

THE SCOPE

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

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President's Report

Anne Casper

Hello Michigan Microbiologists! I'm honored to serve as your MI-ASM President this academic year. By way of introduction for those of you I haven't met yet, I'm an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Eastern Michigan University. My research lab is focused on yeast genetics, particularly DNA repair by homologous recombination. I currently have one Master's student and seven undergraduates working with me in the lab. MI-ASM has two great meetings planned for the upcoming year. Next month I look forward to seeing you up north at Lake Superior State University for our fall meeting, October 21-22. The theme is "Defense Against the Viral Arts" and we'll hear talks about HSV-1, Ebola, and other infectious agents. In April, our spring meeting will be held at Michigan State University. We'll have details for you soon about the date and theme. The MI-ASM meetings are always strongly supportive of student researchers, and I encourage you to have your graduate and undergraduate mentees submit abstracts for poster

presentations and short talks. The planning committees for both of this year's meetings have worked hard to make these meetings happen -- a big thank you to all of them. Also, I'd like

Corporate Partners

American Proficiency Institute

Corning
Coy Laboratory Products

Dot Scientific
EMB Millipore
Emergent Biosolutions
Innovative Solutions
MidSci

Promega
Pearson Education
Remel Microbiology Products
USA Scientific
Whatman

to especially thank Anne Spain for her leadership as President of MI-ASM, and to John Geiser as Treasurer and Jen Hess Secretary this past year. The Michigan Branch of ASM continues to be strong and vibrant through the work of many hands!

Anne Casper, EMU Biology

Spring Meeting 2017

Jennifer Hess

The Spring 2017 meeting is tentatively planned to be held in East Lansing at Michigan State University. Be on the lookout for more information early in 2017!

Introducing the ASM Speakers' Bureau!

Sue Bagley

The ASM Speakers' Bureau was established to educate ASM Student Chapter members about the microbiology-related career opportunities outside of academia and its goal is to attract students to the profession.

Speakers (who must be ASM members) discuss their

career highlights, day-to-day responsibilities, and give suggestions on how to acquire a job upon graduation. Presentations are expected to be about 15 minutes and can be live, for example in-person or via a system such as a Google hangout or Adobe connect, or previously videotaped. Recruitment of speakers began in 2013 and a pilot launch was conducted. Based on the students' and speakers' feedback, the Speakers' Bureau was deemed a success and a larger-scale launch is now underway! There are currently 75 ASM Speakers who are available to discuss their dynamic careers in areas such as:

- Biological Safety
- Clinical Microbiology or Immunology
- Food and Dairy Microbiology
- Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices
- Public Health

Additional speakers are being sought, in particular in areas dealing with bioremediation, biotechnology, indoor air quality, industrial microbiology, policy, technical sales, and water.

ASM recently emailed Student Chapters and

Advisors within the Michigan Branch about this program. Those interested in locating speakers should go to the [Bureau's website](#) to learn more. Please feel free to contact Nicole Jackson, ASM Staff, with any questions by telephone at 202-942-9257 or by email at professionalpractice@asmusa.org.

To schedule in a live event with a local speaker, a recorded presentation or video call presentation, email professionalpractice@asmusa.org. ASM staff will contact the requested speaker to

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Please plan to join us for the Spring 2017 meeting: April 1, 2017 at Michigan State University in East Lansing!

Defense Against the Viral Arts

October 21-22, 2016, Lake Superior State University, Sault Sainte Marie, MI

Friday, October 21st

6:30-8:00 pm	Board Dinner	Freighter's Restaurant 240 West Portage Avenue, Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
8:15 pm	Student Mixer	

Saturday, October 22nd

7:45-8:45 am	Breakfast and Registration	Lake Superior State University
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction and Welcome Anne Casper, Branch President	Crawford Hall of Science
9:00 – 9:50 am	Plenary Session 1 Karen Denzler, Ph.D. Grand Canyon University <i>"Characterization of Antiviral Activity of a Botanical Extract toward HSV-1"</i>	
9:50-10:50 am	Poster/Vendor viewing Coffee break	
10:50-11:50 am	Student Speakers 1-4	
11:50 – 12:50 pm	Lunch and Business Meeting	
12:50-1:40 pm	Plenary Session 2 Steven Bradfute, Ph.D. Center for Global Health, Department of Internal Medicine University of New Mexico School of Medicine <i>"Improving and Understanding Ebola Virus Immunity"</i>	
1:40-1:50 pm	Student Award Presentations and Board Announcements	
1:50-2:40 pm	Plenary Session 3 Simon Dove, Ph.D. Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology Harvard University <i>"Dying to be Pathogenic: A Self-lysis Pathway Promotes the Virulence of Pseudomonas aeruginosa"</i>	
2:40 pm	Meeting Adjourns	
3:00 pm	Board Meeting Planning Committee: Martha Hutchens, Britton Ranson, Josh Sharp, Steve Techtmann, and Ebenezer Tumban	

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Once the presentation has been scheduled, Student Chapter representatives will work directly with the speaker to finalize the event’s specifics (e.g., address of where the presentation will be held, A/V need and/or or the number of expected attendees for a live event). There is no cost to the chapter but students will be asked to complete a post-presentation survey. Any ASM member outside of academia who is interested in joining the Speakers’ Bureau should also contact Ms. Jackson.

Consider applying for the MI-ASM Student Travel Award

Students: have you considered applying for MI-ASM’s student travel award? Here are the criteria and instructions for applying:

Description

Awards of up to \$500 each will be granted to individual students to provide funding that will enable the awardee to attend and present his/her research at an appropriate microbiology or microbiology-related

scientific meeting. Awards (up to 2 per year) will be given annually and will be awarded at the Spring meeting of the Michigan branch of the American Society for Microbiology. **The application deadline is Dec. 1st of each year. If this date should fall on a weekend, applications will be due Monday following Dec. 1st.**

Eligibility

This award is intended for students in the biological sciences who are preparing for a career in the field of microbiology by actively participating in a microbiology research project. At the time of application, an applicant must (1) be currently enrolled in an accredited educational institution in Michigan, (2) have presented an oral or poster presentation at a regional meeting of the Michigan branch of the American Society for Microbiology within one year *prior* to the application deadline, and (3)

plan on presenting this research at a national or international microbiology or microbiology-related scientific meeting.

Undergraduate students and first-year graduate students are especially encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

The following application documents should be sent on or prior to the application deadline to Michigan ASM via email at

michaelpressler2@delta.edu

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1. A completed application form filled out by the student applying for the award.
2. A one-page statement written by the student describing the scope of his/her research project, his/her involvement in the research project, and a brief description of how this award will help the student in achieving his/her goals toward a career in microbiology or microbiology-related field.
3. One letter of

See you at MI-ASM

Elected Officers

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PAST PRESIDENT, Anne Spain, Ferris State University, annespain@ferris.edu
SECRETARY, Jennifer Hess, Aquinas College, hessjen@aquinas.edu
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ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Steve Gorsich, Central Michigan University, gorsi1sw@cmich.edu

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Student Chapters

Check them out online, <http://www.mi-asm.org>.
 Most have links to their own websites.

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

***** Student Chapters,
 remember to apply for
 funding to help defray
 costs of attending
 Meetings!**

reference from the applicant's primary research advisor, addressing why the applicant is a good candidate for this award and justifying the need for financial assistance towards the applicant's travel. Letters should be signed and submitted separately, as a PDF document, to the email address above on or prior to the application deadline.

Notification of Award Recipients

Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their application by email on or before **Feb. 1st** following the application deadline. Awardees will also be recognized at the spring meeting of the Michigan branch of the American Society for Microbiology.