



Missouri Valley Branch

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY



The Missouri Branch

American Society for Microbiology

Annual Meeting of the Missouri Valley Branch and The Missouri Branch of the American Society of Microbiology

March 4-5, 2016

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS





We would like to welcome you to Kansas City for the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Missouri Valley and Missouri Branches. We have tried to capture the diverse interests of the members of branches as we created the program. Thank you all for your participation. This is a young scientist-focused meeting and we encourage the students not only to participate in presentations, but also to ask questions. We hope that this conference will serve as a platform to gather like-minded scientists from broad backgrounds with the goal of creating new connections and exchanging ideas.

Jeffrey L. Bose and Woflram Zückert

Missouri Valley Branch Officers:

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ASM Branch Meeting – KU Medical Center, March 4-5, 2016

Friday, March 4, 2016

5:00 – 5:15P	Welcome by Drs. Zückert and Bose	SoN Auditorium
5:15-5:45P	Substrate Specificity of a Streptococcal Surface Protease Involved in Quorum Sensing. Indranil Biswas	SoN Auditorium
5:45-6:15P	Making friends to make war: quorum sensing, cooperation and interspecies competition. Josie R. Chandler	SoN Auditorium
6:30-7:30P	Dinner (Zarda's BBQ/d'Bronx Veg Lasagna)	SoN Atrium
7:45-8:45P	Keynote: Zombies and Infectious Diseases in Popular Culture. Tara C. Smith	SoN Atrium
9:00P	Adjourn for evening – individual program	

Saturday, March 5, 2016

8:00-9:30A	Coffee & Croissants Poster Session 1 (Undergraduate posters)	Beller Atrium
9:30-11:00A	Oral Session 1	
	I. General Microbiology III. Medical Micro/Immun Session 1 IV. Undergraduate Session 1	Convener: Pam Brown Convener: Christina Krute Convener: Michelle DeGear
		Beller 1003 Beller 1005 Beller 1007
11:15A-12:45P	Oral Session 2	
	II. Environmental Microbiology III. Medical Micro/Immun Session 2 IV. Undergraduate Session 2	Convener: Tom Platt Convener: Erika Lutter Convener: Kelsey Krausz
		Beller 1003 Beller 1005 Beller 1007
12:45-2:30P	Lunch (d'Bronx Pizza) Poster Session 2 (Graduate Students and Postdocs) Branch Business Meetings	Beller Atrium
2:30-3:30P	Keynote: Streptococcal Social Networking as a Means to Organize Interactions with the Host. Michael J. Federle	Beller Conf Ctr
3:30-4:00P	The role of NKG2D in determining intestinal microbiota composition. Mary A. Markiewicz	Beller Conf Ctr
4:00-4:30P	Multipolar growth of <i>A. tumefaciens</i> is induced by a block in cell division. Pamela Brown	Beller Conf Ctr
4:45-5:00P	Awards/Closing remarks	Beller Conf Ctr
5:00P	Adjourn	Beller Conf Ctr

ASM Distinguished Lecturers

Tara C. Smith, PhD



Zombies and Infectious Diseases in Popular Culture

Zombies are the horror movie monster *du jour*, appearing in TV shows and best-selling video games in addition to multiple blockbuster films. This zombie obsession can be harnessed to teach many important concepts in infectious diseases and epidemiology. These concepts will be reviewed and demonstrated in a light-hearted talk.

Biographical Sketch: Dr. Smith joined the faculty of Kent State University College of Public Health in August 2013 following nine years in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa, where she directed the College's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. She completed post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan after obtaining her Ph.D. at the University of Toledo and her B.S. in Biology from Yale University.

Dr. Smith's research focuses on zoonotic infections (infections which are transferred between animals and humans). She was the first to identify livestock-associated strains of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the United States, and has pioneered the investigation of this organism in the United States. Dr. Smith has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. She has received over three million dollars in funding from AHRQ, USDA, and NIOSH to carry out her studies. She has presented her research at numerous national and international platforms, including talks on Capitol Hill on the topic of agriculture and antibiotic resistance. Her work has been profiled in many major publications, including *Science*, *Nature*, and *The New York Times*. Dr. Smith is also active in science communication and outreach. She has maintained a science blog since 2005, and has written books on Group A Streptococcus, Group B Streptococcus, and Ebola. She also writes about infectious disease for Slate.com among other sites, and is a member of the advisory board of the Zombie Research Society.

Michael J. Federle, PhD



Streptococcal Social Networking as a Means to Organize Interactions with the Host

The Federle lab has helped to discover a family of proteins and peptide pheromones that are widely-conserved among Gram-positive bacteria. The Rgg family of transcription factors is now known to directly bind short peptide signals that are imported to the cytoplasm and modulate gene expression. Investigations have focused on mechanisms of pheromone maturation, receptor-ligand interactions, transcriptional regulation, and Rgg protein biochemistry. The Rgg family is large and mechanisms of regulation are anticipated to vary with subclasses, but a clear understanding of responses of Rggs to peptides will assist in predicting gene expression responses.

Since pheromone signaling has a clear effect on bacterial gene expression and behavior, the potential to influence behavior may be possible through manipulation of bacterial communication. The Federle lab has initiated high-throughput screening for molecules that block Rgg-pheromone signaling with compounds available in both chemical and genetic libraries. Candidate screening utilizes luciferase and fluorescence reporters together with robotic liquid handling, phage display, and flow cytometry. Initial results have found compounds that specifically and directly bind to Rgg proteins and that compete with pheromone binding.

Biographical Sketch: Dr. Federle obtained his B.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Go Badgers) and this PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Emory University. Following a post-doctoral position at Princeton University/Howard Hughes Medical Institute, he became a faculty member in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Federle's ongoing research interests are in cell-cell communication among Gram-positive bacteria. His lab has helped identify a new class of quorum-sensing pathways that utilize proteins of the Rgg family and short, imported peptide pheromones. The lab's work focuses on characterization of these pathways, identification of behaviors controlled by them, and development of small molecule probes into novel therapeutics aimed at interfering with bacterial communication to treat disease. Dr. Federle has been awarded an R01 grant from the NIH and was recently named a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease. He has been an invited speaker for more than 30 seminars and conferences and has authored 26 articles and book chapters. Dr. Federle serves on the editorial board for *Journal of Bacteriology*, and provides *ad hoc* reviews for *mBio*, *Infection and Immunity*, and *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

Local invited speakers



Indranil Biswas, PhD. Dr. Biswas is a Professor in the Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Immunology Department at The University of Kansas Medical Center. His lab studies how proteases and two-component regulatory systems affect virulence factor expression and maturation in Streptococci. His lab also studies biofilm formation in *Streptococcus pyogenes* and *Streptococcus mutans*.



Josie Chandler, PhD. Dr. Chandler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences at The University of Kansas. Her lab research is focused on understanding how bacteria communicate and cooperate with each other to carry out complex group behaviors. She primarily studies a cell-cell communication system in bacteria called quorum sensing using *Burkholderia thailandensis* as a model.



Mary Markiewicz, PhD. Dr. Markiewicz is an Assistant Professor in the Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Immunology Department at The University of Kansas Medical Center. Her lab's research focus is to determine the role of the NK cell activating receptor NKG2D and its ligands in various types of immunity, with a particular interest on the function of this receptor-ligand system in CD8+ T cell responses.



Pam Brown, PhD. Dr. Brown is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri. Her lab is interested in understanding the principles that govern bacterial morphology, i.e. how bacteria generate specific shapes. To this end, her studies examine polar growth in the plant pathogen *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

Oral Session 1

I. General Microbiology

Time	Presentation	Room
9:30-9:45	Surface Display for Strain Improvement of the Industrially Important Bacterium <i>Gluconobacter oxydans</i>. Marshal Blank	1003
9:45-10:00	A New Method for the Characterization of Essential Genes in the Bacterial Plant Pathogen <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i>. Wanda Figueroa-Cuilan	1003
10:00-10:15	Role of the Min system in <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> cell division. Sue Ann Flores	1003
10:15-10:30	Functional Characterization of the Penicillin-Binding Proteins in <i>A. tumefaciens</i>. Michelle Williams	1003
10:30-10:45	Membrane Lipid Imbalance in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> Leads to Trafficking Defects toward the Golgi. Sara E. Woodman	1003

III. Medical Microbiology / Immunology (Session 1)

Time	Presentation	Room
9:30-9:45	<i>Lactobacillus</i> administration alters behavior in the prairie vole (<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>). Kathleen Ahles	1005
9:45-10:00	The Relation between Calcium Homeostasis and Tobramycin Efflux in a Human Pathogen <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>. Sharmily S. Khanam	1005
10:00-10:15	Characterization of Mechanism of Action of DASamP2 against <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> by Isolation of Mutants. Swapna Medichetti	1005
10:15-10:30	EfhP, a Putative Calcium Binding Calmodulin like Protein, Plays Role in Calcium Induced Responses of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>. Biraj B. Kayastha	1005
10:30-10:45	CarP, a Putative β Propeller Protein, Plays Role in <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Response to Calcium. Michelle King	1005

IV. Undergraduate (Session 1)

Time	Presentation	Room
9:30-9:45	Isolation of Fermentative Yeasts from Trees. Matt Gordon	1007
9:45-10:00	Isolation and Characterization of Novel Halo-Acidophilic Microorganisms Present in Hypersaline Lakes from Western Australia. Ava L. Hughes	1007
10:00-10:15	Identification of Novel Antimicrobial Proteins from Extreme Halophilic Archaea. Yuliya Kunz	1007
10:15-10:30	Gut Microbiome of the Prairie Lizard, <i>Sceloporus consobrinus</i>. Robby King	1007
10:30-10:45	Evolution of an rRNA Intron in the Lichen <i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i> Jordanna Glock	1007
10:45-11:00	Defining the Spectrum of Ultraviolet (UV) Resistance in the UV Resistant Bacteria <i>Deinococcus radiophilus</i>. Diana Hopkins	1007

Oral Session 2

II. Environmental Microbiology

Time	Presentation	Room
11:15-11:30	Ability of Bacteria to Degrade BTEX, Benzoate and Hexadecane Under Oxidic Conditions. David Adetitun	1003
11:30-11:45	Narrow-Host Range Lytic Bacteriophage as Antagonists of <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i>. Hedieh Attai	1003
11:45-12:00	Outer Membrane Exclusion of Hydrophobic Compounds by Environmental Relatives of the Nosocomial Opportunist <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>. Lauren E. Chambers	1003
12:00-12:15	Pretreatment of Plant Biomass Using Fungal and Bacterial Co-Culture. Swechchha Pradhan	1003
12:15-12:30	Effects of Nutrient Treatments on Leaf-Litter Microbial Communities in a Lowland Tropical Rain Forest. Brian Bill	1003

III. Medical Microbiology / Immunology (Session 2)

Time	Presentation	Room
11:15-11:30	Production of monospecific antisera for <i>Vago</i> and <i>virus induced RNA-1(vir-1)</i>. Wilfredo A Lopez	1005
11:30-11:45	Characterization of Vps1 Domain Interaction with ESCRT Subunits. Bryan Banh	1005
11:45-12:00	Link Between Toxin Production and Sporulation in <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Brintha Parasumanna Girinathan	1005
12:00-12:15	Dynamin Acts Downstream of Ypt6 for Membrane Fusions. Pelin Makaraci	1005
12:15-12:30	Functional Connection between Vps1 and GARP Vps51 at the Golgi in Budding Yeast. Uma Saimani	1005

IV. Undergraduate (Session 2)

Time	Presentation	Room
11:15-11:30	Hitting the Target: Biochemical Interaction of Vps1 and the Golgi. John Short	1007
11:30-11:45	Understanding the Functional Relationship between the Retromer Complex and Vps 1. Mariel Delgado Cruz	1007
11:45-12:00	Possible Influence of Outer Membrane Permeability Properties on the General Resistance of <i>Serratia marcescens</i> to Hydrophobic Molecules. Kavya Boyina	1007
12:00-12:15	The Effect of Environmental Factors on Swarming Motility in a Human Pathogen <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>. Breeanna C. Russ	1007
12:15-12:30	Histone Deacetylase HDA5 May Be Involved in <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> Triggered Reduction of Host Histone H3K9 Acetylation. Victoria Shum	1007
12:30-12:45	Prevalence of Pathogenic Bacteria in the American Dog Tick (<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>) in Dawson County, Nebraska. Nathan Harms	1007

Poster Assignments

To improve viewing time and allow people to see posters within their own time slot, please plan to stand by your poster for 45 minutes. Please hang all posters in the morning and leave up for both poster sessions. Posters will share a 4x6 ft board. For session 1, please hang on the left side of the board and for session 2 use the right side of the board.

Poster session 1 (Undergraduate)

Poster Board	Poster Title and Presenter
1	Generation of Improved Oncolytic Poxviruses. Adam J. Schieferecke
2	Identification of Transposon insertion sites in Chlamydia Melissa Berger
3	Metabolically Engineered <i>Gluconobacter oxydans</i> for the Production of Optically Pure Acetoin: a Pharmaceutical Precursor. Neil Bolduc
4	<i>Metarhizium</i> Adhesins and Attachment. Susie Brown
5	Identification and Characterization of Essential Genes Involved in the Regulation of Peptidoglycan Synthesis in <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> Caroline Dunn
6	The Cra-FruK Complex Alters Regulation of Central Metabolism in γ-proteobacteria. Max Fairlamb
7	Yeast-two hybrid analysis of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> type III secreted effector proteins. Jordan Fleming
8	Microbial Extracellular Enzyme Activity Responses to Long-Term Nitrogen Addition and Annual Burning in Tallgrass Prairie Soil. Victoria Floyd
9	Investigations into the Role of MARCKS during <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> Infections of THP-1 Cells. Christa Jackson
10	Generation of Yeast 2-Hybrid Clones to Examine the Role of Nucleotide Oligomerization and Binding Domain (NOD)-Like Receptors. Abbi J. Mabary
11	The Role of Insect Vectors in the Movement of a Plant Virus in Northeastern Kansas. Matthew A. Ramos
12	Improving Inflammation in Bacterial Coinfection by IL-1β Regulation. Angeline Rodriguez
13	Determining the Interaction Between CT228 and MYPT1 in <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> Brooke Romine
14	The Search for Antibiotic-Producing Bacteria at Henderson State University. Richard Spencer-Cole and Sarah Johnson
15	Antibiotic Resistance of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Recovered from Cystic Fibrosis Patients. Wade Arthur
16	Identification of Novel Antimicrobial Proteins from Extreme Halophilic Archaea. Yuliya Kunz

Poster session 2 (Graduate Student and Postdoctoral*)

Poster Board	Poster Title and Presenter
1	Bioavailability Of B20 Biodiesel Fuel Components And Their Relative Contribution To Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion Oderay C. Andrade
2	Genetic Manipulation of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> Inclusion Membrane Protein CT228 using the Adapted TargeTron System. Amanda Behar
3	Antibiotic Resistance in <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Isolated From Cystic Fibrosis Patients Rawan Eleshly
4	Investigation of Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion in B20 Biodiesel and the Development of Accelerated Testing Methods. James G. Floyd
5	Prevalence of Non-O157 ShigaToxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Houseflies (<i>Musca domestica</i> L.) from Cattle Feedlots and Dairies. Anuradha Ghosh
6	Discovery of Genetic Correlates Encoded by <i>Chlamydia</i> that are Important for Mammalian

	Infection. Kelly Harrison
7	Quorum Sensing Systems are Maintained by Interspecies Competition. Kara C Hinshaw
8	Phenotypic analysis of Transposon mutant strains of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>. Scott Labrie
9	Function of Sigma 54 in <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>. Megan McKinney
10	Functional importance of the N-terminal region of Photoactive yellow protein. Farzaneh Moghadam
11	Transcription of T4ASS ORFs in Spotted Fever Group <i>Rickettsia</i>. Chris Richards
12	Structure and Function Analysis of the Redox-Sensing Transcription Factor <u>M</u>ethanogen Specific <u>V</u>inyl-4-<u>R</u>eductase (MsvR). Kristen Shelton
13	Novel synthetic analogs of avian β-defensin-12 with enhanced antimicrobial and immunomodulatory activities. Ming Yang
14*	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Metabolic Adaptations During the Transition to a Vancomycin-intermediate Susceptibility Phenotype. Stewart G. Gardner
15*	
16	The Fatty Acid Kinase of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Controls Virulence. Christina N. Krute

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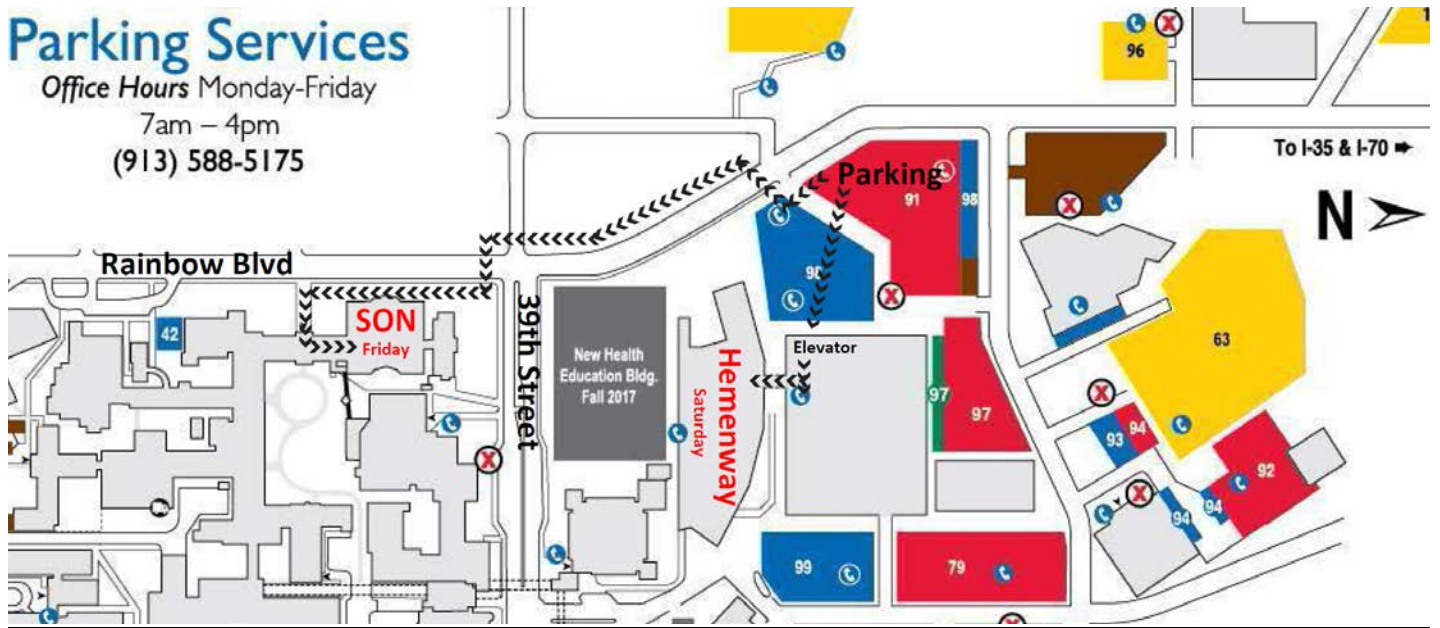
Directions

Parking Services

Office Hours Monday-Friday

7am – 4pm

(913) 588-5175



On Fri night, park as indicated. Walk up Rainbow Blvd and enter Murphy Hall (picture below) on your left, it is across the street from Five Guys. After entering, take an immediate left and continue until you see the School of Nursing and registration table.



On Saturday, park as indicated. Take the elevator in the parking garage to the 5th floor and walk across the short bridge to the Hemenway Building. Enter building, walk forward and take stairs to the second floor.