

Divisions

Clinical Microbiology Task Force (CMTF) Update III—October 2010

I am writing to update you on the progress of the CMTF's working groups.

Coordinate planning for clinical microbiology sessions for the newly structured ASM General Meeting (GM) in 2011. A subgroup from the Clinical Microbiology Taskforce met on 4–5 October in Washington, D.C., to plan the first Medical Microbiology Track. There are 25 innovative sessions planned for the track during the 2011 General Meeting in New Orleans. Submitters are currently being notified regarding the status of their proposal, and conveners and speakers are being invited to participate. There will be approximately four 2½-hour sessions each of the three mornings from 8:15–10:45 AM, and four 2½-hour sessions each of the three afternoons from 3:00–5:30 PM that will run in conjunction with other General Meeting programming. The Sunrise Sessions have been incorporated into the overall program and have been identified as Core Clinical Curriculum sessions. There will be four Core Clinical Curriculum sessions during the three days of the meeting. These sessions consist of two related basic educational topics. The first presentation will last 1½ hours and the second talk will be one hour for a total of 2½ hours. In addition, to the Core Clinical Curriculum Session, there will be symposia with each symposium consisting of five speakers at 30-minutes each. Additional highlights for the track include: Microbiology Literature Review 2011 – Similar to the very successful ICAAC session, this session will be developed with three speakers who will review the most recent scientific publications; The “Celebrating Excellence in Diagnostics Microbiology and Epidemiology” Awards Session—This session will include presentations from the recipients of the awards presented annually through the Academy. ASM President-Elect, Dr. David Hooper, has agreed to provide introductions for these speakers; Two best abstract sessions from across the Divisions in Divisional Group I – “The Best and Brightest in Diagnostic Microbiology I and II: 2011 Hot Topics”—This will complement the GMPC concept of

incorporating 15-minute oral abstract presentations (including questions) from junior faculty.

It is worth stating that there are session room constraints, particularly for the afternoon sessions, at the New Orleans Convention Center. Unfortunately, the Medical Microbiology Track was added after the convention center space was reserved. ASM is sharing the convention center with another organization and additional space is not available.

Development of a clinical microbiology portal on the ASM website. The CMTF has approved the portal draft. The main tabs of the portal and proposed content will be as follows. (i) ASM Program Resources (Professional Development, Meetings, Publications, Public Affairs, Awards/Grants/Fellowships, Membership, LabCap, Other Resources, e.g., AskIt). (ii) Practical Resources (Identifying organisms, Interpreting culture results, Best practices, Conducting daily operations, Management resources, Equipment & method selection, Training, and Links to other resources). (iii) Communication Tools (Listservs, Q² -Quick Question!, ASM community, Program Alerts, News digest, Podcasts, Brochures). (iv) Professional Status (Visitors can search the content by their professional status)—Graduate and Medical student, Postdoctoral fellow, ID Postdoctoral fellow, Bench technologist, Supervisory technologist, Lab director, and Diplomate). (v) About Clinical Microbiology (Governance, Articles, and Personal Perspective— articles from the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, *Microbe*, etc.). The working group is now working on tracking down the sources for the portal content.

Examine the ways that ASM can enhance professional development through mentoring to promote the profession of clinical microbiology. Chaired by Janet Hindler, this working group is exploring the development of a leadership/management certificate and a mentoring website.

Examine the ways that ASM can work with other scientific societies to ensure there is a unified voice for the clinical laboratory profession. This working group, chaired by Vickie Baselski discussing the need to better publicize ASM's collaborations with other organizations and how to work with the General Meet-

ing and ICAAC Program Committees to identify opportunities for joint symposium sponsorship with other organizations.

Development of evidence-based practice guidelines. Chaired by Susan Sharp and Alice Weissfeld, this working group recommended that ASM develop evidence-based practice guidelines. The CMTF supported their recommendation and drafting of the framework for the development process is underway.

Coincidentally, the Battelle Group, who is under contract by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approached ASM about developing a practice guideline based on the Blood Culture Cumitech. After months of discussion, it is anticipated that there will be a meeting with Battelle and ASM volunteers before the end of the year to start the process. Battelle will teach ASM volunteers how to develop the guidelines. Battelle will also evaluate the evidence, which is a significant component of development.

Examine the ASM organizational structure to determine the optimal means to meet the needs of clinical microbiologists. This working group is chaired by Peter Gilligan; two conference calls have been held. The working group has been briefed on ASM's governance structure, and discussion has ensued about the optimal organizational structure.

Since the CMTF meeting, the ASM website has added a new feature that highlights the activities of the Public and Scientific Affairs Board (PSAB). The “ASM Public Policy Updates” link allows members access to the most recent Public Affairs statements, reports and updates regarding legislative and regulatory issues. It will also highlight postings of recent newsletter publications including the *Clinical Microbiology Issues Update*, *Minority Mentor Newsletter* and the *CSWM Communicator*. The “ASM Public Policy Updates” button is available on the homepage, directly under the “ASM Program Updates.” Clicking on the button will show a user the five most recent activities. The ASM webpage is available at: <http://www.asm.org/>. To access the ASM Public Policy page directly go to: <http://www.asm.org/policy>.

I will continue to provide regular updates on the activities of the Clinical Microbiology Task Force. The Task Force and ASM welcome your feedback about

these activities. Please address your comments to: clinmicro@asmusa.org.

David Hooper
CMTF Chair

American Board of Medical Microbiology

New Diplomates

The American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) is pleased to announce and welcome 18 newly certified Diplomates:

Wade Aldous, Ph.D.
Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Tex.

Karissa Culbreath, Ph.D.
Tricore Reference Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M.

Nihar Dash, M.D.
University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Jennifer Dien Bard, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles

Christopher Doern, Ph.D.
Children's Medical Center of Dallas, Tex.

Miguel Imperial, M.D.
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

J. Kristie Johnson, Ph.D.
University of Maryland Medical Center and the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore

Marina Keller, M.D.
McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Shawn Lockhart, Ph.D.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Ga.

Margie Morgan, Ph.D.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.

Melinda Nye, Ph.D.
LabCorp, Burlington, N.C.

Stefan Riedel, M.D.
The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Lourens Robberts, Ph.D.
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Nermin Kamal Hasan Mohamed Saeed, M.B., Ch.B.
Salmaniyah Medical Complex, Ministry of Health, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Kileen Shier, Ph.D.
Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, Calif.

Lindsay Stevenson, Ph.D.
Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Kennard Tan, M.D.
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Jianhui Xiong, M.D., Ph.D.
Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

To become certified, candidates must first meet rigorous educational and experiential eligibility requirements and then pass a comprehensive written examination. It tests a candidate's knowledge in bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, virology, and management. The ABMM certifies microbiologists seeking to direct public health or clinical microbiology laboratories. ABMM certification is recognized by federal and state governmental agencies as a significant component toward meeting licensure requirements for high complexity laboratory directors under CLIA '88.

Certification is a tangible credential that documents your abilities and tells employers you are tested and proven. It's a great way to stand out among similarly trained colleagues and gain distinction in the laboratory and profession. Isn't it time you got the recognition you deserve? Apply today at www.microbiologycert.org.

Education Board

Education Board Drafts a New Strategic Plan for 2011–2013

The ASM Education Board held a strategic planning retreat on 17–19 September 2010 at ASM headquarters in Washington, D.C. In attendance were Board chair Neil Baker and members Marjorie Kelly Cowan, Shelley Payne, Mary Sanchez Lanier, Erica Suchman, Dave Westenberg,

and Chris Woolverton. During the three-day retreat, participants reaffirmed the Board's mission and strategic goals and updated its strategic plan for the 2011–2013 period.

Using data gathered from a review of Board programs and challenges and thinking strategically about their role as the Society's leadership group for education, Board members created a list of projects to develop and deliver in the next three years. Future initiatives include the following.

ASM Curriculum Recommendations. The Board approved the creation of an ad hoc task committee to update the ASM microbiology curriculum guidelines established in 1994. Susan M. Merkel, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., will lead the six-member Committee on Curriculum. The group will focus on updating the guidelines for both science and nursing majors. During the next few months, the Committee will inventory the existing guidelines. Then it will develop draft curriculum recommendations to be used to solicit feedback before, during, and after the ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators. Final guidelines are expected to be available in 2012.

Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship Enhancements. The Board's Committee on Minority Education (CME) continues to enhance the Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. CME members shifted the program's focus to the latter years of the undergraduate research experience (preparing and submitting abstracts for meeting presentations, presenting research, and networking with scientists in the discipline) rather than the early years (conducting research). The fellowship will offer two components in line with the new focus; both are dependent on abstract acceptance. The first involves a national call encouraging underrepresented minority students to submit abstracts for the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) travel award. The second supports ABRCMS microbiology presentation awardees to attend the ASM General Meeting and participate in the ASM Presentation Institute (scheduled immediately before the General Meeting). The Institute provides professional development practice in presen-