

Training Centre, zonal, and regional hospital laboratories via workshops and mentoring. The mentorship program aspires to strengthen their diagnostic capability by placing experienced laboratorians in each laboratory to mentor selected technologists in best standardized microbiological practices and aid where possible in the advancement toward National and International ISO Accreditation. The expansion of the program to develop local Tanzanian mentors is a turning point for ASM LabCap—this will serve to increase coverage of microbiology laboratory service strengthening and sustain capacity building efforts.

The training was conducted by established ASM mentors Douglas Abbott, John Aldom, and Janet Maleski. Local mentors then had the opportunity to shadow them at three sites with a history of ASM LabCap mentorship—Muhimbili National Hospital, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, and Bugando Medical Centre. The new mentors could practice their newly acquired skills in an actual laboratory under the tutelage of the ASM LabCap mentor. They were then deployed to their assigned regional laboratory to begin mentoring on their own. ASM LabCap hopes to build upon best practices from the pilot to enhance the program in 2012–2013.

To learn more about ASM International Affairs and the LabCap Program visit www.asm.org. Development of this publication was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U2GPS001947-03 from the Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Global Health, Division of Global HIV/AIDS. The contents of this article are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

Branches: ASM Activity at the Local Level

It's a Big Tent, All Are Welcome

Each year at the annual Branch Officers Forum, I have the pleasure of asking a few Branches to present some of the

strategies they have used to bring value to their membership. This month, Wendy Wilson and Daniel Mills of the Northern California Branch (NCASM) provide an update to the presentation they gave at a past Forum. The story of how they are creating a “big tent” where all are welcome demonstrates that Branch venues offer developing scientists and clinicians their first opportunities to experience the excitement and rigor of a scientific meeting. I am sure many of us can still vividly recall the experience of our first poster, our first talk, and the guidance received from a future peer. We know the value of those experiences, and I encourage Branch meeting planners to consider how they can make their own Branch meetings a “big tent” experience, especially for early-career scientists.

Daniel Mills and Wendy Wilson report: Although the NCASM, like many ASM Branches in urban settings, is primarily clinically focused, huge efforts have been made to diversify attendance at the annual two-day Spring Meeting. In addition to offering concurrent clinical and environmental microbiology sessions, the Branch offers a special Saturday program developed specifically for college and university students. The program includes morning sessions focusing on science and careers, an afternoon symposium, breakfast, a banquet lunch, and plenty of opportunities to network with peers and future colleagues throughout the day.

Graduate and undergraduate microbiology students, along with their faculty mentors, from approximately 25 colleges, universities and specialized training programs in the greater Northern California Branch catchment, are invited to participate in



California State Chico students and advisor Larry Hanne attending the Spring 2012 Northern California Branch Meeting.

the Saturday program. NCASM, with crucial financial support from the national ASM Branch Funding Program and private donations from funding partners, provides FREE NCASM student membership, FREE meeting registration, and FREE shared overnight lodging for those students who might not ordinarily have funds to travel to a scientific meeting. The outcome of this strategy has been increased student attendance allowing NCASM to host an average of 35 students each year.

The Saturday morning scientific sessions give students opportunities to present their research in different formats, and practice responding to questions from a receptive, non-threatening audience. Cash prizes are awarded for the best presentations, and all student presenters are recognized by the Branch for their participation with a special gift, such as an ASM Press publication or a complimentary national ASM Student Membership.

The career development sessions evolve and improve each year. Generally, the three-hour career program targets students interested in beginning microbiology careers, though they have also been popular with microbiologists seeking career redirection. Featured speakers have included laboratory professionals in clinical, public health, environmental, biotechnology, and federal research laboratories, as well as microbiologists in

teaching, food safety, microbiology product sales, and hospital infection control.

In 2012, the career session focused on general career building skills needed for planning and cultivating a lifelong career. A scientific temp agency, life coaches, and a public health laboratory professional offered practical suggestions on preparing a resume, drafting a CV, crafting cover letters for government and private-sector job applications, using Web-based job search tools, and preparing for interviews. A special highlight of the day was the luncheon banquet, where two microbiology mentors were assigned to each student table to allow time for the students and mentors to interact informally.

The Branch efforts have paid off. Feedback from student attendees has been overwhelmingly positive and indicates that they have enjoyed and greatly benefited from meeting professional microbiologists, nationally recognized scientists, and students from other schools. In addition, they have been exposed to the benefits of participating in a professional organization. From the Branch perspective, the student sessions have been successful in building student membership and meeting attendance, and, as a result, Branch meetings have been enriched immeasurably. The Branch is committed to continuing its student programming efforts and engaging new students every year.

In conclusion, NCASM wants to thank its funding partners, including ASM, and its faculty members who support and inspire the next generation of microbiologists who will carry the torch for us all!

To learn more about the Northern California Branch, visit <http://archive.asm.org/branch/brcano/index.html>.

To learn about other Branch opportunities, go to: www.asm.org/branches or to the ASM website at <http://www>

.asm.org and toggle the dropdown menu, Membership/Branches.

Michael Schmidt

Chair, Branch Organization Committee

Daniel Mills

Wendy Wilson

Northern California Branch

Membership

Deceased Member



Lupan

David Martin Lupan, 66, a longtime member of ASM, passed away at home with his family by his side on 23 June 2012 following a 15-week battle with non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Oct. 23, 1945, and at the age of one, moved with his parents to Arizona where he grew up. He received a B.S. in microbiology from the University of Arizona and then attended graduate school at the University of Iowa, following a course of study that led to a Ph.D. in microbiology in 1973.

Following his graduation from Iowa he accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology at the newly established University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno. He stayed for nearly 40 years, rising to the position of Senior Associate Dean for Basic Science and Research, a position he held for the last 15 years.

His scientific expertise was in bacteriology and mycology and mechanisms of resistance to antimicrobials. During his early career he was responsible for several major courses and sequences in microbiology for medical students, during which he was nominated for the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1985, and received the award again in 1988 and 1997. During the early and more active phase of his sci-

entific career, he published or presented numerous posters, peer-reviewed manuscripts and abstracts, and was the recipient or corecipient of 10 externally funded grant awards.

A strong supporter of expanded research opportunities for students, he loved lecturing and teaching at the School of Medicine and was a mentor to many during his 39 years on faculty. In his early years of teaching, some of his students would call him "Sarge" because of his exacting expectations in the classroom.

David loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and hunting and World War II airplanes. David had a sense of humor which was often laced with sarcasm and dry undertones, yet he was also social and outgoing and almost always found someone he knew wherever he went. He is survived by Joyce, his wife of 44 years; son Michael David Lupan (Dawn), daughter Nicole Elaine (Lupan) Naylor (Dave); and six grandchildren. David was preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas and Grace (Neuzil) Lupan.

Donations may be made to a memorial fund that has been established in David's name at: UNR Foundation, David Lupan School of Medicine Fund, Mail Stop 0530, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, NV 89557-0530. Contributions may also be made to the American Cancer Society.

Thomas R. Kozel

Arthur F. Di Salvo

Charles G. Miller, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology and founding Director of the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, died suddenly of a heart attack on 15 April 2012 in his home at the age of 72. Miller was born in Greensburg, Ind. He began his university studies at the Indiana University School of Music as a trombone major, later switching to arts and sciences and graduating Phi Beta

Kappa with a degree in chemistry in 1963.

Miller received his Ph.D. in 1968 from Northwestern University for work done with enzymologist Myron L. Bender. Following postdoctoral work with geneticist John Roth in the Department of Molecular Biology at the University of California Berkeley, Miller began his independent career in 1970 in the Department of Microbiology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

At this time, the proteolysis field was in its infancy. Miller realized that in order to benefit the cell, proteolysis must be carried to completion, releasing free amino acids that can be reutilized. Using his knowledge of biochemistry and genetics he set out to identify and characterize the peptidases of *Salmonella typhimurium* that catalyze the final steps in the degradation process. He and his students identified a large number of peptidases, and he spent his professional life characterizing these enzymes, providing important insights into diverse physiological processes and protein modification mechanisms.

Miller served as Acting Chairman of Microbiology at Case Western from

1978 to 1981 and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1983. In 1990, he was recruited to the University of Illinois as Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology. He became the Associate Director of the School of Life Sciences in 1997. Miller was visionary in his understanding of the future directions of modern biology and how universities should best position themselves to conduct research and train future generations of biological scientists. To this end, in 2000, Miller orchestrated the reorganization of life science departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Science, creating the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology, comprised of the departments of Microbiology, Biochemistry, Cell & Developmental Biology, and Molecular & Integrative Physiology. Miller served as the founding Director of MCB from 2000–2007, during which time he significantly strengthened the research positions of these departments. As Department Head and Director, Miller had a direct role in the hiring of about half of the current 70 or so school faculty. Miller also recognized early the importance of the emerging field of genomics and was in-

strumental in the creation and building of the interdisciplinary Institute of Genomic Biology.

Concurrent with the formation of the new School, Miller oversaw the creation of an undergraduate major in Molecular and Cellular Biology, now one of the largest programs at the University of Illinois, with 2,000 students. When Miller stepped down from his directorship of the school, he took over teaching Molecular Genetics, the gateway core course for MCB majors. He last taught this course in Fall 2011, just before formally retiring. More than 3,000 students took the class under Miller's instruction.

Miller is survived by his wife Judy, his daughter Julia, and his son Andrew. He was a member of ASM, the American Chemical Society, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Genetics Society of America. His family and colleagues miss him very much.

Thomas J. Silhavy

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

**James M. Schlauch, Stephen K. Farrand,
and colleagues**

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana