Theobald Smith Society

North Jersey Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

2016 Meeting in Miniature
and 63rd Selman A. Waksman Honorary Lectureship

April 27, 2016
1:00 – 8:00 PM
Trayes Hall,
Douglass Student Center,
Rutgers University
The year 2016 marks the 157th Anniversary of the birth of Theobald Smith, a great pioneer of American bacteriology for whom our Society is named. Dr. Smith's contributions to bacteriology and medical science were manifold and of far-reaching significance.

Of his many contributions, recorded in some 280 publications, Theobald Smith is perhaps best known for his work on Texas fever in cattle. He discovered the protozoan agent and the means of transmission by ticks, and opened the way for the explanation of the transmission of such human disease as yellow fever and African sleeping sickness. In later work, he clearly distinguished between the bovine and human types of tubercle bacilli. His work in immunology was also fundamental. He was one of the first to demonstrate the production of immunity by killed cultures of the disease organism, and to show that a mixture of diphtheria toxin and anti-toxin confers immunity. The observation that animals develop hypersensitivity to bacteria upon repeated injections was long known as the "Theobald Smith Phenomenon". His numerous other contributions to science justify his renown as a bacteriologist, parasitologist, pathologist, physician, inventor, scholar and teacher.

Theobald Smith was born in Albany, New York on July 31, 1859. He was graduated from Cornell University in 1881 with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree and received his M.D. at Albany Medical College in 1883. From 1884-1895 he was director of the pathology laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., where he investigated infectious disease of animals. During this period he also established a Department of Bacteriology at Columbia (now George Washington University).

Theobald Smith came to New Jersey in 1915 to become director of the Department of Animal Pathology at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in Princeton, where he remained until 1929, when he became emeritus director.

Dr. Smith was a member of numerous scientific and medical societies and association and held major offices in many of them. He was president of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, the American Society of Tropical Medicine, the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, and the International Society Against Tuberculosis. He was a Fellow of the AAAS, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi. He received twelve honorary degrees from leading universities and eleven medals, among which was the Copley Gold Medal of the Royal Society, regarded as one of the highest scientific awards in the world.
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New Jersey Branch
American Society for Microbiology

2016 Meeting in Miniature

and

63rd Annual
Selman A. Waksman
Honorary Lectureship

Thursday,
April 27, 2016
1:00 – 8:00 PM

Trayes Hall,
Douglass Student Center,
Rutgers University,
New Brunswick, NJ
PROGRAM

Registration
1:00 Keynote Presentation
What’s in Your Cup of Tea? Antiviral Activity of Tea Polyphenols against Herpes Simplex Virus.
Tin-Chun Chu
Seton Hall University

1:30 PM Oral Presentations
4:10 PM Posters and Reception
6:00 PM Dinner
6:45 PM Waksman Honorary Lecture
Chestnut blight: A great system to study microbiology and much more
Bradley J. Hillman,
Department of Plant Biology and Pathology,
Rutgers University

7:45 PM Awards Ceremony
Poster and Oral Presentation Prizes
Young Investigator Award
Yana Bromberg
Rutgers University

Graduate Scholarship Recipient
Preshita Gadkari
Rutgers University

Adjournment
PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE
SELMAN A. WAKSMAN
HONORARY LECTURESHP AWARD

1954 - BERNARD D. DAVIS
1955 - ALFRED D. HERSHEY
1956 - JOHN T. BONNER
1957 - WAYNE W. UMBREIT
1958 - MANFRED M. MAYER
1959 - CURTIS O. THORNE
1960 - EVELYN M. WITKIN
1961 - SAM S. BARKULIS
1962 - JULIUS MARMUR
1963 - ALLAN GAREN
1964 - EDWARD REICH
1965 - NOBORU SUEOKA
1966 - MARVIN FISHMAN
1967 - FRANK J. RAUSCHER
1968 - DANIEL NATHANS
1969 - JAMES H. SCHWARTZ
1970 - CHARLES E. HELMSETTER
1971 - MAX M. BURGER
1972 - HOWARD TEMIN
1973 - H. RON KABACK
1974 - ALLEN LASKIN
1975 - ARNOLD DEMAIN
1976 - VERNON BRYSON
1977 - SIDNEY PESTKA
1978 - KARL MARAMOROSCH
1979 - R. WALTER SCHLESINGER
1980 - THOMAS E. SHENK
1981 - JEROME BIRNBAUM
1982 - BYRON WAKSMAN
1983 - RICHARD NOVICK
1984 - GEOFFREY ZUBAY
1985 - JEAN E. BRENCHLEY

1986 - NORBERTO PALLERONI
1987 - ALEXANDER THOMASZ
1988 - SMITH SHADOMY
1989 - GUENTHER STOTZKY
1990 - EDWARD O. STAPLEY
1991 - MARY P. LECHEVALIER
1992 - NAJFIKA H
1993 - ALBERT SCHATZ
1994 - GEORGE LUDEDEMMANN
1995 - HERBERT PRINCE
1996 - GEORGE CARMAN
1997 - ALLAN ANTOINE
1998 - CARL SCHAFFNER
1999 - SAMUEL M. RINGEL
2000 - DAVID PRAMER
2001 - GERBEN J. ZYLSTRA
2002 - WILLIAM R. STROHL
2003 - BONNIE L. BASSLER
2004 - THOMAS J. MONTVILLE
2005 - TAMAR BARKAY
2006 - DOUGLAS E. EVELEIGH
2007 - H. BOYD WOODRUFF
2008 - JOAN W. BENNETT
2009 - LILY Y. YOUNG
2010 - MAX M. HÄGGBLOM
2011 - KATHRIN U. JANSEN
2012 - RICHARD H. EBRIGHT
2013 - ROGER C. PRINCE
2014 - BESS WARD
2015 - BARRY N. KREISWIRTH
Keynote Speaker  
Tin-Chun Chu

Dr. Chu received her BS in Molecular Biology from Montclair State University and her PhD in Biomedical Informatics from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers University). She joined Seton Hall University in 2008 and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Her research interests include using natural small molecules such as green tea, black tea and Chinese Knotweed to develop alternative antibacterial and antiviral agents. To date, she has a total of 28 publications, including peer-reviewed articles, book chapters — many of them with student co-authors. In addition, Dr. Chu has published over 100 published abstracts at SHU where she has mentored 5 PhD students, 9 MS students and over 38 undergraduate students. Dr. Chu was named University Researcher of the Year in 2013 and Professor of the Year in 2014.

Waksman Honorary Lectureship Recipient  
Bradley J. Hillman

Bradley Hillman was educated in Plant Pathology at UC Berkeley (BS, MS, PhD), where he primarily worked on Tomato bushy stunt virus and characterized the first defective interfering RNA in a plant virus system. He relocated to New Jersey in 1987 to work with Donald Nuss at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology on parasites of chestnut blight, C. parasitica. Through work on the hypoviruses of C. parasitica and wide-ranging discoveries including the first fungal-infecting reovirus (now family Mycoreovirus) he became a leader in fungal virology. However, Brad has always been a generalist virologist. Not only has he continued to work on plant viruses, but he discovered the first virus able to infect mitochondria (mitovirus).

Brad is a Full Professor of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers and currently serves as director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. He is a fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and has served on the executive committee of the International Committee for the Taxonomy of Viruses.
Past Recipients of Young Investigator Award

2000 - MIKHAIL CHIKNIDAS
2005 - JOSEPH T. NICKELS, JR.
2006 - LANBO SHI
2008 - GIL-SOO HAN
2011 - NIHAL ALTAN-BONNET
2013 - NING ZHANG
2014 - SIOBAIN DUFFY
2015 - ALEXANDER PLOSS

Young Investigator Award Recipient

Yana Bromberg

Dr. Yana Bromberg is an associate professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Rutgers University. She holds an adjunct position at the Department of Genetics at Rutgers and is the Chief Scientific Officer at BioSof — a company for bioinformatics tool development. She is also a fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Technical University of Munich.

Dr. Bromberg received her Bachelor degrees in Biology and Computer Sciences from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University, New York. She is known for her seminal work on a method for screening for non-acceptable polymorphisms, or SNAP for short, which evaluates the effects of single amino acid substitutions on protein function. Currently, research in the Bromberg lab is focused on the molecular functional annotation of microbiomes, aiming to identify emergent functionality specific to individual environmental niches. The lab also analyses human variomes for disease predisposition and the studies evolution of life’s electron transfer reactions. Dr. Bromberg is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Computational Biology and actively participates in organizing the ISMB/ECCB conferences (ISMB stands for Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology, and ECCB is it's European equivalent). She chairs poster and talk sessions, conducts workshops, and organizes a special interest group aimed at the study of genomic variation — VarI-SIG.

Dr. Bromberg’s work has been recognized by several awards, including the recent NSF CAREER award, the Rutgers Board of Trustees Research fellowship for Scholarly Excellence, and the Hans-Fischer award for outstanding early career scientists from the Institute of Advanced Studies in Technical University of Munich. Dr. Bromberg also serves as an editor and a reviewer of several top bioinformatics journals, including BMC Genomics and PLoS Computational Biology. To date, she has authored or co-authored 36 peer reviewed scientific articles and has been invited to give nearly 70 talks.
Oral Presentations

1:30  *The Dirt on the Arctic: Tundra Soil Bacteria Are Active In Subzero Temperatures.* Preshita Gadkari and Max Haggblom, Rutgers University

1:50  *Reductive Dechlorination of 1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin in River Sediment Enrichment Cultures.* Hang Dam and Max Haggblom, Rutgers University

2:10  *The mer operon of Thermus thermophilus: a direct link between thiols and mercury.* Javiera Norambuena and Tamar Barkay. Rutgers University

2:30  Break and Snack

3:00  *Born to Clean: Corrinoid Auxotrophy in Organohalide Respiring Dehalobacter restrictus.* Aamani Rupakula Boyanapalli, PhD. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

3:30  *Deep-Sea Dinner Party; Carbon Cycling in Biofilms at Hydrothermal Vents.* Ashley Grosche, J Dreifus, D. Giovannelli and Costantino Vetriani, Rutgers University

3"50  *A long story of MTBE biodegradation and the characterization of keystone taxa under different redox conditions.* Weimin Sun and Max Haggblom. Rutgers University
Chestnut blight: A great system to study microbiology and much more. Bradley J. Hillman, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University

Abstract: Around the turn of the 20th century, the chestnut blight fungus, Cryphonectria parasitica started to burn its way from the northeast U.S. through the entire range of the American chestnut, meeting no significant resistance. In the process, it became the greatest forest tree pandemic in recent history and a fungal pathogen studied in depth from more perspectives than almost any other. An important contribution of this system to the study of microbiology is its central role in examining the use of viruses for biological control of plant pathogenic fungi. Our characterization of the diversity of viruses of this fungus and their effects on the biology of the fungus has also greatly advanced the field of fungal virology. Recently, we have also been examining the population of transposable elements of the fungus, as they reveal details about its history. While this plant pathosystem has been an especially rich one for research, the breadth of subject matters it touches upon makes it an excellent teaching tool as well.

Poster Presentations

Graduate Posters

1. The efficacy of electrolyzed water in preventing cross-contamination of foodborne pathogens in leafy green lettuce during a crisping process; retail scale study. Yangjin Jung, Hyein Jang, Mengqi Guo, Jingwen Gao and Karl Matthews. Food Science, Rutgers University

2. Microbial Transformation of Diphenhydramine by a Methanogenic Consortium. Sarah Wolfson, Dr. Abigail Porter, and Dr. Lily Y Young

3. The Dirt on the Arctic: Tundra Soil Bacterial Communities Active at Subzero Temperatures Detected by Stable Isotope Probing. Preshita Gadkari and Max M. Häggblom.
4. **Bugs on Drugs: Fate and Ecotoxicity of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products.** Michelle Zelip1, Aamani Rupakula1, Anna Przybyla1, Rachel Dean1, Chang-Ping Yu3, Donna E. Fennell2, Lori A. White1, Keith R. Cooper1, Max M. Häggblom1 1Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and 2Department of Environmental Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ; 3Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xiamen, China.

5. **The Emerging Cost: Bacteriophage phi6 Encounters Constraint After Host Range Expansion.** Lele Zhao, Dragoș Stemate2, and Siobain Duffy3 1. Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Rutgers University; 2. School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University; 3. Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, Rutgers University

6. **Identification and Expression of Reductive Dehalogenase Genes in a Marine Sponge-Associated Debrominating Bacterium, Desulfoluna spongiiphila strain AA1.** Jie Liu1, Nora Lopez-Chiaffarelli2, Lee J. Kerkhof2 and Max M. Häggblom1 1Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology; 2Department of Marine and Coastal Science, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ.

7. **Lipopeptides produced by Bacillus amyloliquefaciens inhibit growth and induce chlamydospore formation in filamentous fungi.** Irizarry I, Chen Q, Bergen M, White JF. Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

8. **Regulation of Clp proteases by SrrAB in Staphylococcus aureus** Ameya A. Mashruwala, Adriana van de Guchte, Carly Earle, Jeffrey M. Boyd
9. The *yaaT*, *ylbF*, and *ymcA* protein are necessary to signal for sporulation in *Bacillus subtilis*, but what are their functions in the non-sporulating bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*? Hassan M. Al-Tameemi, Ameya A. Mashruwala, Andrew W. Tanner, Valerie J. Carabetta, David Dubnau, and Jeffrey M. Boyd. *Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.*

10. The Suf iron-sulfur cluster biosynthetic system is essential for *Staphylococcus aureus* viability and decreased Suf function results in global metabolic defects and decreased survival in human neutrophils Christina Roberts, Hassan M. Al-Tameemi, Ameya A. Mashruwala, Zuelay Rosario-Cruz, William Sause, Victor Torres, and Jeffrey M. Boyd

11. A Preliminary Glimpse into the Genome of Sedimenticola selenatireducens strain AK4OH1. Tiffany Louie and Max M. Häggblom


1Department of Microbiology & Biochemistry, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
2Environmental Biophysics and Molecular Ecology Program, Dept. of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
3Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
4Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 0885
UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS

1. Degradation of Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) under aerobic and anaerobic conditions Sabrina Mohsin and Lily Young.

2. Presence of the Anaerobic Benzoyl-CoA Degradation Pathway in Animal Samples. Katherine Fullerton, Abigail W. Porter, Lily Y. Young


4. In Search of a surrogate: Cross-Contamination of E. aerogenes, avirulent E. coli and E. coli O157:H7 during lettuce washing. J Medrano1, AL Charles2, and DW Schaffner PhD3

5. Development of a quantitative microbial risk assessment for Norovirus in foodservice facilities. R. Miranda, M. Igo and DW Schaffner

6. Temperature profile of bagged leafy greens during transportation as affected by season. Yash Desai, Ann Charles, Donald Schaffner, PhD

7. The effect of phosphatidate phosphatase and diacylglycerol kinase enzymes on catalase enzymatic activity. Sarah Hazaveh, Yeonhee Park, and George M. Carman. Rutgers Center for Lipid Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

8. Chronological life span and superoxide dismutase activity in yeast lacking phosphatidate phosphatase and diacylglycerol kinase. Brinley Burdge, Yeonhee Park, and George M. Carman. Rutgers Center for Lipid Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

THEOBALD SMITH SOCIETY
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1942-43 - Louis O. Kunkel 1981-82 - Paul Cino
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1955-56 - Wayne W. Umbrelt 1994-95 - Charmanie Mukherjee
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1970-71 - William Chamney & Howard Singer*
1971-72 - Bernard W. Koft
1972-73 - Aris Bayan 2007-08 - Joyce Kohler
1973-74 - Donald Kronish 2008-09 - Prakash S. Masurekar
1974-75 - Richard Thoma 2009-10 - Randolph L. Greasham
1975-76 - Barbara Lago 2010-11 - Martha Beyazova
1976-77 - John Keller 2011-12 - Prem Sreenivasan
1977-78 - Sam Ringel 2012-13 - Max Häggbloom
1978-79 - Edward O. Stapley 2013-14 - Lee Kerkhof

* Co-Presidents  ^ Acting President
## Regional Science Fair Awards

### Mercer County Science and Engineering Fair
March 2016  
Rider University

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<th>Place</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Third Place</th>
<th>Honorable Mention</th>
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<td>Jiyoung Kang</td>
<td>Braulio Adonys Cappas</td>
<td>Jackie Ketter</td>
<td>Maria Vittadello</td>
<td>Kathryn Elizabeth Black</td>
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<td>Princeton High</td>
<td>Trenton Central High West Campus</td>
<td>Foundation Academy</td>
<td>Lawrence Intermediate</td>
<td>St. Gregory the Great School</td>
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<td>Impacts of Phragmites australis invasion on soil enzyme activities and methane emission of tidal marshes in Maryland, USA</td>
<td>Is Lawrence's Sewage Treatment Polluting a Trenton Stream and Drinking Water?</td>
<td>Can Provodine help prevent the spread of infectious disease?</td>
<td>Biological Yeast Fermentation with Sugar and Wheat</td>
<td>Bye Bye Bacteria</td>
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### North Jersey Regional Science Fair
March 2016  
Rutgers University

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<td>Chatham H.S.</td>
<td>Pasack Hills High School</td>
<td>Watchung Hills Regional High School</td>
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<td>Experimental Studies in Developing Safe Sanitation Solutions</td>
<td>Epigenetic Alterations of Prodigiosin Synthesis and GFP Expression</td>
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THEOBALD SMITH SOCIETY

Officers 2015-2016

President  Siobain Duffy
President-elect  Jennifer Adams Krumins
Secretary  Ines Rauschenbach
Treasurer  Andrew Marinucci
Past President  Donna Fennell
National Councilor  Prakash S. Masurekar
Alternate National Councilor  Jessica McCormick-Ell
Local Councilors  Margaret Dooley ('16)  Jessica McCormick-Ell ('16)
    Max Häggblom ('17)  Lee Kerkhof ('17)
    Alexander Ploss ('18)  Abigail Porter ('18)

Committees

Meeting in Miniature
Facility & Planning  Lee Kerkhof, Jessie Maguire,
    Siobain Duffy, Donna Fennell,
    Kathy Maguire
Program  Andrew Marinucci, Ann Charles
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Membership  Joyce Kohler,
Corporate Membership  Randolph L. Greasham,
    Prem Sreenivasan
Waksman Award  Max Häggblom, Lee Kerkhof
    Donna Fennell
Scholarship  All Officers & Active Past Presidents
Science Fair Judging  Andrew Marinucci
Nominations  Donna Fennell
The Meeting in Miniature
was supported by funds from:

![American Society for Microbiology]

![Rutgers University]

More information about the
**Theobald Smith Society**
can be found at the
Society’s Web Site at
http://www.asmbranches.org/brnj/
or though a link from the
branch section
of the ASM site
www.asm.org

For Membership Information Contact: **Joyce Kohler**
Joyce Kohler (tsskohler@gmail.com)