

## **MI-ASM Meeting Minutes November 9, 2005**

The MI-ASM board meeting was held at the Brighton Bar and Grill. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Members present:** Mary Ann Cardani (UM-Flint); Daniel Clemans (Eastern University), Mike Cohen, Ralph Gorton (Lansing Community College); Mike Huband (Pfizer), Don LeBlanc, Jeff Ram (Wayne State); Mike Ryan (Ferris State); Sonia Tiquia (UM-Dearborn); Jim Vandebosch (Eastern); Judith Whittum-Hudson (Wayne State)

**Members Absent:** Kris Baumgarten, Debra Hanna, Silvia Rossbach

**Minutes:** There was a correction to the minutes from the June 20, 2005 board meeting. Under Other business, 'Branch 13' was changed to MI-ASM. The corrected minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike Huband reported for Debra Hanna. The balance in The MI-ASM account is \$25,683. This figure includes the Gerhardt funds. We received \$4,000 from Pfizer. The food cost from the Fall meeting must be paid.

**Secretary's Report:** Mary Ann reported that there were 110 people pre-registered for the Fall 2005 meeting. 20 of these did not attend. There were 17 walk-ins for a total of 107 attendees. Jim Vandebosch asked attendees to choose the address they wanted us to use for mailings. We will eliminate the other addresses from our mailing list. When the newsletter was sent out electronically, many were undeliverable. Mary Ann passed these addresses onto Jim and he has removed these e-mail addresses from the registration list. He will also remove the mailing addresses for any newsletters that were returned by the Post Office. We will then create an updated membership list.

Mary Ann also noted that National ASM keeps a list of members from each branch. What names should be sent when National requests our membership list? They are not interested in members that have not attended in the last few years. We need to either reconcile the two lists or distinguish which names are sent on to National. National is most interested in the names of those who are current dues-paying members.

Mike Cohen suggested that we create a board position to oversee student members. Jeff Ram would like a list of University Microbiology departments. These addresses should be e-mailed to the secretary ([mcardani@umflint.edu](mailto:mcardani@umflint.edu)). Dan indicated that we also need a list of community college contacts. Jim offered that the Education Chair could send a copy of our Newsletter to the contact people at each of these institutions.

**Education Chair:** No report. There was a discussion of how to organize an education committee. We decided that Jeff Ram would be responsible for Post-grad education and contacts, Mike Ryan will oversee the 4 year institutions, Kris will be in charge of the 2-yr

institutions and Peggy Liggett could cover K-12 outreach. Kris, Jeff, Mike and Peggy should meet to discuss our outreach efforts. It was pointed out that National ASM has money available for educational outreach through funding for diversification programs. Mary Ann will send an updated membership list to the education committee members.

We might use diversity funds for support of TWIG .

**Spring meeting:** Will be held at Ferris State University, with Mike Ryan and Don LeBlanc hosting. The topic is Microbial Physiology in the Genomics Era. Speakers are Dr. Bob Bender, Dr. John Breznak and Dr. Stan Maloy. Other names mentioned as possible participants are Dr. Fred Niedhart, Dennis Syvitovich and Clay Fuqua.

Rooms have been reserved for the meeting; videotaping arrangements have been made. The lecture hall can accommodate 160 people. Posters and registration tables will be set up in the atrium. Ten rooms are being held at a hotel, and we could reserve up to 25 rooms. Mike solicited ideas for the lunch menu. It was determined that \$12-15 per person is a reasonable price range for lunch.

Don will be investigating facilities for a workshop. We might consider offering a door prize for work shop participants.

Registration for the meeting will be on-line via the MI-ASM website. Ralph Gorton will work on simplifying the registration form, particularly dropping some of the fields. Perhaps we could include a column where the registrants indicate if they wish to take the workshop.

Posters: Don recommended that we issue clear guidelines for presenting posters at our meetings. Each entry should indicate whether a student or instructor is the 1<sup>st</sup> author. Student must be there if poster is submitted for judging. Ralph could identify which posters are eligible for judging. Dan suggested that we develop a template for judging posters. He would like some input on this idea.

**Newsletter:** Jim would like the Spring Newsletter to go out March 1<sup>st</sup>. Send any pertinent info to him by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Job Postings:** Mike Cohen posed the question “Should people seeking employment be allowed to post to the job site?” Could our student members post resumes? Jeff will investigate. We will pursue this topic further after the Spring meeting.

**Corporate liaison:** Since Mike Cohen is moving, how can we possibly replace him? We must find someone for this position.

**Fall '06 meeting:** We briefly discussed possible topics for the Fall '06 meeting: These included Persistent, Emerging Infections; Chlamydia, (Paul Ewald; John Jernigan from CDC); Animal based epidemics; Zoonoses. Suggested sites included Detroit Zoo, Wayne State or Mackinac Island. Sonia, Judith and Don will further investigate these ideas.

**Tribute to Mike Cohen:** The MI-ASM Board extends our deep gratitude to Dr. Mike Cohen for his many years of dedication to our organization. Mike has been the 'glue that has held us together'. He will be greatly missed. We extend our warmest wishes to Mike and his family for a smooth transition to his new home and job. Please visit our MI-ASM website to view some photos and a special tribute to Mike.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Cardani

1/11/06