ASM News

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Supports ICAAC ID Fellows Grant Program

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals is supporting the ICAAC ID Fellows Grant Program with a grant for 60 ID Fellows to attend the 25–28 October Joint ICAAC/IDSA Meeting in Washington, D.C. A subcommittee of the Joint Meeting Program Committee will select up to 45 ID Fellows from the US Infectious Disease Fellowship Programs and 15 ID Fellows from the International Infectious Disease Fellowship Programs. Such sponsorship offers ID fellows a unique opportunity to attend ICAAC and participate in an experience specifically tailored to their developmental needs. The selected group of Fellows will have the opportunity to hear a keynote talk targeted to them, participate in mentored poster walks, receive overviews of recommended sessions for attendance, and interact with Joint Meeting Program Committee members. Nadia Chaves, a 2007 ICAAC International ID Fellow from Melbourne, Australia, says of her experience in last year’s program, “The ICAAC committee members were always available; they were friendly and approachable, directed us to specific workshops, and made the myriad of seminars more accessible.” Fellows will be given daily personalized attention in discussions about career and research opportunities in infectious diseases to help maximize their educational experience.

The increase in the number of grants that will be offered through the ID Fellows Grant Program at this year’s Joint Meeting will broaden networking opportunities for fellows. Federico Perez, an ID Fellow affiliated with Case Western Reserve University, comments about the global reach of ICAAC’s ID Fellows Grant Program in year 2007, “I believe its real success is that it brings fellows from around the country, and indeed around the world, together. Those early breakfasts with people from Japan, Russia, Portugal, Australia, U.K., Mexico, Argentina, India, Pakistan, Colombia, France, Spain . . . . were memorable early exercises in networking . . . . the conversations we had about each others’ training and research programs gave us new perspectives and inspiration.” The ID Fellows Grant Program Committee is international in scope and its members encourage fellows to engage in discussions and consider collaborations with their scientific colleagues from around the world.

Those interested in participating in this year’s grant program or who would like to refer scientific colleagues or students to the program should be advised of the following criteria: Submission of an abstract to the 2008 Joint Meeting is not mandatory, however it is strongly encouraged. Preference will be given to candidates who have abstracts accepted for presentation. Applicants are required to be ASM members at time of 48th Annual ICAAC/IDSA 46th Annual Meeting; enrolled in a Ph.D., Pharm.D., or M.D. program at the time of application to the ID Fellows Grant Program or meeting; and should provide a cover letter from the applicant, including their contact information and professional interests, accompanied by a letter of nomination from the individual’s ID Fellowship Program Director on letterhead, including confirmation of ID Fellowship status. A letter of nomination, cover letter, and copy of abstract(s), if applicable, are due on 20 June 2008 to ICAAC Infectious Diseases Fellows Grant Program, American Society for Microbiology Meetings Department, 1752 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036–2904. Costs covered by this program include airfare, transportation to and from the convention center, hotel stay for the meeting dates, daily breakfasts, and other amenities about which details will be shared.

20 Biologists Selected to Investigate Student Learning

Twenty biologists have been selected for the Biology Scholars Program, a National Science Foundation (NSF) program to transform under-
Twenty Biologists Selected for the 2008–2009 Research Residency

Holly Ahern, Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, N.Y.

Teri Balser, University of Wisconsin, Madison


Patricia Baynham, St. Edward’s University, Austin, Tex.

Christopher Burke, University of Tasmania, Launceston, Tasmania

Jeff Carmichael, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D.

David Dunbar, Cabrini College, Radnor, Pa.

Anne-Marie Hoskinson, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta

Carol Hurney, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Samantha Kerry, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, St. Mary’s City, Md.

Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, Calif.

Jenny Knight, University of Colorado, Boulder

Min-Ken Liao, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

Sherri Morris, Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.

Pushpa Ramakrishna, Chandler Gilbert Community College, Chandler, Ariz.

James Smith, Michigan State University, East Lansing

Bethany Stone, University of Missouri, Columbia

Mangala Tawde, Queensborough Community College, Bayside, N.Y.


Mary Pat Wenderoth, University of Washington, Seattle

Graduate biology education through the leadership of life science professional societies. Established in 2007, the program seeks to enhance biologists’ understanding and practice of evidenced-based teaching and learning. “I expect from this program to learn how to conduct the same caliber of research in the classroom using my students as my subjects as the bench-side research I have been conducting for the past 15 years to ask worthwhile questions to explore their learning,” reported one Scholar in her application to participate.

The first cohort was selected from a highly competitive pool of biologists who seek to learn from one another and to develop a community of practice. One applicant describes her situation, “There are very few science academics who are involved in educational research, and thus it is nearly impossible to find advice on campus about how to proceed when we have a problem.” Another says, “I view the BSP as a way to use the best aspects of a sabbatical-like experience to create a community committed to devise and implement the best practices for assessing student learning in higher education. I want to gather regularly with a community of peers to discuss research methods, data analysis, recent journal articles, and more.”

The Biology Scholars Program is a national laboratory for biologists from all sectors of higher education and all subdisciplines of the biological sciences. Four participants come from community colleges, seven from undergraduate colleges, and nine from doctoral institutions. One participant from Australia will join the 2008 cohort. Each participant will commit up to two years conducting research; some examples of the 2008 projects are understanding students’ ability to (i) overcome misconceptions in cell biology and genetics, (ii) grasp difficult topics in physiology with writing assignments requiring different levels of understanding, (iii) acquire critical skills for a nursing profession from a virtual laboratory course in biology, (iv) internalize complex relationships in microbiology through role playing and concept maps, and (v) understand and apply their own learning preferences to benefit from group discussions, simulations, and independent research in general and plant biology. The Biology Scholars Program,
under the leadership of the ASM Education Board, supports three residency programs: research, writing, and leadership. The Research Residency kick-off event is the annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Institute on 16–19 July 2008 in Washington, D.C. A second residency program, the Writing Residency, is planned to kick off with a writing institute in January 2009 at ASM. The goal of this institute is to develop biologists’ skills at interpreting data from their research, preparing manuscripts, and identifying pertinent venues to publish studies in life science education journals.

More information about the Program may be found at www.biologyscholars.org. The program is a collaborative project of ASM, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, and the American Association for Advancement of Science BiosciEdNet Program. Other affiliates include the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the American Physiological Society, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Society for Cell Biology, the Ecological Society of America, and the Genetics Society of America.

ASM in Peru: Supporting Latin America’s Youth

The II Latin American Student Congress of Microbiology and Parasitology was held from 4–8 February 2008 in Ica, Peru. The Congress was originally set to occur in the fall of 2007 but was postponed due to a devastating earthquake that damaged 90% of this beautiful city on 15 August 2007. Despite significant obstacles, the Congress’s organizing committee, comprised of microbiology students led by Carlos Tipisana from the Universidad Nacional San Luis Gonzaga de Ica, was determined to host this important event. Motivated by their passion for science, an exciting, well-structured, and highly successful meeting was realized. ASM provided strong support through the active participation of three ASM Ambassadors from Latin America and Lily Schuermann, Director of ASM International Affairs. ASM also sponsored two Best Poster Awards and enabled 70 low-income students to attend by covering bus transportation to and from the event. Finally, ASM established an ASM Resource Center at the university, which incurred major structural damage and lost valuable teaching materials in the earthquake.

More than 400 attendees gathered to learn about new microbiology research through presentations from renowned scientists from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Peru, and Uruguay. Six roundtable discussions were also held, including one led by Schuermann and the ASM Ambassadors that described the opportunities afforded to ASM members. Schuermann also gave an in-depth presentation entitled “ASM: Promoting the development and use of microbiology around the world.”

In addition to their plenary lectures, Guido Mora (Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay) and Irma Rivera (Ambassador to Brazil) conducted two minicourses, “Functional Genomics: Searching For Virulence Factors” and “Methods in Environmental Microbiology,” respectively. Marcel Gutierrez-Correa (Ambassador to the Andean Region) presented a plenary lecture entitled “Industrial Microbiology within the Context of Bioeconomy.” Gutierrez-Correa also hosted an ASM booth, participated on the review committee for best poster awards, and helped manage the day-to-day activities of the Congress. In addition to providing information on ASM programs and services, the ASM booth enabled attendees to use local currency to pay for membership, ASM publications, and MicrobeLibrary subscriptions. Forty student members and thirteen full members joined ASM on site.

While ASM’s support during the Congress added prestige and depth to the event, the creation of the ASM Resource Center in the University library will be an ongoing source of assistance and constant reminder of the Society’s relevance to the region. The Center includes 48 ASM books, access to member benefits, and a connection to MicrobeLibrary. “I wish I could be a student again,” commented a local professor while reviewing the new books. “This is extremely important since one of the main barriers to fostering science education in Third World countries is the availability of specialized books.”

Juan Marino Alva Fajardo, Rector, and Francisco Chaparro Zapana, Vice-Rector of the Universidad Nacional San Luis Gonzaga de Ica publicly recognized ASM’s support by awarding Schuermann and the three Ambassadors the “50
Years Gold Medal,” the highest honor given by the university.

Following the Congress Schuermann, Rivera, and Gutierrez-Correa took advantage of the opportunity to meet with leaders of the microbiology community in Lima, including the President of the Peruvian Society for Microbiology and students and faculty from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. The result of ASM’s support to the Congress and subsequent meetings was a revitalization of the local society, increased awareness of ASM, and a powerful inspiration to the next generation of microbiologists in Latin America.

Marcel Gutierrez-Correa of the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina is ASM Ambassador to the Andean Region.

Giving Bad Germs the Boot: Science and Tradition Unite to Germ Proof Your Kids

When anxious parents turn to their child’s doctor for advice on preventing disease, they might not expect a reminder to have their kids wear their boots in the rain. In Dr. Harley A. Rotbart’s office, however, that is just what parents may hear.

Rotbart, internationally respected pediatrician and infectious diseases expert, has no end of scientific knowledge on combating childhood diseases. However, like many of us, Rotbart was raised under the care of his mother and grandmother—matriarchs skilled in traditional cures and practical wisdom. “In my home growing up, health was determined by a unique interplay between hot and cold, warm and dry, nutritious and nonnutritious. To say that my parents were naïve about germs would be an understatement,” recalls Rotbart. “Yet, the advice they gave and the ‘cures’ they used to keep us healthy worked.”

Reconciling scientific and traditional approaches is at the heart of Rotbart’s new book, Germ Proof Your Kids: the Complete Guide to Protecting (without Overprotecting) Your Family from Infections. When it comes to keeping children healthy, parents today must wade through a great deal of information from wide-ranging sources. “Throw into the mix the non-stop news headlines that seem to redefine what’s healthy and what’s unhealthy every day, and you have the perfect storm for parental confusion. These same confused parents bring their questions to their kid’s physicians, who themselves often have little time to learn the science behind the home remedies or the real story behind the headlines.” In an effort to bridge the gap between parents and physicians, Rotbart wrote Germ Proof Your Kids with the goal of simply “answering the questions that are hard to find elsewhere.” The result is a valuable guide brimming with practical advice and technical information, ideal for physicians and parents alike.

Germ Proof Your Kids is written in a logical progression that first defines the “germ enemies,” explains the diseases caused by those germs, and then provides information on prevention and treatment of those diseases. Readers will come away with a full picture of why germs cause diseases and the steps they can take to keep their children safe. However, with such chapters as “Sanitary Sanity” and “Prudent Paranoia,” Germ Proof Your Kids is also intended to prevent parents and physicians from waging a full-scale war on germs. Rotbart hopes to instill parents with a sense of balance and an understanding of the benefits of certain germs. “I hope the result is less overprotection and more reasonable approaches to kids’ health.”

As for some of the advice in the book? It won’t be a surprise to your grandmother. “Science has born out much of Grandma’s wisdom regarding germ defense—from validating the importance of hygiene and proper nutrition to supporting the benefits of adequate sleep and wearing your boots in the rain. The book even explores the science behind chicken soup—you’ll be surprised!”
Education Board

ASM and BioQUEST Host Bioinformatics Institute for Undergraduate Faculty

Twenty-four undergraduate faculty members from various institutions converged at ASM Headquarters to attend the third annual ASM/BioQUEST Bioinformatics Institute on 6–9 March. About 75% of participants came from undergraduate colleges, including community colleges. The course uses a research-like, problem-solving approach to model methods of analyzing molecular and genomic data. Topics included evolutionary theory and sequence analysis, incorporation of bioinformatic activities into existing and proposed courses, and identification of research tools and collections accessible to the public.

“The power of the learning modules presented was very impressive in how the biological inquiry remained first and foremost in these exercises. The point driven home was that an exercise need not be complicated to be effective and to empower students to perform their own inquiry-based projects. The power of the bioinformatics analysis was reinforced as cost-effective means for students to perform research,” says one participant.

The program approaches bioinformatics as an interdisciplinary field that depends on collaborative input from diverse groups of specialists to solve complex problems. One stated, “It was great to be introduced to a community of biology faculty who are committed to using bioinformatics in their courses and to be able to look to this group for ideas and support in the future.” One commented on the power of knowing others involved in undergraduate bioinformatics training, “It was validating to see things that I initiated independently also in use by others.”

The leaders for the 2008 program included John Jungck of Beloit College, Beloit, Wis., founder of the BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium in 1986; Sam Donovan of the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Anton Weissman of Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo.; Brad Goodner of Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio; and Cheryl Kerfeld of the U.S. Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute. Special presentations were made by Celeste Carter of the National Science Foundation and Tuajuanada Jordan from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The next Institute is planned for March 2009 in Washington, D.C. The 2009 program is geared at the introductory level. Sign up for the ASM Edualert at http://www.asm.org/subscribe.asp to be notified about information when it becomes available. At the site enter your e-mail address and select Edualert from the list of other ASM alerts and listservs. If you are interested in joining a community of 1,800 undergraduate microbiology educators, sign up for Microedu.

Now Available in the MicrobeLibrary: JMBE Volume 9 and FOME, Spring 2008

Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education

Change – Something that pushes life forward but also something that people tend to fear. Change has been rampant around JMBE over the past year. It all began with the change of name to help broaden the scope of the journal and to more accurately reflect the specialties of the members of our society. This volume spreads its wings by publishing articles that focus on genome sequencing in the classroom (Drew and Triplett) and Mendelian inheritance in Drosophila (Marshall), both of which fit directly into the interests of our readership. Not to forget our roots, this volume also contains manuscripts that come directly from microbiology courses. The publication by Johnson examines the effect that online learning modules have on examination scores of medical students enrolled in a microbiology course. The publication by Hughes takes online learning one step further and studies the effectiveness of an online microbiology course for non-science majors.

This coming year change will continue. The journal has had a rolling acceptance policy in the past but has not had many manuscripts submitted outside of the October deadline. Over the past year we have tried to push the idea that we are a rolling acceptance publication with a final submission date for that year’s volume being the October deadline. Under the rolling acceptance system, submissions are dealt with in a timely manner, and those accepted will be posted online, as we did this year, ahead of the final publication of that volume the following May. So feel free to submit your manuscripts in January, June, or August. As always, we stand ready to assist you in the publication of your education research.

A final change is that Jeff Byrd is retiring as Editor-in-Chief and Chris Woolverton will be the sole Editor-in-Chief next year. Jeff has been Editor-in-Chief since taking over from Amy Cheng Vollmer in 2003. Chris has been on the board of the journal since 2002 and is ready to take the journal to the next level. Your submissions will help him achieve this goal.

Jeffrey J. Byrd
Co-Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education

Christopher J. Woolverton
Co-Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Whole Genome Sequencing in the Undergraduate Classroom: Outcomes and Lessons from a Pilot Course
Jennifer C. Drew and Eric W. Triplett, University of Florida, Gainesville

Development of Higher-Level Cognitive Skills in a Learner-Centered Lab on Extensions of Mendelian Inheritance Using Drosophila
Pamela A. Marshall, Arizona State University at the West Campus, Phoenix

Impact of Online Learning Modules on Medical Student Microbiology Examination Scores
Mary T. Johnson, Indiana University School of Medicine, Terre Haute

Construction and Evaluation of an Online Microbiology Course for Nonscience Majors
Lee Hughes, University of North Texas, Denton

Focus on Microbiology Education

The spring 2008 issue of Focus on Microbiology Education reprised the theme of
the fall 2007 issue—outreach, this time not only to high school students but also to middle school students. Our authors have multifaceted talents to display. Sure, they know microbiology, but they also are finely tuned in to their target audience, no mean feat given a wide age range.

Consider titles, for example. “Sex, Drugs, and Rock’n’Roll: The Private Lives of Microbes” is a great way to catch the attention of the high school students whose teachers attended the workshop described in the article by Tracey Meilander and Christopher Woolverton. The workshop contained much more, and the article may provide inspiration for outreach in your local area. Also, check out the title of Cory Sifnestein’s article—and you know there’s a mischievous middle school student waiting to make a wisecrack.

But there’s more. The articles by Ruth Gyure and Cory Sifnestein provide nearly a point and counterpoint of view—first from the perspective of the college-level microbiologist and second from the middle school teacher. The tasks and the issues are different for each person. What is important is that each participant was sensitive to the other’s needs and that the collaboration provided a positive experience for both individuals and their students. You know a project is successful when a colleague wants to try what you have done, and that’s what happened.

The Journal Watch for this issue is eclectic: look for reviews in microbial pathogenesis, evolution and ecology, and metagenomics. Web Watch includes reviews that you might consider as you start a genome. The chemistry site lets you perform anything if you goof). Happy reading.

Lucy W. Kluckhohn Jones
Editor—Focus on Microbiology Education

Focus on Microbiology Education, Spring 2008, Volume 14, No. 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATUERES

Engaging Teachers and Students in Microbiology Education
Tracey T. Meilander, Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education Initiatives, Cleveland, Ohio

Christopher J. Woolverton, Kent State University Center for Public Health Preparedness, Department of Biological Sciences, Kent, Ohio

Helping Middle School Students Learn Science with “Mentor Constructed” Data Sets
Ruth A. Gyure, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury

Boys and Girls, Take a Pea... Cory Sifnestein, E. C. Adams Middle School, New Haven, Connecticut

NEWS AND WATCH

On Your Newsstands Now: Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education, Volume 9
Jeffrey Byrd, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, St. Mary’s City
Christopher Woolverton, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

JOURNAL WATCH
Jennifer A. Herzog, Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer, New York

WEB WATCH
Gary Kaiser, Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville, Maryland

The articles in JMBe and FOME are available in the MicrobeLibrary (www .microbelibrary.org). Viewing the PDF versions or individual articles requires a subscription of $25.00 for ASM members and $50.00 for nonmembers. Visit the ASM eStore (www.estore.asm.org) to subscribe.

International Affairs

Botswana Quality Assurance Programme Evaluation—February 2008

In responding to the national call for laboratory services capacity building in preparedness for the HIV/AIDS-antiretroviral therapy program and laboratory testing information in general, a situation analysis (SA) of laboratory services in Botswana was conducted in February 2001 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention field station in Botswana (CDC/BO-TUSA), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), and Botswana Medical Laboratory Scientist experts to provide baseline information on the state of laboratory quality assurance (QA) in the country. Based on the SA report, a national Quality Assurance Programme (QAP) implementation plan was established through a five-year strategic plan (2002–2007) to identify and prioritize needs of the national QAP and a quality manager position at the national level was created. The program goal was to coordinate the development and implementation of the Quality Management Systems for all laboratories in the country, including government, missions, mines, and the private sector, in accordance with the national and international standards for medical laboratory practice and ultimately accreditation.

The five-year plan required an evaluation of the entire program to measure effectiveness and progress of the QAP in all levels of the laboratories in Botswana in 2008. This evaluation was carried out from 4–12 February 2008 by a multidisciplinary team which included ASM consultants Kay Withnall and Larry Buck. Over two weeks, five teams traveled to multiple laboratories to conduct on-site visits to observe and interview laboratory facilities and laboratory staff members from government, missions, mines, and the private sector in Botswana; to provide recommendations for the improvement of the QAP; and to reach the ultimate goal of the accreditation of some laboratories.

Overall, the teams found that the QAP has made tremendous progress over the last five years and that the commitment to the program is strong. Laboratories have a good understanding of the QAP, and the staff have received quality training and want to perform quality work. Buck commented, “It was a real pleasure to work with such knowledgeable and dedicated laboratory scientists to complete this ambitious evaluation.” Many hospital laboratories have upgraded their facilities, their management teams are committed to supporting the laboratory, and safety awareness is high. Three laboratories are in the process of applying for accreditation and three more are preparing to. However, laboratories are still trying to address issues with the both the maintenance and
repair of equipment and the supply chain for critical reagents, materials, and supplies. As in many countries, staff transfers and weak communication between the hospital and the laboratory have made daily operation of the laboratory challenging.

The teams recommended that the primary goal of the QAP be the accreditation of the National Health Laboratory (NHL), as it is the reference laboratory for the country. Development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for each external quality assurance program must also be completed. The assessors noted that smaller laboratories do not have the capacity or time to develop Quality Manuals, write SOPs, or develop programs such as Safety Programs. They advised that the NHL Quality Office take the lead and develop generic documents that can be adapted for use in individual laboratories. Additional staffing for the Quality Office would facilitate this.

Buck and Withnall will be working to continue this effort and further strengthen QA in Botswana for both bacteriology and acid-fast bacilli direct smear microscopy in the coming months.

Development of this publication was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number U62/CCU325119–03W1 from the Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP), Global AIDS Program (GAP). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

Membership

Deceased Members

Joseph J. Cooney died in a Boston hospital after a brief illness on 17 February 2008, age 74. Joe was an internationally respected researcher in environmental microbiology and in bioremediation of pollutants.

Born, raised, and educated in Syracuse, N.Y., Cooney began his academic career with faculty positions in New Orleans and then in Dayton, Ohio. Along the way, Joe and Maggie Cooney raised four children, who enriched their lives and were with them at the end of his life.

Cooney was educated largely in Catholic schools and earned his B.S. degree from LeMoyne College. He completed his Ph.D. with Don Lundgren at Syracuse University with studies of Bacillus sporulation and published the results in the Journal of Bacteriology. After a brief time at Loyola University of New Orleans, they packed up the children and dogs and moved to the University of Dayton in Ohio, where Cooney continued as a research-active faculty member. Next, Cooney accepted administrative responsibilities at the University of Maryland, as Professor and Head of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at Solomons, Md. From Maryland, Cooney moved to Boston to found a new multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences Department and to offer the first Ph.D. program at the young University of Massachusetts-Boston campus on Boston Harbor.

Cooney’s research passions were in the marine environmental arena and bioremediation. Jet fuel and plastic biodegradation was an early topic, followed by the relationships between hydrocarbons and microorganisms. About 100 research reports were coauthored with a series of familiar names. Organo-tin degradation was a more recent topic, and he published extensively on the interactions of tin and tin compounds with microorganisms.

Cooney was a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and served as President of the Ohio Branch of ASM from 1971–1973 and as President of the New England Branch from 1991–1992. He was an ASM National Lecturer in 1999–2001. He served on the Editorial Board of Applied and Environmental Microbiology. He was also very active in the Society of Industrial Microbiology (SIM). He retired as Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology in July 2007 after more than 13 years. Cooney played many other roles within the SIM, including President 1992–1993, and recipient of the Selman A. Waksman Outstanding Educator Award in 1998 and the Charles A. Porter Award in 2000. He was elected to Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was Fulbright Scholar in Ireland in 1989.

Recently, Cooney retired to the position of Emeritus Professor at UMass-Boston, to a horizontal house near Plymouth, Mass., overlooking a pond more suitable in size for swimming than for sailing. His numerous colleagues, friends, and family will miss his warmth, his humor, his wisdom and his advice.

This obituary is modified from a version available at Springerlink.com DOI: 10.1007/s10295-008-0335-8.

Simon Silver
Chicago, Ill.

Allen Laskin
Somerset, N.J.

Our distinguished colleague and dear friend, Viola Mae Young-Horvath, died on 30 September 2007 at the age of 91. Young was the quintessential microbiologist—she was an expert in bacteriology and parasitology, one of the early leaders in studies on Pseudomonas aeruginosa, an outstanding member of the ASM who was also elected to Honorary Membership, and an extraordinary advocate for women in microbiology in particular and for professional women everywhere.

Born in a log cabin near Allegan, Mich., Viola Mae was graduated from Michigan State University in 1936 and received a master’s degree in microbiology from the University of Illinois in 1943 and a doctorate in microbiology from Loyola University in Chicago in 1953. Young joined the Hektoen Institute of Medicine in Chicago as a parasitologist in 1948, and until 1954 she did research in tropical medicine in Puerto Rico and Jamaica. In 1954, Young became chief of the gastroenteritis studies section of the bacteriology department of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. It was there she formed her lifelong interest in Pseudomonas aeruginosa, the opportunistic pathogen that infects patients with cystic fibrosis, cancer, and serious burns.

Young was subsequently chief of the microbiology service in the Clinical Pathology Department of the National Institutes of Health (1962 to 1967) and then chief of the microbiology research section of the National Cancer Institute’s Baltimore Cancer Research Center (1967 to 1980). In 1975, while at the Baltimore Cancer Research Center, Young organized a Pseudomonas research conference. As a consequence of this conference, she was instrumental in forming “The Pseudomonas Club,” a group of national and inter-
national *Pseudomonas* research scientists and treatment physicians. This group met during the national ASM meetings for over 25 years. In the course of these meetings, new research ideas were discussed, collaborations were formed, and young scientists and students were able to interact with more established workers in the *Pseudomonas* field. Several generations of *Pseudomonas* researchers and physicians were influenced by these interactions, and “The *Pseudomonas* Club” had a positive influence on the quality and impetus of *Pseudomonas* research around the world.

In all her professional life, Young worked tirelessly for her science (with more than 130 publications and teaching appointments with the NIH Graduate Program and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.) and for ASM. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, a member of several committees, and chair of the Committee on the Status of Women in microbiology from 1980 to 1986. Her other memberships included the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi: the Scientific Research Society, and the Association for Women in Science. In 1989 she was presented with the ASM’s Alice Evans Award for her major contributions to women in microbiology.

In her “retirement” Young worked as a consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Sanitation Foundation, was elected President of the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women, and for several years after that she was the Executive Director, organizing its establishment in formal headquarters offices and expanding its focus from mainly scientific organizations to other professional groups.

Viola Mae Young-Horvath is survived by her son Elek Horvath III, her daughter Mary S. Moore, and her two granddaughters, Christina and Jennifer. She is sorely missed by us all. Her memory is being honored by the Viola Mae Young Memorial Fund established by ASM with contributions from her colleagues and friends.

Contributions to the funds should be made payable to ASM and sent to 1752 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. ASM is a 501(C) (3) organization and contributions to the fund are fully tax deductible.

Ian Alan Holder
Anne Morris Hooke
Sara W. Rothman

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**Postdoctoral Membership**

Recognizing the unique status of scientists during the postdoctoral training phase of their careers, ASM now offers Postdoctoral Membership.

Now postdoctoral trainees can receive all the privileges* of Full Membership for $37 a year, for 4 consecutive years – two years longer than the Transitional Member rate offers.

The 2007 membership fee will be $37 ($35 for those who join or renew online). Any microbiologist who has earned a doctorate within the past 12 months is eligible. The Postdoctoral rate may not be combined with the Transitional rate to allow 6 years of reduced rate membership.

Contact Membership Services at service@asmusa.org for more information, or join online at estore.asm.org today!

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1752 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
http://www.asm.org
membership@asmusa.org

*except the right to vote or hold office