Welcome to Boston!

CSWM has a number of events planned at the general meeting this year: our usual exhibit booth in the exhibition hall (Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM), providing information on issues related to women in microbiology; our open meeting; our annual meeting and networking reception; and a special interest session related to career issues.

Climbing the Professional Ladder Without Falling Off

Monday June 2, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Location: Boston Convention and Expo Center Room 104 A

This session is sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Microbiology and is co-sponsored by the Education board. This session will provide strategies to assist women and men in advancing in the career of microbiology. It is focused toward graduate and pre-doctoral students, post-docs, and early career professionals, but also includes useful information for established microbiologists. It will include a pertinent presentation by a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on a NAS report that significantly impacts women as well as men. This report is entitled “Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering.” Additional session topics will include: (a) Mentoring -- how to locate and approach a mentor, how to evaluate your mentor, and what identifies a good mentor; (b) How to Balance the Building of a Career While Raising a Family -- what is the best timing, what are the inherent problems; (c) Gender Discrimination -- knowing your legal rights, how and when to respond, and discrimination solutions; (d) Conflict Resolution -- how to handle conflicts between yourself and your co-workers, your mentor, and/or your superiors. This topic will be presented by a professional conflict resolution expert.

- “Beyond Bias and Barriers”
  - Dr. Jo Handelsman, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, University of Wisconsin and NAS member

- “Mentor, Mentors and Mentoring”
  - Dr. Joan W. Bennett, Associate Vice President for Promoting Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, Rutgers University, NJ

- “Building a Career and a Family” Building a science career and a family at the same time
  - Dr. Kit Pogliano, Professor of Biological Sciences, University of California, San Diego

- “Legal Protections Against Sex Discrimination for Women in Science”
  - Taryn Wilgus Null, Margaret Fund Law Fellow, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, D.C.

- “Managing Conflict - in the Lab AND at Home”
  - Debbie Goldstein, Managing Director Triad Consulting

This year our annual open meeting will be slightly different than in past years, with an open forum.
CSWM Open Meeting

Tuesday June 3, 3:30 – 4:30 PM
Location: The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, Stone Room.

This open forum provides the opportunity for informal follow-up discussions on topics and issues raised during Monday's CSWM-sponsored session, “Climbing the Professional Ladder Without Falling Off.” Dr. Martha Howe, 2007 Roche Diagnostics Alice C. Evans Award Laureate and Past President of ASM, will act as moderator. A panel of experts will address audience questions and concerns specifically pertaining to women microbiologists:

Dr. Jo Handelsman, University of Wisconsin
Dr. Joan W. Bennett, Rutgers University, NJ
Dr. Kit Pogliano, University of California, San Diego

Erica B. Gray, President, DisputEd, Dispute Management Services

Results from the 2007 ASM General Meeting survey on “Issues Related to Postdoctoral Women” also will be covered. Come and bring your questions and concerns to this open forum.

CSWM Exhibit Booth

Monday and Tuesday, June 2 and 3, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday, June 4, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

The CSWM booth is Boston will be open throughout the General Meeting in the Exhibit Hall Monday, June 2 at 9 AM through Wednesday, June 4 at 2:00 PM. Come by and chat with old and new friends. See what’s new in funding grants, programs, and surveys.

CSWM Reception

Tuesday June 3, 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Location: The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, Otis Room.

As always, we will be having a networking reception, supported by ASM, to meet fellow microbiologists and exchange ideas. At this reception, we will also be recognizing this year’s Alice C. Evans laureate. Supported by Roche Diagnostics Corporation, the Alice C. Evans Award recognizes contributions toward the full participation and advancement of women in microbiology. This award was established by CSWM and is given in memory of Alice C. Evans, the first woman to be elected president (in 1928) of the ASM. Awardees are members of ASM who have made major contributions toward fostering the inclusion, development, and advancement of women in careers in microbiology, through mentorship and advocacy, and by setting an example through scientific and professional achievement.

More information can be found at:
http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=2332

CSWM on the Web

Visit the CSWM Webpage:

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

At the 2007 general meeting, the CSWM noted that a small percentage of ASM awardees were women. The committee therefore decided to determine what percentage of ASM awardees were female.

The CSWM obtained the names of all of the ASM awards recipients for the past ten years. The objective was to determine the percentage by gender of award recipients per award. For some awardees, their gender was not apparent from their name; however, these were few in number, and the results are accurate +/- 1%. For a total of 24 awards, 72 of the 249 awardees from the past ten years were female (28.9%) and 177 were male (71.0%). Specifically, the breakdown per award category is as follows:

For Basic and Applied Research Awards (10 awards): 25 out of 125 recipients were female (20%).

For Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Research Awards (5 awards): 13 out of 50 recipients were female (26%).

For Microbiology Education Awards (9 awards): 34 out of 74 recipients were female (45.9%).

We have included the Roche Diagnostic Alice C. Evans Award in the last category. The Evans Award is given to an individual who has fostered the advancement of women in microbiology; in contrast to other awards, 18 out of 20 recipients of the Evans Award were female (90%). This accounts, somewhat, for the higher percentage of female recipients in the Microbiology Education Awards category.

It is apparent that, across the overall membership of ASM, the number of women receiving ASM awards is below expectation. It’s certainly not for lack of suitable candidates, but because of a lack of nominations. Remember no one can receive an award without being nominated! Please consider nominating appropriate candidates for future awards.

Details on the various ASM awards can be found at:

http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=2099

WWW Watch

CSWM has compiled a list of Helpful Websites for Women Scientists Interested in Fellowships, Scholarships and Funding Opportunities. The URL for this information is:


ASM also has a new website that posts ASM sponsored graduate and post-doc opportunities. The URL is:

http://www.asmgap.org

Remember, this type of resource is only possible with help from our members. If you know of any other funding opportunities that are not listed here, please e-mail Publicaffairs@asmusa.org.

The CSWM periodically collects data on the training and employment of women microbiologists; studies legislation affecting women microbiologists; interacts and cooperates with similar committees in other scientific organizations; encourages women microbiologists to participate in ASM activities; and advises ASM on matters concerning the status of women microbiologists. To join the committee’s on-line discussion group, ASMWomeninMicro go to:

http://www.asm.org/Subscribe.asp

The problem is not a lack of good female candidates, but a lack of nominations for these excellent scientists.
Committee Members

The CSWM has a number of hard working microbiologists on its committee, from a variety of different backgrounds within the field. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions -- contact them and let your voice be heard.

Lorraine A. Findlay, Ph.D.
Nassau County College and Medical Center
Medical Technology Program
Department of Allied Health
e-mail: Lorraine.Findlay@ncc.edu

Susan T. Bagley, Ph.D.
Michigan Technological University
Department of Biological Sciences
e-mail: stbagley@mtu.edu

Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D.
Northern Kentucky University
Department of Biological Sciences
e-mail: bartonh@exchange.nku.edu

Joan W. Bennett, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Promoting Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics
Rutgers University
e-mail: profmycogirl@yahoo.com

Robert E. Benoit, Ph.D.
Virginia Tech
Department of Biological Sciences
e-mail: rbenoit@vt.edu

Gail Darlene Chapman, Ph.D., MSC, USN
Naval Medical Research Center Detachment
Environmental Health Effects Laborabory
e-mail: gail.chapman@wpafb.af.mil

Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, (UTHSC-H) Medical School
The Department of Microb. & Mol. Genetics
e-mail: Millicent.E.Goldschmidt@uth.tmc.edu

Melissa Kendall, Ph.D.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Department of Microbiology
e-mail: melissa.kendall@utsouthwestern.edu

Alice N. Neely, Ph.D.
Shriners Burn Institute
e-mail: aneely@shrinenet.org

Ad-Hoc Members

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 their 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.

“Thanks to our 2007 Ad Hoc Volunteers!

We’d like to thank Dr. Graciela Brelles-Marino from California State Polytechnic University, Dr. Anne Marie Blancquaert from Dow Corning Corporation, Kelly Edwards from Quintiles Transnational and Peggy A. Pritchard from Pritchard Communications, for their valuable assistance at the 2007 ASM general meeting.

Don’t forget our Boston Sessions

CSWM Session
Climbing the Professional Ladder Without Falling Off
Monday, June 2
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Boston Convention and Exposition Center Room 104A

CSWM Open Meeting
Tuesday, June 3
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel
Stone Room

CSWM Reception
Tuesday, June 3
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel
Otis Room

CSWM Booth Hours
Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM