



# ASM Council on Microbial Science

Digital Meeting  
June 2, 2021



## Rules of Engagement

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1. We will trust and respect one another at all times.
2. With a culture to disagree without being disagreeable, we will listen actively to one another and seek constructive ways to engage.
3. We speak openly and honestly, confident of no reprisals.
4. We are accountable to one another
5. We seek consensus and debate internally, but will support and communicate the majority opinion outside the meeting.
6. We respect time constraints and stay on topic by focusing on strategic issues and avoiding repetition or discussion about minutia.
7. We maintain confidentiality of our Board discussions.

## Guidelines for Virtual Meetings

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1. We will use “mute” when not actively engaged in the conversation.
2. If available, we will use the “hands up” tab or “question box” to be recognized to speak.
3. Unless we are not able to be recognized (voice only-no computer connection), we will not speak until recognized and will be respectful of others who are currently speaking.
4. Each time we participate in a discussion, we will identify ourselves to the other participant.
5. Prior to a virtual meeting, we will review the written agenda and/or discussion materials.
6. The individual chairing the meeting will seek input from all participants.



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# **PRE-READ MATERIAL**

## **ASM BRANCH REPORT**

# BRANCH ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (BOC) 2020-2021 REPORT

Updated: May 25, 2021

## COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE BRANCH PROGRAM

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions had a significant impact on the number and type of Branch meetings held in 2020-21. Many Branch meetings were cancelled, particularly in 2020, but other Branch meetings were changed to a virtual format. The virtual meetings have allowed Branches to continue engaging their members and other attendees, providing opportunities for trainees to present their science, and offering CEU's.

### 2020 Branch Meetings:

Number of Branches that Held at Least 1 Meeting in 2020	<b>21</b>
Percentage of Branches that Held at Least 1 Meeting in 2020	<b>60%</b>
Number of In-Person Meetings	6
Number of Virtual Meetings	36
Number of Hybrid Meetings	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF 2020 BRANCH MEETINGS</b>	<b>42</b>

### 2021 Branch Meetings:

Number of Branches that Held at Least 1 Meeting to date in 2021	<b>20</b>
Percentage of Branches that Held at Least 1 Meeting to date in 2021	<b>57%</b>
Number of In-Person Meetings	0
Number of Virtual Meetings	25
Number of Hybrid Meetings	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF 2021 BRANCH MEETINGS</b>	<b>25</b>

**Number of Meetings Planned for Later in 2021:** at least 9, but probably more will be planned/held; plans are still pending while the Branches monitor developments in COVID-related travel and in-person gathering restrictions.

### Year-to-Year Comparison (2017-2021):

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percentage of Branches that Held at Least 1 Meeting	100%	100%	94%	60%	57% (to date)
Number of Branch Meetings	80	78	81	42	25 (to date)
Number of Branch Meeting Attendees*	6831	6956	7019	2124	TBD

\*All meeting attendee numbers are based on Branch reporting of numbers, which may in some cases be estimates.

**Future Branch Meetings:**

In late 2020, ASM announced that funding for in-person Branch meetings would not be available through August 31, 2021. A decision on whether ASM will offer funding for in-person meetings after August 31, 2021 is pending.

**Branch Funding:**

In light of the cost differential between hosting virtual meetings and in-person events, the amount of Branch funding available for 2021 was reduced accordingly. The funding application process was divided into 2 windows:

1. **Window 1** – Proposals were due February 15, 2021 – for expenses associated with holding virtual meetings during the year, particularly in the first part of the year; for example, purchase of a Zoom account, or provisions of awards for best virtual presentations.
2. **Window 2** – Deadline Date TBD – this window will cover Fall activities. As of now, ASM has not determined whether support for in-person meetings will resume, or whether support will only be given for virtual activities. An update will be provided to the Branches later in the year.

**Branch Funding Awards to Date:**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (as of 5/31/21)
Percentage of Branches that Received Branch Funding (Regional, National, or Both)	100%	97%	97%	97%	29%
Branch Regional Funding Available	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$35,000
<b>Regional Funding Awarded</b>	<b>\$73,251</b>	<b>\$73,450</b>	<b>\$73,350</b>	<b>\$72,500</b>	<b>\$11,195</b>
Branch National Funding Available	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$15,000
<b>National Funding Awarded</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,230</b>
<b>TOTAL BRANCH FUNDING AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$98,500</b>	<b>\$98,500</b>	<b>\$98,500</b>	<b>\$98,500</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>	<b>\$98,251</b>	<b>\$98,450</b>	<b>\$98,350</b>	<b>\$72,500</b>	<b>\$18,425</b>

**Branch “1 Meeting per Year” Requirement:**

2020: The ASM requirement of 1 Branch meeting per year was waived for 2020.

2021: All Branches are encouraged to host at least 1 meeting in 2021, even if held virtually. If a Branch finds it impossible to hold a meeting, the Branch may request a waiver of the 1-meeting requirement for 2021.

**ASM Distinguished Lecturer (ASMDL) Program:**

Branches have continued to host ASMDL Lecturers for their Branch meetings. Normally, Branches are limited to 1 ASMDL Lecturer per year; however, given that there are no travel costs to reimburse for virtual meetings, the limit has been lifted and Branches were encouraged to invite additional ASMDL Lecturers for their virtual meetings. At least 2 Branches have taken advantage of that benefit.

**Peggy Cotter Awards for Early Career Branch Members:**

- **Program Overview:** Provides funds (\$1650 per awardee; 3 awardees per Branch) for outstanding early career Branch members to attend ASM Microbe:
  - Postdoctoral fellows
  - CLS-MLT-MLS Bench Techs
  - Early Career Faculty and/or Early Stage Investigators (ESI’s)
  - Students are NOT eligible for this award
- **Status:**
  - 2020: Awardees named: no funds were distributed due to Microbe’s change to a virtual format.
  - 2021: No funds will be awarded to the virtual World Microbe Forum.
  - 2022: 2020 Awardees will be carried over to 2022, assuming they continue to meet eligibility requirements (microbial sciences career; ASM and Branch membership). A 1-time extension of the 10-year limit from terminal degree that normally applies will be granted to 2020 awardees. Branches with 3 carried-over awardees will not select new awardees for 2022. Branches that have fewer than 3 can select new awardees.

**BRANCH MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS**

Thirty-three of ASM’s 35 Branches are participating in the 2021 Branch Dues Collection Program, allowing individuals to pay membership dues via the ASM website.

	<b>2018 Member Year</b>	<b>2019 Member Year</b>	<b>2020 Member Year</b>	<b>2021 Member (ytd)</b>
Branch Members Who Joined Online through ASM	1,314	1,566	1,880	2,249

**BRANCH OFFICERS FORUM/OFFICER ORIENTATION**

The Committee held a virtual Branch Officers Orientation in January 2021 and is planning a virtual Branch Officers Forum/Officer Orientation for late summer/early Fall 2021.

**GOALS/FOCUS OF THE BRANCH ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

1. Increase awareness of Branch activities and content – among ASM members, leadership, and the general public.
2. Explore how to attract new Branch leaders with new ideas and perspectives.
3. Provide effective training and support for Branch leaders.
4. Identify and implement effective method(s) for communicating important information to the Branches.
5. Identify and implement effective method(s) for receiving information from the Branches about their needs and how ASM can serve their members.
6. Explore nuances and implications inherent in the current structure of ASM Branches in relation to ASM National.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://asmusa-org.zoom.us/j/7321913700?pwd=S0hpRWtuRHJFdnc0cmNxV1BwMTc0Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 732 191 3700**

**Passcode: 932130**

**Primary Meeting Objectives:**

1. This is the annual meeting of the Council on Microbial Sciences and will focus on how to develop COMS to an even higher level, taking into account the Governance Committee’s Rapid Working Group’s pilot on Nomination Reform and the new ASM Connect platform.

**Wednesday, June 2nd**

10:00 am	Call to Order (5 min) • Roll Call	Suzanne Fleiszig	Welcome, an overview of meeting agenda/goals. Check that everyone can hear and speak.
10:05 am	ASM President’s Report (10 min) <b>Tab 1</b>	Vic DiRita	President brings strategic matters of importance to build COMS awareness and to engage in conversation with the COMS members.
10:15 am	Discussion of President’s Report (10 min)		Provide strategic thinking about next steps
10:25 am	CEO’s Report (10 min) <b>Tab 2</b>	Stefano Bertuzzi	CEO brings strategic matters of importance to build the COMS awareness and to engage in conversation with COMS members.
10:35 am	Discussion of CEO’s Report (10 min)		
10:45 am	COMS Chair Report (10 min) <b>Distributed under separate cover</b>	Suzanne Fleiszig	COMS Chair reviews COMS activities, progress on further engaging the Council and future trajectories.
10:55 am	Discussion of COMS Chair Report (10 min)		
11:05 am	<b>Break (15 min)</b>		

11:20 am	Governance Committee Rapid Working Group (15 min) <b>Tab 3</b>	Robin Patel Michelle Bogdanovich Kim Shankle	The Chair of the Governance Committee communicates the Nomination Reform Project
11:35 am	Discussion of Governance Committee Rapid Working Group Initiative (10 min)		
11:45 am	ASM Connect (10 min)	Catherine Ort-Mabry Tom Lyons Janet Hedrick	Communications of the new platform and launch status
11:55 am	Discussion of ASM Connect (10 min)		
12:05 pm	<b>Lunch (30 min)</b>		
12:35 pm	COMS Community Rapid Breakout Discussions (30 min) <b>Tab 4</b>	URL to Breakout Session Document  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pmbWgbS8BIKzksVgyYf2XsnjrCXfMJx_vDEKrm4Xub0/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pmbWgbS8BIKzksVgyYf2XsnjrCXfMJx_vDEKrm4Xub0/edit?usp=sharing</a>	Meeting Host will designate eight individual Community Breakout Rooms
1:05 pm	COMS Community Rapid Breakout Discussion Recap (10 min)		
1:15 pm	COMS Chair Closing Remarks (5 min)	Suzanne Fleiszig	Recap of the day and introduction of incoming Chair
1:20 pm	COMS Vice-Chair Closing Remarks (10 min)	Rebecca Ferrel	The Vice-Chair of COMS, incoming Chair for the next term, presents her vision for 2021-2022 COMS focus and strategic activities
1:30 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>		





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## **TAB 1 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT**



## President's Report

In this last year, we have accomplished much and there are so many initiatives that I am proud of. From ASM's effective COVID-19 response that was rooted in a robust ASM staff/volunteer leadership partnership, to building a clear roadmap for our DEI efforts, to developing the World Microbe Forum, which I anticipate will serve as a model for future partnerships, we really took on all the challenges head-on and took this as an opportunity to look internally and put in the work to be more effective.

Since the detailed update I provided when we met in March, we have implemented and launched a few of the initiatives that we discussed then:

- ASM Connect, our online member community launched in April.
- World Microbe Forum is just around the corner. Our abstract submissions are looking great, proving that this meeting is breaking barriers to presenting research at a difficult time.
- We also did a soft launch of **ASM's Donations program** in April.
- ASM's 6<sup>th</sup> open-access journal, *Microbiology Spectrum* also launched in April 2021.
- ASM led efforts to boost funding for genomic surveillance and expand sequencing of SARS-CoV-2. The work done by the advocacy team led to the inclusion of \$1.75 billion for CDC's Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) program (from \$35 million) in the American Rescue Plan Act.

I look forward to future progress; we are in great hands with Steven Finkel at the helm starting in July. Thank you for all your support this year. A very special thanks to Stefano and his staff for all their leadership and work that led to such a productive and important year for ASM.



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## **TAB 2 – CEO’S REPORT**

## CEO Report Overview

As we look forward and envision critical next steps for ASM, building on our current journey, I see six key priorities for the organization this year and in the next few to perfect its impact of promoting and advancing microbial sciences.

### *1. Increase ASM visibility in the Washington Policy Scene.*

After having revamped and expanded our advocacy program, we now want to ensure that ASM is "at the table" on top Administration and Congressional priorities to help promote and advance microbial sciences and help our members advance.

### *2. Continuous transformation of our digital processes.*

Building on the "Helping You Advance" initiative, expand the digital experience for ASM members via ASM Connect and beyond, expand our data collection of demographic information to support DEI efforts and more, and help support members' careers through salary surveys.

### *3. Elevate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*

Sustain the implementation of the 3-5 year roadmap approved in March, focus on the pilot project to reform volunteer nominations and appointments

### *4. Open Access, Open Data, Open Science.*

Continue developing the path for ASM to full Open Access of journal publications, positioning the organization for the bigger picture of open data and open science to increase collaborations and impact in the microbial sciences. Expand the ASM journal publishing footprint toward a sustainable financial model.

### *5. Prepare for a refresh of the ASM Strategic Plan.*

Hold a series of small, in-person, high-level salons to tackle some of the key topics and critical areas for the future of ASM to inform the full strategic planning in 2022.

### *6. Strengthen the ASM Organizational leadership.*

Continue investments in volunteer and staff talent development with the implementation of the staff's new roles and responsibilities and the new volunteer nomination pilot project.



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## **TAB 3 – GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**RAPID WORKING GROUP**

# COMS DIVISION INTERDISCIPLINARY AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTION PROPOSAL

Michelle Bogdanovich

4-30-2021

## Overview

**i** *The purpose of this proposal is to realign the COMS Interdisciplinary Divisions (ID) Councilor and COMS new Vice-Chair Election, allowing time to incorporate the benefits of the Nomination Pilot and streamline the nomination and appointment process. We think electing the new COMS leaders with a more robust search process would be highly beneficial.*

Now is a prime opportunity to consider realigning the timeframe of the COMS ID Councilor elections to those of the Board Officers, Board At-Large, and COMS At-Large elections. With five of the eight COMS ID Councilor positions either having exhausted their second term or declined to run for a second, this opportunity will not arise again for another three years. By delaying these elections until December (five months), time is given to address concerns conveyed in the DEI Task Force Report and Governance Committee Review. Aligning the timing and process provides a single time of the year for membership to focus on volunteer opportunities while also creating cost savings with the election process and, most importantly, electing future leaders with a more robust, rigorous, and inclusive approach. The idea is to extend the current members occupying these slots until the new members are elected with the new process. The specific areas of the bylaws with potential impact have no restrictive language or direction on COMS Interdisciplinary councilor elections or terms. The bylaws prescribe language governing Divisions/SIGS, whereas Division Interdisciplinary Councilors are a subset of that group, created and documented in the PPM to establish a balance of representation. See Bylaw Article VII, sections 5 and 6, and Article IX, section 1.

As the COMS Vice-Chair position, slated to become Chair in July, is already elected, we have three options:

- a) exclude election of the new Vice-Chair for this July term in the nomination reform pilot, and proceed with the usual election schedule for the current COMS Vice-Chair position that is due to occur May through June 2021. The potential detractor is the election of leadership guided by the old nomination system. A benefit to this no adjustment is needed of ongoing processes.
- b) Delay the election of vice-Chair until November to be done with the new system. Ask Suzi Fleiszig (current Chair) to take on a temporary role for an additional six months (until the new election) as COMS Past Chair to assist the new Chair from July to December.
- c) Same as b) except for an extension of Suzi's interim role and therefore have only a chair for six months and no vice-chair/co-lead.

\*We make a recommendation for option b).

## Opportunity

**i** *The Nomination Reform and subsequent election realignment present many opportunities.*

- Goal #1: Streamline elections providing ample time to achieve project success, better work capacity, and cost-efficiency
- Goal #2: Simplify the election process for membership and give them a single time of the year to research opportunities for volunteering
- Goal #3: Good faith with the current leadership and relationship building with the next COMS Chair.
- Goal #4: Open lines of communication to realize new potential and structure models for COMS

## Request

**i** *Listed below are the actions needed to execute the proposal. As per the PPM, the COMS Vice-Chair and COMS ID Councilor Election is due for completion, and new terms are to begin as of July 1. With the approval of the Nomination Reform Pilot at our Board meeting held on March 4-5, 2021, we now have the opportunity to make changes on a trial basis without disrupting the integrity of the PPM language.*

- Need #1: Request from the Board at their next meeting on June 3, 2021, to extend the terms of the five COMS ID Councilor positions to June 30, 2022. If a Councilor is either unwilling or unable to extend their terms, the newly elected Councilor could be asked to serve the six-month gap before their term starts, or their seat would remain open until filled.
- Need #2: Request from the Board at their next meeting on June 3, 2021, to allow Suzanne Fleiszig to serve in a temporary role for six months as COMS Past Chair to assist the new Chair from July to December. Delay the COMS Vice-Chair and COMS Interdisciplinary elections to December 2021, providing alignment of all ASM volunteer elections and the opportunity to test the nomination reform pilot benefits.

## TAB 4 – BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Before the breakout session, please rename yourself in Zoom to your First Name and your Community Designation. Below are instructions for renaming in Zoom.

### Name and picture section

- Sign in to the Zoom web portal
- In the navigation menu, click “**Profile**.”
- View and edit your name and profile photo.
- To change your name, click **Edit** on the right side.
- Your profile picture and display name are shown to other users when they hover over your profile picture in the Zoom desktop client.

To access the Breakout Session Google Document to record your responses and notes can be located at this URL:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pmbWgbS8BIKzksVgyYf2XsnjrCXfMJx\\_vDEKrm4Xub0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pmbWgbS8BIKzksVgyYf2XsnjrCXfMJx_vDEKrm4Xub0/edit?usp=sharing)



# Committee on Microbial Sciences Annual Report

June 2, 2021 – Prepared by COMS Chair Suzi Fleiszig

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## Activities

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- Meeting with program committee July 22, 2020
- COMS leadership retreat September 8-9, 2020
- ASM Virtual Symposium on Microbial Science Research in the Post-COVID Environment November 10, 2020
- Manuscript published building on ideas arising from the symposium published mBio May 28, 2021
- Special COMS meeting to prepare for ASM Connect launch March 1, 2021
- CIV community retreat April 28, 2021.
- ASM Connect launched May 3, 2021.
- Bi-weekly Zoom meetings of COMS leaders (Chair, Vice-Chair, 8 community leaders) initiated July 7, 2020 and have continued to be well-attended.
- 2020 Conference Grants Program awarded 6 grants (list attached below).
- Conference Grants Program and Peggy Cotter Branch Travel Awards were temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

## Accomplishments

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- The post-pandemic symposium was a successful collaboration between COMS and the Academy of Microbiology, paving the way for future collaborative meetings between the two groups, and for continued discussions and publications around topics raised. The meeting was followed up with a publication in mBio that expanded on ideas presented at the meeting. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34044593/>
- The Clinical Infections and Vaccines (CIV) community retreat was held virtually on April 28, led by Dr. Joanna Goldberg. This highly successful meeting addressed multiple topics, including basic and applied research, clinical science, disparities impacting population groups, and strategies needed for fostering careers and career development.
- In the past year, COMS leadership have placed significant efforts into building lines of communication within COMS, and between COMS and other groups, to better enable COMS to fulfill its mission as a think tank. The challenge relates to the large number of councilors (> 90 individuals) with a diverse range of expertise, experiences, and

interests. Efforts included building interest in the two digital resources provided by ASM, the COM Slack channel and more recently ASM connect, the latter including the capacity to communicate beyond COMS to all ASM members. While ASM Connect has not been well utilized to date, COMS leadership and ASM staff continue to collaboratively explore strategies to generate interest in ASM Connect, and to improve the user interface, with the understanding that this might entail a multi-year effort.

- The bi-weekly meetings of the 8 community leaders, Chair and Vice-Chair have been highly successful in connecting the communities and integrating ideas arising from discussions within individual communities.
- Planning for the Applied and Environmental Sciences retreat began last year but was postponed. Planning will resume under the leadership of Dr. Robert McLean, Dr. Rebecca Ferrell and Dr. Erin Lipp for a series of three panels in late 2021.

### Conference Grant Awardees 2020

Mary Allen  
Hartwick College

*Grant for:* [Microbiology of Brewing: Cultivating Innovation Through Research](#)

Fatima Aziz  
Aga Khan University

*Grant for:* [Real Time Challenges and One Health Concept in Pakistan](#)

Javier del Campo  
University of Miami

*Grant for:* The Future of Microbial Metabarcoding: Bridging the Gap Between Ecology and Evolution using Long-read Sequencing of the Full-length rRNA Operon

William Harcombe  
University of Minnesota

*Grant for:* Microbial Ecology and Evolution

Shazia Tabassum Hakim  
Dine College

*Grant for:* [Emerging Infections & Tribal Communities: What We Learned from COVID-19 Pandemic?](#)

Marvin Whiteley  
Georgia Institute of Technology

*Grant for:* Pseudomonas 2021

## COMS report: Priority areas for ASM communities

### Council On Microbial Sciences – (Chair: Suzi Fleiszig)

1. Reducing barriers to collaboration.
2. Improving access to needed resources for all scientists in the field.
3. Fostering efforts to address Grand Challenges that impact the globe.
4. Improving how we communicate the microbial sciences and their importance to non-experts.
5. Advancing our relationships with other disciplines, considering both the challenges and the opportunities.
6. Ensuring the future of ASM so it can continue to serve the microbial sciences.

### Antimicrobial Agents & Resistance – (Lead: Silvia Pineiro)

1. Creating a realistic plan to raise awareness, with the public and policy makers, of the need for increased focus on specific AAR issues and not a broad AAR overview.
2. Improving opportunities for the development of new antibiotic, either modification of existing molecules or new cell target, to combat AMR.
3. Understanding whole genome sequencing role in the AMR challenge

### Applied & Environmental Science (Lead: Erin Lipp)

1. How can we best incorporate environmental microbiology into epidemic/pandemic surveillance and the newly proposed 'disease detective' corps (e.g., <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/bidens-new-disease-detectives-to-ramp-up-as-covid-cases-drop>) (i.e., *Wastewater-based epidemiology is a good current example of an area in our scientific community where many efforts are taking place with limited coordination among them.*)
2. Training the next generation of environmental microbiologists (how can we improve training of microbiologists to better reflect the needs of a growing discipline that must work across diverse fields from public health, to ecology, to climate science, to industrial applications and engineering)
3. The role for environmental microbiologists in critical global issues (e.g., characterization of microbes in critical habitats and role for preservation efforts [and curated culture/sample collections]; emerging microbial threats from climate change; microbes in climate mitigation)

### Clinical & Public Health Microbiology (Lead: Amanda Harrington)

1. Advocacy for the science of diagnostic microbiology—the role of diagnostic microbiology came to the forefront during the pandemic. How can we maintain this momentum going forward?
2. Visibility of the profession of diagnostic microbiology and the laboratory—there is often lack of knowledge and understanding of the diagnostic laboratory among members of the healthcare team, c-suite, federal representatives and the public. How do we become more visible when we're often behind the scenes?

3. Advocacy for the workforce—significant workforce shortages in diagnostic microbiology laboratories existed prior to the pandemic and have only grown over this past year. How do we strengthen the pipeline into the field and retain members once they have entered the field?
4. Professional Meetings—what meeting structure is the best fit for the CMPH community?
5. The role of next generation sequencing in diagnostic microbiology—NGS is becoming more utilized in clinical and public health laboratories. What is the best fit for this technology and what does the future look like?

#### Clinical Infections & Vaccines (Lead: Joanna Goldberg)

1. Support and promote collaborative vaccine research to address the current and next pandemics, as well as emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, including antimicrobial resistance.
2. Advocate for implementation, access, and delivery of diagnostics, vaccines, and primary health care programs, as well as epidemiology, surveillance, and prevention programs at the local, regional, and global levels to address disparities in health care.
3. Support the training and retention of diverse and inclusive groups of individuals to the biomedical teaching, research, and medical workforce. as well as those to advocate at the community and government level.

#### Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity (Lead: Siobain Duffy)

1. The integration of EEB approaches with biomedical environments. For instance, how to address microbial ecology in One Health.
2. Rapid evolution blurs the boundaries between microbial ecology and microbial evolution.
3. Microbial evolution being taught in K-16. Important to integrate evolution into microbiology courses/lessons and to use the easy-to-demonstrate microbial evolution to bolster evolution lessons.

#### Host Microbe Biology (Lead: Vincent Young)

1. How can we image host-microbe interactions in real time (including spatio-temporal interactions as well as proteomics and metabolomics)?
2. How can we understand the many host-microbe interactions in the setting of the host immune system?
3. Can we examine host-microbe interactions (beneficial and disease-related) in terms of evolution of each partner or the combined host-microbe unit?
4. Is the recent focus on “the microbiome” (in all of the ways that people define that term) distracting from the long history of studies of interactions between microbes and their hosts?

#### Molecular Biology & Physiology (Lead: Sean Crosson)

1. Basic studies of molecular processes in bacteria, archaea, and eukaryotic microbes are important as we work toward understanding shared and unique features of microbial biology

and the tree of life. The MBP community feels that ASM engagement of researchers studying archaea and eukaryotic microbes could be improved.

2. An idea: COVID-19 related travel restrictions have birthed various virtual microbiology conferences that focus on many MBP-relevant topics. There is enthusiasm to continue some of these conferences as they are affordable for labs with limited funds, and for undergrads and grad students interested in an introduction to particular research areas. Can ASM extend/advertise the conference grant (<https://asm.org/Fellowships/ASM-Conference-Grant>) to fund these virtual conferences? Even small amounts of money (~\$500/conf) to cover the Zoom cost could go a long way.
3. ASM should continue to consider partnerships with other microbiology societies (FEMS or SGM) or other disciplinary societies (ACS, biomed eng, synbio) to develop small, focused meetings on topics of cross-disciplinary interest: cellular nanocompartments, phase-separation in soft condensed matter, advances in cellular imaging approaches, etc.

#### Profession of Microbiology (Lead: Mark Martin)

1. Resources to connect with other microbiologists in order to strategize how to deal with professional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Better communication regarding microbiological issues with students and the public (grassroots rather than government officials).
3. More effective communication of non-academic career paths for microbiologists at all levels.
4. An ASM-sponsored clearinghouse for "new ideas" in education, both for lecture/discussion and laboratory exercises (particularly of the CURE variety).
5. Better opportunities to communicate among microbiologists in general.