

Members of the Host Microbe Biology (HMB) community met for a retreat July 24-25, 2018 at ASM headquarters. The meeting was led by COMS members Magdia De Jesus, Suzi Fleiszig, Raphael Valdivia, and included 17 other members of the HMB community; COMS Chair Victor DiRita, Igor Brodsky, Kris Chadee, Michael Donnenberg (COMS), Leigh Knodler, Liouda, Carolina Lopez (COMS), Luis Martinez, John Parker (COMS), Joao Pedra, Eric Skaar, Sarah Stanley, Rita Tamayo, Casey Theriot, Victor Torres, Daria Van Tyne and Marvin White. ASM staff who attended all or part

of the meeting included: (1) ASM Chair, (2) ASM Vice Chair, (3) ASM Secretary, (4) ASM Treasurer, (5) ASM Director, (6) ASM Staff (num 0-10)

- Adopting and developing new technological tools including high throughput genome editing, advanced high resolution imaging, and big data & machine learning.
- A renewed emphasis on HMB interdisciplinary research including immunology, neuroscience, engineering & computational biology, microscopy & structural biology, environmental sciences, and clinical sciences through outreach to other societies.

### 3. Opportunities for ASM to support HMB investigators and research:

#### Networking/Disseminating Information:

- Regular HMB retreats to help link the community and define emerging themes and opportunities as the field evolves.
- Empower chapters and branches to set their own scientific agendas and disseminate best practices
- Continue to evolve strategies to connect people with each other and to information including:
  - Leverage social media for networking and career development.
  - Set up an HMB specific community
  - Expand online resources/data bases of information for researchers (e.g. jobs, funding opportunities, research topics, etc).
  - Add a feature at membership signup or renewal time to identify in to subtrack(s), provide key words or tags to enable searching for people with unique interests.
  - Promote opportunities for HMB interaction with other ASM tracks.

#### Conferences/Journals/Membership

- Support sessions within other conferences, e.g. meetings of international microbiological societies and within meetings of other disciplines that have an interest in microbes.
- Encourage other societies to hold and sponsor sessions at ASM meetings.
- Continue to work towards improving ASM journal review to enhance the author and reviewer experience.
- Support strategies to diversify the HMB community beyond bacteriology.



## Guiding questions used for discussion purposes:

### Development of HMB Mission Statement:

1. Who are we and what is our purpose?
2. What research areas define us?
3. What are our roles & responsibilities (e.g. research, education, advocacy & outreach, etc.) as a Track within ASM?
4. What should be our relationship to other Tracks?
5. Does the name HMB cover the scope of our activities and interests?

### Identify horizons of HMB research

1. What are new areas emerging in HMB?
2. What are the new resources/technologies needed?
3. How can we leverage other disciplines to enhance HMB research?
4. How do we better integrate clinical research findings with HMB basic science?
5. How do we broaden HMB research beyond disease?

### Opportunities for ASM

1. Are ASM Journals meeting HMB's needs?
2. How can ASM best support scientific conferences and meetings focused on HMB?
3. How can ASM better promote interdisciplinary work and new HMB collaborations?
4. How can ASM assist researchers in identifying new sources of HMB funding?
5. How can HMB help serving ASM's various missions?

### Enhancing ASM member engagement

1. How might we facilitate communication within HMB?
2. How do we increase attendance of HMB investigators at Microbe?
3. How can we foster better networking at the meeting among all levels of training?
4. Can we create volunteer opportunities for trainees and new investigators?
5. Should we have special interest groups within HMB?