Hulede was an invited speaker at the 2015 Emerging Researchers National Conference (ERN) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics held 19–21 February in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Foundation, the annual ERN conference targets participants of national programs that increase diversity and develop students in undergraduate STEM education. Hulede’s presentation, “Making Powerful Presentations and Transitioning to the Next Stage,” emphasized the importance of communicating science well and planning smooth postdoc-to-independent-researcher transitions.

Rachel Horak and Irene Hulede represented ASM at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) held 13–15 March in Baltimore, Md. NPA’s yearly meeting is the largest gathering and networking event in the postdoctoral community, convening about 300 postdoctoral scientists, postdoctoral program administrators, and faculty to learn about the latest issues in postdoctoral education. At the meeting, Horak presented the poster “A New Curriculum for Undergraduate Microbiology Using Evidence-Based Teaching Practices.” In addition, she was a member of the panel “Engaging with Professional Societies to Meet the Diverse Needs of Today’s Postdocs.” Hulede promoted the ASM-CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and other ASM resources for postdoctoral scientists.

Education staff member Kelly Gull represented ASM at the concurrent national meetings of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the Society for College Science Teachers (SCST) held 12–15 March 2015 in Chicago, Ill. As a leader in science education, the NSTA works to engage science teachers and improve student learning nationwide. Its members are science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, and others involved in and committed to science education. The SCST is the only interdisciplinary NSTA-affiliate dedicated solely to the study and advancement of college science teaching. SCST members are college and university teaching scholars working to enhance science education through the development and testing of classroom teaching practices.

Obituary

Edward B. Goldberg

Edward B. Goldberg (Eddie) passed away on 5 February 2015. A most versatile microbiologist, Eddie made many important contributions to bacteriophage genetics, phage morphogenesis, and later in his career to the field of bioengineering of nanoparticles. He studied and worked as a postdoctoral researcher with Alfred Hershey at Cold Spring Harbor, and joined the faculty at the then newly formed Department of Microbiology at Tufts University Medical School in 1965. His scientific interests were wide ranging: DNA recombination, phage structure and assembly, and bio-nanotechnology.

We collaborated with Eddie and his group in 1998, when they had developed excellent recombinant DNA expression vectors for producing large amounts of functional phage structural proteins. Together, our colleagues were able to show that the phage T4 gene 3 protein was part of the control mechanism for phage tail length. His work on expression of structural proteins led to his focus on nanotechnology using phage T4 tail fibers as a model for biological nanostructures. He and his collaborators developed 10 patents from 1985 to 2003, including seven for nanotechnology, many using tail fibers. Eddie was a dreamer as well as a solidly logical scientist, and could come up with amazing ideas that were way outside conventional thinking at the time. I recall that when he told me he was going to use tail fibers as objects for bioengineering, I doubted that there was even a potential use for the fibers, but he later produced several papers, a student’s Ph.D. thesis, and several patents based on his inspiration. Eddie was well known at scientific meetings for his deep probing into the ideas behind the newest results. He was very critical and challenging in discussions, but did it with a lighthearted sparkle in his eye that made you feel OK, even though he could shred your best guesses. His intellect and insights will be missed by all in the phage community.

Fred Eiserling
University of California at Los Angeles