

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR VIROLOGY

ASV Web Site:
www.asv.org

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Dear Fellow ASV Member:

I am writing to update you on this year's ASV activities and to invite you to our 27th Annual Meeting at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, next July. The Meeting, our 3rd to be held on this scenic campus, is sure to provide a wonderful opportunity to share your science with colleagues and to learn about the exciting developments in our profession. Your Society exists to provide a forum for promoting discussion and collaboration among scientists and students active in all aspects of virology. The 2008 meeting program will be crafted from participant-submitted abstracts, invited symposium speakers, and special-topic State-of-the-Art speakers, with multiple additional (lively) forums highlighting virology educational techniques, job placement, public affairs, and business concerns of the Society. Ever since the 1st Annual Meeting was held there in 1982, Cornell has been a special place for ASV. I hope you can join us next July.

2007 ASV meeting

The 26th Annual Meeting was at Oregon State University from July 14-18, 2007. All of the scientific events, including a superb keynote address by Carol Prives, the four morning symposia, 54 workshops, 2 poster sessions, and 2 Saturday Satellite Meetings were held in close proximity within adjoining buildings on the beautiful Corvallis campus. The Welcome Reception, lunches, and evening socials were organized in an adjacent garden area. The arrangements worked exceptionally well at facilitating social and scientific interactions by keeping all activities within one convenient location. A total of 1282 registrants participated.

The outstanding efforts of our local host, Dennis Hruby, along with the members of his organizing committee, conference services staff, and many local volunteers, resulted in a very successful, relaxed, and educational meeting. We very much appreciate their efforts. On behalf of the Society I would also like to thank our past-president, Don Ganem, for organizing an excellent slate of plenary speakers. Thanks go also to Barb Sherry (former Chair), Roz Sandri-Goldin (current Chair) and the members of the Program Committee for their collective hard work in putting together 7 State-of-the-Art lectures, and for vetting a record number of 930 abstracts into carefully formatted workshops and poster sessions.

Among the special events was the Veterinary Virology Club Satellite Symposium organized by Colin Parrish. The topics focused on "Influenza Viruses in Animals and Man and Strategies to Vaccines against Difficult Viruses". The Symposium was well attended (185 registrants), a great success, and stimulated extensive discussion. The second Satellite "New Directions in Baculovirus Research" was organized by Gary Blissard, Paul Friesen, Yoshiharu Matsuura, and George Rohrmann. It also was very well received (44 registrants) and provided a distinctive focal point at the meeting for our insect virologists.

DVDs – ASV 2007

DVDs of the 2007 keynote and 19 symposia talks are now available. They may be ordered at a cost of \$110/set of 9 or \$15 each. These DVDs are very useful teaching aids or can be used by members who were not able to attend the meeting. An order form was included with your recent 2008 Membership Renewal Statement and is also available for download from the ASV website (www.asv.org).

Donations

Additional thanks are due to Don Ganem and Harry Greenberg for their very effective national fundraising efforts in support of the 2007 meeting. The Society is grateful to all the contributors - individual, corporate and governmental - that helped to provide support. Funds raised for the Annual Meetings greatly help to keep costs down for all attendees, in addition to providing travel support for many young virologists and allowing us to experiment with new initiatives. If you have personal contacts with senior executives in pharmaceutical or biotechnology companies who may be contacted for next year's support, please let me know (acpalmen@wisc.edu) as it is primarily through personal contacts that monies to support your Society can be raised.

2008 ASV meeting

The 27th Annual Meeting (ASV'08) will return to Cornell University on July 12-16, 2008. Ithaca is in the heart of the Finger Lakes region of New York State and provides an extraordinary setting for a meeting. Our local hosts, Colin Parrish and Sondra Lazarowitz, have been working diligently to organize the meeting details. Information about conference registration, travel, housing, etc., can be obtained from the conference website (virology.cornell.edu/asv2008.htm) or via links from the ASV website (www.asv.org). In November 2007, ASV members will receive by mail the 2008 Call for Abstracts/Registration booklet, highlighting important meeting information. **The abstract deadline is February 1st, 2008 and all abstracts must be submitted electronically** via the conference website. For your convenience (and our efficiency) you strongly are encouraged to register online. The conference website will open for registration in November 2007. A late registration fee will be charged after June 2, 2008.

2008 meeting - Scientific Program

The most distinct privilege accorded to your President is configuration of the Annual Meeting plenary sessions. For 2008, I tried to select a broad-based, balanced program with special emphasis on topics that might engage and educate our diverse audience. The keynote address will be given by Mary Estes, who will discuss "Enteric Virus Pathogenesis" at 5:30 PM, Saturday, July 12. There will be four plenary symposia: Sunday, "Virus Mechanisms" with Peter Nagy, Susan Baker, Craig Cameron, Bert Semler and Lee Gehrke; Monday, "Viruses in the Environment" with Ian Lipkin, Curtis Suttle, Yoshi Kawaoka and Angela Belcher; Tuesday, "Virus Interactions with Cells" with Volker Vogt, Mavis Agbandje-McKenna, Jim Hogle, Lindsey Hutt-Fletcher and Roz Sandri-Goldin; and Wednesday, "Viruses Versus the Red Queen (Host Defenses)" with Jim Gern, Margo Brinton, Akiko Iwasaki, Nancy Reich and Beth Levine.

The ASV Program Committee has planned seven State-of-the-Art lectures by: Barbara Sherry (Cell type-specific innate immunity); Matthew Weitzman (Viral induction of the DNA damage response during replication); Susan Ross (Using in vivo genetic approaches to study host-retrovirus interactions); Nancy Raab-Traub (Contribution of EBV to oncogenesis); Brenda Hogue (Coronavirus assembly); Sean Whelan (Control of gene expression in non-segmented negative-sense RNA viruses); and Marianne Manchester (Use of cowpea mosaic virus as a nanoparticle platform for developing antivirals).

2008 meeting - Special Events

The 2008 Education and Career Development Workshop will cover: "Career Alternatives: Matching your Skills to the Right Job in Virology". This popular session is sure to be of interest to student and postdoc attendees. The workshop date and time will be posted on the conference website as program specifics develop.

Satellite Symposia hosted by the Medical Virology Club (“Emergence, Evolution and Eradication of Human Viruses”) and the Plant Virology Club (“The Milt Zaitlin Symposium”) will be held in conjunction with ASV’08 on Saturday, July 12th, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Pre-registration is required in addition to registration for the general ASV meeting. The Veterinary, Plant and Medical Virology Clubs will also co-organize the 7th annual 5K Fun Run/Walk, which will start at 6:30 AM on Sunday. The \$15 sign-up fee helps sponsor the activities of these Clubs. Further information about Satellite registration and for other auxiliary Club events is available via the conference website and included in the upcoming 2008 Call for Abstracts/Registration booklet, to be mailed in November to all ASV members.

ASV members who wish to learn more about our specialty Clubs and their yearly activities should contact the Club Chairs. A new ASV Council policy now identifies these Chairs as the respective (elected) ASV Councilors for Medical, Veterinary and Plant Virology. You can check the ASV website (www.asv.org) for individual contact information.

2008 ASV meeting—Latin American program

The ASV supports travel of Latin American virologists to attend the annual ASV meeting. Details on eligibility and application for this program can be found in the Call for Abstracts/Registration booklet, or downloaded from the 2008 conference website. The level of these awards was recently increased to provide reimbursement to a maximum of \$2500 in actual travel and meeting expenses. Applicants must submit an abstract for presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting but need not be ASV members. The Education and Career Development Committee will review all applications and make the selections. Please encourage your Latin American colleagues to apply. The deadline for submission of all travel award applications is February 1, 2008.

2008 ASV meeting—Other travel awards

The ASV will also provide travel awards for students, postdoctoral fellows, medical virologists and teachers of undergraduate virology to attend the 2008 ASV Annual Meeting. Again, details on eligibility and application for these programs can be found in the Call for Abstracts/Registration booklet or on the ASV’08 website.

International Virology Meeting – Istanbul 2008

The International Union of Microbiology Societies (IUMS) is hosting the XIVth International Congress of Virology (ICV) from August 10-15, 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey. ASV has applied to the NIH for a grant to support the travel of junior investigators to this meeting. Our grant application received an excellent priority score and we will learn the specifics of our award in early 2008. The ASV Council has voted to augment the NIH funding with 10 additional ICV travel grants from Society funds. If you wish to apply for one of these awards, the relevant instructions and application forms will be included in the 2008 Call for Abstracts/Registration booklet. Information is also available on the ASV’08 conference website (virology.cornell.edu/ASV2008.htm).

New Named Lectureship at Annual Meeting

The ASV Council is very pleased to announce the endowment of a new lectureship in the name of Lois K. Miller. This award will recognize an exceptional plenary speaker at every Annual Meeting, beginning in 2008. The lectureship honors the outstanding legacy of Lois Miller as a scholar, mentor and colleague. Lois dedicated her life to the study of the insect baculoviruses, their use in biotechnology, agriculture and to fundamental problems in biology, such as apoptosis. She received numerous prestigious scientific awards, including the Lamar Dodd Award for Outstanding Research, the Chiron Biotechnology Research Award from the American Society of Microbiology and election to the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Miller lost a long battle with cancer in 1999. She is the first woman to be honored by ASV with a named lectureship. Society members or colleagues who wish to make contributions to ASV in Lois' memory or on behalf of this lectureship, are encouraged to do so. You may contact me (acpalmen@wisc.edu) or the ASV Secretary-Treasurer (asv@asv.org) for donation information.

Membership

Our Society currently has 3462 members with 1805 Full members, 720 Associate members, 671 Associate-student members, 83 Emeritus members and 183 lifetime members. At the 2007 Fall Council meeting, it was decided that undergraduate students also may now apply for Associate-Student membership in the Society. All applicants still require a nomination letter from a current full member of ASV to be submitted along with their membership request. A new, revised application form is now available for download from the ASV website (www.asv.org), and the Society will soon implement an online membership application process. Please visit the ASV website for updates on this new service which will begin in early November. If you know colleagues who should be ASV members but are not, please encourage them to join and support your Society. Special thanks go to Anette Schneemann (Chair) and her ASV Membership Committee for all their work this year in reviewing and processing new member applications.

Renewal – Membership Dues

The 2008 Membership Renewal Statements were recently mailed to all members. Please submit your dues payment now and **before the January 1, 2008 due date**, by mail, fax or online at the ASV website (www.asv.org). Please remember that only current (dues paid for 2008) full members of the Society are eligible to sponsor abstracts for ASV'08, sponsor travel grant applications, and nominate new members. Associate and Associate-Student members also must be current in their dues in order to be eligible for 2008 Student or Postdoctoral Travel Grant Awards.

Remember, it is approved ASV Council policy that once a member becomes delinquent in the payment of their membership dues for 2 consecutive years, they will be deleted from the membership roster. You should contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office (asv@asv.org) if you have questions regarding your dues payment or membership status.

Committee membership

The ASV committee Chairs for 2008 are: Program Committee, Roz Sandri-Goldin and (Vice-Chair) Bert Semler; Finance Committee, Sidney Grossberg; Nominating Committee, (Past-President) Don Ganem; Membership Review Committee, Anette Schneemann; Public Affairs Committee, David Sander; Education and Career Development Committee, Glenn Rall; Undergraduate/Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award Committee, W. Allen Miller; and ATCC Advisory Committee, Mark Pallansch. The current rosters of ASV committee members are posted on the Society website (www.asv.org). Thank you to everyone who served during the past year.

By the way, if you too want to participate in your Society by volunteering for committee membership, just communicate your interest to the Secretary-Treasurer (asv@asv.org). Committee rosters are updated by the ASV Council every year.

In particular, the Council is currently seeking ASV members interested in serving on the Public Affairs Committee. This important Committee serves as the Society's public affairs sounding board, publishing a quarterly email newsletter to the membership (The ASV Washington Update) and hosting an informative workshop at each ASV Annual Meeting. No travel is involved, since the members interact primarily by e-mail exchange. If you have an interest in public affairs or are concerned about the impact of government decisions on virology, please contact ASV (asv@asv.org), or David Sander, the Public Affairs Committee Chair (email: david.sander@virology.net, or phone: 916-366-9663).

ATCC Updates

The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Virology Collection is a unique international resource for making available many virus strains of importance to researchers in virology and in infectious diseases. The ATCC Advisory Committee of the ASV functions to advise the ATCC on the scientific importance of potential acquisitions and collection maintenance across the entire spectrum of viruses. This year, the Committee and its new Chair, Mark Pallansch, will focus on three main areas. First, it hopes to identify new Committee members to continue and expand representation across all virus families which are of

interest to ASV members and the research community in general. Second, it will continue previous efforts to identify orphan virus collections before they are threatened with destruction and try to identify potential caretakers prior to, or in conjunction with, ATCC acquisition. And third, the Committee will support ATCC efforts to identify external resources for expanding the capacity to accelerate acquisitions outside the areas of threat agents or emerging virus infections. If you are interested in serving on this important Committee or have additional suggestions for the ATCC that ASV might help transmit, please contact Mark Pallansch (mpallansch@cdc.gov).

ASV Virology Jobs Site Tops a Recent Survey

During a recent internet survey, ASV's **Virology Jobs** website (www.asv.org, click on "ASV Virology Jobs Site") was found to contain nearly twice as many job listings as its nearest database competitor, AAAS. Posting on the ASV site is completely free. Throughout last year, the site averaged over 200 job listings -- making it the top online resource for virologists seeking employment or for employers seeking virologists. The job categories include: Academic Faculty, Research Scientists, Laboratory Technicians, Administrators/Executives and Post-Doctoral Positions. Users can easily create personal job alerts that will automatically notify them of new postings that meet their criteria. For further information, contact David Sander, the Virology Jobs Webmaster and our ASV Public Affairs Committee Chair (email: david.sander@virology.net, or phone: 916-366-9663). Remember: **ASV Virology Jobs** - the leading jobs resource for virologists!

The ASV Education and Career Development Committee also wants you to know that online links to "Jobs in Virology: Frequently Asked Questions" within the ASV website (www.asv.org) will be fully revised and updated by January 2008. This is another really valuable resource if you are seeking or posting virology jobs.

ASV Archives

A repository for the ASV archives has been established at the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. The Library's History of Science and Technology Program is a major, and growing, center for the study of modern science and technology. It has an excellent virology history collection, covering all areas of virology. For more information about the collections and services of the Program and the Bancroft Library, visit their website (bancroft.berkeley.edu). Moreover, if you have relevant ASV historical materials (including ASV pictures) that should be deposited in the archives, please contact Sondra Schlesinger (sondra@borcim.wustl.edu), Chair of the Archives Committee. We intend shortly to have electronic copies of all previous Annual Meeting Abstract/Program Books included within these archives.

Future Annual Meetings

The 2009 (July 11-15) meeting will return to the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. The local host will be Janet Chantler. The 2010 (July 17-21) meeting will be held at Montana State University, Bozeman, hosted by Michelle Hardy. The 2011 (July 16-20) meeting will be held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, hosted by Louis Mansky. The 2012 (July 21-25) meeting will return to the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, hosted by Ann Palmenberg. The 2013 (July 20-24) meeting will be held at Pennsylvania State University, hosted by Biao He, and the 2014 (July 19-23) meeting will take us to the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada.

Other News From ASV

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a key source for many members' research funding. NIH has asked ASV for help in identifying senior, experienced members of the Society willing to volunteer to serve as NIH grant reviewers. Their criteria are straightforward. They want reviewers who are experienced senior scientists, who have received major peer-reviewed grants either from NIH or an equivalent agency, who understand the grant award process, and most importantly, who are willing to serve for four years as study section members. If you are interested in serving as an NIH reviewer (or re-serving another term), please contact Diane Stassi (RecruitReviewers@csr.nih.gov), the Chair of the NIH

Reviewer Database Committee, with the following information: name, institution, email address, web address, area of expertise, most appropriate study section (if known), and recent funding sources. Peer review is a cornerstone of our profession. That it is done fairly and competently is of interest and concern to our entire membership. If you can, please volunteer.

In other news, the ASV Executive Committee was recently contacted by our counterparts from the Chinese Association of Virology who wish to expand professional collaborations between virologists from both countries. ASV will invite 2 members of the CAV to our 2008 Annual Meeting for discussions with the Executive Committee on whether there are useful opportunities for mutual professional cooperation between our Societies. If you are interested in participating in such directions, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you in Ithaca in July!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Palmenberg". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Ann Palmenberg
President