Diseases in 1977. He is Board Certified in three areas: Internal Medicine, Sub-specialty of Infectious Diseases, and Special Competency in Medical Microbiology. He has had tenured professor appointments in the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

Peterson has held a number of job titles at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis; his titles included Medical Director of the Hospital Based Home Care, Staff Member of the Infectious Disease Section, Chief of the Microbiology Laboratory, Director of the Medical Microbiology Fellowship Program, and associate Chief of Molecular Biology. In 1992 he moved to Chicago, accepting the position of Director of Clinical Microbiology Division at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. There he also held positions of Staff Member of the Infectious Disease Division, Director of the Medical Microbiology Fellowship Program, and associate Chief of Molecular Biology. In 1992 he moved to Chicago, accepting the position of Director of Clinical Microbiology Division at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. There he also held positions of Staff Member of the Infectious Disease Section, Chief of the Microbiology Laboratory, Director of the Medical Microbiology Fellowship Program, and associate Chief of Molecular Biology.

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Peterson’s research and studies cover numerous areas of Microbiology; with special focus on antibiotics and their role on antimicrobial activity. He is the national leader in the United States for the MRSA screening of all hospitalized patients. He has taken the lead for the molecular testing for the detection of Clostridium difficile. His interests are in areas of antibiotic activity highlighting bacterial resistance, molecular test methods for infectious diseases, and information technology applications to leverage infection control activities for improved patient safety. He is an advocate for rapid detection of pathogens and quantifying the outcomes of hospitalized patients. We applaud him on all his achievements and congratulate him on receiving the 67th ISM Pasteur Award.

Linda Bruno
ACL Laboratories, Rosemont, Ill.
Illinois Branch ASM Councilor

Obituary

Norman P. Willett

Norman Willett died on 19 September 2014 at the age of 86. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from Rutgers University, N.J., in 1949. He decided to pursue graduate work and obtained an M.S. from Syracuse University in 1952, and a Ph.D. at Michigan State in 1955. He spent a year at Harvard, where he investigated carrier production by strains of streptococci in genetically defined strains of rats. His career path then took him to industry for four years, where he worked at Squibb Institute for Medical Research screening new antibiotics. He came back to academia, taking a position at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where he worked from 1962 to 1967 on developing a chemically defined medium and defining growth conditions for Streptococcus agalactiae, a cause of bovine mastitis.

In 1967 he was offered the position as Chair of the Department of Dental Microbiology at Temple University, where he became a strong leader, hiring faculty and expanding the department. Having settled in Philadelphia, he volunteered with the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the ASM. Norm served as Treasurer, Vice President, and 29th President (1975–77) of the Branch. He continued to be active in Branch affairs thereafter, serving on the Executive Committee and as Chair and later Co-chair of the Branch Education Committee.

At the national level, Norm devoted extraordinary energy to the Branch Organization Committee (BOC), which he co-chaired with Stephen Sonstein from 1999–2008. During this time, the regional funding initiative was imple-
mented, which for the first time provided financial support and encouraged Branches to expand their range and diversity of activities. The number of student chapters grew exponentially and were encouraged with limited funding for programming by the national organization. The first postdoctoral chapter was formed with his encouragement, and new ones continue to be formed across the country. Norm was an integral part of all of these changes, and his leadership did much to enhance the collaborative relationship between Branches and National ASM. Those who served as Branch officers during that time fondly remember Norm’s enthusiasm at the podium and his encouragement and support of activities at the grass-roots level.

To his core, Norm was an educator. He read voraciously and widely, and made conversation about the latest articles. All of this information percolated into ideas to educate a wider audience at Symposia that he organized with his friend Frank Biondo, at the national ASM General Meeting. Norm’s sessions cut across discipline lines and frequently touched on issues of science and the citizen. At the National ASM, Norm was educating everyone; he truly loved going to the General Meeting.

At Temple, Norm was awarded a SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award) grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to promote science education. From 1991–1994 he brought teachers from area schools to Temple University School of Medicine in the summer, where they teamed up with a research faculty member and developed a science laboratory module to take back to their schools. Subsequently, he obtained a Howard Hughes grant, in which he held workshops given by the original teachers, who presented the science modules they had developed, to a new group of teachers who had not had the opportunity to participate in the summer program, and a “Precollege Science Education Initiative for Biomedical Research” grant from NIH to provide a year of supplemental studies for “bridge students” to help them obtain the skills and credentials necessary to qualify for graduate school.

Norm was a friend and mentor to many. He was particularly supportive of women and encouraged T.K.E. to become active in the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch and to volunteer to serve on the Branch Organization Committee of the National ASM. He was a loyal partner with SS during the years they co-chaired the BOC. When M.G.S. took over as Chair of the BOC, he offered support and counsel on the value proposition that Branches offer the Society, always having time to brainstorm new ideas that would help Branches continue being able to offer the best opportunities that would advance our discipline while serving our members. Norm made similar contributions to the lives of others, showing them their potential and encouraging them to participate, debate, create. He enriched so many of our lives. His passing leaves a space not easily filled.

Toby K. Eisenstein
Temple University School of Medicine

Stephen Sonstein
Eastern Michigan University

Michael Schmidt
Medical University of South Carolina