educators who are learning about undergraduate education research and new instructional pedagogies. The award derives from an endowment created in Fall 2007 by a group of textbook authors dedicated to faculty development and ASMCUE (see *Microbe*, September 2007, p. 451). The 2008 award reviewers found that its first recipient, Paul Lepp, Minot State University, Minot, N.D., exemplified the goals of the endowment. Lepp is an assistant professor of biology at Minot State; he joined the university's biology faculty in 2005. Lepp's research interests lie in microbial ecology. "I have a particular interest in how microbial communities respond to their environment" he says, "regardless of whether that environment is soil, seawater, or the human body."

While the Textbook Author Award funds the attendance of a new microbiology instructor at ASMCUE, the ASHG Travel Award supports the attendance of geneticists who are (i) engaged in

education within their society or institution and (ii) interested in learning about new pedagogical techniques, tools, and resources. ASHG provides forums for sharing research results, advocating research support, promoting genetics, and enhancing genetics education. In 2008, two ASHG members received awards (see below).

Traditionally, ASM offers two travel awards for ASMCUE: the Early-Career Faculty Award (for faculty members, postdoctoral scientists, or senior-level graduate students in their first five years of teaching) and the Faculty Enhancement Program Travel Award (for faculty members teaching traditionally underrepresented students). Funding from additional sources is a welcome trend as competition for the two original ASM travel awards has soared—only 40% of applicants were funded in 2008. The support from these sources also validates the theme of the ASM Committee on Undergraduate Education, "rooted in microbiology, branching out to biology."

The 16th ASMCUE will be held from 28–31 May 2009, eight days after the ASM General Meeting. Abstract submissions open on 1 November 2008, and conference registration (online at the ASM eStore) opens January 1, 2009. For details, visit [www.asmcue.org](http://www.asmcue.org).

### 2008 ASMCUE Travel Awardees Faculty Enhancement Program Travel Award Recipients

Ruth Negley, Harrisburg Area  
Community College  
Angela NewMyer, St. Louis Community  
College at Forest Park  
Sherrie Sprangers, University of  
Maine-Machias

### Early-Career Travel Award Recipients

Min Cao, Clemson University  
Sylvia Franke, Skidmore College  
Elizabeth Joyce, Stanford University  
Samantha Kerry, St. Mary's College  
of Maryland  
Barbara May, St. John's University/  
College of St. Benedict  
Kimberly Metera, Durham Technical  
Community College  
Amy Miller, University of Cincinnati,  
Raymond Walter College  
Kimberly Murphy, Waldorf College



Participants and faculty at the 2008 ASM Presentation Institute in Boston, Mass.

Traci Ness, Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Michele Zwolinski, Weber State University

#### Northeast Branch Travel Award Recipients

Gail Begley, Northeastern University  
Ellen Fynan, Worcester State College  
Anne Hanson, University of Maine  
Paulette Howarth, Bristol Community College  
Gregory Reppucci, North Shore Community College  
Amy Sprenkle, Salem State College

#### ASMCUE Textbook Author Award Recipient

Paul Lepp, Minot State University

#### American Society of Human Genetics Travel Award Recipients

Bethany Bowling, North Kentucky University  
Jevon Plunkett, Washington University, St. Louis

### Graduate Students Attend Inaugural Presentation Institute

While many ASM members were packing their suitcases for the 2008 General Meeting in Boston, Mass., 10 graduate students from across the United States arrived to attend the inaugural ASM Presentation Institute. The Institute was held on 31 May and 1 June, just before the General Meeting. The timing minimized expenses and travel for the students but also provided other intangible benefits. "Having this Institute prior to the General Meeting was a good idea," one participant noted in a post-Institute survey. "Not only did it help

build my confidence before presenting, but also it made such a large meeting feel more personal because it provided me with a couple of familiar and friendly faces among the 12,000 in attendance."

Navigating thousands of strangers can be intimidating even for seasoned professionals, but the process was made easier for these students by Institute offerings such as "Elements of Elevator Conversations," i.e., the art of making small talk. This plenary session, called "phenomenal" by one participant, was led by Mary Sanchez Lanier, chair of the ASM Presentation Institute Planning and Review Committee and a professor of microbiology at Washington State University in Pullman. According to Sanchez Lanier, the point of the session and the goal of the Institute was to help students "develop the skills needed to present at scientific meetings and interact in a professional manner with colleagues."

The one-and-a-half day Institute focused on preparing students to give 10-minute oral presentations via faculty-led plenary sessions on both days, augmented by activities such as small group discussions and work on individual projects related to developing introductions; critiquing abstracts and titles; and reviewing, editing, and delivering presentations. On day two, students gave presentations, which were met with advice and comments from Institute faculty.

Participants found the faculty's responses to their work invaluable. "I think the presentations and feedback afterwards was the most helpful," said one student. "It allowed us an opportunity to practice what we learned and then get feedback from others about what we should work on." Another participant observed that the students were pleased to "receive advice on how to improve the delivery of our science from a group that was honest and nonintimidating."

That group, the Institute faculty, was composed of Mary-Anne Courtney, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.; Olivia Harriott, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn.; Sanchez Lanier; Larry McDaniel, University of Mississippi, Jackson;

and Richard Rest, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. In addition to "Elements of Elevator Conversations," the other plenary sessions were "Elements of Writing a Good Abstract and Title" (McDaniel), "Presentation Techniques" (Courtney), "Elements of a Good Poster Presentation" (Harriott), "Case Studies—Ethical Issues in Data Authorship/Data Ownership" (Rest and McDaniel), and "Case Studies—Ethical Issues in Mentoring" (Rest and McDaniel).

While the 2008 cohort learned tips and techniques to use right away at the General Meeting, they also appreciated how the session topics affected other areas of their professional lives. "The ethics and mentoring discussion was really helpful," said one student. "I was pretty surprised at how many issues we touched upon that I had encountered or one of my colleges has encountered."

The 2009 ASM Presentation Institute is scheduled for 16–17 May, and the application deadline is 15 March 2009. For details, visit [www.asmgap.org](http://www.asmgap.org).

### ABRCMS 2008 Reminder: Advance Registration Deadline

Have you registered for the premier student conference of the year? The 2008 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) will be held 5–8 November at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla., and the advance registration deadline is **10 October 2008**. ABRCMS is a national conference designed to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Don't miss this great opportunity to network and learn from the best thinkers and practitioners in biomedical and behavioral sciences!

The conference registration fee includes all conference materials (final program, abstract book, exhibitor guide, and online attendee list), all scheduled meals, access to the closing banquet, refreshment breaks, and admission to all sessions. Please note that the cost of all registrations increases by \$100 after 10 October 2008, and single-day conference registrations are not available. For more information, visit [www.abrcms.org](http://www.abrcms.org).

## International Affairs

### Marcel Gutierrez-Correa: 2008 ASM Ambassador of the Year

Marcel Gutierrez-Correa has been selected as the 2008 ASM Ambassador of the Year. Gutierrez-Correa is the Coordinator of the Biological Sciences and Engineering Ph.D. Program at the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, in Lima, Peru. A distinguished scientist in Peru, his research interests focus on industrial microbiology and biotechnology, specifically enzyme production by fungal surface adhesion fermentation (SAF) solid state and biofilm fermentation, including mixed fungi cultivation. His work includes strain selection and genetic manipulations, fungal physiology, fungal functional genomics, fermentation kinetics, and SAF bioreactor design.



Gutierrez-Correa

Gutierrez-Correa was appointed ASM Ambassador to the Andean Region in 2007 and has rapidly demonstrated an exceptional commitment to his role as Ambassador, to ASM, and to the advancement of microbiology in his region. One of his accomplishments was the organization of a highly successful ASM presence at the II Latin American Student Congress on Microbiology and Parasitology in Ica, Peru, in February 2008. ASM sponsored two Best Poster Awards and facilitated the attendance of 70 low-income students through bus transportation to and from the event. Gutierrez-Correa also coordinated the participation of ASM Ambassadors Irma Rivera (Brazil) and Guido Mora (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay), who each delivered a three-day mini-course, and ASM Director of International Affairs Lily Schuermann gave an in-depth presentation on ASM programs and resources.

During the Congress, Gutierrez-Correa presented a plenary lecture entitled "Industrial microbiology within the context of bioeconomy." He also hosted an ASM booth that, in addition to providing infor-

mation on ASM programs and services, enabled attendees to use local currency to pay for membership, ASM publications, and MicrobeLibrary subscriptions. Forty student members and thirteen full members joined ASM on site.

Another highlight of his service as an Ambassador to Andean region has been his initiative in establishing the ASM Resource Center in Ica, Peru, that serves as a showcase for ASM products and services, programs, and membership. Finally, Gutierrez-Correa has been reaching out to current and lapsed ASM members in the Andean Region to notify them of the Ambassador's presence and encourage them to explore the many benefits of ASM membership. Gutierrez-Correa was recognized for his achievements at the International Membership Committee (IMC) Retreat in Boston, Mass., prior to the 2008 ASM General Meeting.

### 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting: ASM Capacity Building for TB Diagnostics

More than 1,700 participants from across the globe gathered for the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting held 3–7 June in Kampala, Uganda. More than 70 countries are represented at the meeting, a testament to the global partnerships to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and a reflection of the conference theme, "Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation."

During the five-day conference, hosted by the Government of Uganda and co-sponsored by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization (WHO); and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+), more than 200 abstracts were presented by representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations including faith-

### Fellowship and Professorship Programs: New Databases of Fellowship Hosts and Visiting Professors

Often, one of the greatest challenges for professorship and fellowship candidates is connecting with a host interested in developing a proposal. To facilitate this connection, the International Affairs department has developed two online databases for ASM members interested in participating in the Professorship and/or Fellowship Programs. To search the Fellowship Program Database or register as a potential host for an ASM Fellow, please visit the ASM International Fellowship Program webpage at <http://www.asm.org/International/fellowship>. To search the Professorship Program Database or to register as a prospective visiting professor, please visit the ASM International Professorship Program webpage at <http://www.asm.org/International/professorship>.

and community-based groups, multilateral organizations, and the private sector, as well as people living with HIV/AIDS.

ASM International Affairs staff members Jennifer Sanwogou and Alexis Greenan attended the meeting on behalf of the International Laboratory Capacity Building (Lab Cap) Program to introduce ASM's capacity-building efforts in the area of tuberculosis (TB) diagnostics.

At this year's meeting, a significant emphasis was placed on the role of strengthening the laboratory as an approach to improving HIV/AIDS programs. Greenan provided an oral presentation during the laboratory workshop series on the development and rollout of TB diagnostics and culture on ASM's project implementing TB liquid culture in Namibia. This presentation, entitled "Implementing Effective Liquid TB Culture in Namibia," reflects the efforts that the Lab Cap Program has made on strengthening TB diagnostics in Namibia over the last two years.

The integration of TB diagnostics into HIV/AIDS programming is more crucial now than ever, as HIV/TB coinfection rates have surged not only in southern Africa but throughout the world. With-

## Institutional Student Membership Program

The Student Membership Committee of the ASM Membership Board thanks the following institutions for providing over 830 memberships to students of microbiology through the 2008 Institutional Student Membership Program. The 2009 program year opens 1 September 2008. If you are interested in more information about this special membership rate, please contact ASM Membership Services at [membership@asmusa.org](mailto:membership@asmusa.org).

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 University  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 School of Medicine  
 Weber State University  
 Western Kentucky University

out greater emphasis on TB diagnostics, poor TB detection rates hinder successful implementation of HIV treatment therapy. Sanwogou's poster presentation, "Strengthening TB Laboratory Diagnostic Capacity in Côte d'Ivoire," emphasized ASM's role in developing a long-term plan for improving TB diagnostics in Côte d'Ivoire through their National Strategic Plan for TB. ASM has been working in Côte d'Ivoire for less than a year and already has initiated collaborative efforts with the Foundation for Innovative New

Diagnostics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization, Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Health, and CDC-Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen laboratory infrastructure, diagnostics, and the TB laboratory network in country.

Both presentations served as an opportunity for the Lab Cap program to share lessons learned through its program approach while learning from other organizations about the approaches they have taken to address laboratory services,

strengthen quality assurance, and develop long-term approaches to improve TB diagnostics.

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## Membership

### Deceased Member

Jane Gibson died at her home in Etna, N.H., on 10 June 2008 at the age of 83. Gibson was an internationally respected researcher in microbial physiology and biochemistry. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and served as an Editor of *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* from 1989–1995.

Born Jane Pinsent in Paris, France in 1924, she grew up in Devon, England, and in Switzerland. She was educated at Cambridge University and the University of London, where she received a doctorate in microbiology. Her work was mostly on trace elements, and she was the first to discover a specific role for selenium in bacterial growth, showing that it was required for the formation of formate dehydrogenase. She then received a Commonwealth Fund postgraduate fellowship to study with C. B. Van Niel at the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford, where she became interested in photosynthetic microorganisms. Upon her return to Britain in 1950, she joined Sidney Elsdén's labora-

tory in Sheffield. There, in 1951, she met and married the biochemist Quentin H. Gibson. She continued working part-time until 1963, while caring for their four children. In 1963 Jane and Quentin immigrated to the United States, spending three years at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to Cornell University in 1966. Jane earned tenure at Cornell, and eventually became a full Professor. She and Quentin retired in 1996.

Gibson studied the transport and utilization of ammonia and of small organic compounds by all of the major groups of phototrophs. She was an expert in the care and feeding of these somewhat difficult organisms. She was especially proud of her isolation and description of *Chloroherpeton thalassium*, a flexing and gliding green sulfur bacterium from marine sediments near Wood Hole, Mass. Later in her career, Gibson used the purple nonsulfur phototroph *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* to investigate anaerobic benzene ring degradation, a process important for the breakdown of hydrocarbon pollutants.

Gibson was a dedicated teacher of laboratory sciences to undergraduates at Cornell. Her Cell Biology laboratory course

was a campus legend, and she was honored with the Edith Edgerton Career Teaching Award in 1994. She also served as a faculty member in the Microbial Diversity course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole during the 1970s, and again in 2002 and 2003.

In her retirement, Gibson was a valued member of microbial genome annotation teams due to her encyclopedic knowledge of microbial physiology. She was also a visiting scientist in others' laboratories. Most recently she worked in Deborah Hogan's laboratory at Dartmouth, and is senior author on a paper submitted to *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* during her final illness. Now favorably reviewed, it will become a posthumous contribution. Gibson was an extraordinarily hardworking and energetic scientist who was completely devoted to her family. In this she was a role model for the next generation of scientists, both men and women. Her friends and colleagues will miss both her acerbic wit and her great intellectual generosity.

**Caroline S. Harwood**

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