

# THE SCOPE

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

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## President's Report

*Steve Gorsich*

Welcome everyone to the 2013/2014 academic year. This year promises to be a busy and productive year for our chapter. I want to begin by thanking Audra Swarhout for her commitment and leadership as the chapter's president last year.

The Michigan branch of ASM is one of the stronger branches. Due to the volunteer work by our members and officers we have maintained a consistently strong chapter. I will highlight a few examples. First, we have remained financially strong over the years while keeping our meeting and registration costs relatively low. In fact, we are one of the few branches that still maintains two annual meetings. Many thanks go to our past and current treasurers, Drs. Alan Hudson and John Geiser, who have guided us these past several years. Second, our branch remains active in education, by initiatives with high school teachers and students, by offering friendly forums for our students to present, and by supporting many student chapters throughout our branch. Our student chapters continue to impress me with

their leadership, their active participation within our branch, and how well they represent us at the ASM General Meeting. Lastly our branch remains strong because of the high level of

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## Corporate Partners

Corning  
Coy Laboratory  
Products  
Dot Scientific  
EMD Chemicals  
EMD Chemical  
Millipore  
Emergent  
BioSolutions  
Innovative Solutions  
Midwest Scientific  
Pearson  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Promega  
REMEL  
USA Scientific  
Whatman

# Microbiology: A Little Something for Everyone

October 18-19, 2013, Delta College

## Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

4:30-5:30 pm	<b>Friday Plenary Session</b> <b>Amy Cheng Vollmer, Ph.D.</b> Chair, Department of Biology Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA <i>"Using Microbiology to Teach Science Literacy"</i>	<b>Delta College Planetarium</b>
6:00 pm	Student/faculty Mixer and Board Dinner	<b>Atrium, Bay City</b>

## Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

7:45-8:45 am	Breakfast and Registration	<b>Delta College Planetarium</b>
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction and Welcome Steve Gorsich, Branch President	
9:00 - 10:00 am	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> <b>Amy Cheng Vollmer, Ph.D.</b> Chair, Department of Biology Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA <i>"Using Bacteria in the Detection of Environmental Stress Response "</i>	
10:00 - 11:00 am	Poster/Vendor viewing Coffee break	
11:00 - 12:00 pm	<b>Student Speakers</b>	
12:00 - 1:15 pm	Lunch and Business Meeting	
1:15 - 2:15 pm	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> <b>Kelli Palmer</b> University of Texas, Dallas <i>"Genomic insights into enterococcal antibiotic resistance"</i>	
2:15-2:30 pm	Student Award Presentations and Board Announcements	
2:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> <b>Barbara Robinson-Dunn, Ph.D.</b> Professor of Pathology and Technical Director of Clinical Microbiology Oakland U. Wm. Beaumont School of Medicine, Royal Oak, MI <i>"The Revolution in Clinical Microbiology"</i>	
3:30 pm	Meeting adjourns	
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Board Meeting	

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

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commitment we all put into our branch and how new members step eagerly into leadership roles. This past year we saw several of our members retire and I would like to thank them all for their tireless commitment to the success of our branch. Though retired, I suspect they will continue being active within our branch. Some of these members include, Dr. Susan Bagley and Dr. Alan Hudson who have served as elected board officers.

One fairly unique feature of our branch is that we maintain two meetings a year. This takes a great deal of work and commitment from the meeting organizers. In addition, we cannot thank our corporate partners enough who support our two annual meetings. I want to take some time to thank the organizers of our Spring 2013 meeting, Drs. Michael Ryan and Anne Spain, for organizing an excellent program on "Anaerobes" at Ferris State University. At the meeting we all learned more about the anaerobic world in our guts, the hot springs, and the deep sea. In addition we had an excellent line up of student oral and poster presenters. These students presented their research on a range of topics including research on cyanobacteria, waterborne pathogens, bacteriophage in waste sewage, biofilms, chlamydial vaccine development, bacterial

pathogens of the Great Lake beaches, bacteria and chromium cycling, and many more diverse student presentations. Thank you again to Michael and Anne for another great meeting, and we look forward to coming back to Ferris State University for a future meeting.

Our Fall Branch Meeting will be at Delta College (Oct 18-19). The organizers, Audra Swarhout and Michael Pressler, have prepared another exciting program "Microbiology: A Little Something for Everybody." As the name suggests the program will be attractive to anyone interested in microbiology. On Friday night (Oct 18) Dr. Amy Vollmer will discuss with us how microbiology can be used to teach science literacy. The Saturday program will include presentations on "Using Bacteria in the Detection of Environmental Stress Responses" and "The Revolution in Clinical Microbiology." In addition there will be presentations from students. There is still time for students to submit their abstracts, so encourage them to do so. We are all looking forward to our Fall meeting at Delta and our Spring meeting at Davenport University.

I look forward to another great year from our branch. As we continue to grow I encourage anyone who is interested in becoming more active in the branch to let us know. In addition, if you have any questions or suggestions please let myself or one of the other board members know. I hope to see everyone in a few weeks at Delta College and I hope everyone has a great semester.

### Spring 2013 Awards

#### Best Poster

**Michael W. Hensen,**  
Central Michigan University, graduate  
**Elizabeth Stinson,** Grand Valley State University, undergraduate

#### Best Oral Presentation

**Matthew T. Flood,**  
Michigan State University, graduate  
**Zachery Geurin,** Michigan State University, undergraduate

**Elected Officers**

- PRESIDENT, Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, [gorsi1sw@cmich.edu](mailto:gorsi1sw@cmich.edu)
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Michael Pressler**, Delta College, [michaelpressler2@delta.edu](mailto:michaelpressler2@delta.edu)
- PAST PRESIDENT, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)
- SECRETARY, Jennifer Hess**, Aquinas College, [hessjen@aquinas.edu](mailto:hessjen@aquinas.edu)
- TREASURER, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- COUNCILOR, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu)
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)

**Appointed Officers**

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

**Board Members-at-large**

- Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, [KBaum11944@aol.com](mailto:KBaum11944@aol.com)
- Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), [mcardani@comcast.net](mailto:mcardani@comcast.net)
- Dan Clemans**, Eastern Michigan University, [dclmans@emich.edu](mailto:dclmans@emich.edu)
- Ola Olapade**, Albion College, [oolapade@albion.edu](mailto:oolapade@albion.edu)
- Britt Ranson Olson**, Lake Superior State University, [branson@lssu.edu](mailto:branson@lssu.edu)
- Silvia Rossbach**, Western Michigan University, [Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu](mailto:Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)
- Michael Ryan**, Ferris State University, [ryanm@ferris.edu](mailto:ryanm@ferris.edu)
- Jim VandenBosch**, Eastern Michigan University, [jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu](mailto:jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu)
- Judith Whittum-Hudson**, Wayne State University, [jhudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:jhudson@med.wayne.edu)
- Anne Spain**, Ferris State University, [annespain@ferris.edu](mailto:annespain@ferris.edu)
- Michael Pressler**, Delta College, [michaelpressler2@delta.edu](mailto:michaelpressler2@delta.edu)
- Sonia Tiqua**, UM-Dearborn, [smtiquia@umd.umich.edu](mailto:smtiquia@umd.umich.edu)
- Susan Gunn**, Davenport University, [sgunn3@davenport.edu](mailto:sgunn3@davenport.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
- Grand Valley 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!**

## Spring Meeting 2014

*Jennifer Hess*

The Spring 2014 meeting will be held on March 28-29, 2014 at the Lettinga Campus of Davenport University, which is in Grand Rapids. The program is entitled "The Human Microbiome." Be on the lookout for more information early in 2014!

## Student Info.

*John Geiser*

### Student Chapters

Currently the branch sponsors ten student chapters. This makes us one 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, Delta College and Grand Valley State University. 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>.

We encourage all of our students to apply for these resources. Feel free to discuss it with any board member or your chapter advisor.

**See you at  
MI-ASM**

## Finance Report

*John Geiser*

As of August 2, 2013, our bank account balance is \$19,845. We have two CD's that are currently collecting interest.

## Faculty Member at WMU School of Medicine Looking to Start a Faculty Group

*Bonny Dickinson*

I'm a new faculty member at the Western Michigan University School of Medicine and I'm starting to put together a group of Microbiology and Immunology teaching faculty at the medical schools in Michigan. I'd like to start an annual meeting of teaching faculty to discuss items relevant to teaching our content in the ever changing preclinical medical curriculum.

I've started a website for the group that better explains what I would like to accomplish:

<http://societyofmicrobiologyandimmunologymedicaleducators.com>

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I'm new to the Michigan area and was happy to find the local ASM branch! If you're interested, please contact one of the MI-ASM officers who can help you make contact with me.

## Biographical Information of Fall 2013 Meeting Speakers:

### *Amy Cheng Vollmer:*

**Dr. Amy Cheng Vollmer** completed her B.A. in biochemistry from Rice University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. After her post-doctoral research in immunology at Stanford Medical School, she spent four year as a member of the Biology Department at Mills College in Oakland, CA. Since 1989, she has been a faculty member at Swarthmore College, where she is chair of her department. At Swarthmore she teaches courses in microbiology, biotechnology, and team-teaches in the introductory biology course. She has also offered courses in bioethics and adult learning courses about bacteria and viruses. Presently, she is planning a new course in astrobiology. Her research focuses in the area of bacterial stress response and she has supervised over 60 undergraduate students in projects in her laboratory. Many of her students have presented their work at national meetings. She has published numerous papers and

has authored a dozen chapters and reviews - in areas of teaching as well as research. She lectures on her research, teaching, and promoting science literacy. She is also often invited to speak about mentoring, networking, job hunting and career development. Actively involved in the American Society for Microbiology for many years, in 2006 (in Education, Membership, the General Microbiology Division, and presently on the General Meeting Planning Committee) she was the recipient of the Carski Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from the ASM's American Academy for Microbiology. Since 2007, she has served as president of the Waksman Foundation for Microbiology.

### *Barbara Robinson-Dunn:*

**Barbara Robinson-Dunn, Ph.D., D(ABMM), FIDSA** is the Technical Director of Microbiology at Beaumont Health System in Royal Oak, Michigan and has held this position since March 2001. Prior to that she was the Director of Microbiology at the Michigan Department of Community Health for 17 years. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1981 and was a Fellow in Public Health and Clinical Laboratory Microbiology at North Carolina Memorial Hospital, University of North Carolina from 1981-1984. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1973 and the Master of Science Degree in Medical Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1977. In 1987 she became a Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology, American Academy of Microbiology and in 1997,

became a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. In 2003, she was appointed to the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee for a four-year term. Dr. Robinson-Dunn has been an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at Michigan State University since 1990 and was appointed Professor of Pathology in the new Oakland University/William Beaumont School of Medicine. She was the Chair of the Division of Clinical Microbiology of the American Society for Microbiology in 2011-2012. Her interests are tuberculosis, fungal diseases, the detection of antimicrobial resistance, molecular detection of infectious diseases and the detection of emerging infectious diseases.