new program plan for strengthening the tuberculosis (TB) laboratory network in Ukraine. The meeting brought together key government counterparts, including the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, National TB Reference Laboratory and other lab network representatives, as well as international organizations, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC), the U.S. Agency for International Development, and PATH. In his welcome speech Charles Vitek, the CDC Director for Ukraine and Russia, highlighted the importance of ASM’s technical expertise and capacity building contributions in strengthening local laboratory networks.

Ukraine has one of the highest burdens of TB in the European region and is designated a high-priority country by the World Health Organization for stopping TB in the region. Over the past two decades Ukraine has witnessed a dramatic increase in HIV-associated TB and multidrug-resistant TB. ASM’s efforts, in close partnership with USCDC, bolster the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, as TB remains one of the leading killers for HIV patients.

The main goals of the Stakeholders’ Meeting were to highlight the challenges faced by TB laboratories in Ukraine and develop consensus on initiatives to deliver quality-assured and effective diagnostic services. ASM Consultant Mark Pettigrove presented the findings of the assessment of TB laboratories in Ukraine. The Ukraine Ministry of Health provided an update on the National TB Program.

Over the next year, the ASM Program in Ukraine will focus on improving the quality management systems of TB laboratories, strengthening biosafety, and the introduction of new molecular diagnostic technologies. Two oblasts (administrative unit), Chernigiv and Poltava, have been selected for piloting these activities. During the meeting, ASM sought inputs from the representatives of pilot oblasts and ensured buy-in by local stakeholders.

During the visit to Ukraine, ASM representatives Dilafruz Khaydarova and Ashleigh Oglesby also met with the President and the Vice President of the Ukrainian Association of Microbiologists to discuss potential areas of cooperation.

To learn more about ASM International Affairs and the LabCap Program visit www.asm.org.

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Branches: ASM Activity at the Local Level

Pasteur Award of the Illinois Society for Microbiology

J. Michael Miller, Ph.D., D (ABMM) is the 65th recipient of the Pasteur Award bestowed by the Illinois Society for Microbiology. He currently serves as the Director of Microbiology Technical Services, LLC, of Dunwoody, Ga. Miller retired in 2011 from the Centers for Disease Control after 35 years of service, where his last position was the Associate Director for Laboratory Science in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases. He received his B.S. and M.S. from Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, La.), and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. A postdoctoral residency was conducted at CDC in the Program in Public Health and Medical Laboratory Microbiology.

His CDC tenure included 12 years in the Division of Training followed by 12 years directing reference laboratories. For five years he directed the Laboratory Response Network, a major government effort in the detection and confirmation of bioterrorism agents. His work as Chief of various CDC divisions has included contributions to the CDC’s responses to all foodborne, vectorborne, enteric, waterborne, zoonotic, viral diseases, healthcare-associated infections, and bioterrorism response. He has held adjunct professorships at two universities, and has served on the editorial board of nine scientific journals. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, and has presented over 100 poster and oral presentations. His contributions to Microbiology include service as a member of over 15 various ASM committees, including past Chair of the Clinical Microbiology Division C, as well as a candidate for ASM President in 2007. Honors and awards include several CDC acknowledgements, including the Distinguished Service Award for the World Trade Center and Anthrax Investigation of 2002, along with the FDA Commissioner’s Special Recognition Award for Avian Influenza investigation of 2006. In addition he was a member of the CDC Hurricane Katrina response team in 2006. He is the only microbiologist in ASM history to receive both the leading Clinical Microbiology leadership award (2003 bioMerieux-Sonnenwirth National Award in clinical microbiology, ASM) and the top Public Health Microbiology Award (2010 ASM-Gen-Probe Joseph Public Health Award).

Miller’s major accomplishments include: authoring the first CDC publication on specimen management for laboratories, the first major CDC publication on quality control in microbiology for clinical labs, serving as one of the Founding Fathers of the National Laboratory Training Network, establishing at CDC the first biofilm federal laboratory in public health, standardizing the PFGE as CDC’s typing method for Staphylococci, and replacing the WHO phage typing system. He was the founder and currently manages ClinicMicroNet, the world’s largest international listserv for microbiology laboratory directors, and is the cofounder of
in this time that he initiated his research on the mechanisms of iron acquisition and virulence in the fish pathogen *Vibrio anguillarum*. The elucidation of the genetics and physiology of the anguibactin-mediated iron acquisition system in this bacterium served as a model to understand the critical role iron-uptake systems play in bacterial virulence. Later on, Jorge expanded his research to include other pathogenic vibrios such as *V. vulnificus* and *V. cholerae*, and the human pathogen *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.

Jorge’s pioneering work resulted in more than 150 publications for which he received numerous awards, including the OHSU Donald B. Slocum award, the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Award, and more recently the International Igor Stojiljkovic Memorial Award. He was an Editor of FEMS Letters and Biometals as well as member of the editorial boards of *Journal of Bacteriology* and *Infection and Immunity*. He was a member of several NIH Study Sections, including Microbial Physiology and Genetics and Bacterial Pathogenesis.

In addition to being a passionate investigator, Jorge was a great teacher and mentor. This, to us is the most important legacy Jorge leaves behind. The authors of this obituary had the tremendous opportunity and pleasure to have joined the Crosa’s lab at the time he moved to the OHSU. Seeing Jorge coming every day to lab with his mug full of French dark roast coffee (not allowed anymore) and asking us “How are you doing?” created a long-lasting experience still fresh in our minds. He was always ready to discuss science and always insisting on performing good science, the importance of controls, the continuing improvement of scientific writing, and the importance of achieving a high quality of scientific debate. He trained 11 graduate students, 16 postdoctoral fellows, 14 scientists, and four undergraduate students who visited and worked in his lab throughout his productive and successful tenure at OHSU.

Crosa was a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, president-elect of the International Biometals Society, and a member of ASM and the American Chemical Society. Besides being a passionate scientist and teacher, Jorge truly loved life. Music, especially jazz and opera, were among his favorites together with cheese and good wines. Mozart and Verdi were always around, and the clarinet, saxophone and cornet he played in Buenos Aires were easy to find in his home in Portland. Jorge is survived by his mother, Lela; his wife of 44 years, Lidia; his daughter Giselle; his sons Nicholas and Paul; his sister Norma; and his niece Laura. We will all remember Jorge as a great scientist, teacher, mentor, and colleague, but mostly as a friend who was always willing to help others professionally and personally.

**Luis A. Actis**  
**Marcelo E. Tolmasky**  
**Miguel A. Valvano**