

# THE SCOPE



Michigan Branch- American Society for Microbiology  
Fall 2004 Conference

## "Microbial Products: From Arsenic and Steroids to Wine and Cheese"

*Friday and Saturday, October 8 & 9, 2004*

*To be held at CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT in Thompsonville, MI.*



The Fall 2004 meeting of the Michigan Branch-American Society for Microbiology will be held at the Crystal Mountain Resort, located in Thompsonville, MI. There will be a Friday evening mixer for students, speakers, and members. On Saturday, three exciting seminars will be given on *Microbial Products: From Arsenic & Steroids to Wine & Cheese* by Drs. David Mills (University of California-Davis; ASM Waksman Foundation Speaker), Kevin A. Short (Pfizer Global R & D), and Simon Silver (University of Chicago) along with a student poster session and corporate sponsor exhibits. Please mark your calendars for this event!

### **President's Report (Silvia Rossbach; Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)**

Greetings! I am honored to serve as the new President of the MI-ASM branch. I am confident that there will be a smooth transition thanks to the good work and great support by the Past President Mike Huband and fellow board members. We have an exciting year ahead of us with the upcoming fall meeting at Crystal Mountain, an increasing membership, and an increasing number of student chapters! There are now active student chapters at Eastern, Central and Western Michigan Universities, MSU, UM-Flint, Tri-Cities and the UP-twig. These student groups promote interest in microbiology by inviting guest speakers to their home institutions and they participate in Branch and national meetings. If you are a student interested in forming a microbiology club at a Michigan university or college, please contact one of our board members! Thanks to the generous gift by Dr. Philip Gerhard and his wife Vera, it is now also possible to honor outstanding student work in microbiology with research and travel awards from the Gerhard Endowment (see [www.mi-asm.org](http://www.mi-asm.org) for further details).

We hope that many of you will be able to attend our fall meeting October 8 and 9 at the Crystal Mountain Resort. We are excited about the three excellent speakers who will enlighten us about "Microbial Products: From Arsenic and Steroids to Wine and Cheese". Students will have the chance to meet speakers and board members at the Friday night student mixer. We thank the National ASM and our corporate sponsors, including Pfizer, for support of our fall meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the fall meeting at Crystal!

### **President-Elect's Message (Daniel Clemans; daniel.clemans@emich.edu)**

During this last academic year, the branch organized two well-attended and exciting meetings at WMU and EMU. Thanks to all for attending! I am confident that we will enjoy the 2004/2005 offering of meetings. I would like to extend a special invitation to our Community College colleagues and members of other colleges and universities in Michigan. I am looking forward to meeting you at the Crystal Mountain Resort!

### **Secretary's Message (Debra Hanna; Debra.Hanna@pfizer.com)**

As the new secretary for MI-ASM I am looking forward to meeting both old and new members at the Fall meeting. Jia Liu has done a great job as past secretary and I'm sure I will have many questions for him. Mike Huband and Silvia Rosenbach have been hard at work planning a unique Fall session at Crystal Mountain. Our students will have an opportunity to meet and mingle at the Friday night mixer and to enjoy the resort atmosphere. We can all look forward to entertaining speakers and beautiful autumn surroundings at Crystal Mountain. Plan to take some time after the meeting for golf or for walking the grounds. I look forward to meeting you at beautiful Crystal Mountain.

### **Treasurer's Report (Melody Neely; Mneely@med.wayne.edu)**

Our combined treasury as of 8/1/2004 is approximately \$19,000, with ~\$6,500 in our general funds account and ~\$12,400 in our interest-bearing account. In addition, thanks to the efforts of our President, we have received \$2000 from the National ASM to help support the Fall MI-ASM meeting at Crystal Mountain. The National ASM also granted a request for additional funding for each of our six student chapters and these funds will be dispersed to the individual chapters shortly.

### **Education Chair's Report (Kris Baumgarten, kbaumga@alpha.delta.edu)**

The MI-ASM proudly supports student chapters and clubs at colleges and universities throughout Michigan. The Branch supports these student organizations financially and provides leadership and mentoring to create the next generation of microbiologists. Please visit the MI-ASM website for further information.

## **2004-2005 Officers and Executive Committee Members**

**President:** Silvia Rossbach, Western Michigan University  
(Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)

**President-Elect:** Daniel Clemans, Eastern Michigan University (daniel.clemans@emich.edu)

**Past-President:** Michael Huband, Pfizer  
(Michael.Huband@pfizer.com)

**Secretary:** Mary Ann Cardani, University of Michigan - Flint  
(mcardani@flint.umich.edu)

**Treasurer:** Melody Neely, Wayne State University  
(@med.wayne.edu)

**Councilor:** James VandenBosch, Eastern Michigan University  
(Jim.Vandenbosch@emich.edu)

**Alternate Councilor:** Ralph Gorton, Lansing Community College (rgorton@lcc.edu)

**Education Chair:** Kris Baumgarten, Delta College,  
(kbaumga@alpha.delta.edu)

**Corporate Liaison:** Michael A. Cohen, Pfizer  
(Michael.Cohen@pfizer.com)

**Legislative & Regulatory Affairs:** Carl L. Pierson,  
University of Michigan (carlpier@umich.edu)

**Newsletter Editor:** Daniel Clemans, Eastern Michigan University (daniel.clemans@emich.edu)

**Archive Representative:** Richard Bell  
(rkbell129@ameritech.net)

**Electronic Communications:**  
James VandenBosch, Eastern Michigan University  
(Jim.Vandenbosch@emich.edu)

### **Spring Meeting Organizers:**

Michael Huband, Pfizer  
(Michael.Huband@pfizer.com)

Silvia Rossbach, Western Michigan University  
(Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)

## "Students and Student Chapter Matters"



### GERHARDT ENDOWMENT TO THE MI-ASM by Ralph Gorton

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch is now 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.

**The Endowment funds are stipulated for: 1) Research Excellence Awards: awarded to students who demonstrate exemplary accomplishment in experimental design and results that are reported as a poster or an oral presentation at a MI-ASM meeting. 2) Travel Awards: granted to students to supplement other financial resources for travel so as to allow the awardees to attend an appropriate microbiology-related scientific meeting, or to obtain special microbiology-related research training.**

The availability of the awards is published on the **MI-ASM website (MI-ASM.org)** and distributed to Michigan educational institutions offering microbiology-related programs. Website information (<http://MI-ASM.org>) is also be provided on how to apply for the awards and the amount available for each award.

### Student Mixer and Travel Support

MI-ASM will host a student, faculty, and officer "social mixer" to be held the Friday evening (October 8) prior to the October 9, 2004 meeting. Please check the MI-ASM website for location details. The goal of this mixer is allow members of the various chapters to interact with one another as well as board members and conference speakers.

The branch is also supporting lodging and travel money for students traveling from distant campuses. Specifically, we will pay for 1 room per student chapter and will reimburse travel money for 1 carpool per chapter. Please contact Michael Huband ([Michael.Huband@pfizer](mailto:Michael.Huband@pfizer)) or Silvia Rossbach ([Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu](mailto:Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)) with requests ASAP.

**Current MI-ASM Student Chapters:** Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club, Michigan State University Microbiology Club, Michigan Technological University, Tri-Cities Microbiology Club, Western Michigan University, & University of Michigan – Flint.

## POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The Michigan ASM encourages students (both undergrads and graduate students), as well as faculty and other professional microbiologists, to present posters at our fall and spring meetings. Ideally a poster presentation would relate to the general theme of the conference, but that is not a criterion for submission. If you would like to present a poster of your research at this MI-ASM CONFERENCE, follow the guidelines below.

**Students who present a poster do not pay the conference registration fee and they also receive one year free membership in MI-ASM. STUDENT ENTRIES will be judged by Branch members and the winner of the "Best Student Poster" will receive a framed certificate, a copy of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt's classic text, and a free membership to the National ASM.**

- Submit your name, college or university you attend, department affiliation, the full title of your poster, and a brief (200 words) abstract of its content to the conference organizer. **The deadline for submitting abstracts for posting on the "mi-asm.org" website is October 3.** You may submit abstracts after this date, but they may not be posted prior to the conference.
- Use a Times Roman 12-pt. font if possible. Type the title first then list the authors (all capital letters; use an asterisk to denote the person delivering the poster), then list institutions and short addresses. You may include e-mail addresses if you wish.
- Abbreviations that are generally understood are acceptable.
- Please italicize scientific names and all appropriate genetic terminology.
- **Please submit your abstract by email to: [gortonr@lcc.edu](mailto:gortonr@lcc.edu) Send the information within the body of the e-mail message and not as an attached file.** You will receive electronic confirmation that your poster info arrived safely from cyberspace! Your poster abstract will automatically be forwarded to the Conference Organizer, Dr. Jim VandenBosch (EMU).
- If there is sufficient time, we will post early submitted abstracts on the meeting web site. All poster abstracts will be posted as part of the on-line post-conference summary.
- If you presented your poster at an ASM National Meeting or at another conference, please note that in your abstract submission.
- **If you have any questions regarding posters, please contact Michael Huband ([Michael.Huband@pfizer.com](mailto:Michael.Huband@pfizer.com)).**
- **Non-students may also submit posters; simply follow the above guidelines.**

\*\*\*\*PLEASE COPY AND POST IN YOUR DEPARTMENT!\*\*\*\*

## Fall 2004 MI-ASM Conference

### "Microbial Products: From Arsenic & Steroids to Wine & Cheese"

Friday & Saturday, October 8 & 9, 2004

To be held at Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan



- Friday, October 8 MI-ASM Reception & Student Mixer, 5 to 7 pm (See <http://mi-asm.org> for room number)
- Saturday, October 9 (See <http://mi-asm.org> for room number)
- 7:00-8:00 AM Meeting Registration, Continental Breakfast, Corporate Exhibit and Poster set-up.
- 8:00-8:15 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks.
- 8:15-9:15 AM Dr. David Mills, ASM Waksman Foundation Speaker, Assistant Professor & Assistant Microbiologist, University of California - Davis.  
*"Dinner Conversation for Biotechnologists: The Genomics of Wine & Cheese"*
- 9:15-10:15 AM Dr. Kevin Short, Senior Scientist, Pfizer Global R & D, Kalamazoo, Michigan.  
*"Microbial Sterol Bioconversions"*
- 10:15-10:45 AM Coffee Break/Visit Posters & Corporate Exhibits.
- 10:45-11:45 AM Dr. Simon Silver, Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Illinois - Chicago.  
*"Microbial Arsenic: From Genes & Enzymes to Geocycles"*
- 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Lunch and Business Meeting, Visit Corporate Exhibits and Student Posters, Talk with Speakers, Prizes Awarded.
- 1:00 PM Adjourn

For additional information and registration, please visit:

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

Online registration will ensure reservations for the meeting and lunch.

### Conference Speaker Bios



**Dr. David Mills**, ASM Waksman Foundation speaker, Assistant Professor & Assistant Microbiologist, Department of Viticulture & Enology, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, University of California - Davis ([damills@ucdavis.edu](mailto:damills@ucdavis.edu)).

#### "Dinner Conversation for Biotechnologists: The Genomics of Wine & Cheese"

Look for Dr. Mills' Bio on the MI-ASM homepage (<http://mi-asm.org>), or see his homepage at <http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu/people/faculty/mills/index.htm>.

**Dr. Kevin A. Short**, Senior Scientist, Pfizer Global R & D, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

#### "Microbial Sterol Bioconversions"

Kevin A Short is a Senior Scientist, now with Pfizer Global Manufacturing, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His research has included culture development, process development and marketed product support of bacterial- and yeast-expressed recombinant proteins, *Streptomyces* antibiotic fermentations and *Mycobacterial*-mediated bioconversions of phytosterols to various corticosteroids. Prior to joining Upjohn in 1990, he was a National Academy of Sciences, NRC Research Associate, and a University of Michigan Fellow and Faculty Member of the U of M Medical School in the laboratory of Ronald Olsen. Research in these positions centered on efficacy and effects of recombinant fluorescent *Pseudomonads*, either repressing diseases in plants or engineered to degrade various xenobiotics, on soil and rhizosphere microbial ecology.

Dr. Short completed undergraduate degrees in Botany and Microbiology from Oregon State University. He received a M.S. in microbiology from Arizona State University, with a thesis on the ecology and cellular structure of *Planctomyces bekefii* and *P. gracilis*. In 1987 he received a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of New Hampshire, with a thesis on the complex physiology of the obligate microaerophilic, magnetic bacterium, *Aquaspirillum magnetotacticum*.

**Dr. Simon Silver**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, University of Illinois - Chicago ([simon@uic.edu](mailto:simon@uic.edu); <http://www.uic.edu/depts/mcmmi/faculty/silver.html>)

#### "Microbial Arsenic: From Genes and Enzymes to Geocycles"

Dr. Simon Silver received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962. He is currently Professor and former Department Head in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. Previously, he was Professor of Biology and of Microbiology and Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis.

He has published over 190 articles and edited 8 books on topics of microbial physiology and molecular biology, especially topics concerned with membrane transport systems and plasmid resistance mechanisms to toxic heavy metals. He has served on government grant panels and edited several journals, most notably for 10 years as Editor in Chief of Journal of Bacteriology and Senior Editor of the Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology. Dr. Silver is also on the Editorial Boards of Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Biometals, and International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation. He is concerned with the movement of basic molecular biology of microbes into environmental and applied fields. Dr. Silver has a special interest in furthering educational goals of under-represented minority students.



## CONFERENCE LOCATION, PARKING, & MISC. INFORMATION.

### Meeting Organizers and Contacts:

Michael Huband, Pfizer Global R & D, Michael.Huband@pfizer.com.  
Silvia Rossbach, Western Michigan University, Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu.

### Meeting Location:

The meeting will be held at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan.  
12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville, MI 49683, (800) 968-7686  
Online Directions to Crystal Mountain Resort:  
<http://www.crystalmountain.com/about/index.cfm?fuseaction=locationgethere>



### Directions to Crystal Mountain Resort (see meeting website for further details):

#### **From Detroit (234 miles)**

Take I-75 north to US-10 west (north of Zilwaukee Bridge). US-10 will merge with US-27 near Clare, and then separate again just north of Clare. Continue to follow US-10 west, exiting at M-115 west (just prior to expressway ending, sign indicates M-115 west to Cadillac). Follow M-115 west roughly 70 miles. Crystal Mountain is on left hand side of M-115.

#### **From Grand Rapids (130 miles)**

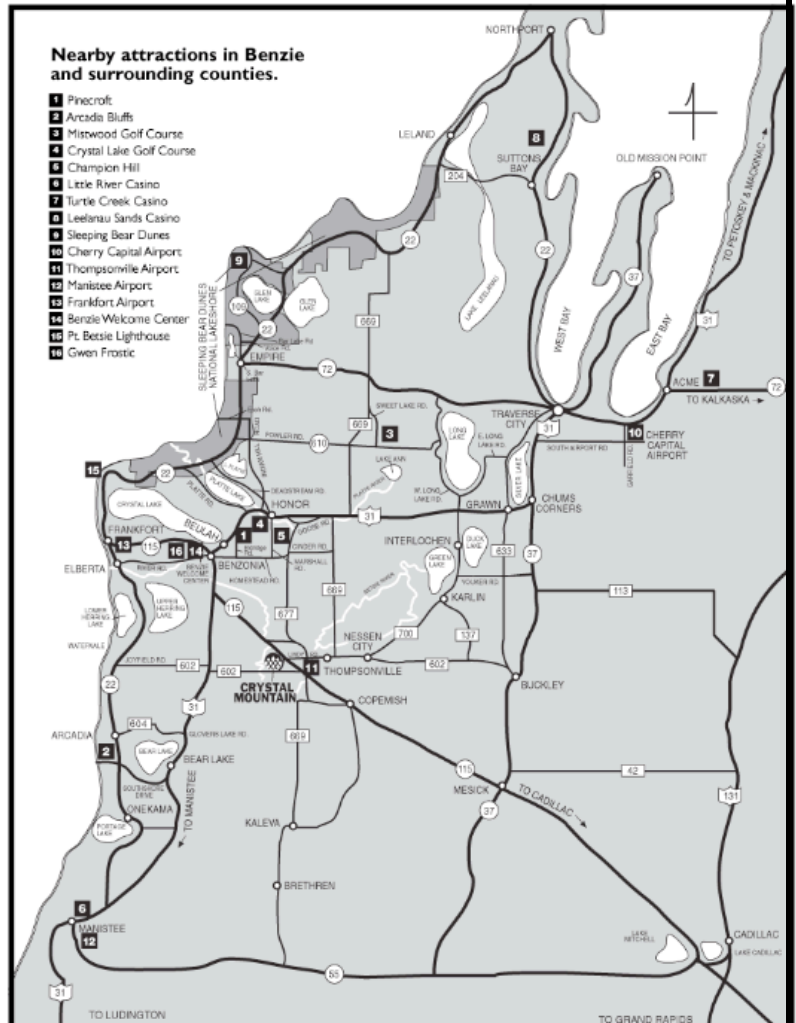
Take US 131 north toward Cadillac, exit M-115 west (Frankfort/Clare exit). Follow M-115 west 39 miles; Crystal Mountain is on left hand side of M-115.

#### **From Lansing (171 miles)**

Take US-27 north, Exit onto US-10 west, just north of Clare. Follow eight miles to M-115 west exit (just prior to expressway ending, sign indicates M-115 west to Cadillac). Follow M-115 west roughly 70 miles. Crystal Mountain is on left hand side of M-115.

### Lodging at Crystal Mountain Resort

There is a special group rate for hotel reservations.  
Please visit the MI-ASM website for details  
(<http://mi-asm.org>).





## A Special "Thank You" to:

**Pfizer Global R&D** for its consistent and substantial level of contribution.

**Corporate Partners:** We thank all of our **Corporate Partners** for providing financial support for the Michigan ASM Branch. Members are encouraged to support our Corporate Partners. **Becton Dickinson (Ruth Stuart), Dot Scientific (Greg Kessler), and Sigma-Aldrich (Alexandra Howells)** will be our corporate partner exhibitors for the Crystal Mountain meeting.

## MICHIGAN BRANCH/ASM CORPORATE PARTNERS

Please visit <http://mi-asm.org/> for further information on our corporate partners.

PFIZER Global R&D, A2 site	Dr. Michael A. Cohen	734/622-7597	<a href="mailto:Michael.Cohen@pfizer.com">Michael.Cohen@pfizer.com</a>
AB BIODISK	Karen Mills	800/874-8814	<a href="mailto:etest@abbiodiskna.com">etest@abbiodiskna.com</a>
BECKMAN COULTER	Robert Stetler	800/392-2164#9112	<a href="mailto:bstetler@beckman.com">bstetler@beckman.com</a>
BECTON DICKINSON	Ruth Stuart	800/219-7174#9522	<a href="mailto:ruth_stuart@bd.com">ruth_stuart@bd.com</a>
BIOMERIEUX Vitek	Emil Ulstrup	800/634-7656#6 5001	<a href="mailto:emil.ulstrup@na.biomerieux.com">emil.ulstrup@na.biomerieux.com</a>
CLONTECH	Robert Kane	800/662-2566#7725	<a href="mailto:bob_kane@bd.com">bob_kane@bd.com</a>
CORNING	Thomas Stapleton	800/492-1119#8063	<a href="mailto:stapletotj@corning.com">stapletotj@corning.com</a>
COY Laboratory Products	Brian Coy	734/475-2200	<a href="mailto:sales@coylab.com">sales@coylab.com</a>
Dot Scientific	Greg Kessler	800/878-1785	<a href="mailto:gkessler22@mediaone.com">gkessler22@mediaone.com</a>
EMD CHEMICALS	Mark Wagner	800/648-4827#726	<a href="mailto:mwagner@emdchemicals.com">mwagner@emdchemicals.com</a>
FISHER SCIENTIFIC	Jackie Silhanek	800/955-9999#2277	<a href="mailto:jackie.silhanek@fishersci.com">jackie.silhanek@fishersci.com</a>
FORMA SCIENTIFIC	Paul SiKora, Jr.	800/872-7133#4623	<a href="mailto:paul.sikora@thermo.com">paul.sikora@thermo.com</a>
GENOMIC SOLUTIONS		800/246-4624	<a href="http://www.genomicsolutions.com">www.genomicsolutions.com</a>
GIANGARLO SCIENTIFIC	Don Roddy	412/922-8850	<a href="mailto:drodody@cogeco.ca">drodody@cogeco.ca</a>
INVITROGEN	Holly Senter	800/955-6288#61413	<a href="mailto:holly.senter@invitrogen.com">holly.senter@invitrogen.com</a>
MAGER SCIENTIFIC	Janet Stanciu	734/426-3885	<a href="mailto:sales@magersci.com">sales@magersci.com</a>
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VIVA SCIENCE	Jan Pettitt	877/452-2345#8813	<a href="mailto:Jan.pettitt@vivascience.com">Jan.pettitt@vivascience.com</a>
VWR Scientific Products	Paul Mueller	800/431-4132#6161	<a href="mailto:pmueller@vwrsp.com">pmueller@vwrsp.com</a>
Whatman	Gretchen Hathaway	800/322-1942#4554	<a href="mailto:gretchen.hathaway@whatman.com">gretchen.hathaway@whatman.com</a>

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