

# THE SCOPE

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

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## President's Report

Audra Swarthout, MI-ASM Branch  
President

Our Spring Meeting is fast approaching! The Meeting, "Anaerobes", will be held at Ferris State University on April 5-6. We will kick off the meeting on Friday evening with an optional student mixer and reception for students and members in addition to an optional Board dinner. All members interested in participating on the Board are encouraged to attend. Saturday will feature three keynote speakers. Dr. Eric Martens from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Michigan will present "Evolution of complex carbohydrates in human gut *Bacteroidetes*". Dr. Michael J. McInerney from the Department of Botany and Microbiology at the Institute for Energy and the Environment at The University of Oklahoma will present "Not so hot and not too salty microbes and their role in biohydrogen production, corrosion and oil recovery". Our final plenary speaker, Dr. Denise M. Akob from the United States Geological Survey will round out the day with "Linking microbes to the fate of Cold War Era heavy metal contamination."

In addition to our three

plenary speakers we will have both poster and oral presentations from our student members. Students are encouraged to participate by presenting their research efforts.

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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

# Anaerobes

April 5-6, Ferris State University

## Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00 –8:00 pm Student Mixer/Reception  
7:30 – 9:30 pm Board Dinner

## Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

7:45-8:45 am Breakfast and Registration  
8:50 - 9:00 am Introduction and Welcome  
9:00 - 10:00 am **Plenary Session 1**  
**Eric Martens, Ph.D.**  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Michigan  
***"Evolution of complex carbohydrate in human gut Bacteroidetes"***

10:00 - 11:00 am Poster/Vendor viewing  
Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00 pm **Student Speakers**  
12:30 - 1:15 pm Lunch and Business Meeting

1:15 – 2:15 pm **Plenary Session 2**  
**Michael J. McInerney, Ph.D.**  
Department of Botany and Microbiology and The Institute for Energy and the Environment, The University of Oklahoma  
***"Not so hot and not too salty microbes and their role in biohydrogen production, corrosion and oil recovery"***

2:30 – 3:30 pm **Plenary Session 3**  
**Denise M. Akob, Ph.D.**  
United States Geological Survey  
***"Linking microbes to the fate of Cold War Era heavy metal contamination"***

3:30 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/>

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There will be awards for: best undergraduate poster, best graduate poster, best undergraduate oral presentation and best graduate oral presentation. Abstracts can be submitted at our website, [www.mi-asm.org](http://www.mi-asm.org), and should be submitted early. As usual, our Corporate Partners will be present to answer questions and display new products. Please visit and support them. We will also have our Branch business meeting on Saturday during lunch, at which time we will be voting on a new President-Elect, Councilor and Alternate Councilor. I would like to encourage all of members to consider taking the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Your attendance and participation at these meetings is vital to the continued success of the Michigan Branch of the ASM. Please check our website, <http://www.mi-asm.org>, for full meeting, registration and lodging information, and be sure to check out our new "early bird" registration option. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Finally, a special thanks to the meeting planning committee, Michael Ryan and Anne Spain for all of your hard work in organizing what promises to be another great meeting.

## Fall Meeting 2013

Plans are in the works for our Fall meeting at Delta College in University Center, MI. Stay tuned for updates at the meeting and on the website.

## 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

## Fall 2012 Awards

### Best Poster

**Mary J. Thwaites**, Western Michigan University, graduate

**Katherine Dziuba**, Eastern Michigan University, undergrad

**Catherine Kaminski**, Eastern Michigan University, undergrad

### Best Talk

**Will Fitzsimmons**, Eastern Michigan University, graduate

**Elected Officers**

- PRESIDENT, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, [gorsi1sw@cmich.edu](mailto:gorsi1sw@cmich.edu)
- PAST PRESIDENT, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.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, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, [stbagley@mtu.edu](mailto:stbagley@mtu.edu)
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.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)

**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!**

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students to apply for these resources. Feel free to discuss it with any board member or your chapter advisor.

## Finance Report

*John Geiser*

At last report, our current bank account balance is about \$19000. We have two CD's that are currently collecting interest.

## Videos from Past MI-ASM Meetings Available

*Jen Hess*

All videos of past meetings have been uploaded to our website. To access each video, you will need to use the following password combinations: "MI-ASM Semester Year". For example, the past fall password would be "MI-ASM Fall 2012".

**See you at  
MI-ASM**

**Board Officer Elections** (cut off and bring with you to the Spring Meeting)

**President-Elect** (1 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mike Pressler, Delta College  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Councilor** (2 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Joan Rose, Michigan State Univ.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Alternate Councilor** (2 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Audra Swarthout, Delta College  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

If you are interested in nominating yourself or any other faculty/staff member for one of these positions, please contact the [current board officers](#). If you are interested in serving as an appointed officer in one of the many service opportunities, please contact the board as well.