

Agricultural Research, has been appointed as a member of the Science Advisory Committee of the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Coalition. The advisory committee will provide critical guidance in how to both strengthen and raise the profile of agricultural research particularly related to the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The goals of the committee include identifying additional opportunities for collaboration and cross-disciplinary work between agricultural research programs and other federally funded science programs and providing advice and recommendations for advancing agricultural research as a whole. The ASM is a founding member of the SoAR coalition. For more information on SoAR go to <http://supportagresearch.org/>.

ASM Attends Town Hall Meeting on Research Advocacy

Public Affairs staff attended a Town Hall meeting held by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. The town hall focused on current advocacy activities and future plans for collaborations between coalition members. Updates were provided from organizations ACT for NIH and Research!America. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations and industry that support enhancing the federal investment in the biomedical, behavioral and population based research conducted and supported by the NIH.

American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology

New Diplomates

The American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology (ABMLI) is pleased to welcome the following newly certified Diplomates:

Stephen Apfelroth, M.D., Ph.D.,

NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation-Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.

Aziz Chentoufi, Ph.D., King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Trivikram Dasu, Ph.D., New Berlin, Wis.

Eszter Lázár-Molnár, Ph.D., University of Utah School of Medicine and ARUP Laboratories, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Michael O'Sullivan, M.B.B.S., PathWest Laboratory Medicine, Western Australia.

Adam Vance Wisnewski, Ph.D., Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn.

The ABMLI certifies the expertise of doctoral-level immunologists seeking to direct laboratories engaged in the practice of medical laboratory immunology. ABMLI certification is recognized by federal and state governmental agencies as a significant component toward meeting licensure requirements to direct laboratories engaged in the microbiological diagnosis of human disease. It is recognized under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 final rule and in all 11 states that require licensure: Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

ASM Meetings and Conferences

ASM Microbe 2016: Submit Your Abstract Today

Submit your abstract before January 12, 2016 for the inaugural ASM Microbe 2016 (16–20 June 2016, Boston, Mass.) to share your latest researching findings alongside the foremost leaders in the field! Integrating ASM's General Meeting and ICAAC, the all-new ASM Microbe 2016 is *the* premier event that showcases the best microbial sciences in the world and explores the complete spectrum of microbiology. Detailed

program information is available online. Registration will open to everyone on 7 January 2016. For more information, visit www.asm.org/microbe2016.

2016 ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting

Join nearly 1,000 of your colleagues at the 2016 ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting (8–10 February, Arlington, Va.) to discuss how you can apply the latest research in emerging infectious diseases to mitigate the potential effects of bioterrorism. This meeting features plenary sessions, workshops, poster presentations, *This Week in Microbiology* (TWIM) podcasts, and concurrent symposia including select oral abstract presentations. To learn more, visit www.asm.org/biodefense2016.

Save the Date: 32nd Clinical Virology Symposium

Join your peers from 19–22 May in 2016 in Daytona Beach, Fla., for the 32nd Clinical Virology Symposium. Stay up to date with the latest research on viral infections through focused plenary sessions as well as poster and case presentations. New for 2016: the Symposium will take place from Thursday through Sunday, and will include increased networking opportunities for you to expand connections with fellow laboratorians, physicians, and biomedical researchers involved in patient care and public health. For more information, visit www.asm.org/cvs2016.

Upcoming ASM Conferences

ASM Conferences address the needs of the diverse scientific interests of microbiologists by providing a forum for international groups of scientists to discuss their specific area of concentration. Mark your calendar for these upcoming ASM Conferences. For more information, visit www.asm.org/conferences.

@ASM Conference on The Individual Microbe: Single-Cell Analysis and

Agent-Based Modeling (18–20 March 2016, Washington, D.C.)

13th ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis (13–17 April 2016, Seattle, Wash.)

ASM Conference on Streptococcal Genetics (31 July–3 August 2016, Washington, D.C.)

2nd ASM Conference on Experimental Microbial Evolution (4–7 August 2016, Washington, D.C.)

5th ASM Conference on Salmonella (29 August–1 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany.)

6th ASM Conference on Beneficial Microbes (9–12 September 2016, Seattle, Wash.)

ASM Conference on Infection and Cancer (24–27 October 2016, Washington, D.C.)

ASM Conference on Antibacterial Development (11–14 December 2016, Washington, D.C.)

Education Board

Entrepreneurship Workshop Explains How to Commercialize Research

Creating a company calls for skills different than those needed for conducting laboratory research. However, the skillset of a life scientist—writing proposals, giving presentations, managing personnel and budgets, and establishing and negotiating collaborations—is fully applicable to business. Many government and academic entities are recognizing the parallels and encouraging researchers to take their work beyond the lab and into commerce.

To guide scientists interested in commercializing their research but unsure of where to start, the ASM Education Board offers “Turning Your Science into a Company,” a workshop about scientific entrepreneurship. Launched in 2014, the event uses a small-group format and targets individuals at the early stage of their careers. For the 2015 workshop, 11 graduate students, postdoctoral scientists,

and early-career scientists gathered at ASM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 1–3 October. Crystal Icenhour, Ph.D., CEO of the bioinformatics company Aperiomics, led the workshop, which used a combination of guest presentations, Q&A-style discussions, and case studies based on the foundation and evolution of three ongoing biotechnology companies. Over three days, Icenhour and guest scientist-entrepreneurs covered best practices for strategically navigating the three E’s of start-ups: establishing, executing, and exiting a business.

Establishing a Startup. Workshop speakers presented the concept of entrepreneurship from both academic and industrial perspectives. They also emphasized the importance of having a business plan and a strategy for managing intellectual property. Matthew Mulvey, Ph.D., BeneVir Bioparm, discussed strategies for structuring a startup. In addition, Kory Hallett, Ph.D., National Cancer Institute, and Ken Malone, Ph.D., Early Charm Ventures, shared information on identifying and securing business grants, loans, investors.

Executing a Start-up. To keep their ventures running smoothly, scientist-entrepreneurs need a working understanding of business accounting, legal, and sales principles. To provide participants with a general idea of the work required, speakers delved into the steps needed to execute a business plan. Mary Sylvia, J.D., of Wiley Rein, LLP, provided an overview of patent law issues, and William Hallett, Ph.D., U.S. Pharmacopeia, FDA, discussed regulatory considerations. Sylvia and Icenhour discussed research and development in corporate settings. Other topics included best practices of product development and commercialization.

Exiting a Startup. Drawing from her experience founding, running, and exiting a scientific startup business, Icenhour highlighted the importance of having an exit strategy: an exit is the

“payout” or return on investment to a company’s investors, and given that many startups secure funding from angel investors or venture capitalists, a payout strategy is integral to the startup business plan.

In addition to learning about the three E’s of entrepreneurship, attendees worked in groups to practice networking strategies and to prepare business-directed elevator pitches, which they presented to colleagues at the workshop. If the results from a post-event survey are any indication, the workshop approach worked well. There was 100% participation in the survey, and nearly 90% indicated that they would recommend the workshop to a colleague. Several respondents noted that the workshop was valuable for helping them determine whether entrepreneurship is their right path. “Elaboration of mistakes made and strategies, both tangible and intangible, for establishing, executing, and exiting a startup were immensely helpful,” said one participant.

Plans are underway for the next Turning Your Science into a Company workshop, which will take place in October 2016. As they become available, program details will be posted to www.asmgap.org.

ASM Kadner Institute Provides Professional Skills Training for Novice Scientists

To boost career competitiveness and build teaching and research expertise, most beginning scientists must develop skills in communication, leadership, and network building. However, comprehensive training for these skills is sometimes difficult to acquire in university settings. For help, many novice researchers have turned to ASM’s Kadner Institute for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists in Preparation for Careers in Microbiology. Held annually by the ASM Committee on Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, each institute is an intensive four-day exploration of grantsmanship, scien-