

THE SCOPE

A publication of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

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Philipp Gerhardt

Jim VandenBosch



This issue of The Scope is dedicated to the memory of Philipp Gerhardt who passed away January 6, 2008 at the age of 87. A native of Wisconsin, he attended The University of Wisconsin where he earned a Bachelor of Philosophy and a M.S. in bacteriology before joining the service during World War II. From the service, he returned to UW and was awarded a Ph.D. for work on the basic biology of *Brucella* and then turned his studies to the endospores of *Bacillus anthracis*. His studies on brucellosis and anthrax naturally led him to two tours of duty in biodefense, Camp Detrick during World War

II and the Pine Bluff Arsenal during the Korean conflict. Among his findings was that the heat-resistance of *B. anthracis* was due to its dry interior.

After his military service, Dr. Gerhardt joined academia serving briefly at Oregon State University and then moving to The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. While in Ann Arbor, Dr. Gerhardt joined the senior ranks of the ASM officers, starting as Secretary in 1961. In 1965, Gerhardt moved to East Lansing to be the Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Public Health at Michigan State University. While at MSU he continued his leadership at ASM becoming the 76th ASM President in 1975. He subsequently was pivotal in the founding of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, serving as the first president of IUMS from 1982-1986.

Dr. Gerhardt became involved with the Michigan Branch of the ASM after attending the Spring 2000 meeting at Lansing Community College that focused on Bioterrorism. He was impressed with the focus on students and offered to help

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Beneficial Microbes: How Bacteria Impact Human Health!

October 10-11, 2008, Eastern Michigan University

Friday, October 10

5:30 - 6:30 pm	Plenary Speaker I Dr. Gary B. Huffnagle Dept. of Int. Medicine and Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology University of Michigan <i>"Probiotics & Human Health"</i>	Marshall Building (Room 103)
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Mixer	Marshall Common Space
7:45 - 9:45 pm	MI-ASM Board Dinner	Cady's

Saturday, October 11

7:45 - 8:50 am	Breakfast & Registration	EMU Student Center
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction	Ballroom A
9:00 - 10:00 am	Plenary Speaker II Dr. Robert Britton Microbial Genomics Laboratory, Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Michigan State University <i>"Uncovering mechanisms important for probiotic action"</i>	Ballroom A
10:00 - 11:30 am	Poster/vendor viewing Coffee break	
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Student Speakers 1-4	Ballroom A
12:40 - 1:40 pm	Lunch & Business meeting	
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Plenary Speaker III Dr. Vincent B. Young Dept. of Int. Medicine and Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology University of Michigan <i>"Complex microbial communities and human health"</i>	Ballroom A
3:00 pm	Meeting Adjourns	

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support these activities by providing funding for travel and research awards. To accommodate his generosity, the Michigan Branch changed its constitution at the Fall 2002 meeting and applied to the IRS for a change from 501 (c) (6) to 501 (c) (3) status. The first Gerhardt Research and travel awards were made to students at the Fall 2003 meeting and have been an important component of every subsequent meeting.

We join the Gerhardt family in mourning his loss and thank them for their support of the microbiology students of Michigan.

President's Report

Mike Ryan

The fall 2008 meeting at Eastern Michigan University on the relationships between the host and their microbes promises to stimulate intriguing discussions. Eastern Michigan University's Daniel Clemans has taken the lead in organizing this meeting with the aid of Lynne Shetron and Jim VandenBosch also from EMU.

Friday night's special lecture is "*Probiotics & Human Health*" presented by Dr. Gary B. Huffnagle (<http://www.med.umich.edu/im>

Hotels

10 rooms are reserved at the Marriot at Eagle Crest for \$119.00/night. <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtwys-ann-arbor-marriott-ypsilanti-at-eagle-crest/>

Mention that you are connected with the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology and to get that rate. The cutoff date for this block of rooms is Friday, September 19, 2008.

Directions can be found on our website

<http://www.mi-asm.org/Meetings/fall08meeting/directions.htm>

[mprog/faculty/huffnagle.htm](http://www.umich.edu/~mprog/faculty/huffnagle.htm)) from University of Michigan's Department of Internal Medicine (Pulmonary) and as well as the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Dr Huffnagle's research interests include the relationship between fungal microbiota of the lung and the host's immune response.

Saturday's initial lecture on "*Uncovering mechanisms important for probiotic action*" will be delivered by Michigan State University's Dr. Robert Britton (<http://www.msu.edu/~rbritton>) from the Microbial Genomics Laboratory, Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics. Dr. Britton's varied research interests include beneficial role of intestinal microbiota with specific attention to the genomics of probiotic bacteria that lead to the inhibition enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (EPEC) and enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC). The final lecture, "*Complex microbial communities and*

human health", will be presented by Dr. Vincent B. Young (<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/younglab/home>) who is from the University of Michigan's Department of Internal Medicine and Department of Microbiology and Immunology. The varied research interests of the "Young Lab" include the role endogenous microbiota in the pathogenesis of acute and chronic gastrointestinal disease.

In addition to the meeting's poster session, we will continue student research presentations which were a great success when introduced at our Spring 2008 meeting. This promises to be another outstanding meeting; please plan to attend, register early and consider bringing others with you!

Your Board believes that the MI-ASM is one of the most active state branches in the country but to remain strong we need your help...as a professional or a student at any level... we

encourage you to be involved and share your ideas!!

Please take time to explore the MI-ASM web site (<http://mi-asm.org>) for additional meeting information, student chapter updates, position announcements and links to additional sites....

Councilor's Report

Kris Baumgarten

The following items were acted upon at the ASM Council Meeting on June 4, 2008.

The Council awarded an honorary membership to Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr. Fauci is a noted researcher in the field of HIV/AIDS and has been a keynote speaker at many ASM General Meetings and ICAAC Meetings.

The Council voted to change the status of the International Committee from a CPC Committee to a Board. The Council also voted to continue the 5-year authorization to increase dues by \$2.00 per year, to begin in 2009 and continue through 2013.

The Council also voted to transfer the territory of South Nevada from the Southern California Branch to the Arizona Branch and subsequently change the name of the Arizona Branch to the Arizona/South Nevada Branch.

Spring 2008 Awards

Oral Presentations

Best Oral Presentation, Undergraduate
Elizabeth A. Weage, Albion College

Best Oral Presentation, Graduate
Juliana R. Bordowitz, Michigan State University

Poster Presentations

Best Poster Presentation, Undergraduate
Jaime Zlamal, Central Michigan University

Best Poster Presentation, Graduate
Veronica Garcia-Bayo, Western Michigan University

The following new student chapters were approved by the Council: Juniata College Student Chapter, Louisiana State University and A&M College Student Chapter, the Uniformed Services University Student Chapter, the University of West Florida Student Chapter, and our very own UM-Dearborn Student

Chapter. There are now 91 student chapters.

During the Council meeting, Dr. Stanley Malloy talked about the One Health Initiative. The One Health Initiative recognizes the interrelationships among human, animal, and environmental health. Societies which are

Student Chapters

Check them out online. Most have links to their own websites.
<http://www.mi-asm.org/Student%20Chapters/student.html>

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club
- Michigan State University Microbiology Club
- Michigan Technological University
- Tri-Cities Microbiology Club
- University of Michigan - Dearborn
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University

involved in the One Health Initiative include the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Health (ASTMH), the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the CDC, and the ASM.



Lida Mattman: WSU prof was a state Hall of Famer

*Joe Rossiter, Free Press Staff Writer,
August 19, 2008, Used with permission*

Lida Mattman, a professor of microbiology at Wayne State University for more than three decades, whose contributions as a researcher and author earned her a spot in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, died Aug. 6 at the Golden Years Retreat in Essexville. The cause of death was a form of liver failure. She was 96.

Mrs. Mattman was recognized for her work with diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, Lou Gehrig's disease, scleroderma and Parkinson's. Her book, "Cell Wall Deficient Forms," written in 1974, was regarded as an invaluable education tool among researchers, students and physicians in the field of microbiology.

"Like the ripple effect upon the water, the influence of a great teacher never ceases, and that basically defines the type of positive effect she had upon me and countless other students," said James Gray, a former pupil and current microbiology professor at Wayne County Community College. "If you were willing to be there she would work with you in the lab all night long as an adviser."

Born Lida Holmes in Denver, she earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in microbiology and virology respectively from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in immunology from Yale University in 1940.

In addition to doing research at the universities of Iowa and Pennsylvania, she served as director of clinical laboratories for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and was an instructor at the Harvard School of Public Health.

After she married Dr. Paul E. Mattman in 1944, the couple moved to Detroit.

Mrs. Mattman joined the Wayne State faculty in 1949 and is credited with ushering thousands of would-be doctors and nurses into the medical profession. She was awarded the university's President's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Research in 1977. She retired in 1982, and was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra Augustine; a son, Dr. Paul H. Mattman, and five grandchildren.

A memorial service is set for 1 p.m. Aug. 31 in the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe.

Spring Conference

Kris Baumgarten

The 2009 MI-ASM Spring Conference will be held Saturday, March 28 at Delta College. The proposed theme is the "One Health Initiative."

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- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, stbagley@mtu.edu

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