Greetings! Visitors, friends, supporters, and members of the Committee on the Status of Women in Microbiology (CSWM):

Welcome to our redesigned and newly reissued newsletter, the CSWM COMMUNICATOR.

First and foremost, I’d like to direct your attention to our activities at the ASM General Meeting in Atlanta. Please check our postings for specific times and locations for these events. The Committee wishes to extend its invitation to you to participate in all events.

Our Open Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at the Omni Hotel. This is an open forum where you can voice your issues and concerns about your profession to this committee. The open meeting is immediately followed by our reception. Our reception is a wonderful social event that gives you an opportunity to meet fellow microbiologists, network, and exchange ideas, all while enjoying some refreshments and spirits. It is a popular, well-attended event. Also at this reception, we honor the recipient of the Alice C. Evans Award. Our committee administers this award, given to a scientist who has fostered the advancement of women in the field of Microbiology. The 2005 recipient of this award is Dr. Helen Davies, an outstanding pioneer of women in science and a Professor of Microbiology at the School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

Our scientific roundtable session will be held on Wednesday, June 8. Our topic is “Communicating With the Public and Public Perception of Microbiological Issues.” Our speakers include Dan Rutz of the CDC, Mitch Waldrop of the NSF, Cynthia Needham of ICAN Productions, Maryn McKenna, journalist, at the Atlanta Constitution Journal, and Barbara Hyde, ASM’s Communications Director. Barbara will conduct an interactive workshop on how to communicate with the media. I expect it will be an interesting and exciting roundtable.
I, and current and former committee members, all wish to bid a fond farewell to the former chairperson of this committee, Dr. Sara Rothman. Sara provided an active, astute leadership of this committee for nine years. While she continues to be a supporting presence on this committee, the committee meetings held at her home in Maryland will be fondly missed. Sara, we all wish you much good luck. I only hope that I can adequately follow in your footsteps as newly appointed chair of the committee.

For your information, we now have a listserv discussion group,ASMWomeninMicro, that can be accessed and joined from the CSWM webpage. This listserv enables subscribers to conduct ongoing discussions on pertinent issues, learn of various current events, share information with the group, make announcements, and interact with other women microbiologists. In the future, subscribers will be able to search for individuals who wish to share lodgings during ASM-sponsored meetings.

Gender inequities still abound in science. Last year, ASM conducted its first full membership survey. Our committee advocated for this survey for many years before it came to be. The median income, solely by gender, for males is $77,000 and that for females is $55,000. Although the gender gap narrows with increasing levels of education and years of professional experience, it demonstrates that women are, alas, not truly treated as equals.

The recent statement by Lawrence Summers, the President of Harvard, that women are under-represented in science because of “innate differences” between the genders has generated discussion and outrage. Unlike men, women leave the sciences at every major transition: after high school, after freshman year of college, between undergraduate and graduate school, and even between graduate school and the workforce. Women who do continue to work in science face the ubiquitous glass ceiling. A long-term commitment to the advancement of women in science is a required solution. The Committee on the Status of Women in Microbiology is part of that commitment.

Please visit us at our booth at the General Meeting. I look forward to meeting and greeting you in Atlanta!

Lorraine Findlay
Newly-appointed CSWM Chairperson
CSWM General Meeting Events

Committee Open Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 4:00 pm
Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Cottonwood Room

Reception
Tuesday, June 7, 4:30 pm
Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Dogwood Room

Round Table
Myths & Monsters of Microbiology: Communicating With the Public and
Public Perception of Microbiological Issues
Wednesday, June 8, 8:00 am
Georgia World Congress Center, Room B406

2004 ASM Salary Survey

Did you respond last year when ASM asked for your salary information? If you did, you were one of 4,528 U.S. members who replied to the e-mail request for information. Questions were sent to members, and answers received between June 15, 2004 and July 9, 2004 were included in the survey results.

You can view these results on the ASM web page under the Members Only section; just click on the “ASM Salary Survey Searchable Results” button on the left side of the opening page. You can choose one or more of several categories to be included in your compensation data. For example, you can ask for certain job titles, such as department head, professor, or senior research technician, etc. You can limit your search to certain regions, states, or metropolitan areas in the U.S. You can search by age, ethnic origin, or gender. Once you enter your desired demographics, just click on the “calculate compensation” button. The results pop up, providing the number of respondents, and the mean, the median, and the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentile salaries.

The results can be very interesting and you should access this great service to ASM members. The problem is that, as you further define your demographics, the number of respondents becomes less and less, and the data are insufficient for analysis. Keep this in mind the next time a survey crosses your computer screen. Encourage your colleagues to respond such that more reliable numbers can be generated.

- Sarah McIntire
Visit the CSWM Booth at the General Meeting

The CSWM booth will be open Sunday, June 5, at 12 P.M. through Wednesday, June 8 at the Georgia World Congress Center during the 2005 General Meeting in Atlanta. Come by and chat with old and new friends. See what’s new in funding grants, programs, and surveys. We will have a sign-up sheet at the booth for individuals seeking dinner companions at the meeting.

Become an Ad Hoc Committee Member

Ad Hoc members support CSWM activities at the General Meeting by volunteering to distribute information and by helping to staff the booth for a period of time that fits your meeting itinerary. It’s a great opportunity to support the CSWM and add committee service to your curriculum vitae! Ask any committee member at the CSWM booth, our open meeting or reception, or you can visit our webpage.

The Committee and the Web


Join the CSWM discussion group:  ASMWomeninMicro:  http://www.asm.org/subscribe.asp

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Watch for the Fall Edition of the CSWM COMMUNICATOR!

The CSWM Newsletter Subcommittee:  Marcia Moody, Sarah McIntire, Alice Neely, Lorraine Findlay