

THE SCOPE

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

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President's Report

John Geiser

It will not be long until we are gathering at Michigan State University for our fall conference on Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9. The theme of the meeting this fall is "Microbiology Methods for Education and Exploration" and features three keynote speakers. As in past years, there will be an optional dinner and social gathering on Friday night as well as a formal lunch on Saturday which will double as the Branch business meeting (see page 2 for details). Several corporate partners will also be on hand to answer questions and display their new products. Please register and submit your abstracts now; it is your presence at these meetings that make them so vital!

We will kick-off our meeting Friday evening with our first guest speaker. **Dr. Carney Matheson**, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Department of Biology at Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada will present his talk, "**Paleomicrobiology and the Diseases of the Past**".

Dr. Matheson studies biomolecules and the processes

of their degradation. His primary research interest is in method development for recovery of macromolecules from biological material. His research emphasis has been on biological remains

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Corporate Partners

BD Diagnostics
Corning
Coy Laboratory Prod.
Dot Scientific
EMD
Emergent
Fisher Scientific
Hardy Diagnostics
Innovative Solutions
Jade Scientific
Mager Scientific
Midwest Scientific
Morton Publishing
NSF International
Pall Life Sciences
Pfizer Animal Health
Promega
Remel
Sigma Aldrich
USA Scientific
Whatman

Microbiology Methods for Education and Exploration

October 8-9, Michigan State University

Friday, October 8th

4:00 - 5:15 pm	<p>Plenary Session 1 Carney Matheson, PhD Department of Anthropology and Department of Biology Lakehead University, <i>Canada</i> <i>“Paleomicrobiology and the Diseases of the Past”</i></p>	158, Nat. Res. Bld.
6:00 - ??? pm	Student Mixer/Reception	Reno’s Sports Bar and Grill (East) 1310 Abbot Rd.
7:00 - ??? pm	Board Dinner	Beggars Banquet, 218 Abbott Road

Saturday, October 9th

8:00 - 8:50 am	Breakfast and Registration	Concourse, MSU Union
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction and Welcome	Gold AB, MSU Union
9:00 - 10:00 am	<p>Plenary Session 2 Mark Mozola, PhD Vice President, Research and Development Neogen Corporation <i>“Rapid, Automated Detection of Microorganisms in Foods Using the Soleris® System”</i></p>	Gold AB, MSU Union
10:15 - 11:15 am	Poster/Vendor viewing Coffee break	Ballroom and Concourse, MSU Union
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Student Speakers	Gold AB, MSU Union
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch and Business Meeting	Gold AB, MSU Union
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<p>Plenary Session 3 Christopher Woolverton, PhD Environmental Health Sciences Director of Kent State’s Center for Public Health Preparedness Kent State University <i>“Active and Responsive Learning Skills for the Clinical Laboratorian”</i></p>	Gold AB, MSU Union
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Final Notes	Gold AB, MSU Union
3:30 pm	Adjourn	
3:45 - ??? pm	Board Meeting	Ballroom Sun Porch, MSU Union

More information for the meeting including directions and hotels, can be found online at
<http://www.mi-asm.org/>

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that have proved challenging to recover biomolecules from using conventional methods. Design and development of methods to retrieve macromolecules of interest from degraded remains has applications in numerous fields, principally archaeology, forensic and medical science (*taken from Dr. Matheson's website*).

Saturday morning starts off with a presentation by **Dr. Mark Mozola**, VP of Research and Development at Neogen Corporation. Neogen's Food Safety Division develops and markets dehydrated culture media, and rapid diagnostic test kits to detect foodborne bacteria, spoilage organisms, mycotoxins, food allergens, genetic modifications, drug residues, plant diseases, and sanitation concerns. Neogen's Animal Safety Division develops and markets a complete line of diagnostics, veterinary instruments, veterinary pharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements, disinfectants, and rodenticides (*taken from Neogen's website*). Dr. Mozola will discuss Neogen's recent work in "**Rapid, Automated Detection of Microorganisms in Foods Using the Soleris® System**".

Our third speaker of the meeting is **Dr. Chris Woolverton**, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and Director of Kent State's Center for Public Health

Preparedness, Kent State University. Dr. Woolverton will present his talk on the "**Active and Responsive Learning Skills for the Clinical Laboratorian**". Dr. Woolverton's laboratory uses modern principles and practices of applied microbiology to study infection control. These include exploitation of anisotropic properties of liquid crystals to create an extremely sensitive amplifier of antibody-based detection systems resulting in real-time detection of bacteria and viruses and exploitation of chemical properties of biological polymers to trap antimicrobial products within the polymer matrix for controlled, long-term drug delivery to eradicate pathogenic organisms (*taken from Dr. Woolverton's website*).

In addition to these three great talks, we will have both oral and poster presentations by students with awards for best presentations in each format. Four student speakers will give 15 minute talks on their research during the Saturday schedule. Thanks go to Joan Rose (MSU) and Sue Bagley (MTU) for their continuous work with the student presentations. The branch encourages undergraduates and graduate students to

participate in either presenting a short presentation on their research or a poster highlighting their work.

Please visit the Michigan ASM website for further details and lodging options, <http://www.mi-asm.org>.

Spr Meeting 2011

Jennifer Hess

Plans are in the works for our Spring meeting at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Stay tuned for updates at the meeting and on the website. Tentative dates are April 8th and 9th.

Spr. 2010 Awards

Best Poster

Petra Kohler, Western Michigan University, graduate

Khadija A. Abbas, Eastern Michigan University, undergraduate

Best Talk

Brett Hanson, Wayne State University, graduate

Michael J O'Connor, University of Michigan, undergraduate

Elected Officers

- PRESIDENT, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, john.geiser@wmich.edu
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, rosejo@msu.edu
- PAST PRESIDENT, Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, KBaum11944@aol.com
- SECRETARY, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, audraswarthout@delta.edu
- TREASURER, Alan Hudson**, Wayne State University, ahudson@med.wayne.edu
- COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, stbagley@mtu.edu
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, gorsi1sw@cmich.edu

Appointed Officers

- EDUCATIONAL CHAIR, Kris Baumgarten**, KBaum11944@aol.com
- CORPORATE LIAISON, Michael A. Cohen**, mbcman@charter.net
- UNIVERSITY and COLLEGE LIAISON, Jeff L. Ram**, Wayne State University, jeffram@med.wayne.edu
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, john.geiser@wmich.edu
- WEBSITE MAINTENANCE, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, john.geiser@wmich.edu
- ARCHIVE REPRESENTATIVE, Richard Bell**, Macomb CommuAs nity College, bellr@macomb.edu
- COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIAISON, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, audraswarthout@delta.edu

Board Members-at-large

- Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), mcardani@comcast.net
- Dan Clemans**, Eastern Michigan University, dclemans@emich.edu
- Jennifer Hess**, Aquinas College, hessjen@acuinas.edu
- Carol Hurlburt**, Lansing Community College, hurlbuc@lcc.edu
- Sheri Mayrberg**, University of Michigan-Flint, mayrberg@umflint.edu
- Ola Olapade**, Albion College, oolapade@albion.edu
- Britt Ranson Olson**, Lake Superior State University, branson@lssu.edu
- Silvia Rossbach**, Western Michigan University, Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu
- Michael Ryan**, Ferris State University, ryanm@ferris.edu
- Jim VandenBosch**, Eastern Michigan University, jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu
- Judith Whittum-Hudson**, Wayne State University, jhudson@med.wayne.edu

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
- 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!**

President-Elect

Joan Rose

Hello to my fellow microbiologists. I am so pleased to be elected president of the Branch for the next year. I have been in Michigan for 9 years now. Hard to believe how quickly the time has gone by. I joined Michigan State University from Florida (yes I moved from Florida to Michigan!) to be part of the excellence in microbiology and focus on water and quality in the Great Lakes region.

I serve as the co-director of the Center for Water Sciences <http://cws.msu.edu/> here at MSU and we have been very involved in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Michigan is a leader in Great Lakes research, of the 270 projects awarded by the GLRI (\$161 million), scientists in the state of Michigan obtained 99 of these more than any other state (\$63 million).

Our group here at MSU is currently focusing on water microbiology, water quality and public health safety and we have been involved in the investigation of numerous waterborne outbreaks world-wide. The work we do

examines new molecular methods for waterborne pathogens and zoonotic agents such as *Cryptosporidium* and enteric viruses and source tracking techniques. We are specifically interested in microbial pathogen transport in coastal systems and have studied the impact of wastewater discharges and climate on water quality. Our other interest is quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) and we have been involved in an EPA/DHS center called CAMRA <http://www.camra.msu.edu/>. We have been involved in running a summer institute on QMRA for graduate students and are now developing QMRA tools for beaches.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall meeting in Oct. 2010 and in working with you. Finally, I would enjoy any opportunity to visit your campus or group and provide a lecture on water microbiology and health over the next year, so let me know.

**See you at
MI-ASM**

General Meeting Changes

Silvia Rossbach

As the councilor of the Michigan Branch, I attended the council meeting held during the General Meeting in May 2010 in San Diego. Here are some notes about the new format of the General Meeting that will be in effect for the 2011 General Meeting: The meeting will start on Saturday with the large plenary lecture that used to be on Sunday night, followed by three full meeting days, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, with no additional half day any more. The changes were made to save hotel costs and days off from work. Looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

2011 General Meeting, May 21-24, New Orleans

Student Info.

John Geiser

Student Chapters

Currently the branch sponsors nine student chapters. This makes us one

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of the most student-oriented branches that ASM has. The following Schools and Universities throughout the State have student chapters: Michigan Tech, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, Wayne State, and Delta College. Student chapters are a great place to meet up with like-minded people. If you haven't already checked yours out, please do so; you will not regret it. No chapter at your school? Then maybe you are the one to begin a new chapter! Contact any board member to learn more about starting your chapter. We would be happy to work with you to make this a possibility.

Research and Travel awards

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology is able to provide substantial support for student research and travel. The Gerhardt Endowment is used to enhance the microbiology research training of undergraduate and early stage graduate students within the State of Michigan. Information for applying for funding can be found on the branch website,

<http://www.mi-asm.org>.

At the April 2010 meeting, three graduate students were awarded funds to travel to the National Meeting in San Diego: Petra Kohler from Dr. Silvia Rossbach's laboratory at Western Michigan University, Vanessa Revindran from Dr. John Geiser's laboratory at Western Michigan University, and Miles Rogers from Dr. Maria Scott's laboratory at Western Michigan University. While it may seem strange that all three are from Western Michigan University, these were the only three that applied. We encourage all of our students to apply for these resources. Feel free to discuss it with any board member or your chapter advisor. Next time it may be your name here if you apply!

Student Scholarship Endowment

Jim VandenBosch, Mike Ryan, Alan Hudson

The board is currently weighing options to sustain board support for student research and travel grants in perpetuity. Towards that end, we have been discussing establishment of an endowment to support student scholarship. The

following is a rough draft that will be discussed at the board meeting following the Fall Meeting.

"The Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology endowed student scholarship provides financial support for student research and travel. The endowment is invested so that the principle will grow in pace with inflation. All interest earned by the endowment will be reinvested with the purpose of growing the principle until such time that the investment strategy can be shifted to allow for disbursements that do not erode the real value of the endowment. Therefore, any contribution will grow in perpetuity to provide support for future student awards. Each year any increase in funds exceeding inflation for the year, as measured by the published Consumer Price Index, will be eligible for disbursement."

Please direct feedback, ideas, concerns to:

- Michael Ryan**
ryanm@ferris.edu
- Alan Hudson**
ahudson@med.wayne.edu
- Jim VandenBosch**
jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu