

THE SCOPE



Michigan Branch- American Society for Microbiology
Spring 2007 Conference

"NEW RISKS AND NEW DEFENSES: THE TECHNOLOGY OF BIOTERRORISM"

Saturday, April 14, 2007 at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.



The Spring 2007 meeting of the Michigan Branch-American Society for Microbiology will be held at Wayne State University, in Detroit, MI. On Saturday, April 14, 2007, three seminars will be given on "NEW RISKS AND NEW DEFENSES: THE TECHNOLOGY OF BIOTERRORISM" by Drs. Luther Lindler (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research), Joan Rose (Michigan State University), and Philip Cunningham (Wayne State University). There will be a student poster session and corporate sponsor exhibits. Please register for this event!

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Fall Meeting Organizers:
Jeffrey Ram (JeffRam@gmail.com),
Alan Hudson, Melody Neely, Judith
Whittum-Hudson

President's Report (Don LeBlanc; djleblanc1@comcast.net)



As my first responsibility in this office, I had the pleasure of serving as co-chair with Mary Ann Cardani of the Fall, 2006 meeting, held on October 7, 2006 at the Michigan Technical Education Center on the West Campus of Lansing Community College. Gratitude and thanks are due to Ralph Gorton, the site host for that meeting, for a superb job of making all of the local arrangements for the meeting, poster displays, corporate sponsor booths, registration with continental breakfast and lunch, as well as the dinner for board members and speakers on Friday evening. The theme of the meeting was "Biofilms – We're All in This Together," which featured Larry Shimkets (University of Georgia, Athens), Marvin Whiteley (University of Texas at Austin) and Wu Xi (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor). Special thanks to Wu Xi for filling in at the last minute for Dennis Cvitkovitch (University of Toronto) who had been scheduled as our Waksman speaker, but fell ill the day before the meeting, and to Daniel Clemans, for securing Wu Xi as a speaker. Finally, thanks to all the speakers, poster presenters, and corporate sponsors, who contributed to the success of the meeting.

You are all invited to the spring meeting, to be held on Saturday, the 14th of April at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. The Chair of the organizing committee for this meeting, Jeff Ram, and his committee members, Alan Hudson, Melody Neely, and Judith Whittum-Hudson have worked particularly hard in the planning of what promises to be another excellent MI-ASM branch meeting. The theme of the spring meeting "New Risks and New Defenses: the Technology of Bioterrorism," will feature Luther Lindler (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, DC), Joan Rose (Michigan State University, East Lansing) and Philip Cunningham (Wayne State University, Detroit, MI) as speakers. Students are invited to a mixer on Friday evening, April 13 at Wayne State University (details on the MI-ASM website).

I welcome the newly-formed Wayne State University student chapter of the MI-ASM, for which Meghna Shukla is serving as the student leader. As did our past-President, I encourage the formation of additional student chapters throughout the state.

My terms as your President-elect, and current President, have indeed been extremely pleasant and rewarding experiences. Whatever successes have been realized during these past two years have been the result of the extremely hard working members of the MI-ASM, particularly the members of the board. Finally, I welcome Mary Ann Cardani as our incoming President in July, and look forward to working with her, and the rest of the board during my tenure as Past-president.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Wayne State on the 14th of April, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Don LeBlanc

President Elect's Message (Mary Ann Cardani; mcardani@flint.umich.edu)

I am anticipating another great meeting, this time on the Wayne State campus. The topic of bioterrorism has a broad interest and I look forward to some exciting presentations from our speakers and some lively discussions over the topic from the audience. As an organization, MI-ASM seeks to find stimulating topics and speakers that keep us all updated and excited about microbiology. Perhaps there are topics or speakers that you would like to suggest or ideas that you wish to share with us. Please think about these and bring your thoughts to the spring meeting. We will provide slips of paper on the tables at the luncheon on April 14th for you to share your thoughts with us. You can also share your ideas with any of our board members at a meeting or via e-mail. We want to hear from YOU.

Treasurer's Report (Michael Huband)

Our current account balance is \$20,055.82. Contributing to this balance is \$2000 in funding from National ASM and \$345 in 2006 membership dues. We are also awaiting a check for \$2000 from the Pfizer foundation. The branch funding is used to support student chapter activities and the goals of MI ASM as set forth in the chapter's constitution. Please note that we have \$1000 in Gerhardt funding available in 2007 to support student research projects and/or travel to scientific meetings.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Meeting!

The Fall Meeting of the MI-ASM will be held at The Historic Park Place Hotel in Traverse City over the weekend of October 13, 2007 – the height of the color season.

Current MI-ASM Student Chapters

Central Michigan University Microbiology Club, Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club, Western Michigan University Microbiology Club, University of Michigan–Flint Microbiology Club, Michigan State University Microbiology Club, Michigan Technological University Microbiology Club, & Tri-Cities Microbiology Club.

POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The Michigan ASM encourages undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other professional microbiologists to present posters at our Fall and Spring meetings. **STUDENTS who present a poster do not pay the conference registration fee and they receive a one-year free membership in MI-ASM. STUDENT ENTRIES will be judged 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. To be eligible, the student presenter must be at their poster to discuss the findings with the judges during the judging period.** At this meeting we will provide easels. Presenters should bring their posters on stiff material (e.g., foam board) with a recommended size of 3' by 5'. Complete guidelines are available at

<http://mi-asm.org/spring07meeting/posterguidelines.htm>

If you have specific questions regarding posters, please contact Dr. Jeff Ram (JeffRam@gmail.com).

PLEASE COPY AND POST IN YOUR DEPARTMENT!



Spring 2007 MI-ASM Conference

**"NEW RISKS AND NEW DEFENSES:
THE TECHNOLOGY OF BIOTERRORISM"**

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Scott Hall, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI.



Friday, April 13, 2007

5:00-7:00 PM **MI-ASM Reception & Student Mixer:** Site to be announced

7:00-9:00 PM **MI-ASM Board Dinner Meeting:** Site to be announced

Saturday, April 14, 2007

8:00-8:45 AM **Meeting Registration, Continental Breakfast, Poster and Corporate Exhibit set-up**

8:45-9:00 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:00-10:00 AM **Dr. Joan Rose**, Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI

"ADDRESSING BIOLOGICAL AGENTS OF CONCERN: TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATED WITH BIOTERRORISM"

10:00-11:00 AM **Coffee Break and Poster Viewing/Judging** with poster presenters in attendance.

11:00-12:00 Noon **Dr. Luthor Lindler**, Department of Bacterial Diseases, Division of Communicable Diseases and Immunology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, Maryland

"EMERGING THREATS AND THREAT ASSESSMENT"

Noon-1:30 PM **Lunch and Business Meeting:** Awarding of Prizes for Winning Student Posters

1:30-2:30 PM **Dr. Philip Cunningham**, Department of Biological Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

"SMART WEAPONS FOR THE WAR AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND BIOTERRORISM"

2:30 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 LOCATION, PARKING, & MISC. INFORMATION.

Meeting Organizer and Contact: Jeff Ram, Wayne State University

Meeting Location:

Scott Hall, 540 E. Canfield at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.



Lodging:



The Inn on Ferry Street. A block of rooms has been reserved in these very special and unique lodgings in a deluxe group of beautiful Victorian houses in the heart of Detroit. Located a few blocks from the Wayne State School of Medicine, the Inn provides parking and free shuttle transportation anywhere within 5 miles of the Inn, if needed. You **MUST** reserve your room by April 1, 2007 with the ASM group to get the discounted rate of \$129.00 per room per night (+3% occupancy tax). In addition to the parking and free shuttle service, this rate includes free Internet service and breakfast. To reserve your room, call 313 871-6000 **BEFORE** April 1, 2007. The Inn is located at 84 East Ferry Street, Detroit, MI 48202. For more information, check out the Inn's web site, at <http://innonferrystreet.com/05/>



Student housing. For less expensive lodgings (mainly for students), we have double rooms in Ghafari Residence Hall, 695 Williams Mall at Anthony Wayne Drive. The rooms are on the sixth floor, with a great view of the campus. Reservations must be made by April 1, 2007. Make reservations by filling in the form at: http://sun.science.wayne.edu/~jram/ASM_housing.htm Cost: \$40 per night per person includes: double room, bathroom located in the unit, linens, wireless internet, WSU One Card for access (\$10 additional charge if you lose the access card and a \$100 penalty for lost room keys). Parking costs \$10.00 per car.

Directions to Wayne State University:

(see meeting website for further details)

The WSU School of Medicine is located about 2 miles north of the heart of downtown Detroit, just south of Interstate 94 (the Ford Freeway), and is roughly bounded by the Lodge Freeway (M10) on the west and Interstate 75 on the east. The **Scott Hall** of Basic Medical Sciences is located at **540 East Canfield**, with the main entrance on the south side of the building. Visitor's parking is available in the lot across the street (Canfield) from Scott Hall.

Note: M10, the Lodge Freeway, is closed for construction!

From the Chrysler Freeway (I-75):

- Proceeding south toward downtown Detroit:
Exit at the Warren exit. Follow the service drive to the second light (Canfield). Turn right on Canfield. Cross St. Antoine. Scott Hall is on the left at 540 East Canfield.
- Proceeding north away from downtown Detroit:
Exit at the Mack exit. Stay on the service drive to the second light (Canfield). Turn left on Canfield. Cross St. Antoine. Scott Hall is on the left at 540 East Canfield.

From the Ford Freeway (I-94):

- Proceeding east toward Port Huron:
Exit at the Woodward/John R exit. This exit is a natural curve onto John R. Proceed straight (south) for six (6) lights to Canfield. Turn left (east) on Canfield. Scott Hall is on the right at 540 East Canfield.
- Proceeding west toward the Detroit Metro Airport:
Exit at the Woodward/Brush exit. Proceed straight past Beaubien, then Brush, to the next street, which is John R. Turn left (south) on John R. Go straight several lights to Canfield. Turn left (east) on Canfield. Scott Hall is on the right at 540 East Canfield.

From the Jeffries Freeway (I-96):

- Proceeding east toward downtown Detroit:
Get onto I-94 east or I-75 north. Follow the directions above for I-94 east or I-75 north.

GERHARDT ENDOWMENT

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch provides 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 in 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 application procedure, amount and availability of the awards is published on the **MI-ASM website (MI-ASM.org)** and distributed to Michigan educational institutions offering microbiology-related programs.

MICHIGAN BRANCH/ASM CORPORATE PARTNERS

We thank our **Corporate Partners** for providing financial support for the Michigan Branch/ASM. We are grateful to **Ms. Megan Petrasek/REMEL-ThermoFisher** for defraying the continental breakfast and coffeebreak expenses of our Spring Meeting. And, MIAASM expresses a **Special THANK YOU to Pfizer Global R&D** for its consistent and substantial level of contribution.

Members are encouraged to support our Corporate Partners.

PFIZER GLOBAL R&D, A2 site	Michael Huband	734/622-7562	Michael.Huband@pfizer.com
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BECTON DICKINSON	M. Terese Burns	800/219-7174 #9760	terese.burns@bd.com
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Visit <http://mi-asm.org/> for further Corporate Partner details.

BALLOT

MI-ASM members,

Please vote for one person for each of the following elective offices. Ballots can be turned in at the Spring Meeting Registration Table or can be mailed to the Secretary at:

Silvia Rossbach, Ph.D.

**Western Michigan University
Department of Biological Sciences
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5410**

President-Elect

- Michael Ryan (Ferris State University)
 Other: _____

Treasurer

- Alan Hudson (Wayne State University)
 Other: _____

Alternate Councillor

- Kris Baumgarten (Delta College)
 Other: _____

James VandenBosch
Newsletter Editor
MI-ASM Branch
c/o Department of Biology
Eastern Michigan University
316 Mark Jefferson
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

