

# THE SCOPE

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

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## President's Report

John Geiser, Jen Hess

It will not be long until we are gathering at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids for our spring conference on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. In keeping with the surge of new medical facilities and clinical expertise in Grand Rapids and surrounding communities, this spring's conference theme will be "*Combating Microbial Resistance*" and features three keynote speakers.

Friday night's keynote speaker, Mimi Emig, M.D., an attending physician at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids who specializes in infectious disease, will be presenting the current state of the resistance she encounters in clinical practice. Saturday's portion of the conference will feature Daniel Sundin, Ph.D., the director of the microbiology laboratories for Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids who will be presenting a talk entitled: "*Gram Negative Bacteria: Expanding Their Resistance to Extended Spectrum Antibiotics*". Also, Eric Schwallier, a laboratory technician at Metro Health in Grand Rapids, will present a talk entitled: "*Developing a molecular Clostridium difficile*

*diagnostic test*". We will also enjoy both oral and poster presentations from current undergraduate and graduate microbiology students attending the conference.

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## Corporate Partners

BD Diagnostics  
Corning  
Coy Laboratory Prod.  
Dot Scientific  
EMD  
Emergent  
Fisher Scientific  
Hardy Diagnostics  
Innovative Solutions  
Jade Scientific  
Mager Scientific  
Midwest Scientific  
Morton Publishing  
NSF International  
Pall Life Sciences  
Pfizer Animal Health  
Promega  
Remel  
Sigma Aldrich  
USA Scientific  
Whatman

# Combating Bacterial Resistance

*April 8-9, Aquinas College*

## Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

5:00 - 6:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> <b>Mimi Emig, M.D.</b> Infectious Disease Attending Physician Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI “ “	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
6:00 – 9:30 pm	Student Mixer/Reception	Vitale's Restaurant, Leonard St. NE
6:00 – 9:30 pm	Board Dinner	Vitale's Restaurant, Leonard St. NE
9:30 - ???	Karaoke and Fun	Queen's Pub, Wealth St. SE

## Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00 - 8:50 am	Breakfast and Registration	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction and Welcome	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
9:00 - 10:00 am	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> <b>Daniel Sundin, Ph.D.</b> Director of the Microbiology Laboratories Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI “ <b>Gram Negative Bacteria: Expanding Their Resistance to Extended Spectrum Antibiotics</b> ”	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
10:15 - 11:15 am	Poster/Vendor viewing Coffee break	Student Union, Loudit Room
11:30 - 12:30 pm	<b>Student Speakers</b>	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch and Business Meeting	Student Union
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> Eric Schwallier, M.S. Lab Technician, Metro Health Microbiology Laboratory “ <b>Developing a molecular <i>Clostridium difficile</i> diagnostic test</b> ”	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Final Notes	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
3:30 pm	Adjourn	Student Union, Wege Ballroom
3:45 - ??? pm	Board Meeting	Student Union, Wege Ballroom

More information for the meeting including directions and hotels, can be found online at <http://www.mi-asm.org/>

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As in past years, there will be an optional board dinner and social gathering for students on Friday night as well as a formal lunch on Saturday which will double as the Branch business meeting (see page 2 for details). Several corporate partners will also be on hand to answer questions and display their new products. Please register and submit your abstracts now; it is your presence at these meetings that make them so vital!

Please visit the Michigan ASM website for further details and lodging options, <http://www.mi-asm.org>.

## ASMCUE 2011

*Cori Fata-Hartley*

The 18th Annual ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (CUE) will take place June 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. ASMCUE is an interactive four-day conference on scientific updates and effective teaching strategies. Each year, the conference attracts approximately 300 microbiology and biology educators. This year's plenary session speakers include Teresa Balser, 2010 U. S. Professor of the Year, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Jo Handelsman, HHMI and Yale University, Bonnie Bassler, HHMI and Princeton University, and Bert Vogelstein, HHMI and

Johns Hopkins University. Scientific sessions will include topics such as bioinformatics and genomics and synthetic biology. Pedagogy sessions will cover approaches such as case studies and the use of grading rubrics.

## Survey Says!

*Cori Fata-Hartley, John Geiser*

The ASM leadership has encouraged branches to embrace the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in addition to their normal offerings by hosting mini versions of the ASMCUE. ASM has awarded our branch with a grant to incorporate education related topics into our next two meetings. To prepare for those meetings, we would like to assess the level of interest for such endeavors among Michigan Branch members. Please take a few moments to complete an anonymous survey about what topics related to teaching and learning would be of interest to you. The survey can be accessed at:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MI\\_ASM\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MI_ASM_Survey)

## Fall Meeting 2011

*Michael Cohen and/or Carol Hurlburt*

Plans are in the works for our Fall meeting at ??? in ????. Can you tell we are still trying to work it out? It will likely be at Lansing Community College or at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Stay tuned for updates at the meeting and on the website.

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## Fall 2010 Awards

### Best Poster

?, ?, graduate  
Andrew Howard, Aquinas College, undergraduate

### Best Talk

Brian Panzl, Michigan State University, undergraduate  
Sarguru Subashchandrabose, Michigan State University, graduate

**Elected Officers**

- PRESIDENT, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu)
- PAST PRESIDENT, Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, [KBaum11944@aol.com](mailto:KBaum11944@aol.com)
- SECRETARY, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)
- TREASURER, Alan Hudson**, Wayne State University, [ahudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:ahudson@med.wayne.edu)
- COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, [stbagley@mtu.edu](mailto:stbagley@mtu.edu)
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, [gorsi1sw@cmich.edu](mailto:gorsi1sw@cmich.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, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.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**

- Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), [mcardani@comcast.net](mailto:mcardani@comcast.net)
- Dan Clemans**, Eastern Michigan University, [dclemans@emich.edu](mailto:dclemans@emich.edu)
- Jennifer Hess**, Aquinas College, [hessjen@acuinas.edu](mailto:hessjen@acuinas.edu)
- Carol Hurlburt**, Lansing Community College, [hurlbuc@lcc.edu](mailto:hurlbuc@lcc.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)

**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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## Spr. Meeting 2012

*Sonia Tiquia*

Plans are in the works for our Spring 2012 meeting at University of Michigan-Dearborn. It is still early, but a possible topic for the meeting is “*Microbial Symbioses and Interspecific Evolution*”. Stay tuned for updates at the meeting and on the website.

## Environmental Measures Needed to Achieve Polio Eradication

*Joan Rose*

Bill Gates recently restated his continued support for eradication of polio via vaccination programs (funded largely by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). The disease caused by poliovirus is transmitted via fecally contaminated hands, food and water. Poliovirus belongs to the *Picornaviradae* family which includes many enteric viruses

spread by the fecal-oral route and can be classified as a waterborne disease causing agent. While the vaccination program for this disease has been successful globally, at the same time the developed world was investing in water treatment for both sewage and drinking water. It is no accident that poliovirus remains a threat in areas where there is no sanitation and inadequate water treatment. Waterborne disease caused by fecal pollution will continue to have an important impact on communities until water treatment is in place which would not only help to eradicate polio but hundreds of other diseases. So then I have to ask myself after the polio vaccine has been given out, will we develop another and another and another and another vaccine program for coxsackie viruses (a cause of myocarditis), polyomaviruses (associated with cancer), Hepatitis E virus (with a 20% mortality in pregnant women) and *Helicobacter* (a

cause of ulcers) just to mention a few.

It should be remembered that cholera and typhoid, two important fecal-oral waterborne pathogens, were eradicated in the developed world not through vaccinations but through water treatment. These ancient diseases still plague developing countries due to polluted water. Water quality diagnostics and targeted programs for corrective measures are needed.

Those of us who are microbiologists have received our education through a broad number of courses including medical microbiology, immunology, bacteriology, virology, molecular biology, biochemistry and environmental microbiology. This broad overview is needed to address global health problems such as the fight against waterborne diseases. There is a great need for microbiologists to be part of engineering teams and public health teams, to be the scientist who understands the biology, ecology and infectious disease transmission of enteric pathogens. Only then will strategies and

**See you at  
MI-ASM**

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investments be maximized so that the precious dollars spent really do decrease the global burden of disease. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/01/health/01polio.html>

Contact Joan Rose for further reading

Rose, J.B. and Masago, Y., 2007. A toast to our health: our journey toward safe water. *Water Science & Technology: Water Supply* Vol 7 No 1 pp 41–48 © IWA Publishing 2007 doi:10.2166/ws.2007.005.

## General Meeting Changes

*Silvia Roszbach*

As the councilor of the Michigan Branch, I attended the council meeting held during the General Meeting in May 2010 in San Diego. Here are some notes about the new format of the General Meeting that will be in effect for the 2011 General Meeting: The meeting will start on Saturday with the large plenary lecture that used to be on Sunday night, followed by three full meeting days, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, with no additional half day any

more. The changes were made to save hotel costs and days off from work. Looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

## 2011 General Meeting, May 21-24, New Orleans

### Student Info.

*John Geiser*

#### Student Chapters

Currently the branch sponsors ten student chapters. The board voted in the fall to add Grand Valley State University as our tenth student chapter. 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 students to apply for these resources. Feel free to discuss it with any board member or your chapter advisor.

## Student Scholarship Endowment

*Jim VandenBosch, Mike Ryan, Alan Hudson*

The board is currently weighing options to sustain

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board support for student research and travel grants in perpetuity. Towards that end, we have been discussing establishment of an endowment to support student scholarship. The following is a rough draft that will be discussed at the board meeting following the Fall Meeting.

“The Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology endowed student scholarship provides financial support for student research and travel. The endowment is invested so that the principle will grow in pace with inflation. All interest earned by the endowment will be reinvested with the purpose of growing the principle until such time that the investment strategy can be shifted to allow for disbursements that do not erode the real value of the endowment. Therefore, any contribution will grow in perpetuity to provide support for future student awards. Each year any increase in funds exceeding inflation for the year, as measured by the published Consumer Price Index, will be eligible for disbursement.”

Please direct feedback, ideas, concerns to:

- Michael Ryan**  
ryanm@ferris.edu
- Alan Hudson**  
ahudson@med.wayne.edu
- Jim VandenBosch**  
jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu

## Finance Report

*Alan Hudson*

Checking account balance at TCF Bank is \$13,718.84; this is liquid assets that we can and do use for meeting support.

This does not include the two CDs, which we cannot access without penalty; these are interest-earning, while our checking account is not.

Checks were recently received for \$1900 in response to the Branch Funding Proposal (workshops) and \$2450 in support for the two annual meetings.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Audra Swarthout, Delta College

\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Secretary** (2 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Hess, Aquinas 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.