

Meeting of the MI-ASM Board

Date: 25 September 2020

Present on Call: Jared Geller, Laura Harris, Penelope Higgs, Skip Price, Sara Blumer-Schuetz, Jared Schrader, Josh Thompson, Erin Uhelski, Emily Biernat, Evan Hsueh

Upcoming events:

- Annual MI-ASM meeting, March 20th hosted by UDM
- First MI-ASM second Friday virtual event, November 13th hosted by Davenport University

Meeting Minutes

1. Scheduling of the Annual MI-ASM Meeting

- a. The board agreed that the 2021 annual meeting will be held remotely through Zoom. Past attendance has been close to 100, we may increase that number by holding the meeting remotely, however the board members were not expecting the attendee numbers to surpass a university license with Zoom.
- b. The board then discussed how to run poster sessions. Zoom has the ability to create breakout rooms, the tentative plan is to hold concurrent breakout rooms where poster presenters would present their work (~ 5 min) for the attendees. It was also suggested that posters are uploaded prior to the meeting for attendees to review.
- c. It was agreed that the deadline for posters will need to be earlier, and the MI-ASM would not be able to accept walk up registrations for poster presenters given the nature of a remote conference.
- d. Brief discussion was held on pricing for the annual meeting. We are reducing costs moving virtual as no food or a facility need to be purchased. Potential costs for the technology may present themselves. It was also suggested that we charge a nominal fee for the meeting, possibly allowing undergraduates that are national members to attend for free. Attendees will still need to register in part to fulfill our reporting obligations to national ASM, and also to control who will be provided a password for the meeting.
- e. March 20th was set as the tentative date for the annual meeting. Sara will check with Josh prior to sending out any fliers advertising the meeting.

2. Virtual MI-ASM Events

- a. Erin suggested that the MI-ASM increase the visibility of clinical microbiology/ microbiologists.
- b. Discussion was held to create virtual activities outside of the annual meeting that could include a career panel, possibly arranged by one of the student chapters. Laura Harris volunteered to arrange a speaker from her lab for the first virtual MI-ASM activity to be hosted on November 13th. Sara will follow up with Laura after Oct 5th for a title to advertise the event
- c. Monthly or quarterly virtual sessions will be held the second Friday of months we host an event. Timing is still TBD, but a brown bag lunch style session was suggested. If speakers are okay with being recorded, the session could be livestreamed to YouTube from Zoom. It was also suggested that we secure the monthly/ quarterly events with a password that attendees can receive upon free registration.

- d. Since other departments, including WSU are holding their seminar series virtually, it was suggested that MI-ASM curate a list of virtual seminars the MI-ASM membership could register for and attend.

3. MI-ASM Social Media, Graphics & Shirts

- a. Erin has created a Twitter account for the branch that she will be sharing access with the executive board. Laura also invited other students on the call to participate in MI-ASM social media outreach.
- b. A logo for the MI-ASM was designed, the branch fully owns the graphics and can trademark it if we wish. Laura will send the digitized image out to executive board members. The new logo is also on the polo shirts each branch member received. The board was invited to think of other MI-ASM “swag” that we could put the logo on including mugs or stickers.

4. MI-ASM Executive Board Elections in 2021

- a. All board positions will be up for re-election in 2021, an announcement to MI-ASM membership should be sent out in January inviting people to nominate themselves. It was discussed that having consistency from year to year at the Treasurer’s position helps.