

THE SCOPE



Michigan Branch- American Society for Microbiology
Spring 2004 Conference

"Infectious Causes of Neuropsychiatric Disorders"

Saturday, March 20, 2004 (9:00am-3:00pm)

Registration: 8:00am-9:00am

McKenny Union, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan



The Spring 2004 meeting of the Michigan Branch-American Society for Microbiology will be held at McKenny Union at Eastern Michigan University, located in Ypsilanti, MI. There will be three exciting seminars on *Infectious Causes of Neuropsychiatric Disorders* by Dr. Alan Hudson (Wayne State University), Debra Bessen (New York Medical College), and Brad Pearce (Emory University School of Medicine) along with a student poster session and corporate sponsor exhibits. Please mark your calendars for this event!

The MI-ASM extends a special invitation to our Canadian colleagues to join us for this one-day conference in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

President's Report (Michael Huband; Michael.Huband@Pfizer.com)

I am extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to serve this past year as President of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. I am thankful for the commitment and support of my fellow board members for making this a truly enjoyable and productive experience.

Our commitment to increasing student involvement and participation in the branch was clearly evident at the Fall 2003 meeting at Western Michigan University. We had a record submission of posters and turnout from students and our student chapter members. For the first time, our Gerhardt Trust funded one of our students to attend and present their research at a national meeting. We have offered free one-year National ASM memberships to our student chapter members (Contact the educational chair or a board member for details).

We are hosting the Fall 2004 meeting at the Crystal Mountain Resort on October 8-9th, 2004 to bring the MI Branch and it's Upper Peninsula Twig closer together (www.crystallmountain.com). We have reduced room rates for our Members and will be subsidizing housing costs for our student chapter members. Please visit www.mi-asm.org for meeting details.

Lastly, I strongly encourage all of you to attend the Spring 2004 MI ASM meeting to be held March 20th, 2004 on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Jim VandenBosch and Dr. Daniel Clemans will once again be hosting an exciting meeting at EMU. The meeting topic is "*Infectious Causes of Neuropsychiatric Disorders*". For this meeting there will be a special Friday night mixer where students will have the opportunity to meet with the speakers and board members, followed by our regular Saturday meeting program. Details for this mixer will be posted on the MI-ASM website!

President-Elect's Message (Silvia Rossbach; Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)

Last year, the branch organized two well-attended and exciting conferences, the one in spring hosted by Pfizer and the fall meeting hosted by Western Michigan University. Thanks all for attending! I am confident that we will enjoy the 2004 meetings in Ypsilanti and Crystal Mountain even more. We will have plenty of time to listen to excellent speakers, view student posters, browse the corporate tables, and exchange ideas with other microbiologists. Hope to see you there!

Secretary's Message (Jia Liu; Jia.Liu@Pfizer.com)

Happy New Year to our members! It's almost time for another MIASM symposium and a chance to greet new and returning members. As your Secretary, I have been working to make this job more streamlined so that future Secretaries will have an easier time. Already implemented is a web based registration system for meetings. Next will be a gated email distribution list for members so it will be easier for everyone to make announcements concerning local microbiology events. Your ideas are welcome! I invite you to come and chat with me at our spring conference. Best regards. Jia Liu

Treasurer's Report (Melody Neely; MNeely@med.wayne.edu)

Everyone in the Michigan Branch of the ASM is going to greatly miss our branch Treasurer, Jeff Hobden, who has recently relocated to warm and sunny New Orleans. Our combined treasury as of 1/1/2004 is approximately \$22,000, with ~\$9,700 in our general funds account and ~\$12,000 in our interest-bearing account. These funds will be used to support student activities within our branch and to further the goals set forth by the MI-ASM as outlined in our chapter's constitution.

Education Chair's Report (Debra Hanna; Debra.Hanna@pfizer.com)

This is an exciting time for the student chapters of the MI-ASM branch. With five active chapters, there are more students participating in the chapters and our MI-ASM meetings than any other year. My congratulations to all of the student officers and their faculty sponsors. In hopes of further increasing student participation in MI-ASM meetings, the board has decided to host the first student, faculty, and officer "social mixer" Friday evening prior to the March, 2004 meeting. The goal of this mixer is allow members of the various chapters to interact with one another as well as board members and conference speakers. We will provide pizza and non-alcoholic beverages at the event. The details of the mixer will be posted on the MI-ASM meeting website as soon as they are available. The branch is also supporting lodging and travel money for students traveling from distant campuses. Specifically, we will pay for 1 room per student chapter and will reimburse travel money for 1 carpool per chapter. Please contact me (734-622-1454 or debra.hanna@pfizer.com) with requests ASAP.

2003-2004 Michigan Branch ASM Executive Committee Members

President: Michael Huband, Pfizer
(Michael.Huband@pfizer.com)

President-Elect: Silvia Rossbach, Western Michigan University (Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)

Past-President: Judith Whittum-Hudson, Wayne State University (jhudson@med.wayne.edu)

Secretary: Jia Y. Liu, Pfizer (Jia.Liu@pfizer.com)

Treasurer: Melody Neely, Wayne State University (MNeely@med.wayne.edu)

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Alternate Councilor: Ralph Gorton, Lansing Community College (rgorton@lcc.edu)

Corporate Liaison: Michael A. Cohen, Pfizer
(Michael.Cohen@pfizer.com)

Education Chair: Debra Hanna, Pfizer
(Debra.Hanna@pfizer.com)

Legislative & Regulatory Affairs: Carl L. Pierson, University of Michigan (carlpi@umich.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Daniel Clemans, Eastern Michigan University (daniel.clemans@emich.edu)

Archive Representative: Richard Bell
(rkbell129@ameritech.net)

Electronic Communications: James VandenBosch, Eastern Michigan Univ. (Jim.Vandenbosch@emich.edu)

"Students and Student Chapter Matters"



GERHARDT ENDOWMENT TO THE MI-ASM by Ralph Gorton

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch is now able to provide substantial support for student research and travel. The Gerhardt Endowment will be used to enhance the microbiology research training of undergraduate and early stage graduate students within the State of Michigan.

The Endowment funds are stipulated for: 1) Research Excellence Awards: awarded to students who demonstrate exemplary accomplishment in experimental design and results that are reported as a poster or as an oral presentation at a MI-ASM meeting. 2) Travel Awards: granted to students to supplement other financial resources for travel so as to allow the awardees to attend an appropriate microbiology-related scientific meeting, or to obtain special microbiology-related research training.

The availability of the awards will be published on the **MI-ASM website (MI-ASM.org)** and distributed to a master list of Michigan educational institutions offering microbiology-related programs. Website information will also be provided on how to apply for the awards and the amount available for each award.

Student Mixer and Travel Support by Debra Hanna

MI-ASM will host the first student, faculty, and officer "social mixer" to be held the Friday evening (March 19) prior to the March, 2004 meeting. The mixer will be held in one of the Parlors at the Ypsilanti Marriott at Eagle Crest. The goal of this mixer is allow members of the various chapters to interact with one another as well as board members and conference speakers. We will provide pizza and non-alcoholic beverages at the event. The details of the mixer will be posted on the MI-ASM meeting website.

The branch is also supporting lodging and travel money for students traveling from distant campuses. Specifically, we will pay for 1 room per student chapter and will reimburse travel money for 1 carpool per chapter. Please contact me (734-622-1454 or debra.hanna@pfizer.com) with requests ASAP.

POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Spring 2004 MI-ASM Meeting (Eastern Michigan University)

The Michigan ASM encourages students (both undergrads and graduate students), as well as faculty and other professional microbiologists, to present posters at our fall and spring meetings. Ideally a poster presentation would relate to the general theme of the conference, but that is not a criterion for submission. If you would like to present a poster of your research at this MI-ASM CONFERENCE, follow the guidelines below.

Students who present a poster do not pay the conference registration fee and they also receive one year free membership in MI-ASM. STUDENT ENTRIES will be judged by branch members and the winner of the "Best Student Poster" will receive a framed certificate, a copy of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt's classic text, and a free membership to the National ASM.

- Submit your name, college or university you attend, department affiliation, the full title of your poster, and a brief (200 words) abstract of its content to the conference organizer. **The deadline for submitting abstracts for posting on the "mi-asm.org" website is Thursday, March 18.** You may submit abstracts after this date, but they may not be posted prior to the conference.
- Use a Times Roman 12-pt. font if possible. Type the title first then list the authors (all capital letters; use an asterisk to denote the person delivering the poster), then list institutions and short addresses. You may include e-mail addresses if you wish.
- Abbreviations that are generally understood are acceptable.
- Please italicize scientific names and all appropriate genetic terminology.
- **Please submit your abstract by email to: gortonr@lcc.edu. Send the information within the body of the e-mail message and not as an attached file.** You will receive electronic confirmation that your poster info arrived safely from cyberspace! Your poster abstract will automatically be forwarded to the Conference Organizer, Dr. Jim VandenBosch (EMU).
- If there is sufficient time, we will post early submitted abstracts on the meeting web site. All poster abstracts will be posted as part of the on-line post-conference summary.
- If you presented your poster at an ASM National Meeting or at another conference, please note that in your abstract submission.
- **If you have any questions regarding posters, please contact [Jim Vandenbosch \(jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu\)](mailto:jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu)**
Non-students may also submit posters; simply follow the above guidelines.

Conference Speaker Bios



Dr. Alan Hudson, Professor, Department of Immunology & Microbiology, Wayne State University Medical School, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
(ahudson@med.wayne.edu)

"Chlamydia pneumoniae and late-onset Alzheimer's disease"

Dr Hudson received his BA from Hamilton College in 1971, and his PhD in Molecular Biology from the City University of New York in 1978. He did postdoctoral research for 2 years at the Universite Paris VII at Jussieu in the laboratory of Dr Giorgio Bernardi, then in the laboratory of Dr Ronald Butow at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center (Dallas) – Southwestern Medical School. In 1985 he assumed his first faculty position in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he remained until 1997. In that year he moved his group to the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. The primary scientific interest of his laboratory is the detailed molecular genetics of host-pathogen interaction for the obligate intracellular bacterial pathogens *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae*. A small part of his laboratory is investigating the control of mitochondrial gene expression in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Dr Hudson is the author of over 100 research articles, plus reviews, and book chapters on these topics.

Dr. Debra Bessen, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York (bessen@bessenlab.org)

"Streptococci, Autoimmunity and the Brain"

Dr Bessen received her BA from Hampshire College in 1979, and her PhD from The Rockefeller University in 1987. She continued at The Rockefeller University as a postdoctoral fellow, a Research Associate, and as an Assistant Professor. In 1992 she became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997. In 2002, Dr. Bessen moved to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology as a Research Scientist. In 2003, she accepted a position as an Associate Professor at the New York Medical College in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Dr. Bessen is the author of 36 peer-reviewed articles and an additional 20 book chapters and invited papers. Dr. Bessen's studies on *Streptococcus pyogenes* have been supported by funding from The National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, The Monaghan Medical Research Foundation, and the Tourette's Syndrome Association. In addition to the evolution and pathogenesis of *S. pyogenes*, her research has included studies on the relationship of the bacterium with the immunological alterations associated with Tourette's Syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorder, PANDAS, and related neuropsychiatric diseases.

Dr. Brad D. Pearce, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia (bpearce@emory.edu)

"The Role of Viruses in the Etiology of Schizophrenia"

Brad D. Pearce received separate undergraduate degrees, in biology and psychology, from Florida State University in 1985. He attended graduate school at the University Miami as a Markey Foundation Scholar, and was awarded his Ph.D. in 1990. He performed his dissertation work in the laboratory of Dr. Lincoln T. Potter where he examined the pathogenesis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, and provided some of the early studies on the mechanism of action of tacrine. He then gained postdoctoral training in immunology and virology in laboratory of Dr. Michael J. Buchmeier at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. As a postdoctoral fellow at Scripps he examined the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which neurotropic viruses interact with the developing and mature brain. He joined the faculty at Emory University in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in 1994. Currently, he is the director of the Program in Pharmacology and Neuropathogenesis at Emory University, and is a research professor in the Department of Psychology.

Currently, Dr. Pearce's lab uses in vitro and in vivo models, as well as human investigations, to examine the mechanisms by which viral infections and proinflammatory cytokines interact with the developing brain to mediate long-term changes in neuronal circuitry and neurotransmitters. He has over 30 publications and book chapters, and has recently authored a book entitled: Can a Virus Cause Schizophrenia: Facts and Hypotheses (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002). His work has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), and the Stanley Foundation.

****PLEASE COPY AND POST IN YOUR DEPARTMENT!****

Spring 2004 MI-ASM Conference

"Infectious Causes of Neuropsychiatric Disorders"

Saturday, March 20, 2004 (9:00 AM-2:00 PM)

McKenny Union at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan



- 8:00-9:00 AM Registration, Continental Breakfast, Corporate Exhibit and Poster set-up.
- 9:00-9:15 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks.
Michael Huband, President of MI-ASM
- 9:15-10:15 AM Dr. Alan Hudson, Professor, Department of Immunology & Microbiology
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
"Chlamydia pneumoniae and late-onset Alzheimer's disease"
- 10:15-10:45 AM Coffee Break/Visit Posters & Corporate Exhibits.
- 10:45-11:45 AM Dr. Debra Bessen, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology &
Immunology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York.
"Streptococci, Autoimmunity and the Brain"
- 11:55-12:50 PM Lunch and Business Meeting (officer election results announced), Visit
Corporate Exhibits and Student Posters, Talk with Speakers, Prizes
Awarded.
- 1:00-2:00 PM Dr. Brad D. Pearce, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia.
"The Role of Viruses in the Etiology of Schizophrenia"
- 2:00-3:00 PM Breakout sessions with speakers

For additional information and registration, please visit:

<http://mi-asm.org/>

NOTE: To ensure reservations for lunch and the meeting, please pre-register electronically at the MI-ASM homepage by Friday, March 12.

A special "Thank You" to:
Pfizer Global R&D for its consistent and substantial level of contribution.

Corporate Partners: We thank all of our **Corporate Partners** for providing financial support for the Michigan ASM Branch. Members are encouraged to support our Corporate Partners. Please visit <http://mi-asm.org/> for further information on our corporate partners.



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CONFERENCE LOCATION, PARKING, & MISC. INFORMATION.

Meeting Organizers and Contacts:

Jim VandenBosch, Department of Biology, 316 Mark Jefferson, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu).

Daniel Clemans, Department of Biology, 316 Mark Jefferson, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (daniel.clemans@emich.edu).



Meeting Location:

The meeting will be held at McKenny Union at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

Lodging:

See the meeting website for information on special lodging arrangements at the Ypsilanti Marriott at Eagle Crest.

Directions to the McKenny Union Parking Lot (see meeting website for further details):

From Ann Arbor:

Travel approximately 5 miles east on *Washtenaw*. Turn left onto *Oakwood* (the last light before the water tower). Turn right into the McKenny Union lot.

From Kalamazoo:

Take I-94 east to exit 181 *Michigan Avenue* and turn left. At the first traffic signal turn left onto Hewitt. Take Hewitt to *Washtenaw* and turn right. Take *Washtenaw* to *Oakwood* (the last light before the water tower) and turn left. Turn right into the McKenny Union lot.

From Flint:

Take US-23 south to exit 37A (*Washtenaw Ave. east*). After traveling approximately 3 miles east on *Washtenaw*, turn left onto *Oakwood* (the last light before the water tower). Turn right into the McKenny Union lot.

From Lansing:

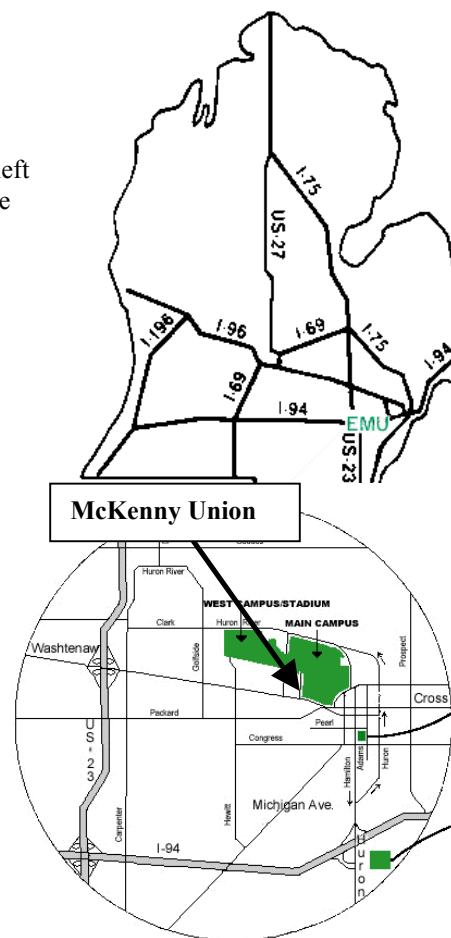
Take I-96 east to US-23 south. Take US-23 south to exit 37A (*Washtenaw Ave. east*). After traveling approximately 3 miles east on *Washtenaw*, turn left onto *Oakwood* (the last light before the water tower). Turn right into the McKenny Union lot.

From Grand Rapids:

Take I-96 east to US-23 south. Take US-23 south to exit 37A (*Washtenaw Ave. east*). After traveling approximately 3 miles east on *Washtenaw*, turn left onto *Oakwood* (the last light before the water tower). Turn right into the McKenny Union lot.

From Detroit:

Take I-94 west to exit 183 (*Huron St.*) and stay to the right coming off the exit ramp. At the stop sign at the end of the exit ramp, turn right, heading north on *Huron St.* Stay in the left lane to *Cross St.* (first traffic light after *Michigan Avenue*). Take *Cross* about 1 mile. The entrance drive to the McKenny Union parking lot is across from the water tower (far right lane).



BALLOT

MI-ASM members,

Please vote for one person for each of the following elective offices. Ballots can be turned in at the Spring Meeting Registration Table or can be mailed to the Secretary at:

Jia Liu
Pfizer Global Research and Development
Antibacterial Molecular Science
2800 Plymouth Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2495

President-Elect

Daniel Clemans (Eastern Michigan University)

Other: _____

Secretary

Debra Hanna (Pfizer Global Research & Development)

Other: _____

Daniel L. Clemans
Newsletter Editor
MI-ASM Branch
c/o Department of Biology
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316 Mark Jefferson
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

