ASM News

University of North Carolina Hospitals CPEP Program Reaccredited

For 30 years, the American College of Microbiology’s Committee on Postgraduate Educational Programs (CPEP) has accredited the Medical and Public Health Laboratory Microbiology Training Program at the University of North Carolina Hospitals (UNCH). Founded in 1976 by Larry McCarthy, Ph.D., the main objective of this program is to train individuals so they become qualified to direct clinical and public health microbiology laboratories.

Since its inception, 27 Fellows have successfully completed the program, and, currently, there are 2 Fellows in the program. Of those 29 Fellows, 13 have gone on to become Diplomates of the American Board of Medical Microbiology, and most hold leadership roles in clinical microbiology, both in academia and in government service. This year, CPEP celebrates the reaccreditation of the UNCH program for an additional seven years.

For the past 19 years Peter Gilligan, Ph.D., has been the director of the program at UNCH. According to Gilligan, “The training program at UNCH was the first program of its kind to have a formal molecular microbiology rotation, and we have been performing state-of-the-art diagnostics in our HIV lab for the past 15 years.” One distinct advantage of this program is that Fellows can perform their training rotations throughout the United States and in Malawi, where the UNCH Center for Infectious Disease has a clinical microbiology laboratory under the direction of a former trainee. The program places a primary emphasis on clinical research, giving Fellows the background needed to do translational research, which is a focus of funding agencies.

Training of each candidate involves five areas, and the program is designed to be flexible to ensure a complete education for each Fellow. Bench training is gained by spending time in each laboratory section with the technical staff. On-call responsibilities require that the Fellow be able to perform specialized procedures which may be needed on a “stat” basis. The Fellow and pathology resident will meet for didactic sessions several times weekly with the faculty. Work rounds follow and involve technical and scientific or managerial problem solving. Fellows have full access to the program director and consult with the director daily concerning training issues.

Over the next seven years Gilligan hopes to continue to train individuals with diverse backgrounds, including scientists from the developing world. The laboratory is making a rapid transition from traditional approaches to detection and identification of microbes to using molecular methods. Fellows will continue to be actively involved in developing novel diagnostic approaches using these new tools. Gilligan feels “with the graying of a large cadre of clinical microbiologists and the emergence of infectious disease problems, whether it is new agents or antimicrobial resistance in agents, the need for doctoral-level microbiologists will exist. . . . the program at UNC is in an excellent position to continue training leaders in the field of clinical microbiology.” Program graduates serve on the editorial boards of several journals, including the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology Reviews, and Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

For more information about CPEP, the UNCH program, or other CPEP-accredited program please visit: http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=2108.

Anthony Bouselli
Anthony Bouselli is Manager, Outreach and Marketing for the American Academy of Microbiology.
Sixteen Microbiologists Complete Scholars-in-Residence (ASMSiR) Program

Sixteen microbiologists completed a year-long residency program to improve student learning in the microbiological sciences (ASM News, Oct. 2005, p. 479–480). The ASM Scholars-in-Residence (ASMSiR) program brings together outstanding faculty committed to investigating and documenting significant issues and challenges in the teaching of microbiology. Specifically, the 16 microbiologists, deemed ASM Scholars, have applied their skills in conducting research in microbiology to research in learning about microbiology. In a given academic year their teaching impacted over 4,700 students at 16 different institutions, including two community colleges and two doctoral degree-granting universities. Rather than discovering the intricacies of the microbial world, they are engaged in understanding how students apply key microbial concepts and apply them to new understandings and practices in the microbial world.

The ASMSiR objectives are to (i) improve student learning in the microbiological sciences, (ii) enhance microbiology faculty members’ professional development, and (iii) support a community of scholars and scholarly work in promoting evidence-based course and curriculum change. This program has been highly successful in furthering ASM’s leadership role promoting science education to meet the challenges of the 21st century. One reports, “Over the past 8 months, I have made significant strides with my research project. After attending our training in July 2005, I immediately made changes to better link my Biology 101 discussion group program to my lecture course...” Another Scholar says, “I have really made a paradigm shift of attempting to incorporate a learning activity for each major concept and topic in ALL of my courses, including those online. It has made a HUGE difference in my attitude about teaching, and students are nuts for the activities.”

Another Scholar describes how he changed, saying “I have been empowered in certain ways to understand that research in teaching and learning is separate and distinct from teaching itself. Sure the two are related, but the research leading to the development of a diagnostic test for HIV [for example] bears little resemblance to the actual routine test that is performed. [These differences] I can relate to in the lab and in how I trained graduate students in the past, but I had...”

New ASM Career Portal Launched

The ASM Career Portal, found online at www.microbiologycareers.org, serves as a resource for microbiologists at all levels as they plan their careers and consider new career alternatives. Developed by the Career Development Committee of ASM’s Membership Board, the ASM Career Portal was launched in August 2006.

The ASM Career Portal consolidates ASM career information and new networking features to assist microbiologists in career planning. The ASM Career Portal’s resources include:

- Find a Job/Post a Job—access ASM Career Connections, ASM’s online job board and learn more about ASM’s onsite placement services at General Meeting and ICAAC
- Message Board on Microbiology Careers – discuss career development and job searching with peers
- ASM Salary Survey – search the results of the 2005 ASM salary survey using a variety of criteria including job title, region, industry, and length of professional experience
- Access career-related articles, information about certification and fellowships, and MORE!

An exciting feature of the ASM Career Portal is the “Ask the Experts” service. “Ask the Experts” allows microbiologists at all levels to get answers to career questions from experts in the microbiological sciences. Experts are available to answer questions regarding resume or curriculum vitae construction, the interview process, laboratory management, and general career advice. Questions and answers will also be archived into a keyword-searchable database.

The ASM Career Portal will continue to add new features over the next year. To be alerted of these new features, sign up for the ASM Career Portal Email Alert by visiting http://www.asm.org/subscribe.asp and selecting “asmcareerportal_alert” in the Update Lists section.

The ASM Career Portal offers important career development and job search tools which will directly benefit your career planning efforts. Visit the ASM Career Portal at www.microbiologycareers.org!

If you have any questions about the ASM Career Portal, please call (202) 942–9285 or send an e-mail to placement@asmusa.org.
never drawn these comparisons in my own mind to the scholarship of teaching and learning.” A community college faculty member after 20 years of experience says, “I found this experience to be a landmark experience in my teaching.” Each Scholar came to the residency with a question to examine and each received expert assistance in the scholarship of teaching and learning as it applied to his or her own classroom.

The program has been both challenging and a boost professionally. One reported, “Conducting learning research has been so much more challenging than I would have originally imagined it to be. In many ways, I feel the same way that I did as an undergraduate first entering my undergraduate thesis lab— I have some content information, but putting that information into practice to ask, answer, and then analyze a research question is quite different than simply reading about concepts.” Another states, “I can never look at how my students learn or how I facilitate that learning in the same way again. I now have a more critical eye about the process of teaching and what I am measuring with the various assessments.” She continues, “Perhaps one of the unexpected outcomes is that I am energized about my teaching.”

ASM is one of the first disciplinary societies to promote classroom research. The ASMSiR complements well two faculty programs, the annual ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE), a strategies conference for improving undergraduate education and the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education (JM&BE) (formerly the Microbiology Education Journal) (Microbe, August 2006, p. 379), an ASM publication for reporting research in learning. For more information about these programs, visit www.asmcue.org and www.MicrobeLibrary.org.

**sanofi-aventis U.S. Award**

**Jan Balzarini**, Ph.D., Full Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Laboratory of Virology and Chemotherapy, Rega Institute for Medical Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, is the recipient of the 2006 sanofi-aventis U.S. Award. Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from sanofi-aventis U.S., the award recognizes outstanding accomplishments in antimicrobial chemotherapy. The 2006 sanofi-aventis U.S. Award recognizes Balzarini for his important discoveries and achievements in the field of antimicrobial agents, viral drug resistance, and pharmacology of new antiviral agents.

Balzarini was among the first investigators to show that tumor cells become exquisitely sensitive to the cytostatic activities of antiherpetic nucleoside analogues upon prior transfection with the herpesvirus-encoded thymidine kinase gene. He discovered together with A. Holy (Prague, Czech Republic) and E. De Clercq (Leuven, Belgium) several new structural classes of acyclic nucleoside phosphonates targeted at the HIV-encoded reverse transcriptase and currently used in the treatment of HIV-infected individuals. Balzarini also discovered several highly selective non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase (RT) inhibitors of HIV.

Balzarini developed two successful NRTI kinase-bypass prodrug approaches. These prodrug concepts were able to surpass the first metabolic activation step of NRTI’s in the intact cells. He discovered with C. McGuigan (Cardiff, United Kingdom) highly specific anti-varicella-zoster virus chemotherapeutics which are now in preclinical development. Most recently, Balzarini developed a new concept of HIV treatment based on gp120 glycan-targeted compounds. He revealed that carbohydrate-binding agents (CBA) are tight-binding HIV inhibitors and force the virus to selectively delete its glycosylation sites in the envelope gp120, uncovering previously unrecognized immunogenic epitopes.

Balzarini received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and completed postdoctoral fellowships from the National Science Foundation (Belgium), the National Institutes of Health, and NATO. Balzarini has received many awards and honors including the International Award for Microbiology “Carlos J. Finley” of the UNESCO in 1995, the SmithKline Beecham Award in 1995, and the European Academy of Sciences Blaise Pascal Medal for Science and Technology in 2003. In 2001, he received the prestigious René Descartes Award of the European Commission.
for Scientific and Technological Excellence in European Collaborative Research. He is also the holder of more than 14 approved and/or submitted patent applications. Balzarini is a member of many professional societies including ASM, the European Society of Clinical Virology, the International Society of Antiviral Research, the International AIDS Society, and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, to name a few. Balzarini was nominated by Erik De Clercq, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

The sanofi-aventis U.S. Award includes a $20,000 honorarium and a commemorative medal. Dr. Balzarini will deliver the prestigious annual sanofi-aventis Group Award lecture at the upcoming 46th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC), 27–30 September 2006, in San Francisco, Calif.

Anthony Bouselli

Women’s Career Development Grant Recipients

The Membership Board of ASM is proud to announce that Jennifer F. Carr, currently at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Mass., in the laboratory of Martin Polz, and Kirsten Neilsen, currently at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C., in the laboratory of Joseph Heitman, are the Women’s Career Development Grant recipients for 2006. The grants are given to encourage the careers of women of outstanding accomplishment and potential to carry out research in the area of microbiology.

Carr began her research career at the National Institutes of Health in Jenny Hinshaw’s lab. Using biochemical assays and electron microscopy, she investigated conditions that govern the structural state of a protein involved in endocytosis. In her graduate studies at Brown University she joined Al Dahlberg’s lab and worked to develop a genetic system for analysis of ribosome function with the extremophile Thermus thermophilus. This work stimulated her interest in the fields of microbial ecology and diversity. As a postdoctoral associate at MIT, she is working with bacterial isolates, predominantly vibrios, to address questions such as how motility affects fitness with respect to nutrient acquisition or susceptibility to viruses. She is also working to discover the nature of the interaction with other species in the habitat. Carr has applied her grant to a course at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to expand her understanding of bacterial genetics and its applications.

Kirsten Neilsen received a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship and a National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award in Molecular Mycology and Pathogenesis and participated in the Medical Mycology Course at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, Mass., as a postdoctoral fellow. Her work on the role of mating type in virulence of Cryptococcus neoformans has been presented at both the Cryptococcus Genome meeting and the Human Fungal Pathogens: EuroConference on Host-Pathogen Interactions. Kirsten’s postdoctoral studies at Duke focus on the virulence of Cryptococcus neoformans. C. neoformans is a human pathogenic fungus that causes cryptococcosis, which commonly presents as a disseminated meningoencephalitis that is universally fatal if untreated. Neilsen will use the grant to work with Françoise Dromer at the Pasteur Institute, who will teach her techniques used to image cryptococcal cell interaction with the blood-brain barrier. These techniques will help Neilsen determine whether morphological changes inhibit a cell penetration of the blood-brain barrier. Neilsen believes the ability to differentiate between morphological changes and “enzymatic” changes that inhibit a cell penetration of the central nervous system will allow her to clarify her future scientific focus.

ASM Corporate Activities Program

The Corporate Activities Program (CAP) is comprised of leaders in the scientific and pharmaceutical industries. They are ASM’s most valued colleagues in the advancement of the Soci-

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ety’s mission to support education and public information programs. CAP funds provide travel grants for students or postdoctoral fellows to present abstracts at either the General Meeting or ICAAC. Many CAP members also contribute to ASM’s meetings, conferences, programs, and awards through individual grants and sponsorships.

The CAP logo (the ASM microscope and the year of CAP participation) identifies CAP corporations in various ASM publications. At the General Meeting and ICAAC, badge ribbons will identify the staff of CAP companies. ASM members and colleagues are encouraged to visit the CAP participants’ Web pages or booths at the General Meeting and ICAAC exhibits to learn more about the companies that generously support ASM and its educational goals.

2006 Corporate Activities Program Members

There are two levels of participation: Corporate Partner, the higher level, and Corporate Sponsor.

Corporate Partners (as of 15 July 2006)

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP
1800 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19850
www.astrazeneca.com

AstraZeneca is a major international health care business engaged in the research, development, manufacture, and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and the supply of health care services. It is one of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies, with health care sales of $23.95 billion and leading positions in sales of gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology, and infection products. Worldwide, AstraZeneca has six major research and development sites, four discovery facilities, and a clinical research site. In total, AstraZeneca’s R&D organization is comprised of more than 11,500 people located in seven countries including Canada, France, India, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States. (AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1001.)

BD Diagnostic Systems
7 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152
www.bd.com/ds

BD serves clinical, industrial, research, and physician office laboratories around the world with solutions for disease diagnosis, blood banking, and physician office laboratory testing. BD is the market leader in microbiology, with innovative new products in areas such as molecular diagnostics, tuberculosis testing, and microbial identification. BD offers products ranging from culture media to DNA probe assays used in clinical and physician office laboratories, biopharmaceutical fermentation media used in industrial settings, and many more products that enhance diagnostic and industrial processes. BD is dedicated to achieving cost-effective solutions by providing real-time diagnostic testing in hospitals and physician offices. (BD Diagnostic Systems is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1715.)

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
900 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877
www.boehringer-ingelheim.com

Scientific excellence is one of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals’ greatest strengths, and its principal mission is harnessing its human and technological resources to make significant improvements in human health. The company’s clinical research organization is shepherding promising new medications for stroke, hypertension, arthritis, HIV, and pulmonary disease through clinical testing and regulatory review. In fact, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals anticipates the launch of 15 new products in the U.S. within the next five years, with many more candidates being added to the pipeline. Scientists at the company’s state-of-the-art Research & Development facilities in Ridgefield, Conn., are focusing on the discovery and development of new medications that, through the mediation of the body’s immunological and inflammatory processes, hold promise for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory, and autoimmune diseases, and central nervous system disorders. (Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 111 and is sponsoring the Expocards.)
The Art of Phage

Effectively explaining science can be a monumental task, especially educating those outside the discipline. And let’s face it—microbiologists have an especially hard job since it’s difficult to describe something that most people have never seen. Everyone loves whales and rainforests, but how many people love Salmonella? When was the last time you saw a painting of a happy bacteriophage family on the side of a building as you flew into town?

A recent exhibition combined art with microbiology to produce stunning results. The Art of Phage: An Exhibition was organized by Forest Rohwer and Anca Segall of San Diego State University and Neilan Kuntz of Polymerlinks. Sponsored by the NSF Biocomplexity Program, the phage art show was displayed at the 105th ASM General Meeting Atlanta, Ga., in June 2005 and at the 16th Evergreen International Phage Biology Meeting in Evergreen, Wash. in August 2005.

An international collection of artists used a diverse range of art forms in their interpretation of phage. The pieces included a 7-foot-tall phage sculpture, tile mosaics, paintings, intricate copper wire sculptures, metal coins, and beadwork. Collectively, there were over 40 impressive pieces.

The Art of Phage exhibit was presented to microbiologists who inherently appreciate art on a subject that they are well versed in, but the potential use of such projects for education is far reaching. Art can bridge the gap between the scientific community and the general public. As one scientist remarked, “it’s difficult enough to have people think about bacteria, let alone phage.” To view the image gallery and learn more about the contributing artists, visit Forest Rohwer’s website (http://phage.sdsu.edu/imagery).

Neilan Kuntz
Mya Breitbart
Forest Rohwer
San Diego State University
San Diego, Calif.

Gilead Sciences, Inc.
333 Lakeside Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
www.gilead.com

Gilead Sciences is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and commercializes innovative therapeutics in areas of unmet medical need. The company’s mission is to advance the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases worldwide. The company has eight commercially available products and focuses its research and clinical programs on infectious diseases. (Gilead Sciences, Inc. is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1113 and is sponsoring the city guides.)

GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals
1250 S. Collegeville Road UP 13440
Collegeville, PA 19426
http://corp.gsk.com

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is a world-leading, research-based pharmaceutical company with a powerful combination of skills and resources that provides a platform for delivering strong growth in today’s rapidly changing health care environment. GSK’s mission is to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better, and live longer. Headquartered in the United Kingdom and with operations based in the United States, the company is one of the industry leaders, with an estimated
7% of the world’s pharmaceutical market. GSK also has leadership in four major therapeutic areas: anti-infectives, central nervous system (CNS), respiratory, and gastrointestinal/metabolic. In addition, GSK is a leader in the important area of vaccines and has a growing portfolio of oncology products. (GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 125 and 225 and is sponsoring the coffee mugs, meeting portfolios, and the laptop lounge.)

Merck & Co., Inc.
351 N. Sumneytown Pike
North Wales, PA 19454–2505
www.merck.com

Merck & Co., Inc. is a leading research-driven pharmaceutical products and services company. Merck discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets a broad range of innovative products to improve human and animal health, directly and through its joint ventures. Merck’s mission is to provide society with superior products and services by developing innovations and solutions that improve the quality of life and satisfy customer needs. (Merck & Co., Inc. is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 825 and is sponsoring the Abstracts on CD-ROM, program planner, and registration bags.)

Ortho-McNeil, Inc.
1000 Route 202
Raritan, NJ 08869
www.orthomcneil.com

Ortho-McNeil, Inc., headquartered in Raritan, N.J., is focused on providing the most innovative, safe, and effective treatments and unsurpassed quality to advance patient care. Today, we are involved in hospital and institutional settings. We recently launched a new unit, Pri-Cara, Unit of Ortho-McNeil, Inc., dedicated to serving primary care providers because we feel they play a unique and vital role on the front line of medicine. Ortho-McNeil currently provides products to treat pain, acid reflux disease and infectious diseases. We continue to explore new opportunities to develop solutions for unmet health care needs in primary care. (Ortho McNeil is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 817.)

Schering-Plough
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033–0530
www.schering-plough.com

Schering-Plough is committed to improving the health and well-being of people throughout the world. We aspire to earn the trust of doctors, patients, and customers as a champion for them and as a company that provides them with a steady flow of innovative, science-based medicines and services. We are developing new treatments and programs that assist patients in achieving their best possible therapeutic outcomes. We are also working with public and private organizations to improve access to prescription medications around the world. (Schering-Plough Corporation is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1101.)

Wyeth
150 North Radnor Chester Road
St. Davids, PA 19087
www.wyeth.com

Wyeth is committed to helping people throughout the world lead healthier lives through advances in health care. We are proud of the vaccines, medications, and nutritional products that we research and develop and of quality manufacturing; responsible sales, marketing, and licensing alliances; commitment to educational programs and initiatives; and service to health care professionals and patients. (Wyeth is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 701 and is sponsoring the ID Fellows Grant Program and telephone calling cards.)

Corporate Sponsors (as of 15 July 2006)

Astellas Pharma Inc.
5–2–3, Tokodai
Tsukuba
Ibaraki, Japan 300–2698
www.astellas.com

Introducing Astellas Pharma Inc., a different kind of pharmaceutical company formed by the merger of two respected firms—Yamanouchi and Fujisawa. Together now, we combine our expertise in select therapeutic areas to create a different, exciting kind of pharmaceutical company. How are we different? At Astellas, science
comes first. We put customer relationships before sale calls volume. Meeting needs before selling medicine. We have chosen to focus on select therapeutic areas so we can develop a deep understanding of the disease, our customers, and patient needs. We act differently because we are different. From the start. (Astellas Pharma Inc. is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1313.)

bioMerieux, Inc.
100 Roldophe Street
Durham, NC 27712
www.biomerieux-usa.com

bioMerieux is a major in vitro diagnostics company focusing on infectious diseases and develops, manufactures, and markets reagents and automated systems designed for medical analyses and product quality control in the agri-food, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries, and the environment. Their mission is to maintain a front-line position in the worldwide struggle against infectious diseases in clinical and industrial biology. To achieve this, they have developed a strategy that involves innovations in microbiology, immunoassays, and molecular diagnostics, strengthening their worldwide network and improving their operational profitability to free the resources needed to finance research and international development. (bioMérieux, Inc. is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1516.)

Bruker Daltonics
40 Manning Road
Billerica, MA 01821
www.bdal.com/biotyper

Bruker Daltonics is a leading developer and provider of innovative life science tools based on mass spectrometry. We design, manufacture, and market a broad array of products intended to meet the rapidly growing needs of a diverse customer base, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, proteomics, and molecular diagnostics companies, academic institutions, and government agencies. Bruker Daltonics has diverse technology platforms that integrate MALDI-TOF, MALDI-TOF/TOF, (Q-q-) FTMS, ESI-Ion Trap, ESI-LC/TOF, and ESI-Q-q-TOF mass spectrometry systems with automated sample processing systems and productivity-enhancing software for life science applications. We are also a worldwide leader in supplying systems for substance detection and pathogen detection in security, defense and antiterrorism. Field-hardened systems make use of advanced mass and ion mobility spectrometry as well as Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy technologies.

New Brunswick Scientific Co., Inc.
44 Talmadge Road
Edison, NJ 08818–4005
www.nbsc.com

New Brunswick Scientific provides technology to the life sciences market, enabling the discovery, development, and production of pharmaceuticals and other biologicals. This technology consists of hardware and the technical know-how, training, and support for our customers to convert their ideas into products. New Brunswick Scientific is committed to the design, development, manufacture, and support of the highest-quality equipment for life science research and pilot production.

Olympus America Inc.
Two Corporate Center Drive
Melville, NY 11747
www.olympusamerica.com

A world leader in the development and application of sophisticated optical technology, Olympus has created innovative solutions for consumers, health care, and industry for over 80 years. From Japan’s first microscope to the world’s first Microcassette recorder, from some of the most popular cameras in history to technology that tests 80% of the North American blood supply, the combination of innovative ideas, advanced technology, and manufacturing know-how has nourished their growth and satisfied customers worldwide since 1919.

Roche
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110
www.rocheusa.com

Hoffman-La Roche Inc (Roche) is the U.S. prescription drug unit of the Roche Group, a leading, global innovator of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, that is committed to enhancing people’s health and quality of life. In the U.S., our people are engaged in the discovery, development, manufacturing, and marketing of pre-
scription medicines in a wide variety of therapeutic areas, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, transplantation, dermatology, influenza, and osteoporosis. For more information on our company, please visit our websites at www.rocheusa.com. (Roche is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1425 and is sponsoring the badge holders.)

**Targanta Therapeutics**
225 S. East Street
Suite 390
Indianapolis, IN 46225
www.targanta.com

Targanta Therapeutics, Inc. is a private, venture-backed biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing, and commercializing novel antibacterial agents to address unmet medical needs in the hospital market. Targanta is headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., with research facilities in St. Laurent, Quebec. The company’s management team has proven success in preclinical and clinical development and in regulatory approvals of drugs. Targanta is in the final stages of development of an antibacterial agent for complicated skin/skin structure infections and additional clinical indications, such as nosocomial pneumonia and catheter-related bacteremia are being considered. Targanta is developing novel compounds for the treatment and prevention of chronic osteomyelitis. (Targanta Therapeutics is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 1033.)

**Tibotec Therapeutics, Division of Ortho Biotech**
430 Route 22 East
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
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Tibotec, a pharmaceutical research and development company, is recognized as one of the companies at the forefront of HIV research. Our mission is to be world leader in the discovery and development of unique and innovative HIV/AIDS drugs and anti-infectives for diseases of high unmet medical need. Tibotec is committed to improving medical care and quality of life for patients. (Tibotec Therapeutics is exhibiting at ICAAC in booth 612 and is sponsoring the CD storage cases.)
International Affairs

2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award Recipients

The UNESCO-ASM Travel Awards provide the opportunity for promising young scientists from throughout the world to travel to another country or a distant site to obtain expertise in a method, procedure, or specific topic, but are not intended to provide travel to obtain a degree at the host institution. The awards of $4,000 per recipient are equally funded by UNESCO and ASM. The recipients of the 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Awards are:

Ishrat Jahan Amzi, a research officer in the Enteric Microbiology Laboratory of the International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR.B) Centre for Health and Population Research, has received a 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award to carry out her research project entitled “Understanding the Molecular Basis of Shigella Toxin-Induced Mammalian Cell Death” beginning in August, 2006. A member of the Bangladeshi Graduate Microbiologist Association since April 2000, Amzi was a member of the Executive Committee from 2001–2003 and was selected as Cultural Secretary for 2003–2005. Amzi will be working in the laboratory of Alam Nur-E-Kamal in the Department of Pharmacology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Brunswick, N.J. The two will collaborate on studying the molecular mechanisms of DNA damage in the signaling pathway as part of an ongoing collaboration between Nur-E-Kamal and the ICDDR.B.

Anindya S. Ghosh earned his B.S. in Physiology from the University of Calcutta in India in 1990. His academic career continued with an M.S., also in Physiology, in 1992 and a Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1999, both also from the University of Calcutta. Ghosh has advanced to be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biotechnology at the Indian Institute of Technology in Midnapore, West Bengal, India. Ghosh’s UNESCO-ASM Travel Award will allow him to travel back to the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Grand Forks and reunite him with Kevin Young, with whom Ghosh trained in microbial genetics from 2001 to 2004. The two will further pursue their research on the effects of O-antigens on cell shape in PBP mutants of *Escherichia coli*.

Shazia T. Hakim was selected for a 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award for her research project “Anti-Viral Activity of Betulin Derived Compounds Against Bovine Viral-Diarrhoea Virus: a Surrogate Model for Hepatitis C Virus.” Hakim, an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology at Karachi, Pakistan’s Jinnah University for Women, received her B.S. in Microbiology and Chemistry from the Abdullah Government College for Women and stayed in Karachi for her M.S. and Ph.D. in Microbiology and Virology at the University of Karachi. She will be traveling to Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., where she will work with Muhammad Amiad, a professor of Fundamental and Applied Sciences on her project.

Milica Jovanović received her M.S. in Medical Sciences as well as her M.D. at the University of Belgrade in Serbia & Montenegro. She has remained in Belgrade, working as a clinical microbiologist at the Institute for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, where she has a research interest in the activity of various disinfectants to *Morganella morganii*. With the 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award, Jovanovic will travel to Detroit, Mich., where she will work with Marcus Zervos, the division head in the Department of Infectious Disease at Henry Ford Hospital. Jovanovic will bring 120 collected strains of vancomycin-resistant enterococci to Zervos’ lab, where she will learn and perform PCR technique testing.

Irma Ochigava received her Ph.D. in Biotechnology in 2005 from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, going on to become a scientist in the Department of Biotechnology at the Georgian State Technical University in Tbilisi. Ochigava did her doctoral research on the investigation of antibacterial properties of *Saccharomyces* yeasts, studying the coexistence of various phenotypes of yeasts with pathogenic bacteria. With the 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award, Ochigava will travel to the laboratory of Graeme Walker, Professor and Division head of the Department of Biotechnology at the University of Abertay in Dundee, Scotland. The two will work together on the large-scale screening of crude and native killer toxin preparations of K9-type killer protein against pathogenic bacteria.

Luciana V. Rinaudi is a Ph.D. student in molecular biology at the Universidad Nacional de Rio Cuarto (UNRC) in Córdoba, Argentina, where she also received her B.S. in microbiology in 1998. She learned about the UNESCO-ASM Travel Awards from her host scientist, Juan González, an associate professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Texas at Dallas. Rinaudi and González mark the beginning of a new collaboration between the two universities, similar to the one already in place between the UNRC and the University of California. For their joint project, the two scientists will investigate exopolysaccharides synthesis and their relationship with rhizobial biofilm formation.
Sebastián H. Sarnacki is a Ph.D. student in microbiology at the University of Buenos Aires Department of Microbiology, Parasitology and Immunology in Argentina. In 2003, he traveled to Canada, where he studied with Miguel Valvano, Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Western Ontario. The 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award enables Sarnacki to return to Valvano’s laboratory, where the two will cooperate on a project entitled “Regulation of LPS synthesis by the Dam protein in Salmonella enterica.”

Vitaly E. Smelov is a Senior Researcher in the Faculty of Medicine at Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. Smelov has had an interest in treating and understanding HIV infection and detection methodology. He received his M.D. in Medicine from the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg in 1993 and trained as an internist in urology at St. Petersburg State Medical University in 1997. A member of the European Association of Urology since 2002 and the European Society of Infections in Urology since 2003, Smelov will use the 2006 UNESCO-ASM Travel Award to train at the laboratory of Servaas Morré, the head of the Immunogenetics of Infectious Diseases Section at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Their collaboration will train Smelov in state-of-the-art technology used for microbiological diagnostics and typing of Chlamydia trachomatis infections as well as the methodology of data interpretation and analysis.

International Fellow Profile: Walter Q. Betancourt, Ph.D.

In 1999, Walter Q. Betancourt, M.S., was a Research Assistant at the Council for Scientific and Humanistic Development at the University del Zulia in Venezuela. He had already received the Fulbright Scholarship when he was awarded the 1999 ASM International Fellowship for Latin America (IFP).

The 1999 IFP award enabled Betancourt to travel to the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg to work with Joan B. Rose in the Marine Science Department on a research project that focused on technologies for determining appropriate indicators for microbiological water quality and occurrence of waterborne protozoan pathogens and enteric viruses and the associated sources, public health risks, and potential for risk management. Betancourt subsequently stayed in the Marine Science Department on the Fulbright Scholarship, and later with funding provided by Rose, to work toward his Ph.D. and successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in April 2003.

Upon graduation, Betancourt continued doing research on Cryptosporidium with Rose at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Later, he secured a postdoctoral position at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and received training on bacterial source tracking methods as part of a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Project leaded by George Di Giovanni. Currently, Betancourt is doing his second postdoctoral research with Roger S. Fujioka in the newly created Center for Ocean and Human Health (COHH) at the University of Hawaii, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). His work is focused on the application of molecular methods for assessment of water quality in tropical coastal areas, including molecular detection of infectious enteric viruses to determine pathogen concentration in the environment and to identify the potential source. Betancourt mentors both graduate and undergraduate students and has trained graduate students on tissue cell culture and molecular techniques for the detection of waterborne Cryptosporidium oocysts and enteric viruses. He is a member of ASM and the International Water Association.

Betancourt described his experiences during his Fellowship as “excellent,” especially the opportunity to get to work on his research with experts in the field of water quality, in essence beginning his Ph.D. research before classes started, and learning some of the techniques that were applied during his dissertation work. In a recent conversation, he reflected on how the ASM International Fellowship for Latin America has affected his career. He feels that the program gave him “a boost” in several areas. Most importantly, he keeps in contact with his host scientists with whom he has published several papers in the past few years. They also manage to see each other at ASM meetings. Betancourt is a passionate researcher who encourages young graduate students to perform outstanding research work and to explore all resources available for attaining “the best” scientific knowledge.

The next deadline for the ASM International Fellowship Program is 15 October 2006 for Fellowships in the 2007 program year. For program information and the 2007 application form, please go to http://www.asm.org/International/index.asp?bid=2778.

American Academy of Microbiology

ABMLI Certifies New Diplomates for 2006

The American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology (ABMLI) recently certified new Diplomates for 2006. The clinicians, who specialize in the study of components of the immune system in healthy and diseased individuals and the performance, development, and interpretation of immunological tests, earned this prestigious credential by passing a comprehensive written and oral examination.

Three candidates successfully completed the 2006 oral exam, demonstrating the knowledge and skills necessary to direct laboratories engaged in the immunological diagnosis of human disease and earning the highest credential available to practicing medical laboratory immunologists. The new ABMLI Diplomates are: Tracey Bonfield, Ph.D., Project Scientist, The Cleveland Clinic; Milena Cankovic, Ph.D., Division Head, AP Molecular Pathology, Henry Ford Hospital; and Maya
Srivastava, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director, Center for Digestive, Allergic & Immunologic Diseases in Williamsville, N.Y.

The ABMLI was established in 1975 and is one is one of three boards of the American College of Microbiology administering highly stringent certification programs. Certification by the ABMLI is recognized by federal and state governmental agencies and under the final rule of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments as a significant factor toward meeting licensure requirements.

The American College of Microbiology is the component of the American Academy of Microbiology responsible for accreditation of postdoctoral training programs, certification of microbiologists and immunologists, and other programs consistent with its mission of providing leadership in promoting the high quality and ethical practice of the microbiology and immunology professions for the benefits of human, animal, and environmental well being.

For more information about the ABMLI or other programs of the American College of Microbiology, visit http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=17847 or contact the College at college@asmusa.org.

Longer Eligibility Period for Young Investigator Awards

The Committee on Awards voted unanimously to change the eligibility criteria for the Dade Behring MicroScan Young Investigator Award and the Merck Irving S. Sigal Memorial Young Investigator Awards to reflect changes in current research careers. Beginning with the 2007 awards, a young investigator must be no more than five years beyond postdoctoral training. Previously, the requirement had been three years.

The Committee on Awards also voted unanimously to slightly alter the Raymond S. Sarber Awards. Undergraduate and graduate students have both been eligible, and the Committee agreed to earmark one of the two Sarber Awards for an undergraduate student and the other for a graduate student. They will be judged independently; this change will go into effect for the 2007 awards.

For information on these awards and the other ASM Achievement awards, please visit, http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=2099. The deadline for the 2007 General Meeting Awards is 1 October, and members are strongly encouraged to nominate a deserving student, colleague, or mentor.

Education Board

ASM Attends 20th Anniversary, Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS)

Kelly Gull, manager of faculty programs, ASM Education Department, represented the ASM at the 20th anniversary celebration and conference of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society on 27 May-1 June in Austin, Tex. More than 500 college biology faculty members from the United States and Canada attended invited seminars, workshops, and posters. Although the conference attracts 2- and 4-year college faculty who teach anatomy and physiology courses, many are also responsible for teaching general microbiology. Toward this end, the Education Board seeks to sponsor sessions at future meetings. HAPS promotes communication among teachers of human anatomy and physiology in colleges and universities; presents workshops and regional and national conferences where members can obtain information about the latest developments in the health and science fields; and encourages educational research and publication by HAPS members.