

Education Board

Fellowship Opportunities for Undergraduates, Graduate Students, and Postdocs

To promote access, excellence, professional development, and advancement in the microbial sciences, the ASM Education Board offers a variety of fellowship programs supporting research by trainees. In 2017, fellowships are expected to be available for undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/asmfellows> hips17nl.

Save the Date! ASMCUE 2017 Heads to Denver, Colorado Area

We are excited to share the new dates and location for the ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE). Next year's Conference will take place on July 27–30, 2017 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver Colorado. ASMCUE gathers over 350 microbiology and biology educators for an interactive four-day conference. Educators come from colleges, universities and international institutions to learn and share the latest information in the biological sciences and education research. The conference program includes plenary, concurrent, poster, and exhibit sessions. Participants engage in formal and informal small group discussions between colleagues, all focused on the same goal: to improve teaching and learning in the biological sciences.

The deadline to submit abstracts for poster presentation is **February 15, 2017**. The poster abstracts are organized by both content and pedagogy. The content themes are evolution, cell structure and function, metabolic pathways, information flow and genetics, microbial systems, and impact of microorganisms. For the purposes of ASMCUE, a seventh concept, advancing STEM education and research has been added to the abstract in order to identify authors working in this broader-scoped area. We

look forward to another successful Conference next summer in Denver, Colorado. Keep checking for updates to the preliminary program and important deadlines at www.asmcue.org.

JMBE: New Journal Issue Available—Microbiology as a Nursing Curriculum Staple

The editors of ASM's *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education (JMBE)*—the premier journal for microbiology and biology education research—are pleased to announce the publication of the December 2016 issue (volume 17, issue 3) of the journal. It will feature 35 articles available via 9 sections.

The issue is introduced by an editorial from *JMBE*'s editor-in-chief, Dr. Samantha L. Elliott of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The editorial seeks support from the community to keep microbiology as a mandatory component of the nursing curriculum. Some other highlights of the new issue include: late-breaking abstracts from the 2016 ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators, research on student misconceptions, a guide for assessing a CURE, and a vetted statistics module for the classroom. There are over ten innovative, easily-implemented classroom and laboratory activities on topics such as quantitative modeling and using Twitter as a teaching tool. The December issue will also include a discussion of ASM's Science Teaching Fellows online course structure and its impact on participants.

JMBE content, including the newly published December issue, is available at ASMscience.org, the one-stop shop for ASM books, journals, and reports. Available in PubMed Central, *JMBE* features peer-reviewed, practical tips for teaching, education research and perspectives, innovations in science, and reviews. The journal is a freely available, open-access publication, and there are no page charges for authors. Manuscript submissions are reviewed on a rolling basis, and editors provide

hands-on guidance throughout the review process. To view the journal's media kit, author guidelines, and sign up for eTOC alerts, visit <http://www.asm-science.org/jmbe>.

Branches: ASM Activity at the Local Level

Eastern Pennsylvania Branch ASM: Special Meeting To Honor Long-Time Members

The 749th Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of ASM, held on September 19, 2016, at Thomas Jefferson University, was a special meeting to honor Branch Emeritus members, as well as current Branch members who have belonged to National ASM for 40 years or more. The Branch currently has 23 members in the "40-year plus" category, including two 65-year members, James Smith and Victor Iacocca, both of whom attended the meeting.

The meeting, "Branch Genomics: Mixing the Old and New Branch Generations," focused on how microbiology and the Branch have evolved over the last 60 years, and included some thoughts on future directions from the current Student Chapter (future Branch leaders!). Presentations included:

"The Branch and Microbiology 1950–1976 (James A. Poupard, Pharma Institute of Philadelphia)

"Changes in Microbiology at Temple University—Then & Now" (Toby K. Eisenstein, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University)

"Clinical Laboratories Microbiology—Then & Now" (Olarae Giger, Main Line Health Laboratories)

"Microbiology Education—Then & Now" (Barbara McHale, Office of the President, Gwynedd Mercy University)

"The Branch Student Chapter—The Future" (Simon Knight, Branch President; Perelman School of Medicine at

the University of Pennsylvania; and Neil Sullivan, Student Chapter President; Drexel University)

Meeting attendees included students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and scientists working in laboratories in industry, government and medical schools—a diverse range of old and new members. Photos and a “mix-the-generations” dessert session was held after the formal meeting. Reflecting on her involvement in the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch, Eisenstein commented, “The Branch has served a central role in communicating the depth and breadth of microbiology and connecting microbiologists working in different spheres of the science; the friends and colleagues I have met here over the years have had a major impact on my life and career.”

Established in 1920, the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the ASM serves professional microbiologists across Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and South/Central New Jersey through several annual events as well as regular monthly meetings. The Branch also sponsors an active regional Student Chapter. For information on upcoming Branch activities, see <https://www.epaasm.org/>.

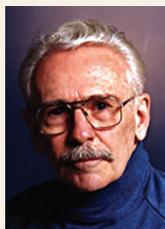
James A. Poupard



(L-R) Longtime Eastern PA Branch Members: James Poupard-45*, Barbara McHale-49, Olarae Giger-40, Victor Iacocca-64, James Smith-65, Louis Fare-59, Toby K. Eisenstein-49, ASM Past President Richard Crowell-56 (*, years of ASM membership).

Obituaries

Fred Neidhardt



Neidhardt

A towering figure in microbiology, our friend Fred Neidhardt died on October 7, 2016 at his retirement home, the Academy Village near Tucson, Ariz., at the age of 85. He made fundamental and abiding contributions to research, teaching, academic administration, and social issues. In each, he left deep-rooted marks that made him greatly respected and highly beloved.

His academic life began at Kenyon College, which he attended on a scholarship he received as a not-particularly advantaged kid from Philadelphia. He had a great love and appreciation for his alma mater, which conferred on him an honorary doctorate (one of three, the other two from Purdue and Umeå, Sweden). He got his Ph.D. from Harvard with Boris Magasanik and did postdoctoral work in Paris with Jacques Monod. He held faculty positions at Harvard, Purdue, and Michigan, where he eventually served as chair of Microbiology and Vice President for Research (when in this post, one of us asked him what his budget was. He replied: “One billion dollars.”

“And your “disposable budget”? “Ten thousand dollars!”). Fred served as president of the ASM and the Waksman Foundation for Microbiology, and on numerous government and private advisory and editorial boards. His honors included fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Microbiology, and many others in this country and abroad.

Fred took the lead in the development of bacterial

growth physiology. He explained: “Intrigued by growth as the unique property of living systems, I was captivated upon first observing, early on in graduate school, the speed, efficiency, and adaptability of the growth of bacterial cells such as *Escherichia coli*. I resolved to learn all I could about how cells grow, and to do so by exploring the physiology of bacteria.” Accordingly, he made centrally important, often innovative, contributions to such phenomena as catabolite repression, the stringent response, and the patterns of response to stress. He pioneered in the development of critical methodologies. He was among the first to use conditional mutants to study essential processes in bacteria. He developed proteomics and is considered the father of this field. He designed a synthetic medium (MOPS) that allowed the study physiological properties of bacteria in a reproducible way.

In an attempt to centralize the knowledge of *E. coli* as the premier model system in Biology, he initiated and became the editor-in-chief of what became known as the “*E. coli* bible,” a two-volume book called “*Escherichia coli and Salmonella*.” An example of his precise and numbers-based approach is his much-cited table of the composition of *E. coli* found in this tome.

Based in part on his Quaker beliefs, Fred was actively engaged in issues ranging from equality for women (for which he received the first ASM’s Alice Evans award), to the status of minorities in academia and elsewhere, to justice in the penal system, to treatment of immigrants.

The two of us wrote or co-edited five books with him (out of a total of eight to his name), so we knew each other well enough to be able at times to finish each other’s sentences. We knew Fred from our early days in science. He spent a partial sabbatical in one our labs (II). In the late 1950’s, one of us (MS) was a direct competitor of his on two occasions once he published first, once MS did. Out of this came a deep