President’s Report

Mike Ryan

The Spring 2009 meeting will be held Friday - Saturday March 27-28 at Delta Community College. Kris Baumgarten and Audra Swarthout of Delta have taken the lead in organizing this meeting whose topic that promises to be both interesting and timely: The One Health Initiative: The Interrelationship between Humans, Animals, and Pathogens.

Dr. Kimberly Signs of the Michigan Department of Community Health will deliver the Friday evening talk, "Zoonotic Diseases: The Convergence of Animal and Human Health". Kimberly Signs, DVM, is a zoonotic disease epidemiologist in the Division of Communicable Disease at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

On Saturday, Laura Kramer, Ph.D. will present a talk entitled “The Global Emergence of Mosquito-borne Viruses”. Dr. Kramer, an ASM Branch Lecturer, is a Research Scientist at the Wadsworth Center, Zoonotic Disease and Clinical Virology, New York State Department of Health. She is also an Associate Professor of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Immunology and Infectious Disease, School of Public Health, University of Albany, State University of New York. Dr. Kramer’s research interest as part of the Arbovirus Laboratories, focuses on studies examining the interaction of mosquito and tick-borne arboviruses, arthropod vectors, and vertebrate hosts, and how this interaction impacts the transmission cycle of the pathogen. The research program includes studies with alpha- and flavi-viruses, examining intrinsic (genetic) and extrinsic (temperature, dose, time after infection) factors affecting vectorial capacity. Studies also include molecular epidemiologic studies of West Nile virus; the development of new assays for arboviruses in mosquito pools and vertebrate tissues; and mosquito genetics.

The third speaker will be Dr. Julie Funk, who will present her talk, “Foodborne Zoonoses: Control on the farm”. Dr. Funk is the Program Director for the Master

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The One Health Initiative: The Interrelationship between Humans, Animals, and Pathogens

March 27-28, 2009, Delta College

Friday, March 27
5:30 - 6:30 pm  Plenary Speaker 1  F-013
Dr. Kimberly Signs, DVM (website)
Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Communicable Disease Division
Michigan Department of Community Health
"Zoonotic Diseases: The Convergence of Animal and Human Health"

6:30 - 7:30 pm  Mixer  Commons
7:45 - 9:45 pm  MI-ASM Board Dinner  Bay Valley

Saturday, March 28
7:45 – 8:50 am  Breakfast and Registration  Founders Hall
8:50 – 9:00 am  Introduction  Lecture Theater
9:00 – 10:00 am  Plenary Speaker 2  Lecture Theater
Dr. Laura Kramer (website)
ASM Branch Lectureship
Wadsworth Center
New York State Department of Health
“The Global Emergence of Mosquito-borne Viruses”

10:00 – 11:30 am  Poster/vendor viewing  G-wing
11:30 - 12:30 pm  Student Speakers 1-4  Lecture Theater
12:40 – 1:40 pm  Lunch and Business meeting  Commons
1:45 – 2:45 pm  Plenary Speaker 3  Lecture Theater
Dr. Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD (website)
Program Director
Master of Science in Food Safety Program
"Foodborne Zoonoses: Control on the farm"
of Science in Food Safety Program at Michigan State University and an Associate Professor of pre-harvest food safety in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She received her DVM from Michigan State University after which she spent two years as an associate in a predominantly swine practice in Wolcott, Indiana. She has completed a Residency/Masters Program at the University of Illinois in Population Medicine and a PhD from North Carolina State University in Comparative Biomedical Sciences that had an epidemiology focus. Prior to joining Michigan State University, she was an Associate Professor of food safety epidemiology in the Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University. Dr. Funk's research interests include the pre-harvest epidemiology of foodborne pathogens in food animals as well as antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance in food animal populations. (http://www.online.foodsafety.msu.edu/)

In addition to the meeting’s poster session, we will continue student research presentations that were a great success when introduced at last spring’s meeting. A wide variety of vendors will be present as will be additional sites.... Speaking of interesting web sites, try the HealthMap Global Disease Alert, it’s both informative and current! (http://www.healthmap.org)

Hotels
Rooms for Friday night have been reserved at the Bay Valley Resort for $67.00/night. http://www.bayvalley.com/
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 Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Other hotels convenient to the meeting venue can be found on our website (http://www.mi-asm.org/Meetings/spring09meeting/hotels.htm).

Directions to Delta College, the Bay Valley Resort and parking for the meeting can be found on our website.
http://www.mi-asm.org/Meetings/spring09meeting/directions.htm

Cheryl Aslakson, Ph.D. Chair, Exam Development Committee of the American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology, ASM to discuss employment opportunities in clinical microbiology and immunology.

This promises to be yet 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://www.miasm.org) for additional meeting information, student chapter updates, position announcements and links to

Thomas S. Whittam

Thomas S. Whittam, 54, died December 5, 2008 at his daughter’s home in Columbus< Ohio after nearly a two-year battle with brain cancer. He was born March 12, 1954 in Newton, Pennsylvania.
A 1976 graduate from Franklin and Marshall College, he went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and was currently employed as a Hannah professor at Michigan State University. He was mentor to countless undergraduate and graduate students and above all a life-long teacher.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Beth Whittam; three children, Benjamin, Elizabeth and Andrew; his mother, Helen Whittam; sister, Lynda Whittam; as well as other relatives and many friends.

An informal celebration of his life was held on Saturday, December 13, 2008. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to either: Greater Lansing Food Bank or American Brain Tumor Association (http://www.abta.org/).

Dr. Jay has been a Member of IAMFES since 1982. In 1995, he presented the Ivan Parkin Lecture at the Opening Session of the IAMFES 82nd Annual Meeting. He has served on the editorial board of Journal of Food Protection and is the former Associate Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Food Microbiology. Dr. Jay is a Fellow of ASM, IFT, the American Public Health Association, and most recently, IAMFES. In recognition of his achievements in research and teaching and of his contributions to the quality and reputation of the graduate programs, he was the recipient of the 1992 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award from Wayne Status University, James Jay was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Funeral services will be held at the Levett & Sons Funeral Home at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday,

James M. Jay
Free Press

PhD professor and author, died on October 14, 2008 in Atlanta, GA after undergoing a hospital procedure. Professor Jay received his MS and PhD in Microbiology from the Ohio State University and his BS from Paine College in Augusta, GA. He taught at Southern University, and Wayne State University, where he retired after more than 30 years on the faculty. He also served as Adjunct Professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Professor Jay is survived by his wife of 49½ years, Patsie Jane Jay, three children: Mark Jay, Alicia Jay White, and Byron Jay and four grandchildren. He is also survived by three siblings, Gertrude Henley, Rev. Lewis W. Jay, Joseph Jay, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, a host of nieces and nephews, many students and dear friends. Dr. Jay has authored two books and co-authored 150 papers, chapters, and other publications. The publication, Modern Food Microbiology, is in its seventh revision. This publication has been translated into Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, and Chinese.

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

*** Student Chapters, remember to apply for funding to help defray costs of attending meetings!
Fall Conference

Susan Bagley

The 2009 MI-ASM Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 2 & 3 at Lake Superior State University*.

Faculty and students from both Michigan Technological University and Northern Michigan University will assist with the meeting. While details are still being formulated, a working title of, “The Microbiology of Michigan’s Great Lakes” is being used.

Students, please make sure your chapter applies for all funding available to help defray the cost of coming to the Fall meeting.

Finance Report

Alan Hudson

We had a great meeting at Eastern Michigan University (Thanks Lynn, Daniel et al). We ended the meeting with $1,070.14 to the good. This is largely due to the fact that Coy Laboratory Products supported our Breakfast (thank you!) and a few other unexpected turn of events.

In January our CD matured and the $6000 we had invested and interest will be reinvested in another 6 month CD. A second 6 month CD is planned to be purchased around April for $5000. The plan is that we will have a CD maturing every 3 months which will allow us to use the interest for Branch activities if needed.

Approximately $10,000 will be held in liquid assets at all times so that we'll have enough resources to meet any meeting or other needs without touching the CD monies.

Finally, our 501(c)3 status has been renewed for 5 more years.

Fall 2008 Awards

Oral Presentations

Best Oral Presentation, Undergraduate
Lauren Peterson, Michigan State University
Best Oral Presentation, Graduate
Kristi Whitehead, Michigan State University

Poster Presentations

Best Poster Presentation, Undergraduate
Kyle Flippo, Aquinas College
Best Poster Presentation, Graduate
Brett Hanson, Wayne State University

Election

We will be holding an election for MI-ASM President (Term: July 2010 – June 2011) during our Spring business meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or anyone else for this position, please contact current president, Mike Ryan. ryanm@ferris.edu

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COUNCILOR, Silvia Rossbach, Western Michigan University, Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu
ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley, Michigan Technological University, stbagley@mtu.edu

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