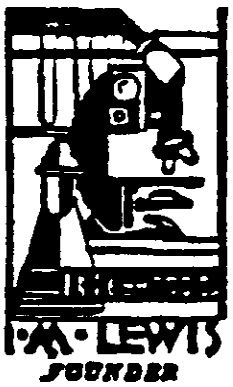
50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING



TEXAS BRANCH

American Society For Microbiology

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OCTOBER 24-26, 1991 MEETING OF THE BRANCH!

FALL 1991

If unable to deliver, please return to:

Dr. Tom Matney
UT GSB N224

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL

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F91 MEETINGS CHAIR: Dr. Leodocia Pope (512)471-4495; FAX 471-7088

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Please note that The Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology was founded in 1941.

The fiftieth anniversary of founding will be celebrated in Austin, Texas in 1991.

A special meeting of the Branch will be planned by Dr. Leodocia Pope of the Microbiology Department at The University of Texas, Austin. They will need your help since they can't do everything by themselves. Please volunteer to serve on the many committees they plan to establish and, above all, please plan to attend since an anniversary party like that will be no fun without you.

The help and cooperation of all present and past members of the Texas Branch will be required to make the anniversary a Texas style celebration. Please invite those around you to come to Austin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Texas Branch, after all, the Texas Branch is their scientific society at home.

The scientific portion of this anniversary meeting will be worth the trip all by itself and the added celebration will make it a memorable occasion.

TEXAS BRANCH ASM
FALL 1991
INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: **OCTOBER 9, 1991 (WEDNESDAY)** IS THE LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CONVENTION RATES AT THE CREST HOTEL.

PREREGISTRATION: **OCTOBER 21, 1991 (MONDAY)** IS THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PREREGISTRATION FORMS AND PAYMENT. **ON SITE REGISTRATION FOR REGULAR MEMBERS WILL BE $40.00 AND FOR STUDENT/EMERITUS MEMBER/SPOUSE/FRIEND WILL BE $30.00.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION AND BANQUET: **OCTOBER 21, 1991 (MONDAY)** IS THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATION FORM FOR THE THURSDAY EVENING FESTIVITY.

****

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL DR. LEODOCIA M. POPE, DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY, AT (512)471-4495/5105 OR FAX (512)-471-7088

****

TWO DIFFERENT REGISTRATION FORMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. RETURN BOTH FORMS IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE THURSDAY EVENING RECEPTION/DINNER AND THE BRANCH MEETING.

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Austin, Texas 78712-1095

September 19, 1991

Dear Colleague:

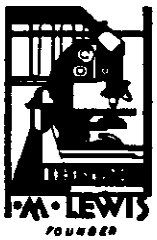
A reception and dinner on Thursday evening, October 24, 1991 is planned as part of the festivities associated with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Texas Branch of American Society of Microbiology. The reception. followed by dinner, is scheduled to begin to 6:30 PM in the foyer of the Texas Memorial Museum on the University of Texas at Austin campus. A newly constructed parking garage is adjacent to the museum. The rear entrance of the museum has very few steps and there is also a wheelchair accessible entrance in the rear. A map of the campus is enclosed in this packet. This occasion will be a wonderful opportunity for visiting and reminiscing. We hope that you will be able to join us!

As you can see from the enclosed program, there will be a variety of activities for all meeting participants. We will have a hospitality room at the Crest Hotel for you to meet and visit friends. This meeting will be a unique event and we look forward to seeing you in Austin this fall!

Please let me know by returning to me, the enclosed Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner registration form along with your check (made payable to the Texas Branch ASM) if you will be attending the reception and dinner on October 24. I must receive your check and forms by October 21. Space will be limited so please respond early. Please feel free to share the information with any friends or colleagues who may be interested in this occasion. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (512) 471-4495/5105.

Sincerely,

Leodocia M. Pope, Ph.D.
Program Chairman
Department of Microbiology
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712



TEXAS BRANCH ASM
50TH ANNIVERSARY
REUNION & BANQUET

NAME: _____

ADRESS: _____

_____

_____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____-_____X _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL TEXAS BRANCH ASM REUNION AND DINNER

YES ____ NO ____

I WILL BRING _____ GUESTS.

NAME(S): _____

_____

PLEASE REMIT A CHECK FOR $15.00 PER PERSON** MADE OUT TO TEXAS BRANCH ASM AND RETURN IT ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

LEODOCIA M. POPE. PH.D.
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AUSTIN, TX 78712

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM PLUS YOUR CHECK BY OCTOBER 21, 1991

SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE RESPOND AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN'S REGULATIONS CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NO STUDENTS MAY ATTEND.

PREREGISTRATION
TEXAS BRANCH ASM
FALL 1991

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

CITY. STATE. ZIP: _____

PHONE (_____)_____-_____ X_____

PREGISTRATION ($30.00*) . . . . . $ _____

PREGISTRATION STUDENT ($20.00*) . . . . . $ _____

PREGISTRATION EMERITUS MEMBER.SPOUSE/FRIEND ($20.00*) . . . . . $ _____
* = INCLUDES FRIDAY DINNER
NO FRIDAY DINNER CREDIT (- $5.00) . . . . . $ _____

WORKSHOP(S) ATTENDANCE ONLY REGISTRATION ($15.00) . . . . . $ _____

WORKSHOP 1: TICK BORNE DISEASES ($15.00) . . . . . $ _____

WORKSHOP 2: COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED FILAMENTOUS FUNGI OF INCREASING MEDICAL SIGNIFICANCE ($15.00) . . . . . $ _____

WORKSHOP 3: MISCELLANEOUS GRAM NEGATIVE WORKSHOP ($25.00) . $ _____

WORKSHOP 4: OSHA: LABORATORY AND PERSONNEL SAFETY ($15.00). . $ _____

WORKSHOP 5: MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES IN THE CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY . . . . . $ _____

DUES. MEMBER ($15.00) . . . . . $ _____

DUES. STUDENT ($??.??) . . . . . $ _____

FINAL TOTAL . . . . . $ _____

YES, I WANT CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT: PACE ___ AMA___

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO TEXAS BRANCH ASM AND MAIL TO:

DR. LEODOCIA M. POPE
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN, TX 78712

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Austin, Texas 78712-1095 • (512) 471-5105

Fall 1991 Meeting of the Texas Branch of the
American Society for Microbiology
Registration and Call for Abstracts

Dear Colleague,

The Fall 1991 meeting of the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of our group. We will celebrate this occasion October 24, 25, and 26 in Austin, Texas. The meeting will be held at the Crest Hotel which is located on the shores of Town Lake in downtown Austin. In keeping with last years meeting format, we have put together a program of distinguished scientists who will participate in eight outstanding scientific sessions. Stimulating sessions and lots of opportunity for informal scientific discussion promise to make this an invigorating and productive meeting. In addition we plan welcome back many old friends, emeritus and charter members who have fond ties to our branch.

A copy of the program of invited lectures, abstract forms, and registration is enclosed. These may be photocopied if needed so please share this information with your colleagues. Please note the deadline for submission of abstracts is September 13, 1991. Authors may choose to make an oral or poster presentation. Platform talks will be scheduled during the day Friday, October 25 and Saturday morning. Posters will be on display during the entire day Friday but manned by authors at times to be announced in the final program. Participants in poster sessions are asked to adhere to a poster size of 3 feet (vertical) by 4 feet (horizontal). All participants will be notified by September 30, 1990 of the schedule of presentations. We wish to encourage student participation and remind you that the Branch sponsors two awards for the best student presentations (either oral or poster). The O. B. Williams Award is for any subject area; the E. S. Sulkin Award is for medical/clinical presentations. Each award carries a cash prize of $300.00.

Information concerning hotel accommodations is included on the attached information sheet. Participants should make their own reservations directly with the Crest Hotel (Toll Free Number: 1-800-456-5253). A block of fifty rooms will be held for individuals attending the meeting. In order to receive convention rates be sure that you make reservations before October 9,1991 and state that you will be attending the meeting of the Texas Branch ASM. Again we urge you to make your reservations early in order to receive convention rates.

We look forward to welcoming you to Austin for a stimulating scientific program, the opportunity for informal scientific discussion, and warm hospitality for which Austin is famous! Please note that this packet contains information about some of the wineries located in the Hill Country near Austin, in case you might be interested in exploring this delightful area of Texas. Remember, the deadline for abstracts is September 13, 1991.

Sincerely,

Leodocia M. Pope, Ph.D.
Program Chairman
Fall 1991 Meeting of the Texas Branch ASM

Enclosures

TEXAS BRANCH ASM
FALL 1991
INFORMATION SHEET

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FALL 1991 MEETING OF THE TEXAS BRANCH OF THE ASM

Where: THE CREST HOTEL ON TOWN LAKE
111 EAST FIRST STREET AT CONGRESS
AUSTIN, TX 78701
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-800-456-5253

When: **OCTOBER 24, 25, & 26, 1991**

HOTEL A block of rooms will be held at convention rates for individuals attending the meeting. In order to receive these rates you must make your reservations before October 9 ,1991. When making reservations please mention that you will be attending the Texas Branch ASM meeting.

ROOM RATES: Single or Double Occupancy: $53.00
Triple of Quad Occupancy: $63.00

These rates are subject to a 13% occupancy tax. Guaranteed rooms with a view of the lake are an additional $10.00 + tax.

OCTOBER 9, 1991(WEDNESDAY) IS THE LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CONVENTION RATES AT CREST HOTEL

PARKING/AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION: The Crest offers complimentary covered parking in an attached garage for 250 cars as well as shuttle service to and from Robert Mueller Airport upon availability.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT: Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 1:00 p.m. The Crest is pleased to provide early check-in when rooms are available, however, late check-outs must be approved by the front desk on the day of departure.

ABSTRACTS AND PREREGISTRATION:

SEPTEMBER 13, 1991 (FRIDAY): DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

OCTOBER 21, 1991(MONDAY): DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PREREGISTRATION FORMS AND PAYMENT.

STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE O. B. WILLIAMS AND E. S. SULKIN AWARDS CARRY CASH AWARDS OF $300.00 EACH !

1991 MEETING CHAIRMAN: DR. LEODOCIA M. POPE
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
ESB 226
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at AUSTIN
AUSTIN, TX 78712
(512)471-4495 OR (512)471-5105
FAX (512)471-7088

TEXAS BRANCH ASM
FALL 1991 PROGRAM OUTLINE
(OCTOBER 24, 25, AND 26, 1991)
AUSTIN, TEXAS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM — Registration

8:30 AM - 12:30 AM
- Workshop 1: Tick Borne Diseases
- Workshop 2: Commonly Encountered Filamentous Fungi of Increasing Medical Significance
- Workshop 3: Miscellaneous Gram Negative Workshop (Part 1)

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM
- Workshop 3: Miscellaneous Gram Negative Workshop (Part 2)
- Workshop 4: OSHA: Laboratory and Personnel Safety
- Workshop 5: Molecular Techniques in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

6:00 PM — Reception Honoring Charter and Emeritus Members of the Texas Branch ASM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM — Registration

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM — Posters up for viewing

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Session 1: Retroviruses
- Session 2: Gene Expression

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Session 3: Genetic Rearrangements
- Session 4: Membranes
- Session 5: Clinical Symposium on Unusual Bacterial Pathogens

5:00 PM — **I. M. LEWIS LECTURE: Bacterial Signal Transduction by Melvin Simon, California Institute of Technology**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM — Mixer

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM — Dinner and Entertainment

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Session 6: Molecular Pathogenesis
- Session 7: Animal Virus Replication or Integration Strategies
- Session 8: Procaryotic Development

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM — Business Meeting

Please note that additional sessions will be scheduled to accommodate submitted papers.

TEXAS BRANCH ASM
FALL 1991
INVITED SESSIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30 AM-11:45 AM SESSION 1

Retroviral Gene Expression

Convener: Edwin Murphy, Jr., University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

***rel* -Associated Proteins**
Henry Bose, University of Texas at Austin

Mechanism of Action of HIV TAT Proteins
Andrew Rice, Division of Molecular Virology, Baylor Medical School, Houston.

Use of a Conditionally-Defective Retrovirus to Probe Mechanisms in Chemical Carcinogenesis
Edwin Murphy, Jr., University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

Retrovirus Vectoring
John Belmont, Institute for Molecular Genetics, Baylor Medical School, Houston

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30 AM- 11:45 AM SESSION 2

Gene Expression

Convener: Malcolm E. Winkler, University of Texas Medical School, Houston

tRNA Modification Level as a Physiological Switch in Stressed *Escherichia coli* Cells
Malcolm E. Winkler, University of Texas Medical School, Houston

Evolution of Regulatory Logic: Mechanistic Understanding
James R. Wild, Texas A & M University, College Station

Unusual DNA Structures and Gene Expression
Robert D. Wells, Institute of Bioscience and Technology, Houston and Texas A & M University, College Station

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

1:30 PM-4:30PM SESSION 3

Genetic Rearrangements

Convener: Makkuni Jayaram, University of Texas at Austin

Rearrangements in the *E. coli* Chromosome
George Weinstock, University of Texas Medical School at Houston

Enzymology of Bacteriophage T4 Homologous Recombination
Thomas Kodadek, University of Texas at Austin

DNA-Protein Complexes During Attachment-Site Synapsis in Mu DNA Transposition
Rasika Harshey, University of Texas at Austin

Mobile Introns
Ron Butow, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

1:30 PM-4:30 PM SESSION 4

Membranes

Convener: Charles Earhart, University of Texas at Austin

Membrane Biogenesis in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*
Samuel Kaplan, UTHSC Medical School, Houston

Sensory Rhodopsin in Halobacteria
John Spudich, UTHSC Medical School, Houston

Ligand-induced Excitation of a Bacterial Membrane Chemoreceptor
Michael Manson, Texas A & M University, College Station

Secretion of Enterotoxins by *Escherichia coli*
Yankel Kupersztoch, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

1:30 PM-4:30 PM SESSION 5

Clinical Symposium on Unusual Bacterial Pathogens

Convener: Suzanne Barth, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, Austin

A diverse group of rarely encountered or unusual bacterial pathogens will be discussed and clinical cases presented. Among the organisms discusses will be *Brucella suis*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Rochalimaea quintana*, and blood bank isolates of *Yersinia enterocolitica*. The participants are:

Edward R. Bannister, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

Vickie S. Baselski, University of Tennessee, Memphis

James H. Jorgensen, UTHSC San Antonio

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

5:00 PM

I. M. LEWIS LECTURE

BACTERIAL SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION

MELVIN SIMON

PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

WORKSHOPS. (AM = 8:30 am - 12:30 pm; PM = 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm)

WORKSHOP 1
Thursday AM

TICK BORNE DISEASES

Emphasis of this workshop will be on the epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis of tick-borne diseases including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, human ehrlichiosis, Q fever, babesiosis, Colorado tick fever, tularemia, Lyme borreliosis, and tick-borne relapsing fever.

Faculty: **Edward Sass, M.S., MT(ASCP)SM**, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, **Julie Rawlings, M.P.H., Marcia Roberts, M.P. H., Jeff Taylor, M.P.H.**, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, Austin, TX.

WORKSHOP 2
Thursday AM

COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED FILAMENTOUS FUNGI OF INCREASING MEDICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

To distinguish between fungi of clinical significance and those which are mere contaminants is increasingly difficult. This half day workshop will offer a review of several frequently seen fungi and others which are becoming more noteworthy as agents of opportunistic disease. Some useful handling techniques will be discussed.

Faculty: **James L. Harris, Ph.D.**, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, Austin, TX.

WORKSHOP 3
Thursday AM and Thursday PM

MISCELLANEOUS GRAM NEGATIVE WORKSHOP

This eight hour workshop will focus on the opportunistic Gram-negative pathogens identified by the King/Weaver protocol. Half of the time will be devoted to discussion of the biochemical tests, the identification charts, and a new method for identification of these organisms based on analysis of cellular fatty acids. The other half of the course will be a "hands-on" laboratory consisting of reading biochemical tests and identifying these miscellaneous Gram-negative bacteria.

Faculty: **Susan J. Gibson, M(ASCP)** and **Suzanne S. Barth, Ph.D., M(ASCP)**, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, Austin, TX.

WORKSHOP 4
Thursday PM

OSHA: LABORATORY AND PERSONNEL SAFETY

OSHA's Chemical Hygiene Plan is now law. OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard will become law soon. Failure to comply with these Standards can endanger personnel and carries stiff penalties. This workshop will provide an up-to-date review of OSHA's new requirements, plus a practical guide for meeting the new regulations. The participant also will recieve practical instructions for developing an effective biohazardous waste management plan. All participants will receive comprehensive hand-out materials. Questions will be taken from the audience.

Faculty: **Lynn M. Little, Ph.D., John L. Murad, Ph.D., Lisa A. Weinheimer, MT(ASCP)**,Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, TX.

WORKSHOP 5
Thursday PM

MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES IN THE CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

This workshop will focus on the introduction of future technology to the clinical microbiology laboratory: namely, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and DNA probe technologies. The first part of the workshop will introduce the PCR technology. An overview of the technology will be presented with detailed examples of PCR amplification of viruses (e.g., human immunodeficiency virus, etc.) and bacteria (e.g., *Borrelia burgdorferi).* This technology allows tiny bits of embedded, often hidden genetic information to be amplified into large quantities of accessible, identifiable, and analyzable material. The last part of the symposium will focus on DNA probe technology. An overview of the technology will be presented with detailed examples. Also, a demonstration of DNA probe analysis of a specimen will be performed.

Clinical applications for the polymerase chain reaction technique.
Bruce McCreedy, Ph.D.
Division of Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Center for Molecular Biology
Roche Biomedical Laboratory
Research Triangle Park, NC

Clinical applications for DNA probe technology.
Robert R. Speed, Ph.D.
Edward R. Bannister, Ph.D.
Clinical Microbiology and Immunology
Department of Pathology
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX
Jim Radcliffe
GEN-PROBE, Inc.
San Diego, CA

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

PACE CREDIT: Workshops 1-5 are co-sponsored by the Southwestern Association for Clinical Microbiology (SWACM) and are approved for PACE CE credit. Forms and certificates will be available at each event.

AMA CATEGORY 1 CREDIT: Through a grant by the Alcon Laboratories, Inc. of Fort Worth, free Category 1 credit by the accreditation Council for Continuing Education of the American Medical Association will be available to any registrant at the meeting for attending any single event or combination of events listed on the back of the AMA CE application form. Simply sign the attendance sheet on the back of the application form, enter the total number of hours in the designated place on the front, sign your name and enter your address and phone number. Return the completed form to the registration desk at the meeting or mail it to the address below.

Please take time to fill out a confidential evaluation form for each event. Your comments are valuable in planning future meetings. These comments should be turned in at the meeting.

> The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education of physicians.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Division of Continuing Education, designates this continuing medical education activity for up to 24.5 credit hours in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS BRANCH

Year	President Vice-President	Secretary Treasurer	Councilor Alternate
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1942	I.M. Lewis S.W. Bohls	Gordon Worley Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	O.B. Williams
1943	S.W. Bohls O.B. Williams	Gordon Worley Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	O.B. Williams
1944	S.W. Bohls O.B. Williams	Gordon Worley Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	MacDonald Fulton
1945	O.B. Williams MacDonald Fulton	Arthur Calmer Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	MacDonald Fulton
1946	MacDonald Fulton V.T. Schuhardt	C.E. Lankford Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	K.L. Burdon
1947	V.T. Schuhardt K.L. Burdon	C.E. Lankford Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	K.L. Burdon
1948	K.L. Burdon J.V. Irons	E.A. Johnson R.M. Pike	Orville Wyss P.E. Harrison
1949	J.V. Irons C.E. Lankford	E.A. Johnson R.M. Pike	Orville Wyss P.E. Harrison
1950	C.E. Lankford S.E. Sulkin	J.B. Cross E.A. Johnson	Orville Wyss R.M. Pike
1951	S.E. Sulkin Mrs. E.B.M. Cook	J.B. Cross E.A. Johnson	Orville Wyss R.M. Pike
1952	Mrs. E.B.M. Cook J.B. McBryde	F.B. Engley Martha Wilkerson	R.M. Pike R.B. Mitchell
1953	J.B. McBryde Orville Wyss	F.B. Engley (two offices combined)	R.M. Pike R.B. Mitchell
1954	Orville Wyss R.M. Pike	R.P. Williams	C.E. Lankford V.T. Schuhardt
1955	R.M Pike R.P. Williams	W.L. Flannery (appt. interim, '55)	C.E. Lankford V.T. Schuhardt
1956	R.P. Williams Paul Donaldson	W.L. Flannery Jose Rivera (appt. interim, '56)	V.T. Schuhardt Mrs. E.B.M. Cook

OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS BRANCH
Continued

Year	President Vice-President	Secretary Treasurer	Councilor Alternate
1957	Paul Donaldson Roland B. Mitchell	Jose Rivera Irving Davis (Appt. Interim, 1957)	V. T. Schuhardt Mrs. E. B. M. Cook
1958	Roland B. Mitchell Jackson W. Foster	Irving Davis	V. T. Schuhardt Mrs. E. B. M. Cook
1959	J. W. Foster J. A. Bass	Irving Davis	V. T. Schuhardt Mrs. E. B. M. Cook
1960	J. A. Bass J. B. Davis	E. O. Bennett	Mrs. E. B. M. Cook Paul Donaldson
1961	J. B. Davis Isaac Peters	E. O. Bennett	Mrs. E. B. M. Cook Paul Donaldson
1962	Isaac Peters Willard F. Verway	E. O. Bennett	Mrs. E. B. M. Cook Paul Donaldson
1963	Willard F. Verway Willson J. Fahlberg	E. O. Bennett	Mrs. E. B. M. Cook Paul Donaldson
1964	Willson J. Fahlberg E. O. Bennett	Reuben D. Wende	Paul Donaldson R. P. Williams
1965	E. O. Bennett Eugene Rosenblum	Reuben D. Wende	Paul Donaldson R. P. Williams
1966	Eugene Rosenblum Irving Davis	Reuben D. Wende	Paul Donaldson R. P. Williams
1967	Eugene Rosenblum Irving Davis	Reuben D. Wende	Paul Donaldson R. P. Williams
1968	Irving Davis Rufus Guthrie	Donald J. Hahn	R. P. Williams Tom Matney
1969	Irving Davis (1) Rufus Guthrie	Donald J. Hahn	R. P. Williams Tom Matney
1969	Rufus Guthrie (2) L. J. Rode		
1969	L. J. Rode (Acting) Ralph J. Hervey (Acting)		

1) Resigned Spring 1969; (2) Resigned Summer 1969

OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS BRANCH
Continued

Year	President Vice-President	Secretary Treasurer	Councilor Alternate
1970	L. J. Rode Ralph J Hervey	Donald J. Hahn	R. P. Williams Tom Matney
1971	L. J. Rode Ralph J. Hervey (3)	Donald J. Hahn	R. P. Williams Tom Matney
1972	Peter Jurtshuk R. A Finkelstein	Donald J. Hahn	Tom Matney E. D. Rosenblum
1973	Peter Jurtshuk R. A. Finkelstein	Donald J. Hahn	Tom Matney E. D. Rosenblum
1974	R. A. Finkelstein Lyle Kuhnley	Donald J. Hahn	Tom Matney E. D. Rosenblum
1975	R. A. Finkelstein Lyle Kuhnley	Donald J. Hahn	Tom Matney E. D. Rosenblum
1976	Lyle Kuhnley G. Roland Vela	Donald J. Hahn (S. H. Black)(4)	E. D. Rosenblum Peter Jurtshuk
1977- 1978(5)	G. Roland Vela B. G. Foster	S. H. Black	E. D. Rosenblum Peter Jurtshuk
1978- 1979	B. G. Foster Tom Matney	S. H. Black	E. D. Rosenblum Peter Jurtshuk
1979- 1980	Tom Matney Charlotte Parker	S. H. Black	Peter Jurtshuk G. Roland Vela
1980- 1981	Millicent Goldschmidt Johnny Peterson	S. H. Black	Peter Jurtshuk G. Roland Vela
1981- 1982	Johnny Peterson William McDonald	S. H. Black	Peter Jurtshuk G. Roland Vela
1982- 1983	William McDonald David N. McMurray	S. H. Black	Peter Jurtshuk G. Roland Vela
1983- 1984	David N. McMurray L. Joe Berry	S. H. Black	Millicent Goldschmidt Johnny Peterson

(3) Resigned Summer 1971; (4) S.H. Black assumed office in mid-year (5) Assumption of office moved to July 1.

OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS BRANCH
Continued

Year	President Vice-President	Secretary Treasurer	Councilor Alternate
1984- 1985	L. Joe Berry A.S. Kester	Tom Matney	M. Goldschmidt J. Peterson
1985- 1986	A.S. Kester Rex Moyer	Tom Matney	M. Goldschmidt(6) Shelly Payne
1986- 1987	Rex Moyer Charles Gauntt	Tom Matney	Shelly Payne
1987- 1988	Charles Gauntt Tom Huber	Tom Matney	Shelly Payne(7)
1988- 1989	Tom Huber Joanne Prashad	Tom Matney	Elizabeth Harris Shelly Payne
1989- 1990	Joanne Prashad Jim Walker	Tom Matney	Tom Huber Tom Milligan
1990- 1991	Jim Walker Mary Pat Moyer	Tom Matney	Tom Huber M. Goldschmidt(8)

(6) Millicent Goldschmidt resigned to become member of ASM Council Policy Committee at end of first year of second term.

(7) Election resulted in tie vote between Shelly Payne and Elizabeth Harris. Since Dr. Payne had served previous year to complete the second year of Dr. Goldschmidt's term, she served the first year of the 1987-1989 term and Dr. Harris served the second year.

(8) Tom Milligan moved out of state and Dr. Goldschmidt was appointed to serve the second year of the term.

In Memoriam

GLENDA OGLESBY MATNEY

Glenda Oglesby Matney died in an automobile accident on December 26, 1990. She was born in Goldthwaite, Texas and had resided in Houston during the last 30 years. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B. A. degree in 1946 and with an M.A. in 1951 in Microbiology. She worked as a civilian at Fort Detrich in Frederick, Maryland for several years. Glenda was a past president of both Emerson Unitarian Church and the Women's Alliance of that church as well as an active member of their religious community. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Matney, Professor of Genetics, Graduate School of Biomedical Science, UT Health Science Center at Houston; her daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Tipton; also two sons, Scott and Monte, and a brother, John Oglesby. Glenda was active in the Texas Branch ASM and often helped Tom with his ASM activities. Her cheerful smile and ready comments will be sadly missed. In lieu of the usual rememberances, memorial contributions may be made to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Community Parenting Resources Program c/o Dr. David Adam, School of Public Health, P.O. Box 20186, Houston, Texas 77225.

Millicent Goldschmidt

In Memoriam

DONALD J. HAHN

Donald J. Hahn was born December 4, 1912 in San Antonio and died April 25, 1991 in Austin, where he resided for most of his adult life.

Don graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Bacteriology. He was then employed by the Biologics Division of the Texas State Department of Health. With the advent of World War II, he served as Captain with the United States Army medical corps in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. Following the war, he returned to Austin and a position with the Texas State Health Department.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. O. B. Williams, chairman, persuaded Don to join the Department of Microbiology at The University of Texas at Austin. Don remained in the department, as head of teaching laboratory services and as purchasing agent, until his retirement in 1977.

Don and his wife, Inda, were charter members of the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. In addition, Don served more than 10 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Branch. He was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award which recognized his many years of service to the Texas Branch.

Don had many outside interests. For many years he enjoyed boating, sailing in particular. He and Inda enjoyed bird-watching together, and traveled widely in their R.V., primarily in the years following his retirement. Don was a member of the "SAPs" (Society of Applied Piscatology), an organization of U.T. people devoted to an annual fishing expedition and fish fry.

Don is survived by Inda J. Hahn, his wife of 52 years; by his four sons (Donald, Jr., David, Richard and Dennis) and their wives; by one daughter, Melissa, and her husband; and by 11 grandchildren. Don was devoted to his family. They and his many friends mourn his death.

L. J. Rode

GUEST EDITORIAL

Dear Texas Branchers:

As the fiftieth anniversary of the Texas Branch nears, one, at least one my age, cannot but think of what fifty years is. That is, fifty years ago, or in October of 1941, the Big War was WWI and no one had ever heard of Pearl Harbor or even of Hiroshima. There were no plastic Petrie plates, few commercial powdered media, Rickettsia were called L forms, and the Kreb's cycle had four components only. Fifty years ago there were no computers, jet airplanes, television, InterRegional Highways, Communist Cubans, or molecular biologists. The world was a slower, simpler, and neater place to live in (it was also kinder since you-know-who wasn't a Texan yet). Your Editor was a 14 year old in the grasp of hormones, baseball, and junior high school not yet aware of the romance of the microbes and the beguiling call of azotobacter.

Nineteen forty one was a long time ago and the world, like your Editor, was a pure and trusting place. All, the old people who said that 1941 was a terrible, coldhearted, and dishonest time were probably cynical and unhappy themselves simply looking for a scapegoat to blame their own failures on. The truth is that 1941 was a very young year, everything was almost new, things were brighter and shinier, and nothing was broken. There was money enough for everything and there was also time enough for everything so that people were not always in a frenzy about getting from here to there. All in all, a beutiful time that did not last as long as I wish it would have lasted.

But it lasted long enough to form the Texas Branch and they did form it. They did their work well, paying attention to all the small details necessary to found a good organization that can last for a long time. They established the Best Branch in the ASM and it lasted 50 years. I was present at the celebration of the 25th anniversary. It was held in San Antonio and attended by a fairly large number of the members. It was hosted by the Pearl Brewery at the Pearl Corral party room. There was great music, Mexican food, and of course Pearl Beer, as they say, it doesn't get better than that. But it could. Pope, Reinarz, and Walker can top anything. I am willing to bet that they will put on a show to remember. I've seen the scientific program and it is far better than any program at the state level I've seen any place.

We should all gather in Austin on the 24th of October, leave our troubles on IR 35, and decide to have a good time even while being educated on the latest in our field.

Lets get together to celebrate our Branch, plastic Petrie plates, *perestroika*, and jet airplanes. We live in interesting times and it would be a shame to sit at home while the world whizzes by. I've learned in the last fifty years that the world is going faster and faster. Come to Austin on the 24th of October since the 75th anniversary is just around the corner, as they say.

Roland Seltz

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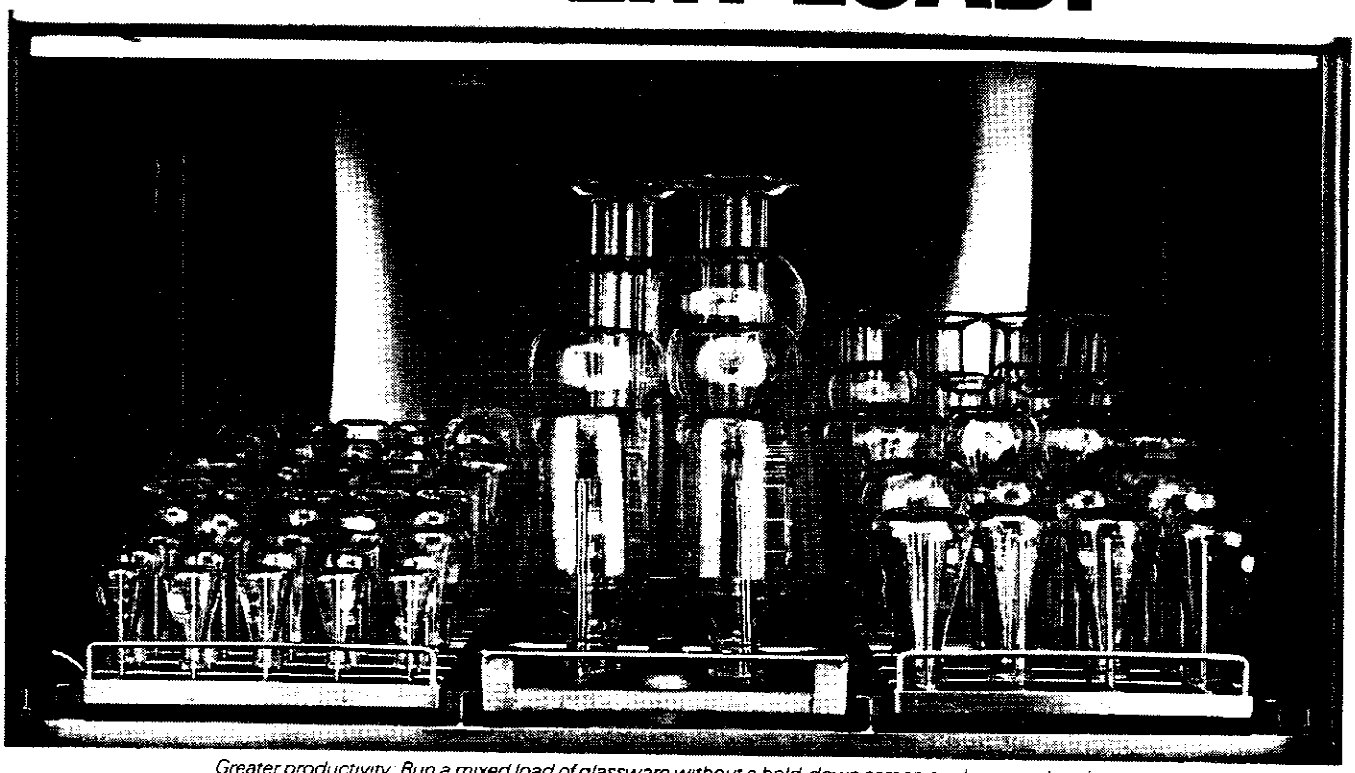

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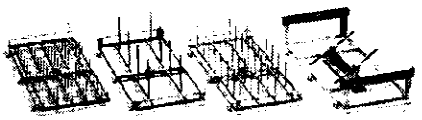

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TEACHER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

Through its Teacher Research Associates Program, the Department of Energy offers annual research appointments. Approximately 200 mathematics and science teachers are placed at twenty one Department of Energy laboratories across the country each summer. The program is open to teachers of grades seven through twelve who have primary teaching responsibility for mathematics and science. Stipends and travel allowances are available, along with graduate credit and funding. Applications for the 1992 Teacher Research Associates Program must be received by the fourth Friday in October. To obtain application materials write to: DOE TRAC, Associated Western Universities, 4190 South Highland Drive, Suite 211, Salt Lake City, UT 84124. For more information contact: John Ortman, (202) 586-1634 or Linda Crain, (202) 586-8949.

Patent No. 5 million goes to microbe that recycles

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's 5 millionth patent was issued Tuesday for a process using genetically engineered bacteria to recycle waste into an alcohol that can be used as fuel.

"It is an apt illustration of how American ingenuity can rise to technological and environmental challenges to improve the quality of our lives," said Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher.

The patent was issued to the University of Florida, where microbiologist Lonnie O. Ingram found a way to combine the traits of two bacteria into a new form that can recycle agricultural waste, yard trash and newspapers into ethanol.

Patents protect inventors by giving them the exclusive right to use or sell for a specific time products or processes they have developed. The intent is to encourage inventiveness by giving creative people a chance to profit from their developments.

The development, by combining modern genetic engineering to both find a way to recycle waste and to provide a product that can be used as fuel, could play a role in solving some of the country's most pressing problems, university President John Lombardi said.

The Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education is sponsoring the **1991 National Alliance Conference and Triangle Coalition Membership Meeting** on 26-29 September at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. The theme for the Conference is "A National Strategy for Building Alliances for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education." The Conference will feature discussions on the patterns of corporate trends and philanthropy philosophy and new federal initiatives on precollege science, mathematics, and technology education. A Leadership Development Workshop for Alliance Building will be held as well as an Alliance Task Force Meeting, Resources--Programs that Work--Strategies for Working Together. Also featured will be the new release of the Triangle Coalition Handbook on Alliance Building, several briefings on major national initiatives, free consultant services on evaluation and building of alliances, People Sharing Information Network (PSInet) workshops, and a materials exchange and networking session. For more information on the Conference, please write to Vera Faulkner, Program Assistant, Triangle Coalition, 5112 Berwyn Road, 3rd Floor, College Park, Maryland 20740 or call (301) 220-0885, FAX (301) 220-0886.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
TEXAS BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

To: All Members of the Texas Branch , American Society for Microbiology

From: Patricia A. Byers, RM, CLSp/M
Advertising Editor, TxBrASM Newsletter

Just a reminder to notice who advertises with us, who supports our meetings with corporate contributions, and most of all who helps us send this newsletter to you 2x a year. As you deal with company representatives, make it a point to thank those who support our group and reward them with your business.

As for those who aren't sustaining members, meeting exhibitors, or advertisers in our newsletter....why aren't they??? Let's invite their involvement. Ask them to contact me about advertising in our newsletter or Walter Gilchrist about becoming a sustaining member in the Branch. (Just refer to the front inside cover for telephone numbers.)

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2. Employment/Placement Ads---Display. We will be happy to run a display ad for you at the usual commercial ad rates. See Below.

3. Commercial Display Ads. We accept B&W camera ready copy in full page, half page and quarter page sizes. A discounted rate is available for inclusion in two issues/year. We will run color ads as requested after consultion with the Editor, and assignment of appropriate fees. The Back Page of the newsletter is available for a fee of $250.00/full page with a 2 issue committment.

Full Page:	8x10	$150.00	One Issue	$280.00	Two Issues
1/2 Page:	4x10	$ 75.00	One Issue	$140.00	Two Issues
1/4 Page:	4x5	$ 40.00	One Issue	$ 75.00	Two Issues.

Contact: Patricia A. Byers, Advertising Editor, Texas Branch ASM Newsletter, University of Texas Medical School, Dept. of Microbiology, 6431 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77030 .

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Advertising Deadlines: Mid August and Mid February.

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For information on our current Sustaining Membership or our new Corporate Membership, Contact Patricia A. Byers, (713) 792-5200 x 3081 or 794-1742 at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston or Dr. Tom Matney (713) 792-4595 at the University of Texas GSBS in Houston.

Join us in a professional society dedicated to the exchange of ideas in the microbiological sciences for teaching, research, community service and the future of biotechnology in Texas.

August 2, 1991

Alcon LABORATORIES

Microbiology Department
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Greetings from Alcon!

Our current Department is a centralized laboratory group of 29 members and is involved in the research and development of all new ophthalmic and contact lens care products for Alcon which are distributed worldwide in over 100 countries. We have been very busy this year expanding our operations to encompass a greater global focus for these products.

We have played a leading role in the research and development of the following Alcon products:

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2. OPTI-FREE®, a rinsing disinfecting and storage solution for contact lenses available in the late 1980's.
3. CILOXAN™, an ophthalmic form of ciprofloxacin approved by the FDA in December of 1990 after eight years of extensive developmental work and is being marketed this year.

We are very proud of our efforts to provide these significant antimicrobial products.

Barry Schlech, Ph.D. and Tillie McDonald are pleased to report that everyone in our department was registered, volunteered for the local office or participated in one of the five posters at the ASM Meeting in Dallas in May. Ron Schlitzer, Ph.D. convened a very successful workshop on "Pathogens of the Eye" at Alcon and at the ASM. Everyone experienced a very professional meeting and enjoyed all the social activities provided by both the local and national committees.

Barry Schlech, Ph.D. presented talks in Mexico City, Istanbul, Turkey, and London, England this year as an invited speaker to several conferences related to pharmaceutical microbiology standards. The trip to Turkey was during the Desert Storm Operation and was as close as he wanted to get to the action.

During the last year, members of our department have actively participated in workshops and national microbiology meetings including ASM, Interscience Conference of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, The Society for Industrial Microbiology, and Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists.

Ruth Ann Rosenthal, M.S. and Alan T. Folkens, Ph.D. have both been awarded Alcon Technical Excellence Awards for their scientific work on several projects.

Alcon Microbiology looks forward to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Texas Branch ASM in October. We hope to see you there!

Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D.
Senior Director, R&D Microbiology

Matilda M.McDonald, B.A.
Texas Branch ASM Alcon Correspondent

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22 August 1991

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from Austin College!

It is a pleasure to send our first newsletter correspondence from Austin College. We are a four-year, coeducational, liberal arts institution in Sherman, Texas (60 miles north of Dallas). Our current enrollment is 1,200 students mentored by 84 full-time faculty. We have a strong pre-professional biology curriculum with courses in microbiology, immunology, physiology, genetics, and molecular biology.

We are proud to have three members of the Texas Branch of ASM at Austin College and we look forward to continued interaction with the branch. We usually attend one of the two yearly meetings and this year we brought ten of our microbiology, immunology, and molecular biology students with us to the national meeting in Dallas.

On a personal note. I have just returned from the Soviet Union as part of an international delegation of scientists and physicians interested in infectious diseases. Dr. Tom Cate of Baylor University led the delegation as we visited hospitals and research institutes in Leningrad and Moscow. Of interest to us, and no doubt to you, was their relatively low numbers of HIV infection yet excessive cases of hepatitis (A, B, and C), salmonellosis and yersiniosis. These were directly related to their lack of sanitation, improper food handling and antiquated facilities.

On a positive note, some of the research institutes had very modern technology and were conducting "cutting-edge" research. Yet other labs were re-inventing several wheels and much more cost-effectively than many western industries.

Most of us in the delegation presented research data or shared western technology with the goal of establishing collaboration for mutual benefit.

I must say that the trip was well worth the time and expense to see Soviet hospitals and research institutes first hand, and meet with professional colleagues in a time when world efforts to understand and control communicable diseases are at an all-time high.

Looking forward to Austin in October.

Christopher J. Woolverton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Several new faculty members have joined the department. These include Dr. Sarah Highlander, Dr. Tim Palzskill, Dr. Brenda Hogue and Dr. Tse Hua Tan. They all should be functioning by the end of 1991. The department loses one member when Dr. Robert P. Williams retires at the end of June. Since he will retain a parking ticket, he will continue to work as long as an office is available. The principle change is that Baylor no longer pays his salary.

Several members of the department attended the Annual Meeting of the ASM in Dallas. Roger Batchelor presented a poster. He is a graduate student working with Dr. Richard Hull. Dr. Williams presented the Divisional Lecture before the Educational Group. A list of other members of the department who attended is too numerous to cite.

As usual, members of the department have been traveling. Dr. Couch traveled to Finland, and Russia to attend meetings and present lectures. Dr. Glezen traveled to Hawaii for the same purpose, and Drs. Gilbert and Wyde have attended several conferences in Washington and elsewhere.

As new members are added to the faculty the space allotments change. New laboratories are added and old ones are remodeled. Unfortuately, although new buildings are constructed in the Baylor complex, no additional space is alloted to Microbiology and Immunology. With all of the rearrangements a major concern of Dr. Williams is how long he will be able to retain an office.

The department held a retreat in the spring at Waterwood on Lake Livingston to discuss the graduate program. Several subcommittees studied various issues such as recruitment, space, administration, curriculum, finances, etc. A plenary session at the end of the meeting discussed reports of the various committees were discussed. The retreat was a great success, although implementation of the recommendations will require time and money. As usual, the latter is the big item.

Dr. Williams was elected an Honorary Member of the ASM, the highest honor the Society bestows. He was also elected to another term on the Board of Directors of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Robert B. Couch was appointed Chairman of the Department in December, 1989. He alsao is the Kyle and Josephine Morrow Chair of Microbiology and Immunology. He continues as Head of the Influenza Research Center and the Section of Infectious Disease in the Department of Medicine. With so many jobs, he stays busy.

University of Houston-Downtown

Department of Natural Sciences

Dear Colleagues:

Microbiology is advancing at the University of Houston - Downtown. During the past semester, Dr. Joan Abramowitz offered for the first time her laboratory course entitled "Methods in Recombinant DNA Technology." The course was enthusiastically received by all concerned and it was agreed that she will offer it every spring semester.

We had three students graduate this spring in our Applied Microbiology program. Aarti Mani will matriculate as a graduate student in microbiology at the University of Texas at Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Van Tamplin received a job offer with a reference lab in Montana where his wife's career had taken her. Angela Wright will be attending medical school at Wayne State University.

Dr. Jeff Flosi gave a paper entitled "Encephalitis and Borrelia surveillance in Southeast Texas: Notes of a Mosquito Hunter" at the annual meeting of Diseases and Nature Transmissible to Man (can't believe they still use that sexist language) Conference held in June at the UT Houston School of Public Health.

Dr. Rory O'Neil will be chairing our departmental colloquium series this year. He may be calling on some of you to visit our campus and present a talk on your area of expertise.

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting in Austin.

Your UH-Downtown Microreporter,

Ruth Sherman

Ruth Sherman

One Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 221-8015

University of North Texas

Department of Biological Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

Aug. 2, 1991

Dear colleagues,

Despite the fiscal woes of the university, activity in the Biological Sciences Dept. has not been at a standstill. A number of students completed their work for advanced degrees including the following: Mingren Chang, MS (Mark Shanley's student) Thesis title: "Characterization of Pyrimidine Biosynthesis in Pseudomonas putida", Chien-sao Wang MS (Dan Kunz's student) Thesis title: "Molecular Cloning and Functional Analaysis of Transposable Mercury Resistant Genes Encoded by the OCT Plasmid", Arynanda Masli, MS, and Sam Equae, PhD (Gerry O'Donaovan's students)Thesis and Dissertation titles: "Search for Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism of Phaseolus vulgaris in Relation to the Immune Gene to Bean Common Mosaic Virus" and " Pyrimidine Nucleotide Metabolism in Rhizobium meliloti: Purification of Aspartate Transcarbamylase from a Pyrimidine Auxotroph" respectively and George Eyambe, PhD, Ramin Sassani, MS, and Maryam Mosbasher, MS (Art Goven's students) Dissertation and theses titles "Development of an Extrusion Model for Analyzing Immunotoxicity of Xenobiotics", Toxicity of Polychlorinated Biphenyls on the Earthworm Eisenia foetida", "Eucaryotic Heat Shock Proteins" and "Comparative Toxicity of Refuse Derived Fuel Fly Ash on Two Species of Earthworm, Lumbricus terrestris and Eisinia foetida using an Artificial Soil Exposure Protocol" respectively.

As to the faculty; Gerry O'Donovan served on the EPA grant review panel in Knoxville, TN and reviewed the text Biology by Neil A. Campbell for Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Co., Mark Shanley, along with PhD candidate Chaw-yuan Michael Chen and undergraduate Laurie A Hogarth, gave an invited presentation on "Regulatory Sequences Controlling Short Chain Fatty Acid Metabolism in E. coli" to the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Biochemistry and Biotechnology Section in Forth Worth and Bob Benjamin attended the International Symposium of the Biology and Biotechnology of Pseudomonas Bacteria in Trieste, Italy where he presented a paper entitled "Cloning, Expression and Functional Analysis of TOL (pDK1) Plasmid xylD-xylL Genes in Escherichia coli" The paper was co-authoured by Daniel Kunz, Ronald Baker and Elahe Azadpour. Steve Kester attended a one week short course on morphometry and stereology at Woods Hole, MA.

One final note. Roland Vela, who has been our Associate Dean of Sciences for the past few years, is stepping down from that position this fall and will return full time to the faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences. I guess the beaurocracy of management finally got to him.

Steve Kester

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS CENTENNIAL 1890-1990

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DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Austin, Texas 78712-1095 • (512) 471-5105

Greetings to the Microbiologists of Texas!

We are pleased to reiterate a cordial invitation to all current **and past** Texas Branch A.S.M. members to come to Austin for the exciting Fiftieth Anniversary meeting on October 24-26 at the Crest Hotel. Dr. **Leodocia Pope**, Meeting Chairman, promises an intellectually stimulating - and fun - program. There will be some special events to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Branch, and we hope you can join us in the fall.

With regard to departmental activities at UT Austin, we were pleased to present a public lecture by Dr. **Michael S. Brown** to a large, enthusiastic crowd in March. Dr. Brown, Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Sciences and Regental Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, spoke on the topic "How Genes Control Cholesterol". The recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, Dr. Brown shared with Dr. **Joseph Goldstein** the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1985. Dr. Brown's research focus has been the genetic effect on cardiovascular disease with special emphasis on the role of the Low Density Lipoprotein Receptor in the metabolism of plasma lipoproteins.

In addition to our regularly scheduled seminars, the Microbiology Department sponsored a one-day symposium in April titled "Molecular Biology of RNA Processing". The conference which was well attended by students and faculty from the central Texas area, was hosted by Dr. **R. J. Lin** and arrangements handled by Dr. **Judy Edmiston**. The participants and topics included Dr. **John Abelson** (California Institute of Technology), "Messenger RNA splicing in yeast"; Dr. **James L. Manley** (Columbia), "Proteins that modulate mammalian pre-mRNA processing"; Dr. **Timothy W. Nilsen** (Case Western Reserve), "Trans-splicing of nematode pre-mRNA"; Dr. **Kenneth Stuart** (Seattle Biomedical Research Institute), "RNA editing: RNA directed remodeling of mRNA sequences"; and Dr. **Larry Gold** (University of Colorado), "Expanding the RNA repertoire".

Special congratulations to Dr. **Ruth Buskirk**, faculty member in Microbiology, who is the recipient of the Texas Excellence Teaching Award presented through the College of Natural Sciences for 1991. Congratulations also to **Susan Crossland**, Senior Administrative Associate in Microbiology, who won a President's Excellence Award for special staff contribution to UT Austin.

We are pleased to recognize undergraduate students **Barbara Abell**, **Edward Marcotte**, and **Hans Rosenfeldt** who received Schuhardt Scholarships for 1990-91. **Timoteo Cabrera** and **Elvia Irene Carranza** were awarded NSF Scholarship Prizes.

Remember that we hope to see you in Austin this fall - - - - -

With best personal regards,

Alice Reinarz

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
Southwestern Medical Center
AT DALLAS

Microbiology

Southwestern Medical School
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
School of Allied Health Sciences

Since it has only been three months since our last newsletter, I am adding update information to our last press release. I am aware that there is redundancy, but after all, how much new information would be expected in three months.

Our three newest faculty are now on board and are busily pursuing their scientific endeavors. **Dr. Richard Gaynor** came to us from the UCLA School of Medicine. **Dr. Nancy Street** joined us from the DNAX Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA. **Dr. Sally Ward** came to us from Cambridge University, England. The Department of Microbiology welcomes these individuals, realizing what a great contribution they will make to this department.

Microbiology wishes to welcome those individuals who now have a Post-doctoral appointment in this department. These are listed below along with the name of the university where their doctorate was conferred and the name of our faculty member with whom the individuals are performing their research. This department now has thirty-three post-doctoral fellows.

Dr. Laura Lark (UTSMC) - Dr. Ellen Vitetta
Dr. John Brusca (St. Louis University) - Dr. Michael Norgard
Dr. Jerry Thrush (Wayne State University) - Dr. Ellen Vitetta
Dr. Virginia Pascual (Medical Univ. of Madrid) - Dr. Don Capra
Dr. Jacqueline Brown (Texas Tech University) - Dr. Leon Eidels
Dr. Robert Bash (Indiana Univ. School of Med.) - Dr. Richard Baer
Dr. Barbara Fischel (Johns Hopkins University) - Dr. Philip Tucker
Dr. Laura Kienker (University of Pennsylvania) - Dr. Philip Tucker
Dr. Chang-Xue Zheng (Tsinghua University, China) - Dr. Philip Tucker
Dr. Merja Helminen (University of Tampere, Finland) - Dr. Eric Hansen
Dr. Bi-Chang Sang (University of Texas at Dallas) - Dr. Miguel Barbosa
Dr. Yiwi Huang (Peking Union Medical College, China) - Dr. Ellen Vitetta
Dr. Kathleen Potter (Queens University, Kingston, Ontario) - Dr. Don Capra

Distinguished visitors, consultants, and lecturers to this department recently included **Dr. Stan Cryz** (Director, Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute, Berne, Switzerland) and **Dr. Shelley M. Payne** (University of Texas at Austin), who were also the Distinguished Alumnus Lecturers to the University; **Dr. Paul A. Gulig** (University of Florida); **Dr. Phillip A. Sharp** (MIT); **Dr. Ellen Pure** (Rockefeller University); **Dr. John Minna** (NCI); **Dr. Judith Layton** (Ludwig Institute, Melbourne); **Dr. Gunther Blobel** (NIH); and **Dr. Claire Villemez** (University of Wyoming).

-continued-

The Graduate Program in Microbiology currently has 28 graduate students. The newest graduate students are:

Mr. Kenneth Bell - Cal Tech
Ms. Elysa Noon - SUNY, Stony Brook
Mr. Zhiyong Wang - Wuhan University, China
Mr. Jin-Kyoo Kim - Seoul National University

The following eight graduating students successfully completed their Ph.D. requirements. **Dr. Alice Erwin** is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at The Rockefeller University. **Dr. Helen Gaudin** is now a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. **Dr. Li-Huei Tsai** is doing her Postdoctoral training at the Cancer Center at Massachusetts General, Boston. **Dr. Leslie Cope** will continue her research in Dr. Eric Hansen's laboratory for the next year. **Dr. David Johnson** is doing his Postdoctoral training at Duke University Medical Center. Our three MD/Ph.D. students, **Dr. Andrea Richardson** , **Dr. Mark Swancutt**, and **Dr. Ellen Pizer** are completing their MD degrees at Southwestern Medical School.

We are looking forward to seeing our friends at the Texas Branch ASM meeting in Austin in October and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Texas Branch as well as the centennial for the University of Texas.

Walter W. Gilchrist

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

School of Medicine
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
School of Allied Health Sciences
School of Nursing

Marine Biomedical Institute
Institute for the Medical Humanities
UTMB Hospitals

Department of Microbiology

August 1991

New Duties...Dr. Clifford Houston has expanded his workscope. Dr. **Houston** was recently named Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. Among his new duties will be recruitment of minority students and faculty. He will continue research in *Aeromonas hydrophila*.

Textbook Published...The third edition of *Medical Microbiology*, Microbiology Chairman **Samuel Baron's** widely used medical textbook was recently published by Churchill Livingstone, Inc. It is a comprehensive text with a strong clinical focus and is the result of over two years of preparation.

Award...Dr. **Johnny Peterson** received the Distinguished Service Award for Research from the UTMB School of Biomedical Sciences at the spring 1991 commencement...*Additional Faculty News*...Dr. Peterson has also spearheaded a UTMB-based group which focuses on Enteric Diseases and presents weekly inter-disciplinary seminars to promote research on diarrheal diseases...Dr. Stephen **Tyring**, President of the Southern Region of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, is hosting the 1992 meeting in New Orleans, January 29-31. He wishes to announce that an award of $1,000 will be available to dermatology residents, fellows, medical students and graduate students making presentations at the meeting and urges interested persons to contact him at UTMB for information...A reminder--the Ninth Annual Texas Regional Immunology Conference is slated for Galveston November 15-17, 1991...Dr. **Premkumar Christadoss** was among scientists featured at FASEB's "Meet the Investigator" series at the April meeting. Dr. Christadoss' work describing effects of the antibiotic daunomycin against myasthenia gravis was highlighted at the convention... Dr. **Lawrence Dreyfus** has accepted a position at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and left the Department in early summer. We wish him well in his new role as an Associate Professor in the School of Basic Life Sciences.

Student News...**Seong Song**, predoctoral student in Dr. Miles Cloyd's laboratory, and Dr. **Ed Brooks**, who conducted postdoctoral research with Dr. Gary Klimpel, each won a James W. McLaughlin Award for Excellence in Infection and Immunity at this year's commencement ceremonies...Dr. Brooks recently began postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. Jack Strominger at Harvard University, where he joins Robert Urban, a 1990 UTMB Department of Microbiology graduate....**Chris Fleischmann** received the Katherina Siebert Award for Excellence in Oncologic Research at commencement. Chris is in Dr. R. Fleishmann's lab...New McLaughlin **predoctoral** fellowship winners and their research mentors include: **John Rascoe (Dr. T. Albrecht), Chris Gollaco (Dr. D. Niesel), and Roy Dyer** (Dr. N. Herzog, Pathology)...McLaughlin postdoctoral fellowships awardees and their mentors include: Dr. **G.S. Seetharamaiah** (Dr. B. Prabhakar), Dr. **Parvathi Chary** (Dr. J. Peterson) and Dr. **Sazaly AbuBakar** (Dr. T. Albrecht)...Dr. **Roy Olson** announces the following students will begin their Ph.D. studies in the fall: **Dawn Chandler** (from Texas A&M), **Claudia Flores** (St. Mary's), **Bridget Lyons** (Stephen F. Austin), **Laurie Soares** (Virginia Polytechnic Institute) and **Roxanne Holencek** (West Texas State).

Mardelle Susman, Faculty Associate

The University of Texas
Medical School at Houston

Division of Infectious Diseases
Department of Pediatrics

Larry K. Pickering, M.D., Director
E. Stephen Buescher, M.D.
Thomas G. Cleary, M.D.
Marilyn G. Doyle, M.D.
Miguel L. O'Ryan, M.D.
Rory Van, Dr. P.H.
David C. Waagner, M.D.
Juan N. Walterspiel, M.D.

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Other - (800) 231-LIFE

Dear Texas Branch ASM Members:

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Texas Branch! We are pleased to be included in this important anniversary issue.

The Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical School is engaged in an array of clinical and research efforts in the areas of breast milk immunology, pediatric acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, white cell function, hemolytic uremic syndrome, child day care diarrheal diseases and evaluation of hepatitis A and rotavirus vaccines. Many of these activities are possible because of important collaborations with pediatricians in private practice in Houston and with individuals in other institutions throughout the United States and Latin America.

For this issue we describe our breast milk and day care center studies. For subsequent issues, we will describe our other research activities.

Breast milk studies. Dr. Larry Pickering is Principal Investigator of a $3.6 million, five year National Institutes of Health program project grant entitled "Role of Human Milk in Infant Nutrition and Health." This project involves the evaluation of immune and non-immune factors in human milk that modify or prevent diarrheal disease in infants. Subprojects under this program project include: 1) the role of soluble milk factors in the prevention of shigellosis directed by Dr. Tom Cleary; 2) antibody secretion, cytotoxicity and immune regulation directed by Dr. Steve Kohl; 3) the relationship of the human milk phagocyte to infant health directed by Dr. E. Stephen Buescher; 4) the role of the secretory immune system in rotavirus infection directed by Dr. Pickering; 5) isolation and characterization of the protective factor(s) in human milk against heat-stable enterotoxin of *E. coli* directed by Drs. Cleary and Pickering; and 6) the role of human milk in the prevention of *Campylobacter* infection directed by Dr. Guillermo Ruiz-Palacios. Additional areas of research which have been developed within the Breast Milk Study include the epidemiology of human milk protection against *Giardia lamblia* by Dr. Ardythe Morrow and the study of various mechanisms of disease production and immunologic modulation of giardiasis by Dr. Juan Walterspiel. This program project is conducted in Houston and Mexico City, and has collaborative research efforts with individuals in Boston and San Francisco.

Day care center studies. For the past 12 years members of the Infectious Diseases Division have evaluated causes, transmission, pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diarrheal disease in day care centers in Houston. These studies have involved the work of many faculty, fellows, research nurses, laboratory and data management personnel, as well as the cooperation of

many day care providers and pediatricians in Houston. Current activities include research on the molecular epidemiology of rotavirus conducted by Dr. Miguel O'Ryan and evaluation of day care center environmental contamination, adenovirus prevalence and molecular characterization of enteric adenoviruses by Dr. Rory Van. Other current or recent research activities in Houston day care centers have included studies of the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant organisms, the cost of day care associated illness to families and to society, and the knowledge and attitudes of parents and child care providers regarding the potential of having HIV-infected children enrolled in day care centers.

Wishing you well on this anniversary.

Dr. Marilyn Doyle examines a patient in the Infectious Diseases Clinic

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Faculty, Fellows and Research Staff

Ardythe Morrow
PhD, M.Sc.

Larry K. Pickering, M.D., Director
Michael Brian, M.D., Ph.D.
E. Stephen Buescher, M.D.
Thomas G. Cleary, M.D.
Marilyn G. Doyle, M.D.
Lamie Elerian, M.D.
Henry Gomez, M.D.
Maria de Lourdes Guerrero, M.D.
Douglas Mitchell, M.D.
Ardythe L. Morrow, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Donald Murphey, M.D.
Miguel L. O'Ryan, M.D.
Rory Van, Dr.P.H.
Raul Velazquez, M.D.
David C. Waagner, M.D.
Juan N. Walterspiel, M.d.
Vivian Giannotti, B.S., M.Ed.
Laurie Jackson, B.S.
Sarah McIlheran, B.S.
Teresa Paone, B.A.

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Microbiology

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The Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics welcomes several new faculty members and their research group members.

Dr. Katherine A. Borkovich received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1985. She performed postdoctoral research at both the University of Chicago and the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Borkovich's primary research interest is the study of signal transduction pathways which allow cells to sense and respond to nutrients, hormones and chemicals in their environment. Currently, she is focusing on the role of G-protein-mediated signal transduction systems in the eukaryotic microorganism Neurospora crassa, using a variety of recombinant DNA, genetic, and biochemical techniques.

Dr. Peter J. Christie earned his Ph.D. in 1986 at Cornell University. He was a postdoctoral fellow with Eugene Nester at the University of Washington, and Virginia Walbot at Stanford University. Dr. Christie is investigating biochemical functions of virulence determinants underlying *Agrobacterium* tumorigenicity. This prokaryote is unique in its ability to transfer DNA to higher cells as part of the infection process. Dr. Christie's laboratory is characterizing the multicomponent apparatus that directs DNA transfer across the membrane. He has identified one member of the membrane apparatus to be an ATPase. This protein may provide the source of energy required for the DNA transfer event. In addition, Dr. Christie is interested in identifying bacterial signals that elicit the host defense response. **Dr. Edeet Soroker**, a Postdoctoral Fellow, will be working with Dr. Christie on this project. Dr. Soroker earned her Ph.D. with Dr. Mary Firestone in the Department of Soil Science at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Heidi B. Kaplan earned her Ph.D. in 1986 at Cornell University. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow with Dale Kaiser in the Biochemistry Department at Stanford University. Dr. Kaplan's research focuses on the cell-cell signals transduced during *Myxococcus* multicellular development. Her laboratory is currently identifying and characterizing the molecular circuitry of the A signal transduction pathway. This pathway allows the cells to sense their nutritional status and cell density, and directs the progression through the early stages of development. **Rashmi Pershad** will be assisting Dr. Kaplan in this research.

Dr. John Spudich received his Ph.D. in Biophysics in 1976 at the University of California at Berkeley. He did postdoctoral work in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Harvard Medical School and the University of California Medical School at San Francisco. He comes to this department from Albert Einstein School of Medicine, where he was a Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology, and the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Dr. Spudich's research is on microbial rhodopsins, photosensory receptors similar to human visual pigments, found in archaebacteria and unicellular eucaryotes. Joining Dr.

Spudich in his laboratory are **Karl Olson, Elena Spudich, Bing Yan, Virginia Yao,** and **David Zacks**. Elena Spudich, previously a faculty associate of Albert Einstein College, is working on the expression of a synthetic gene for sensory rhodopsin of Halobacterium halobium. Dr. Olson and Dr. Yan (Ph.D. from University of Illinois and Columbia University, respectively) are working on photoactivation of sensory rhodopsin in H. halobium. Virginia Yao is a predoctoral student from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her present project is cloning the H. halobium methyl-accepting phototaxis protein. David Zacks, an M.D./Ph.D. student from Einstein, is working on the Chlamydomonas phototaxis receptor.

Our department also welcomes several new staff, students and fellows.

Karen P. Betchel is a Research Assistant, with Dr. Malcolm Winkler, who joined his laboratory in January. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry at U.T. Austin. She is working on the regulation of pyridoxal phosphate biosynthetic genes.

Also, **Dr. Bela Mandavilli** is a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Dr. Winkler on his projects in molecular genetics. Dr. Bela earned her M.D. in India.

Eastwood Leung has joined Dr. Winkler's laboratory as a Predoctoral Student. He is from Hong Kong. He will be working on tRNA modification in E. coli.

Jeff Korcz recently joined Dr. Joanne Bednarz-Prashad's laboratory. Jeff is an undergraduate from the University of Houston-Downtown. He is participating in UH-Downtown's Special Projects course, which enables seniors to do research projects in various Houston area universities. Jeff will be working on identifying papillomavirus mRNA in keratinocytes.

A. Joanne Bednarz-Prashad, Ph.D.

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

MEDICAL SCHOOL AND
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Infectious Diseases
Herbert L. DuPont, M.D.
Mary W. Kelsey Professor
Director

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Center for Infectious Diseases

Dr. DuPont received a Shannon Award from the National Institutes of Health ($100,000) to establish a research program in Zambia dealing with the relationship of HIV infection, diarrhea and wasting. Dr. Robert Rakita received the Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation Young Investigator Award for 1992-1994 from the Infectious Diseases Society of America for his research work.

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

DENTAL BRANCH
Dental Science Institute and
Department of Periodontics

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(713) 792-4161

August 3,1991

The Dental Science Institute has lost through retirement two microbiologists, Dr Lee Brown and Dr. Joseph Streckfuss. The rest of us,although fewer in number,(obviously) keep busy with our various nefarious activities.

Dr. Volgel has published several papers and is investigating apatite formation by oral microorganisms and the effect of chewing tobacco on this mineralization process. He recently spoke at a Gordon Conference.

Mimi Goldschmidt has been traveling as usual and was invited to speak in Finland and Iceland in 1990 and in Washington, DC at a National Cancer Institute Symposium on Vitamin C: Biological Function and Relation to Cancer. She gave a paper at the International Association for Dental Research in Acapulco in April. Drs Keene and Volgel also presented papers at that meeting. The Houston microbiologists were well represented.

Mimi helped at the ASM Meeting in Dallas as did many of the Texas Microbiologists. She gave a talk at Career Day for Highschool students and guided a group of students around the exhibits.

Dr. Edith Morrison has been involved with studies on the ability of antimicrobial agents to control the microorganisms in the periodontal pocket and the role of electric toothbrushes in controlling plaque and calculus formation. With the advent of titanium implants, the microbiology of these foreign bodies is being studied.

Our students are a mix of undergraduates, graduates, fellows and residents including those in dental oncology from our sister institution, The University of Texas M.D.Anderson Cancer Center.

- M. Goldschmidt

GENERAL NEWS: Friends of Tom Matney will be glad to know that his hip replacement, an aftermath of that automobile accident, was a success and he is recovering nicely from the surgery.

The University of Texas
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Center for Human Cell Biotechnology

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August, 1991

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR HUMAN CELL BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Center for Human Cell Biotechnology (CHCB) continues to be a flurry of activity with additional and continuing research projects in cancer biology, AIDS research, diabetes, neural biology, toxicology, and infectious disease. Research personnel Dr. William Schroeder, Rosa Maria Dominguez, Lawrence Manzano, and Deborah Phillips-Windsor are hard at work on numerous projects. Best of luck to Alejandro Cantu, who transferred to a research position at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, and to Robert Leifur who intends to pursue interests in business. Richard Turner, who graduated in Biotechnology in England, will join the CHCB group this month.

Collaborating investigators Dr. Valerie Murrah and Eric Gilchrist of the UTHSCSA Pathology Dept. are working at the CHCB on an oral carcinogenesis project. Parts of this work are being done in conjunction with Dr. Ed Shillitoe at UTHSC-Houston. As always, students are an active part of the laboratory. Dean Wideman and Becka Byrd (Texas A&M University), Leslie Rogers (The University of Texas at San Antonio), and Sujatha Ramamurthy (Keystone School, San Antonio) worked here this summer. Medical students Jose Molina, Michael Neufeld, Eric Leong, and Terry Perkins were awarded Summer Student Fellowships from the CHCB and the American Cancer Society. They've recently completed their projects and are back in school. Another medical student, Jose Luna, has returned to the CHCB to continue his research on the AIDS project.

This summer, Dr. Mary Pat Moyer was awarded a visiting faculty fellowship to study enterotoxin effects on human lung and gastrointestinal cells at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. This work is a collaboration with microbiologist Dr. Sara Rothman. Dr. Moyer gave or was an investigator on presentations made to the Academy of Pathology, International/American Associations for Dental Research, American Academy of Oral Pathology, 1st Intl. Conference on Smokeless Tobacco, and American Association for Cancer Research. She also was invited to participate in several NIH grant reviews and to present seminars to the FDA, UTSA, and Texas A&M University, and chaired a session at a Continuous Cell Line Workshop sponsored by NIH. Dr. Moyer was selected as a charter member of the Institute for Cancer Research and Care in San Antonio and was the invited speaker for the Women in Biology luncheon at the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting. The CHCB has recently hosted visiting scientists from University of Nebraska, NASA/Johnson Space Center, and Osteotech.

As the Texas Branch ASM President, she looks forward to seeing everyone at the 50th Anniversary Meeting in Austin!

TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences

Box 4149
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(806) 742 2715

August 1, 1991

Dear Texas Branch ASM Members:

The following news items have been contributed by the microbiologists in our department since the last edition of this Newsletter was published.

Shivcharn Dhillion and **Carl Friese** are new postdoctoral fellows in the laboratory of **Dr. John Zak**. They are working on spatial and temporal effects of patch disturbances on microbial dynamics in sand shinnery oak habitats in West Texas. **Zhang Qushi**, who recently arrived from Xamien University in the People's Republic of China, is a new Ph.D. student also working with Dr. Zak. He is studying the microbial dynamics of wood decomposition in desert ecosystems. **Tracie McWatters** is a new graduate student in the laboratory of **Dr. Michael San Francisco** and will be studying the molecular basis of the early events in microbe-plant interactions. Two new Ph.D. students, **Margaret Fuller** and **Oya Zarrinabadi**, are working with **Dr. Randall Jeter**. Oya arrived last spring from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

Sharyl Brashear, **Susan Kutz**, and **Kevin Mills** received the M.S. degree in Microbiology in May. All three students did their thesis research in immunology with **Dr. Doris Lefkowitz**. **Doris Anders**, **Karin Otto**, and **Ronald Smith** are Ph.D. candidates who will be graduating in December.

Doris Anders, **Aaron Castro**, Kevin Mills, Karin Otto, **Vilka Scott**, and Ronald Smith all made presentations of their research results at the 91st General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Dallas in May. Doris Anders, Aaron Castro, Kevin Mills, Karin Otto, and Vilka Scott also presented posters at the 67th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (SWARM-AAAS), which was held on the Texas Tech University campus in Lubbock the week following the ASM meeting. **Dr. Larry Blanton** chaired one of the Plant Sciences sections and Dr. Zak chaired the Environmental Sciences section at this same meeting. Dr. San Francisco attended the Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in St. Louis, Missouri in August. Dr. Zak, Shivcharn Dhillion, and Carl Friese presented papers at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) in San Antonio in August.

Dr. Zak has recently been appointed to serve on the Ecology Panel at the National Science Foundation. Dr. Jeter has received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. **Dr. Caryl Heintz** has received promotion to the rank of Professor.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Jeter

Dr. Randall Jeter
Associate Professor

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
School of Medicine / Department of Microbiology
Lubbock, Texas 79430 / (806) 743-2545

Dr. Roland Vela
Biological Sciences
The University of North Texas
Denton, Texas 76203

July 18, 1991

Dear Dr. Vela:

The following is the news from our department for the last six months.

We were very pleased to have three students graduate this summer with the Doctorate degree. Miriam Lonon successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Purification and Characterization of an Extracellular Lipase of *Pseudomonas cepacia* and Examination of its Potential as a Virulence Factor in Pulmonary Disease." Dr. Straus was her supervising professor and she is currently doing post-doctoral studies at Miami University in Ohio. Jackie Brown's dissertation entitled "Physiology of Toxin A Production by *Clostridium difficile* " was also successfully defended. Her supervising professor was Dr. Rial Rolfe. She is doing post-doctoral work at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Lisa Burns-Keliher successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Genetic Analysis of an LPS Mutant of *Escherichia coli* K-12 Deficient in Expression of the Major Outer Membrane Porin Proteins". Dr. Joe Fralick was her supervising professor, and she will be doing her post-doctoral studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

We anticipate the arrival of a new student, Mr. Ricardo Vanegas, this fall.

Dr. LaJean Chaffin received a grant from the National Institute of Health entitled "Cell Surface Dynamics of Manoproteins of *C. albicans* ". This project will be funded for four years. Dr. David Hentges received a grant from the Mead Johnson Nutritional Group entitled "Factors Responsible for the Protection Against Enteric Infection Afforded by Human Milk Consumption". He will present a talk on diet and human flora at the First International Symposium on Interactions of Intestinal Bacteria with Non-nutritive Foods and Additives held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in September.

Dr. Rolfe was made a North American editor of Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease.

Sincerely,

David C. Straus

Dr. David C. Straus

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
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Department of Microbiology
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8/1/91

Greetings!

Faculty Activities:

Dr. John Alderete gave a presentation for the Society for the Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientist in Costa Mesa, California. He was also an ad hoc reviewer at the NIH study section for Microbiology Infections Disease Review Committee, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Alderete was a special member of the NIH Review Committee in Bethesda, Maryland. **Dr. Joel Baseman** was appointed President-elect of the Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs at their meeting in January. **Dr. Keith Krolick** served as an ad hoc committee member for an NIH National Institute of Mental Health on AIDS, at Washington, D.C. **Dr. Donald LeBlanc** served as a member of the ad hoc committee on NIH Bacteriology and Mycology 2 Study Section in Rockville, Maryland. **Dr. Ronald Paque** received a certificate of recognition by the American Institute for Public Service on his nomination for the Jefferson Award, a national award for public service. **Dr. Joan Ratner** has been selected to received one of the Presidential Awards for Teaching Excellence at The University of Texas Health Science Center for 1991. **Dr. Wendell Winters** served as chairman of program committee and invited speaker at the Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society at Scottsdale, Arizona.

We would like to welcome **Dr. Michael Berton** to the department of Microbiology. Dr. Berton joined our faculty as an assistant professor on July 1, 1991. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and did his postdoctoral work at The Southwestern University Medical School in Dallas with Dr. Ellen Vitetta.

Dr. Kendall Smith, professor, retires from the university at the end of August. Dr. Smith has dedicated years of dedication to the teaching and research programs throughout his 20 years as a teacher, scientist and mentor. We wish him an enjoyable retirement.

Graduate Student News:

John Spitznagel presented his research work at the International Association of Dental Research at the April meeting in Acapulco, Mexico and **Thomas Bramanti, D.D.S.** (Dentist-Scientist Program) received the Hatton Award from the International Association of Dental Research at their meeting in April.

Congratulations to **James Terry** and **Michael Lehker** on the completion of their graduate studies. James is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Oregon Health Sciences University with Dr. Jorge Crosa. Michael will stay as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology with Dr. John Alderete.

Welcome back **Robert Bright!** Robert is a graduate student in microbiology who served in Saudi Arabia.

Lastly, we have six new graduate students in our program: **Belisa Diaz, Jean Engbring, Ruben Muñoz, Sophia Piña, Chantelle Renaud and Mark Subler.**

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78284-7750

Department of Pathology

(512) 567-4000

July 31, 1991

Texas Branch of the American Society
of Microbiology Newsletter Readers

Dear Colleagues:

Warmest (or should we say "hottest") summer greetings from the clinical microbiology components of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital. Since our last report, business and professional activities have continued in full swing.

Dr. Jim Jorgensen finds himself and staff, at long last, in the brand new clinical microbiology laboratories of the Medical Center Hospital. After more than a decade of planning and hoping, the new clinical microbiology laboratory has become a reality. It is spacious, bright, and efficient. We hope that our Texas Branch colleagues will visit our new facilities, whenever they may be in the area. Dr. Jorgensen's research laboratory has just been selected to serve as the central microbiology laboratory for a ten center, three-year study of the effects of penicillin prophylaxis on the antimicrobial susceptibility of key respiratory pathogens from children with sickle cell disease. The study is being conducted by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

Dr. Mike Rinaldi has returned from some international travel having attended the 11th Congress of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, at which he was elected General Secretary. Following Montreal, he then visited/lectured in the Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, Australia.

The University Fungus Testing Laboratory is about to move into new larger quarters and now seeks to hire a new staff mycologist; if any Texas Branch ASM mycologically-oriented members are interested, please inquire to Dr. Rinaldi.

Upcoming in November (7-8th) will be the second of the twice-yearly Fungus Testing Lab Mould Identification Courses, an intensive, wet-lab experience with mould biology and identification. This course is free, limited to 15 people, and as of this date, has a few slots remaining open. Anyone interested in attending, contact Annette Fothergill of the Fungus Testing Lab at (512) 567-4131 for information.

We wish all colleagues the very best for a productive and happy impending fall season. Stop by and see us if you have occasion to be in San Antonio. All best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Rinaldi

Michael G. Rinaldi, Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology and Medicine

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of MEDICINE

Department of
Medical Microbiology and Immunology

July 30, 1991

Greetings from the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Texas A&M! It has been an active year for both the College of Medicine and the department. The College has been granted Health Science Center status which should open new vistas in educational and research opportunities. We are all excited about this reorganization and are looking forward to participating in the next stage of development for our College.

At the department level, kudos are extended to Drs. McMurray and Quarles for their well deserved promotions to full Professor and to Dr. Quarles for receiving the "Best Second Year Teacher Award". An additional special thanks goes to Dr. McMurray for agreeing to serve an additional year as the interim Department Head. Fortunately for him the search for a new Head is finally getting underway and we hope to have a new Head by next year. Those of you who aspire to the power and glory of departmental leadership should keep an eye open for the official announcement of the search. (Note: if you can remain unswayed by buffeting administrators, turn legislative gruel into meaty budgets, and walk on water, then this may be the job for you!!)

The department also wishes to welcome Sam Black back full-time. As many of you know, Dr. Black has served in the administration of the College of Medicine for the last several years, first as interim Dean and then as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Recently Dr. Black, has decided to return to the department to pursue his academic interests. The administrations's loss is the department's boon and we are all pleased to be seeing and hearing more of him.

On the research side the department continues to prosper. Funding to the faculty comes from NIH, NSF, and the American Cancer Society, as well as private sources. Various faculty have presented their research this year at meetings and seminars in Dallas, Lake Tahoe, Seattle, Japan, Atlanta, Banff (Alberta, Canada), and Cali (Columbia). In addition, four students (Rebecca Bartow, Ph.D.; Sumit Maneewannakul, Ph.D.; Charleen Hamilton, Ph.D.; and Susan Wolff, M.S.) have completed their degrees this academic year and we would like to congratulate each of them for their hard work and good science. We are looking forward to having many more like these four in the years to come.

For the MMIM Department,

Van

Van G. Wilson

College Station, Texas 77843-1114
Telephone 409-845-1313 • FAX 409-845-3479

Texas Department of Health

Robert Bernstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Commissioner

1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199
(512) 458-7111

Robert A. MacLean, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner

August 2, 1991

Dear Microreporter:

It has been a busy summer! The BIG news is Dr. Lois Leffingwell's announcement of her retirement after 32 years of service. Dr. Leffingwell, the Supervisor of our Medical Virology Branch for twenty-one years, is known nationally for her expertise in rabies diagnosis. Under her supervision, the Medical Virology Branch has expanded from a staff of seven doing basic viral testing on human and arthropod specimens, plus rabies diagnostics, to an expanded program using the latest techniques for isolation and identification. Her tenure has seen the installation of an electron microscope, a statewide chlamydia screening program, the use of monoclonal antibodies to type rabies specimens, and the expansion of the viral isolation area. Currently, she supervises a staff of seventeen public health professionals. Her expertise and knowledge of viral processes will be missed.

The Clinical Enterics Section, under the supervision of Susan Gibson and Gloria Pierce, has started the DNA probe test for gonorrhea and chlamydia. This technology will replace the archaic gonorrhea transport culture method and the chlamydia enzyme immunoassay the Department has used for several years. The first month's results showed a gonorrhea infection rate of 7 percent and a chlamydia infection rate of 9 percent. During the Fall, this DNA technology will be started in eight local public health laboratories during the fall as the statewide method for sexually transmitted disease testing.

Cholera is coming! It is only a matter of time until it reaches Texas. To prepare for it, the Microbiological Services Division, in conjunction with the El Paso City-County Health District, the Centers for Disease Control, and the University of Texas at El Paso, is presenting a workshop in El Paso on August 28 through 30. Principle instructors from Austin are Dr. Suzanne Barth, who did her doctoral work on cholera at UT, and Susan Gibson, Supervisor, Bacteriology-Mycology Branch. This workshop has gained international attention, with Drs. Brad Kay and William Greenough from Johns Hopkins lecturing on the epidemiology and clinical presentation of the disease and students from as far away as Honduras enrolling. The workshop emphasis will be on rapid, simple tests done at the hospital level to isolate and identify pathogenic strains of Vibrio cholerae. The role of state and federal public health laboratories will also be covered.

Between starting new statewide programs, preparing for a number of training activities, and doing the routine work, Division personnel have worked on the installation of a new computer system. Most of the bacteriology area has been computerized, and the remainder of the Division will be by January, 1992. As those who have computerized their laboratory know, it is a difficult, time-consuming process causing an analysis of how specimens are being handled and how best to coordinate the technical aspects with the computer program. Susan Gibson has been very instrumental in the installation of the system in bacteriology and deserves credit for her insight and knowledge of the various procedures under her supervision.

As we celebrate the Texas Branch's 50th anniversary, I wonder if our founding fathers could have visualized their creation 50 years later -- a time when discussions would center on immunodeficiency diseases, polymerase chain reactions, molecular microbiology, and computer models.

Sincerely,

L. Bruce Elliott

L. Bruce Elliott, Dr.P.H., Director
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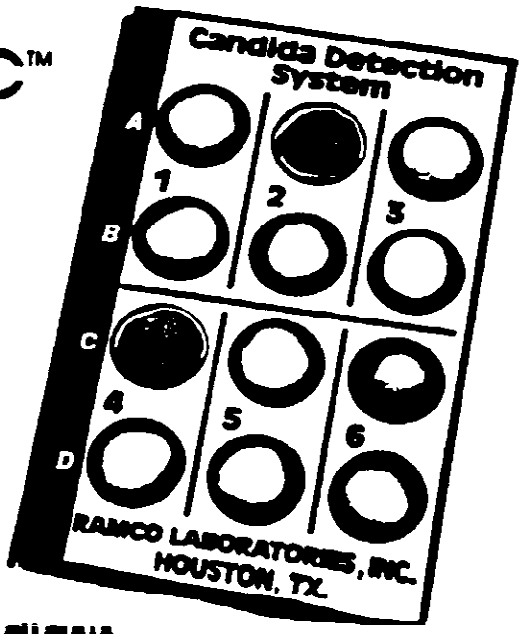

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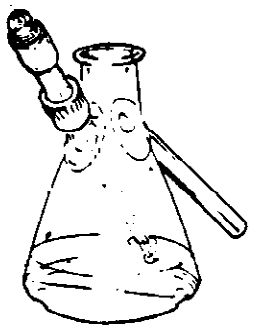

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TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
P.O. Box 23971, Denton, Texas 76204 (817) 898-2351

July, 1991

GREETINGS FROM TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY -

Our small (but active) Microbiology group sends its greetings and salutations to all of our Texas friends and colleagues.

The TWU news is being reported from a new desk, since your former TWU micro-reporter, Ms. **Jan Carnes**, completed her Master's degree with Dr. **John Knesek** in May and has taken a position with the Genetic Screening and Counseling Service in Denton. Dr. **Ahmed Yanouri**, also from Dr. **Knesek's** lab, received his PhD in December, and is enjoying his postdoctoral position at Southern Methodist University. In addition, another **Knesek** lab student, Mr. **Mahmoud Bishr**, successfully defended his dissertation this month and will receive his PhD in August ceremonies.

We were pleased to learn that the family of Kuwaiti graduate student, Mr. **Jafar Qasem**, survived the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait intact. In addition, his sister and her family have since visited him in Denton, and confirmed that the family are well and attempting to return to normal lives.

This has been a busy year, with many interesting visitors presenting seminars. Among the speakers were: Dr. **Arthur Eisenberg** from TCOM, Ft. Worth, describing the secrets of DNA identity testing; Dr. **Dennis Miller** from Univ. Tx Dallas, explaining his new discoveries on RNA editing in mitochondria; Dr. **Candace Haigler**, Tx Tech Univ., Lubbock, characterizing the regulation of secondary cell wall deposition in tracheary elements; and Dr. **Patrick Friend**, Betz Laboratories, The Woodlands, describing his work on biofilms and bio-fouling of industrial surfaces in aqueous environments.

Dr. **Sarah McIntire**, Dr. **John Knesek**, and a graduate student, Ms. **Sylvia Montanez**, presented a poster at the Dallas ASM meeting, entitled, "Plasmids in Helicobacter pylori". In addition, Dr. **Knesek** attended the USDA-sponsored meeting on the Genetic Improvement of Beans in Riverside, Ca., and Dr. **McIntire** attended the American Gastroenterological Assoc. meeting in New Orleans.

We are happy to welcome two new graduate students interested in Microbiology, Ms. Jennifer Minnis and Ms. Jui Chen. Both students will be working on Helicobacter pylori with Dr. **McIntire**.

Hope to see everyone in Austin in the Fall.

Best regards,

Sarah A. McIntire

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ARGUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Biotech Spotlight

Argus Pharmaceuticals Inc. is the first equity oriented technology trnasfer company formed from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in the Texas Meciacl Center. It is located in the Research Forest of the Woodlands, Texas. The technology licensed to Argus was the work of a research group led by Gabriel Lopez-Berenstein, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Imunno-biology and Drug Carrier Section at M. D. Anderson. The company develops drugs and drug carrier systems to treat diseases--such as serious infections and cancer -- that involve immune system macrophage cells, A major portion of Argus' work focuses on the targeted delivery of various agents to the macrophages, either to directly attack diseases centered there or to modulate macrophage activity.

The company also develops biopharmaceuticals, called cytokines, derived from substances that are secreted by macrophages in the performance of their immune system functions of fighting tumors, infection and inflammation.

Formed in the bone marrow, macrophages are key cells in the body's immune system response to invading microbes and are a source of biological response modifiers (BRMs). The cells enter the bloodstream as monocytes, the largest circulating blood cells. After about three days, unless triggered by a disease, they take on a resident sentinel role in the liver, lungs, skin, kidneys, brain, spleen, retina, and in the lining of body cavities.

A common denominator of Argus' products is the use of drug carriers, such as liposomes, which are used to increase the proportion of the administered agent that is delivered to the macrophages. The result is delivery of a higher intracellular concentration of agent inside the macrophage.

Argus is currently developing several promising new pharmaceutical products:

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------Cytokines. Several new ones and novel modifications of Tumor Necrosis Factor are under development.

Argus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
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713-367-1666

Biotech firms wait years for patents

By CHARLES BOISSEAU
Houston Chronicle

Tanox Biosystems has been waiting 3½ years for a patent on a potentially trailblazing AIDS treatment.

Provided the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office doesn't find a way to clone experienced biotech patent examiners, the small Houston biotechnology company's therapy isn't likely to receive a patent anytime soon.

"It will be unrealistic to think it's going to be issued any less than one year from today," said Eric Mirabel, patent attorney for Tanox.

Tanox has about 30 U.S. patents pending mostly in the immunology field, including several that make use of monoclonal antibodies to treat AIDS and allergies, Mirabel said. To help fund its increasingly long research projects, the nearly 4-year-old company has sold licenses to Ciba-Geigy giving the Swiss pharmaceutical giant the right to use patents covering its AIDS and allergy treatments.

Long waits are commonplace for biotech firms like Tanox that use gene cloning and other biological means to develop products that treat human ills or reshape farming and the environment.

While companies are making discoveries at a breakneck pace, winning final approval from the Food and Drug Administration or other regulators can take as long as a decade.

Getting a patent OK'd is just another waiting game. And the delays have been getting longer.

Bureaucratic speed bumps at the Patent and Trademark Office have caused a record backlog on biotech patent applications.

Earlier this month, a federal study said the backlog for unexamined patent applications increased 33 percent over the past year to 8,213, partly because the patent office suffers from high turnover. Some applicants are waiting four years for final action, the General Accounting Office report said.

The growing patent backlog may delay new projects and potentially slow the development of lifesaving drugs, industry experts said. Biotech firms don't have legal ownership of an invention until the patent is granted. Delays impede these firms from attracting the funds necessary to finance their long research and development projects.

"The big barrier for the industry is capital," said G. Steven Burrill, national director of high technology for Ernst & Young in San Francisco. "One of the big problems (in raising money) is companies can't show that they have property protection. It's a major deterrent to funding, and funding is the big issue."

■ ■ ■

The patent office has little hope of reducing the backlog soon.

That's because the agency has been losing its experienced examiners to higher paying jobs at law, pharmaceutical and other private firms, said Charles Warren, acting deputy director of the biotechnology examining group in Washington.

For every step forward, the agency appears to take a step backward. For example, last fiscal year it hired 52 examiners, but at the same time 31 examiners left, Warren said.

From 1988 to May 1990, the number of experienced biotech examiners — those with final authority to grant patents — dropped from 29 to 17. The biotech section this year has increased the number to about 20 by transferring examiners from other areas, Warren said.

New hires are paid from $26,200 to $40,800, depending on education level and experience.

"It takes about two years — at least — for an examiner to know what is going on, and it takes four or five years to become an experienced examiner," Warren said.

The agency, which plans to hire 60 examiners this fiscal year starting Oct. 1, has hired only one so far because of federal budget problems, he said.

■ ■ ■

Patent delays are a thorn for Houston's fledgling biotech industry.

The longer final action is delayed, the more skittish potential investors tend to be, said William Mullaney, managing general partner of Venture Medical Associates, a Houston venture capital firm.

"Based on where the patent process is, we have delayed, put off or not come forward (with funds)," said Mullaney, whose firm has funded nine biotech firms the past few years. "It probably occurs about five or 10 times a month."

Scott Albert, general partner of Criterion Venture Partners, another Houston venture capital firm, said it's difficult to know whether a biotech invention is unique if a patent is pending.

"With all the technology research going on, not only at companies but at research labs and universities, we here in Houston don't know if somebody at MIT, Berkeley or even in Europe is working on the same technology until you get that 'Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval' — that is, the patent," Albert said.

The best deals still get done, despite long delays, with the help of patent lawyers and intellectual property consultants.

For example, to provide proof to investors, Molecular Analysis, a 1-year-old Houston biotech firm, hired four law firms to provide legal opinions that its inventions are patentable, said Joel Bresser, co-founder and vice president of the firm. Molecular Analysis owns licenses to patents pending on a system to detect cancer more quickly than current tests, such as Pap smears, Bresser said.

Biotech companies rely on such legal advice not only to determine whether a patent is likely to be granted, but — perhaps more importantly — whether it infringes on existing patents.

A patent doesn't give the inventor the right to do anything; it blocks others from stealing ideas, said Tom Paul, an associate attorney for Fulbright & Jaworski. For example, the inventor of a two-barrel carburetor can prevent the inventor of a similar four-barrel carburetor from selling the improved version regardless if the second one receives a patent, Paul said. That's because the second invention is merely an improvement on the original. The same goes in biotechnology, where an invention may be worthless in the marketplace if it infringes on a patent.

Among biotechnology patents issued in 1989, those for genetic engineering inventions took the longest — an average of 47.4 months — while patents on immunology inventions on average took 44.1 months and biochemicals took 37.7 months.

Dear Editor:

I had not written in some time due to a heavy teaching load, several very demanding graduate students, and the neverending search for funds. Don't get me wrong, I like my work and probably would not trade for any other type of employment but at times I get discouraged, and this is one of those times.

I've been told for the last three years that the state is in trouble, that the economy can't support further development and that I and my colleague "must do more with less." College and university faculty tend to be the kind of people that normally will know the state of the community, will listen to the logic of administrators, and will agree with the rationality of what is proposed, even to the old saw of "do more with less." Two weeks ago, we were told that there would be no raises this year for university faculty because of the budget shortfall...whatever that means. And just as I was getting used to the idea that things must really be tight and that it has now reached my level and I must be a good citizen by agreeing to do more work for less money, I read in the paper that the representatives we send to Washington voted themselves quite a raise in a midnight vote. I think, we should pay representatives enough for them to live on so that their families will not suffer. The rationale being that if they are not paid adequately, only wealthy, say, owners of insurance companies or their employees, will be able to serve. This is a graet idea and one based on impecable logic but human beings being what they are, if it is within their power to raise their salary, they will do it. And so they do. To the point that these individuals now earn $125,000. per year plus free travel, and free medical care, etc.

I know that there are people whose work is worth $125,000. per year but that decision is made by others not by the person who is to profit. That, after all, is the American way of life. It is also the kind of honesty and integrity that the governors must make evident to the governed since democracy will not work when greed and dishonesty become the way of life.

In addition to this, I know one representative who was overpaid when he earned $30,000. Those who worked with him and knew him well both socially and professionally stated publically that his work was not adequate even for a modest university and that his social worth had not become evident in 15 years of constant contact. In brief, when others determined what his pay was to be, he earned 30,000., now that he determines that himself, he earns 125,000.

This too is alright with me, after all, dishonest officials date back to the begining of time. I am as sophisticated (read cynical) as the next person and I know the score. But it is this same person and others like him who determine my pay. They are never as generous with me as they are with themselves. There is something very unfair about this whole thing. Also, I am competent in my work. I am responsible for transmitting knowledge of microbiology to the next generation. A very heavy and important responsibility. I am responsible for creating knowledge in my area of research and also of contributing to man's understanding of modern science. Also, a very heavy responsibility which I take very seriously. I know what the senate does and I think what I do is of far greater importance.

There is little doubt in my mind that the reasons why we have such good microbiology in this country and such bad government reside in this self serving aspect of public officials. Some of the founding fathers of the country believed deeply in the notion that the tree of liberty had to be moistened with the blood of tyrants if it were to bear fruit. I certainly do not advocate this sanguine solution. Simply on the basis that it doesn't apply. These men are generally more silly than tyrant, more an embarrasment than a threat, and they should be treated as such.

The Texas Branch of the ASM should form a strong committee to watch and report on the activities of the government at all levels for the purpose of deciding which of these creatures deserves our next vote and which do not. Either that or we should build a fund, maybe we could call it a political action committee or something cathy like that, and give them money to represent our interests. My interests, that is a fair salary for fair work done is not being represented now.

Sam Simmering, Ph.D.
Sinton, Texas

THE TEXAS BRANCH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

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