

Young Leaders Newsletter



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Matthew Tuttle, PhD
YLC Chair 2022-2023

Editorial

It has been nearly a decade since the ASM Young Leaders Circle (YLC) was created and it is my honor to present this eighth issue of our annual newsletter. It is brimming with content covering activities and successes of our ASM Ambassadors, Student Chapters, and YLC members. This newsletter only scratches the surface of all the activities completed by this large and growing group of individuals. Regardless, we hope to celebrate and share the accomplishments of this group over the past year.

All the work presented in this issue is the product of many individuals donating their time to ASM. I personally would like to thank every Ambassador, Student Chapter leader, and YLC member for all that they do for ASM, their local communities, and the profession of microbiology. All these individuals embody what my alma mater, The University of Tennessee, calls the “Volunteer Spirit”. Beyond just donating their time, these individuals work to lead and inspire others. It has been a privilege to serve as the ASM Young Ambassador to Tennessee, a YLC member, and most recently the Chair of the YLC. I have had the fortune to meet many inspirational and visionary people through my work with ASM and look forward to continuing to engage with ASM as I advance in my career.

While my term as the Chair of the YLC is at its end, I am excited by the enthusiasm of our incoming Chair and Vice Chair. I believe that they will continue to elevate the work of the YLC and increase its impact. This year the YLC was able to accomplish a lot. Perhaps most notable was our publication in the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education that is highlighted at the end of this issue. However, I believe we can accomplish even more in the coming year and look forward to seeing our progress.

As you peruse the content of this newsletter, I hope you get inspired by all that you see. ASM provides myriad opportunities for professional development, especially for those that are early career. I highly encourage anyone who is interested to get involved, be an active participant in the society, and reap the benefits of engagement.

Interview with Francis Muchaamba, 2023-2024 YLC Chair



Francis Muchaamba
YLC Chair 2023-2024

1. Francis, we would love to get to know you better! Can you tell us about yourself and your current position?

Hello everyone, I am honoured to be the YLC Chair for 2023-2024. I am a veterinarian with a Ph.D. in Food Safety Molecular Microbiology from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, earned in 2021. Currently, I am a Postdoc Researcher at the Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene, University of Zurich, where I focus on addressing the challenges of *Listeria monocytogenes*. Aside from my research, I'm actively dedicated to advocating for early career scientists. Since 2021, I've been serving as the ASM Young Ambassador to Switzerland, bridging the gap between young scientists and ASM. I'm enthusiastic about connecting and collaborating with like-minded professionals, and I look forward to our shared journey in the YLC.

2. How has the YLC helped you in your professional life?

As a YLC member and Young Ambassador, I gained access to a diverse network of professionals, facilitating significant connections for my professional growth. Learning from past Chairs and Kirsten, I have gained valuable insights into leadership, communication, negotiation, and decision-making skills. The YLC's collaborative environment provided me with teamwork, project management, and problem-solving experience. It has also come with increased exposure and enhanced visibility within the ASM community which may lead to new opportunities and projects in the future. Above all, the YLC offers a sense of belonging and supportive community of like-minded individuals who understand the challenges and aspirations of young professionals, fostering personal and professional development. This exposure enabled me to co-found the Swiss Young Microbiologist Symposium (<https://www.syms.ch/>), an annual meeting designed for early career scientists

3. We heard that the YLC has a lot of activities planned for this year! What are some of the items on your agenda for the YLC?

This year's YLC agenda is packed with exciting and impactful activities. To celebrate the tenth-year anniversary of the Young Ambassadors (YA) program, we are rebranding and introducing a new logo for the YLC. If all goes well, we hope to introduce awards for outstanding Student Chapters and Young Ambassadors, recognizing their exceptional contributions and dedication. We have updated the YLC constitution and established new positions, such as the Vice Chair and Educational Officer. This will streamline our operations and ensure a smoother transition between terms. For improved networking, we are launching a new ASM Connect page, which will serve as a hub for Young Ambassadors, providing them with valuable resources and strengthening their global connections. Additionally, we have submitted a significant number of exciting session proposals for Microbe 2024 focused on promoting the participation of early career scientists and enhancing science literacy and outreach. Fingers crossed, that these proposals will be accepted, allowing us to make a significant impact in these areas. The YLC newsletter will now be published twice a year, in January and July, offering more opportunities to stay updated on our activities and achievements. One of the highlights of this year is our commitment to sustainability initiatives, demonstrating our dedication to a greener future. Furthermore, we are determined to publish at least one peer-reviewed article each year, showcasing our commitment to advancing scientific knowledge. We are enthusiastic about the potential of these initiatives and look forward to a successful and impactful year ahead.

4. Do you have any suggestions for future YLC members?

Future YLC members, embrace this excellent opportunity, give your best effort, and utilize it to learn and expand your networks. Remember, teamwork is key; together, we achieve more than as individuals. Embrace the journey and make the most of every moment!

Ambassador Spotlight (US Young Ambassadors)

Alaina Weinheimer (Maine)



Current position: Postdoctoral research fellow

Current institution/affiliation: Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
East Boothbay, Maine, USA

Number of years serving as an ASM Ambassador: 1 - my first year as ASM YA to Maine (previously ASM YA to Virginia for 2021 and 2022)

Last ASM sponsored event In December of 2022, three ASM YAs and myself organized the virtual seminar given by ASM's Public Outreach Program Officer Dr. Geoff Hunt titled "Writing for a Public Audience." We also run a blog called The Microbial Times (microbialtimes.wordpress.com) that ASM members can submit stories to.

Why would you recommend students and other early career individuals join ASM? Microbes are everywhere doing everything imaginable (or at least energetically possible). This field is huge, and ASM brings together so many different perspectives. I'd recommend early career researchers to join ASM to tap into the diverse components of microbiology that all ultimately relate to each other. ASM does a great job of bringing together these perspectives from online seminars to regional or topic-specific meetings to the big ASM-Microbe conference.

What is the best experience so far as an ASM US Young Ambassador? Not a specific experience, but in general, I've really appreciated how the ASM Young Ambassador program has connected us early career researchers with each other from across the country and the world. Through collaborations on ASM YA projects, I've connected with YAs from Ecuador to Greece to Mexico and beyond in a setting more personable and friendly than would've been possible otherwise.

What advice would you give to aspiring young scientists who are just starting their careers? Never say never - explore as much as you can. You might surprise yourself with what you like (and what you don't like) from giving things a try. I thought I would hate coding from my limited previous experience, but doing a lab rotation in a bioinformatics lab changed my perspective entirely. Since then, all my research has been on the computer - I love it.

What is an important value for you, from a professional point of view? In research, there is always more work that can be done, and turning the "off-switch" in the brain can be really hard sometimes. What has helped me most is getting out of town and/or surrounding myself with people (friends, family, etc) who do not work in science. There is so much more to life than whatever paper or experiment is hanging over my head, and being immersed in the world outside of that really helps keep my perspective. Sometimes, this even helps inspire new ideas or creative solutions that I would've never come up with just doting on the problem alone.

A #CatalystMoment that helped shape your career? I've had quite a few turning points in my relatively short career path thus far, but what has landed me most specifically in the field of viral ecology, I would say, is volunteering at the Living with Our Viromes conference at Penn State in 2016. I was always fascinated by viruses from my courses, but my research at the time focused on microbes of corals. At this conference, the bacteriophage-adhering to mucus (BAM) immunity model was described by Dr. Forest Rowher. The BAM model proposes that phages are enriched in mucus of organisms to prevent pathogenic bacteria from establishing. This opened my eyes to the ways viruses impact biology beyond killing things and may even be helpful. I later pursued research projects in bacteriophages for my masters and PhD research, and current study how bacteria protect themselves from phages in the ocean.

Ambassador Spotlight (US Young Ambassadors)

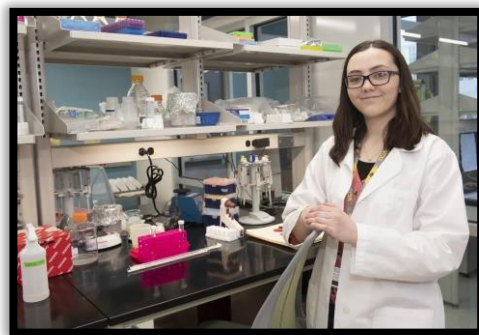
Annie Hinson (Virginia)

Current position: PhD student

Current institution/affiliation: Dr. Daniel P. Miller's lab at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Microbiology and Immunology department.

Number of years serving as an ASM Ambassador: 1

What was your last ASM sponsored event?
STEMulating Science Fair program



The goal of the ASM STEMulating Science Fair is to provide students in the Higher Achievement program an opportunity to enhance their scientific knowledge and skills. Undergraduate & graduate students mentor a group of 6-8th graders for 5-6 weeks (Fall 2023). Mentors will meet once a week. Higher Achievement staff will allot structured time during their afterschool program to complete the project. Each group will create a poster. Science fair day (end of Nov/start of Dec) where mentors, school staff, and parents are welcome.

Thanks to YAPF, we are providing funds for each group's project materials! Higher Achievement is an after-school program that provides students with opportunities to enhance their education and potential to succeed. As stated in their Mission Statement, "Higher Achievement closes the opportunity gap during the pivotal middle school years. By leveraging the power of communities, Higher Achievement's proven model provides a rigorous year-round learning environment, caring role models, and a culture of high expectations, resulting in college-bound scholars with the character, confidence, and skills to succeed."

"Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not. In Baltimore, DC Metro, and Richmond, Higher Achievement partners with scholars as they pursue their ambitions by providing academic and social-emotional tools and encouragement."

As a young ASM representative, I would like to provide an opportunity like this to the young minds in our community! Having the ability to provide funding for each group's science project would allow us to support Higher Achievements mission to nurture each child's potential, regardless of circumstance. This Science Fair would also support the mission of ASM- to promote and advance microbial sciences with a focus on the next generation of scientists

What advice would you give to aspiring young scientists who are just starting their careers? Deciding to pursue a career in science can be pretty intimidating at first, but it is definitely worth it. My advice to young scientists is that you need to create the path that you want to take; it's not going to be the same as everyone else. Make sure that whatever you decide to do when it comes to your career, it's what you want for your future. Always take care of yourself and your well-being. My other piece of advice would be to take the chances that are given to you even if you're scared. The only way that you are going to grow is by getting out of your comfort zone and trying new things!

A #CatalystMoment that helped shape your career? My #CatalystMoment was when I was asked by one of my biology professors, Dr. Maria Avanzato, to participate in summer research with her. I realized that summer how much I enjoyed doing research. She mentored me one on one with the project. She would show me how to do a technique once and then would get me to try on my own. I think that type of mentorship allowed me to blossom and find my confidence in the lab. This research opportunity led me to where I am now, in a PhD program conducting research. Dr. Avanzato supported me in so many ways during my undergraduate years, and I will always be grateful for that.

Ambassador Spotlight (International Young Ambassadors)

Mohammad Asadzadeh (Kuwait)



Current position: Teaching Assistant/Microbiology Department, College of Medicine, Kuwait University.

Research field: Our research focuses on enhancing the accurate identification of rare fungal species in clinical specimens.

Number of years serving as ASM YA: 6 months

Why would you recommend young scientists and your colleagues/ professionals to join ASM?

First, ASM provides a fantastic opportunity for new scientists to network with local and international experts in their discipline. Additionally, this can result in new collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and access to cutting-edge research. In addition, ASM provides numerous opportunities for professional development, including seminars, webinars, and online courses.

What are your plans as the ASM Country Ambassador this year?: My plan for the rest of the year is to give two seminars about the role of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in connecting scientists and researchers from around the world. I will also discuss the benefits of being an ASM member. In addition, I plan to visit two to three schools to educate students about microbiology and how ASM is helping microbiology and microbiologists.

A professional achievement of which you are proud? I reached a significant milestone during my PhD studies by publishing nine articles in valuable, peer-reviewed journals. It was the first time in the history of Kuwait University that a PhD student had achieved such an exceptional level of quality and quantity in their publications.

A character trait that characterizes you: Do not give up readily and work diligently without becoming frustrated if the result or accomplishment is delayed. Always have faith that God sees your sincere intent to work.

A goal/ resolution/ wish you have: My professional goal is to attain the position of professor and assist the humanities in their fight against pathogens. While making my peers and family happy is one of my personal goals.

Vincent Ming-Hsien, Chiang (Taiwan)



Current position: Assistant Professor, Department and Graduate Institute of Biology and Anatomy, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan.

Research field: MDR bacterial vaccine.

Number of years serving as ASM YA: One year and a half

A #CatalystMoment that helped shape your career: During my academic journey in the military service. It was a challenging process, especially after obtaining my PhD, as securing a higher position proved to be a daunting task. However, a few years ago, during an international exchange event, I had the opportunity to meet the school's education director. He provided me with invaluable advice, particularly emphasizing the importance of not giving up on my passion and dreams for academic research. He encouraged me to seize every opportunity and strive for excellence. This encounter became a significant catalyst moment for me, as it motivated me to pursue a career in academia and continuously inspire and empower students.

What has been your favorite experience thus far in serving as an ASM Young Ambassador? Serving as an ASM Young Ambassador has allowed me to foster international connections, mentor aspiring microbiologists, and continue my own learning journey (LinkedIn Learning). It has been a rewarding experience that has enriched my understanding of the field, broadened my perspectives, and inspired me to make a positive impact in the microbiology community.

How has being a member of ASM benefited you? I joined ASM in 2021. Since then, being a member of ASM has enriched my career in microbiology. The organization's resources, networking opportunities, professional development support, and recognition programs have played a pivotal role in shaping my scientific journey and enabling me to make meaningful contributions to the field.

Ambassador Spotlight (International Young Ambassadors)

Aureliana Chambal Chilengue (Mozambique)



Current position : Research at Faculty of Medicine, Eduardo Mondlane University

Research field: My research interest is primarily in the transmission dynamics of *M. tuberculosis*

Number of years serving as ASM Young Ambassador: 1,5

Why would you recommend young scientists and your colleagues/ professionals to join ASM? I highly recommend young scientists and colleagues to join ASM, as it offers a unique opportunity to learn from and exchange experiences with scientists worldwide. Moreover, ASM provides unparalleled networking avenues that allow us to expand our professional connections in every possible way.

What is the best experience so far as an ASM Young Ambassador? Among my best experiences as an ASM Young Ambassador, the Ambassador retreat and attending Microbe in the USA stand out. These events provided incredible opportunities to connect with visionary leaders who are driving forces in their countries, significantly contributing to advancing microbial sciences within their local communities. It was a remarkable chance to learn from and be inspired by fellow ambassadors.

Anything you would like to share: an accomplishment you are proud of? Getting my Master's degree in Medical Bioscience from the University of Bradford through the Chevening scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships worldwide, stands as one of my proudest accomplishments. The experience of pursuing my Master's during the pandemic taught me invaluable lessons, with the most profound being the ability to reinvent myself constantly in order to grow and succeed in life.

One thing that others may not know about you! In my free time, I enjoy curling up with a good book and getting lost in the story. Travelling is my other passion; whether on a road trip or a backpacking adventure, I always seek opportunities to explore the world and broaden my horizons.

James Deke (Ghana)



Current position: MPhil candidate and Research assistant at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST); Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR)

Research field: Antimicrobial Resistance and Infectious Diseases

Number of years serving as a ASM Young Ambassador: 2.5

Last ASM sponsored event: Introduction to Biomedical and Health Research workshop

Next ASM sponsored event: Scientific Communications workshop

What is the best experience so far as an ASM Young Ambassador? The impact amongst students and early-career researchers in Ghana through the ASM-sponsored events has been my best experience as the ASM Youth Ambassador to Ghana. In Ghana, the academic modules students are presented with at the university help them gain a great deal of knowledge in their chosen fields of study. However, these academic curricula are not successful in fully modeling them with the skills and competencies to be successful in their career paths. In order to bridge this gap and contribute to the holistic development of Ghanaian students in the biomedical sciences, scientific capacity development has become one of my main goals. Here, unconventional methods are used to train students and complement what the universities are currently doing. So far, 1815 students and early-career researchers have been trained in various thematic areas, including academic integrity, scientific literature search and critiquing, the use of bibliography software, and research proposal writing. Among these students and early-career researchers, 752 were hearing of ASM for the first time, with 358 of them registering as ASM members during these events.

What are your plans as the ASM Young Ambassador this year? In addition to further capacity-building activities, I intend to establish ASM student chapters in some of the universities in Ghana, starting with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and engage in secondary school outreach as well.

Ambassador Spotlight (Country Ambassadors)

Prof. Gabriel Gutkind (Argentina)



Current position and institution: Titular professor at University of Buenos Aires. Principal researcher of CONICET. Director of IBAViM Institute (FFyB-UBA).

Research field: Antimicrobial Resistance

Number of years serving as ASM Country Ambassador: This is my fourth year.

Last ASM sponsored event: X Argentine congress on hospital sterilization and disinfection: "Towards safer and more sustainable hospitals". Introductory Lecture on Scientific writing, election of ASM best poster award. El Calafate, Argentina, April 2023

Next ASM sponsored events in 2023:

September: Annual Meeting Argentinean Society for Protozoology (SAP) Joint Congress SADI-API (Argentinean and Pan American Societies for Infectious Diseases; October: International Meeting on Endemic Mycoses of the Americas (IMEMA), Annual meeting Argentinean Society of General Microbiology (SAMIGE); November: Annual Meeting Argentinean Clinical Investigation Society (SAIC); December: Annual meeting Argentinean Society for Virology (SAV)

Why would you recommend young scientists and your colleagues/ professionals to join ASM?

Having been an ASM member since 1991 (I would say, an early career scientist), I remember the tremendous impact of participating in at least one of the two big meetings every year, discussing with all the "big names" in the poster sessions. Today some of that has been replaced by electronic communication, but still ASM is the society in which find a really international audience to contact or join volunteering for the different programs. Journals...writing and receiving the reviews from experts in the field. Reviewing, how much is learned for better writing by reviewing for the excellent journals in each field?

What motivated you to apply to the ambassador program? I felt the need to cooperate in establishing (or re-establishing) stronger links between ASM and my national societies, without distinguishing between pure or applied microbiologists. There is always a counterpart at ASM.

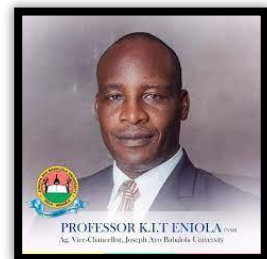
What are your plans as the ASM Country Ambassador this year?

Attending as many scientific meetings as possible passing the word of ASM possibilities, even lecturing, cooperating with some courses on scientific writing or just making the selection of the best communications or posters presented there for stimulating specially the future young leaders in the field.

What is the best experience so far as an ASM CA?

The good reception in both ends of the communication between my country societies needs and ASM leaders. Cooperation with other CA and YA for establishing better understanding of our regional and international needs, remembering that about 50 % of ASM members are international members, with different voices and experiences, to be transmitted by us.

Prof. Kehinde Eniola (Nigeria)



Current position and institution: Dean, College of Postgraduate Studies, Joseph Ayo Babalola University

Research field: Public Health Microbiology

Number of years serving as ASM Country Ambassador: Sixth year

Last ASM sponsored event: Water testing Workshop at Abia State University, Uturu, 2019

Next ASM sponsored event: Safe Water Conference, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, 13th – 15th Sept 2023

Why would you recommend young scientists and your colleagues/ professionals to join ASM?

It provides opportunities to network with other scientists from all over the globe.

What motivated you to apply to the ambassador program?

The desire to get ASM to partner with the our society: Nigerian Society for Microbiology, of which I was President at that time.

What are your plans as the ASM Country Ambassador this year?

To hold a series of water testing workshops and visit institutions that train microbiologists but are usually not given recognition.

What is the best experience so far as an ASM CA?

The opportunity to encourage younger microbiologists to strive to be the best they can be in the field of microbiology, regardless of the unfavorable conditions around them.

Celebrating 10 Years of the ASM Young Ambassador Program: Interview with Kirsten Bartlett



Kirsten Bartlett
Program coordinator

1. First, please tell us a little about yourself.

I started working at ASM right after graduate school and have been here for 12 years. I love it! Outside of work, I am a mom of 2 (soon to be 3 – expecting another baby girl in early September), and my family keeps me very busy. On the weekends you will find us at our favorite breakfast restaurant every Saturday morning, at our neighborhood pool, or at a baseball game. We are huge Baltimore Orioles fans!

2. What are your roles and responsibilities as the coordinator of the ASM Young Ambassador and Student Chapter programs?

I oversee the applications, funding, and activities of 97 Country Ambassadors, 80 International Young Ambassadors, 39 U.S. Young Ambassadors, and approximately 100+ active ASM Student Chapters. All our volunteers are essential to promoting the ASM mission on a global scale, and I am in the background to provide the training, resources, and ongoing support to all of these groups.

3. What inspired you to be a part of these programs?

My educational background is in international affairs and diplomacy. I have always loved to travel, explore different cultures, and interact with people all over the world. The work that each Ambassador or Student Chapter does in their local community is unique – it keeps things interesting and inspires me daily. I love working with these programs because I see them as essential components to accomplishing the ASM mission, to promote and advance the microbial sciences.

4. How did the ASM Young Ambassador and Student Chapter programs come into existence?

The Ambassador Program started with 20 Regional Ambassadors responsible for representing ASM across the entire globe. Ambassadors are key players in providing a local face to ASM, creating partnerships with local scientific societies, and expanding ASM resources and activities into local communities. We realized that one singular Country Ambassador could not accomplish the huge task of representing ASM to an entire country and there was a lot of interest in volunteering and building leadership skills for early career scientists. The first cohort of Young Ambassadors was appointed in early 2013. This group was so enthusiastic about the ASM mission and inspiring the next generation of scientists to pursue microbiology.

5. What specific goals or objectives does the programs aim to achieve?

The Young Ambassador Program and Student Chapter Program have similar objectives, at the core, being to engage and inspire the next generation of scientists. Both programs contribute to the professional and academic development of young scientists, recognize the unique contributions of young scientists to the field of microbiology, and promote the ASM mission in the local community. Our goal is to engage students, postdocs, and early career scientists in the very early stages of their career, in hopes that they become lifelong ASM members.

6. As the program celebrates its 10-year anniversary, what are some notable achievements or success stories?

I think the biggest success of the Young Ambassador program are the friendships and long-term collaborations that have grown from the Young Ambassador retreat and interactions at Microbe. It is great to see current and former Young Ambassadors remain active and meet up in their own countries when they have the opportunity (for example at a regional conference like FEMS or ALAM). I also take great pride in our Young Ambassadors going on to new and greater leadership roles within ASM. We have had two Young Ambassadors (Patricio Acosta – Argentina and Ron Xavier – New Zealand) serve on the ASM Board of Directors.

7. How has the ASM Young Ambassador program evolved over the years?

The work that the Young Ambassadors do, and the accomplishments of this collective network has not gone unnoticed and are recognized by ASM leadership. Due to the success of the program within the first 5 years, it was expanded in 2018, when we launched the U.S. Young Ambassador program.

Celebrating 10 Years of the ASM Young Ambassador Program: Interview with Kirsten Bartlett



Kirsten Bartlett

Program coordinator

8. What qualities or characteristics do you look for in a Young Ambassador?

The ideal Young Ambassador will be passionate about the field of microbiology and have a strong interest in sharing that passion with others. We are looking for great science communicators, enthusiastic and engaging individuals, and a strong interest in serving as a leader in advancing the ASM mission.

9. How has your experience been in overseeing the ASM Young Ambassador program?

It has been a great experience! My favorite moments have been the opportunities to really get to know some of the Young Ambassadors on a personal level. I have had some great dinners out with Young Ambassadors while at Microbe and great conversations about work, kids, and just life in general.

10. What sets the ASM Young Ambassador program apart from other youth leadership programs in the field of science and education?

I think that ASM gives a lot of autonomy to our Ambassadors and flexibility to customize the Ambassador role to the individual's interest. Ambassadors are welcome to target opportunities in their local community that they are passionate about. Our Ambassadors are creative!

11. How does the program support the personal and professional development of its participants?

One of the biggest benefits to being a Young Ambassador is the opportunity to attend ASM Microbe and the travel support that ASM provides. I would encourage all Ambassadors to submit a session proposal or an abstract to our next meeting and use this opportunity to speak at the meeting or present your research. The financial support that ASM provides our Young Ambassadors to attend the meeting is one of the largest travel awards the society offers.

12. How can interested individuals or organizations get involved with or support the ASM Young Ambassador program?

The goal of the Ambassador program is to have an ASM representative in every country and state, so all members feel that local connection to ASM. We appreciate any and all recommendations for new Ambassadors. Word of mouth is key! Share about the program and make recommendations. The larger our network, the further our reach, and the more we can accomplish.

13. Looking ahead, what are your aspirations and vision for the future of the program?

In the future I would like to explore new ways to showcase the great work all our Ambassadors are doing across the globe. For example, the recent YLC publication in JMBE, Promoting Science Literacy and Awareness across the Globe: the Role of Scientists as Science Ambassadors. I would like to explore ways for Ambassadors to better network and share experiences with each other, through more idea swap webinars and presentation opportunities, and virtually through an ASM Connect group. It is equally important that we showcase the accomplishments and impact of our Ambassadors to an external audience. I would like to see more Ambassador activities posted on social media, Ambassador led sessions at Microbe and posters on Ambassador activities, public outreach, and impact in their local communities in the Profession of Microbiology (POM) track.

14. Lastly, what message or advice would you give to aspiring young leaders who are passionate about making a difference in the fields of science and education?

Never feel like you aren't qualified for a leadership position just because of your age or education level. Some of our most successful Young Ambassadors and Student Chapter Presidents have been students (including undergrads!). Don't wait to step up into a leadership role or to pursue your passion until after your PhD or later in your career. You have great ideas and can make an impact now – and there are organizations, like ASM, that want you to take on a volunteer leadership role in our society!

ASM Student Chapters

ASM Texas Medical Center Student and Postdoc Chapter (Texas, USA):

The Texas Medical Center (TMC) chapter completed their fourth successful year of the **Young Biologist Program (YBP)**! YBP is a high school outreach program targeting under-resourced students in Title I high schools in the Alief Independent School District (Houston, TX). Graduate student and postdoc volunteers in the TMC visit these students once a month to introduce topics in microbiology (e.g.: microbial physiology, genetics, clinical microbiology) and teach laboratory skills (e.g.: Gram-staining, bacterial transformation, SDS-PAGE, PCR). This year, the program ended with a tour of the TMC (UT Health McGovern Medical School), where students toured research labs and participated in a career panel session with current medical students, graduate students, and postdocs.



UT Health McGovern Medical School Lab Tours



Career Panel

The chapter also organized public engagement events for **ASM Microbe** this year! They launched their third annual **MicroWorld image contest**, where scientists submitted both research (e.g.: confocal micrographs) and non-research (e.g.: agar art)-related images. With generous help from Geoff Hunt (ASM public outreach program officer), the chapter displayed these pictures at their **MicroArt Exhibit** during the conference. Attendees from the conference and the public had the opportunity to interact with scientists behind the images and participate in fun arts & crafts activities.

The chapter also helped put together the **Houston Day of Science Festival** during ASM Microbe. Organized by Geoff Hunt, Alex Kang (TMC chapter president), Tasha Sturm (Cabrillo College, CA), and Michael Cone (Rice University, TX), this one-day science festival featured fun activities like agar handprints and agar art for K-12 students and was attended by 1000+ local kids and parents.



ASM-TMC MicroArt Exhibit



ASM Houston Day of Science Festival

ASM Student Chapters

ASM International Student Chapter: University of the Punjab (Pakistan)

The Institute of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, in collaboration with the ASM student chapter, hosted a one-day symposium at the University of the Punjab entitled "**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Current Status in Pakistan and Strategies to Combat**" on January 25, 2023. Esteemed national and international scholars/faculty members delivered lectures on multifaceted aspects of AMR, including the emergence of resistance mechanisms, novel therapeutic approaches, and the potential role of bacteriophages in overcoming antibiotic resistance. The event attracted a notable audience of over 200 participants from various cities across Pakistan. The symposium also featured a thought-provoking poster competition featuring both themed-based and research posters. The competition winners were awarded cash prizes and certificates. Additionally, the speakers were also honored with commemorative shields. By emphasizing the importance of awareness and education, this symposium aligns with the WHO global plan and contributes to the future of AMR research, equipping the next generation to combat this global concern.



ASM Student Chapter Committee



Symposium Hall

ASM International Student Chapter: University of Energy and Natural Resources – UENR (Ghana)

The UENR chapter organized the **START RIGHT program**, aimed to introduce freshmen and continuing students to the benefits of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and facilitate their journey into becoming biologists. The program emphasized the integration of academics with extracurricular activities and provided insights on building networks and seeking mentorship. Participants were the entire students in the Biological Science department and freshmen who had just been admitted (420 students total). An impressive 165 students registered to be part of the ASM_UENR chapter. Chapter representatives briefed the participants about ASM, its mission, and the opportunities it offers to young emerging scientists. ASM_UENR members shared their experiences of managing academics while engaging in scientific clubs and activities. The program provided practical tips on building professional networks within the scientific community. By connecting young emerging scientists with ASM, the program aims to foster a strong foundation for their future careers in the field of microbiology.

ASM Student Chapters



UENR START RIGHT program featuring Prof. Samuel Fosu Gyasi (Dean, School of Sciences), Dr. Kenneth Bentum Otabil (HOD, Department of Biological Science; Student Chapter faculty advisor), and other faculty.

Quinnipiac University ASM Student Chapter (Connecticut, USA)

The Quinnipiac University (QU) student chapter founded an organization for interdisciplinary science events: **Diversity in Science and Diversity of Science (DisDos)**. DisDos is a student-led organization that hosts scientific conferences where presenters from different fields of science can bloom. DisDos aims to welcome all questions and people from all backgrounds in a safe environment. The regionwide 2023 DisDos New England Interdisciplinary Science Conference took place on April 29 at QU, featuring high-quality research from Yale, SUNY Medical Upstate University, and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Research topics included neuronal degeneration/regeneration, circadian rhythms, and cytoskeleton biology. New England universities members, professors, research scientists, and professionals were invited to share their work by delivering poster, oral, or creative presentations, tabling in the exhibitor fair, and/or participating as biomedical career panelists. Through DisDos, students can also network with representatives of St. George's University medical school (largest provider of doctors into U.S. residencies), learn about career opportunities with the US Navy, or advocate for organ donation and empathy in saving lives with New England Donor Services.

DisDos is looking for volunteers or interns who are willing to get involved and serve on the steering committee. Please contact Yamna Siddiqui (ASM student chapter president & co-founder of DisDos) with your resume at yamnasiddiqui63@gmail.com to get involved!

(<https://yamnasiddiqui63.wixsite.com/diversity-in-science/opportunities>)



YA activities across the world

Bárbara Alvarez– YA to Guatemala

Bachelor in Biological Chemistry

Teaching assistant at the Microbiology Department of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy, from Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala



Human Microbiome exposition to Celebrate Biological Chemist's Day

- ✓ Collaboration with the Students Organization of Biological Chemistry from Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala led to a successful celebration of Biological Chemist's Day on May 21st.
- ✓ The exposition focused on the human microbiome, attracting over 200 visitors and inspiring interest in science and Biological Chemistry.
- ✓ Interactive microscope displays provided a fascinating look into the world of microorganisms, fostering a deeper understanding of Biological Chemistry and its relevance to human health.
- ✓ As part of the outreach efforts, cool stickers were distributed to the attendees, leaving them with a fun and memorable takeaway from the event.
- ✓ The event also served as an opportunity to promote the ASM and its mission, aiming to increase its presence and influence in Guatemala's scientific community.
- ✓ Participants engaged in various exciting activities, including posing for photographs with a specially designed Biological Chemist's Day frame and sharing personal reflections on being a Biological Chemist. Cool stickers were distributed as fun memorabilia for attendees.

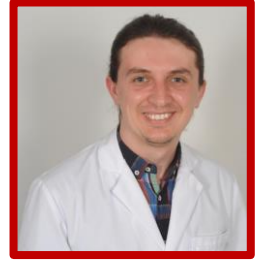


YA activities across the world

Yulian Konechnyi– YA to Ukraine

Ph.D. in Medicine (clinical microbiology)

Assistant of the Department of Microbiology, Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, Lviv, Ukraine, and Medical Doctor (therapist/internist) at the Outpatient Clinic of Family Medicine "Vulyk", Lviv, Ukraine



University Scientific Conference on Microbiology,

- ✓ University Scientific Conference on Microbiology held on June 28, 2023, featured both online and offline formats.
- ✓ The conference included 13 students from different study years, with 8 international students from India participating.
- ✓ Student research covered medical science topics like AMR, HAIs, and alternative methods for treating MDR/XDR bacteria, as well as global issues like biofuel production and food industry waste processing.
- ✓ On September 17, 2022, the all-Ukrainian MicrobeArt competition with #MicrobeArtForUkraine took place on Facebook, celebrating the International Day of Microorganisms.
- ✓ Approximately 30 participants from across the country participated, and winners were awarded prizes from nutrient media-producing companies along with ASM symbol merchandise. A competition is also planned for 2023.



Salma Akter – YA to Bangladesh

Ph.D. in Microbiology (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar-Dhaka, 1342. Bangladesh.



Scientific Workshop and Capacity Building

- ✓ A 3-day seminar and workshop on "Next-Generation Genomic Study for Emerging Pathogens and Non-Communicable Diseases" at Jahangirnagar University, from 30th May to 1st June, 2023.
- ✓ Inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, the event featured scientific lectures from renowned microbiologists representing various esteemed public universities in Bangladesh.



- ✓ 85 participants attended the workshop, from microbiology and biotechnology graduate programs. The seminar fostered genome analysis expertise among participants for pandemic preparedness.

YA activities across the world

Iyiola Oladunjoye – YA to Nigeria

Bachelors of Science in Microbiology, University of Ilorin

MSc Student, Erasmus Mundus, Leading International Vaccinology Education



Microbial Sciences Lecture at Department of Microbiology, University of Ilorin

- ✓ The ASM Young Ambassador to Nigeria, Iyiola Oladunjoye, delivered a public lecture at the University of Ilorin on career advancement in microbiology and related fields.
- ✓ During the lecture, Oladunjoye emphasized key steps for young professionals in microbiology, such as attending conferences, pursuing research projects, seeking leadership roles, and building a strong digital presence.
- ✓ The event was attended by esteemed professors and lecturers, receiving positive feedback and support.
- ✓ Oladunjoye's lecture aimed to inspire students and young professionals in the field of microbiology to take proactive steps towards their career success.
- ✓ The lecture also highlighted the importance of academic writing training for young professionals in microbiology and scientific fields.
- ✓ Oladunjoye emphasized the significance of honing writing skills to effectively communicate research findings, publish scientific papers, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field.
- ✓ The event provided a valuable opportunity for students and young professionals to connect with esteemed professors and lecturers, fostering mentorship and guidance in their academic and scientific pursuits.
- ✓ This activity led to the registration and subsequent establishment of Nigerian Association of Microbiology Students, University of Ilorin, as an ASM Student Chapter, making them the 3rd ASM Student Chapter in Nigeria.



YA activities across the world

Daniela Lucía Mendoza Millán – YA to Venezuela

Doctor of Medicine, Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Assistant Professor of the Microbiology Department, Universidad Central de Venezuela; Medical Director of the Biomedical Research and Therapeutic Vaccines Institute (VACTER), Caracas, Venezuela.



Tools On Microbiology Scientific Research Workshop

- ✓ Collaboration with Microbiology and Research Departments at Universidad Central de Venezuela led to a workshop for Health Faculty undergraduates.
- ✓ The workshop, moderated by the Young Ambassador, covered ASM memberships, and benefits.
- ✓ Ten prominent national researchers gave presentations on research planning, networking, communication, and publishing. Practical sessions included hypothetical research planification and networking exercises.
- ✓ Students presented their ideas, and two received awards for best presentations, while all participants received participation certificates. The event fostered knowledge sharing, scientific investigation, and networking among over 200 undergraduate students and available research mentors.
- ✓ The workshop provided valuable hands-on training in the use of microbiology research tools, empowering Health Faculty undergraduates to conduct effective scientific investigations.
- ✓ Through the introduction of the first national Student Chapter, the workshop encouraged students to actively engage in the field of microbiology and fostered a sense of community among aspiring young researchers.



YA activities across the world

Ousman Bajinka – YA to Gambia

Doctorate in Medical Microbiology MSc in Medical Microbiology
Postdoctoral Researcher at Vanderbilt University



Infection Management and Control and Basic Laboratory and Research Skills Training

- ✓ The training program was organized by the American Society for Microbiology Young Ambassador (ASM-YA) in collaboration with the Gambian Society of Microbiology (GaSoM).
- ✓ The event began with an introduction of ASM to 50 participants, including a live presentation on Facebook by the ASM-YA to Gambia, Dr. Ousman Bajinka. Following this, former ASM-YA to Gambia, Mrs. Saffiatou Darboe, briefed the attendees about GaSoM.



- ✓ The interactive session included discussions on Infection Management and Control by Dr. Bajinka and a presentation on basic laboratory skills and basic research skills by Mrs. Saffiatou Darboe.

Mfonkou Toumansie Jacques Delors – YA to Cameroon

Ph.D. candidate in Medical Microbiology, University of Yaounde 1
MSc in Medical Microbiology
Public Health Microbiologist at the Public Health Emergency Operations Coordination Center, Ministry of Public Health



One Health: Advancing Global Health & Sustainability Seminar

- ✓ The conference centered on the "one health" concept in Microbiology, a topic of significant importance in the field of health and medicine.
- ✓ It commenced with an opening address by Prof. Jean Claude Tchouankeu, followed by other distinguished speakers like Prof. Jean-Justin Essia Ngang and Prof. Judith Torimiro.
- ✓ The event was attended by about 100 guests
- ✓ A practical training session on the use of the bibliographic reference software ZOTERO was conducted, proving valuable to many Master and PhD students in attendance.
- ✓ The event was well-received by the students from various departments and faculties at University of Yaounde 1 UY1, showcasing the interest and engagement of the academic community.



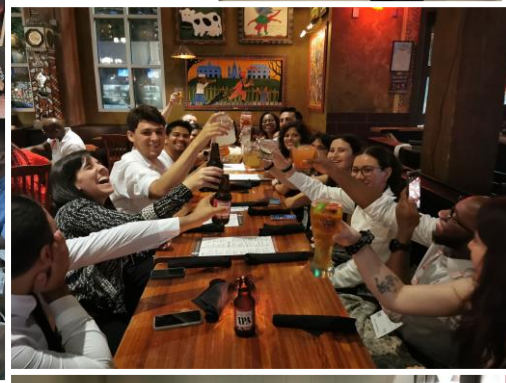
Microbe 2023 – Houston, Texas.



From 15th to 19th June 2023, the American Society for Microbiology conference Microbe 2023 occurred in Houston, Texas. The conference welcomed 5000+ attendees who came from around the world to make it a huge success!



A great scientific and social opportunity for the Young Leaders Circle members, the international young ambassadors, the US young ambassadors and country ambassadors to meet and gather.



We look forward to seeing you for ASM Microbe 2024, June 13-17 in Atlanta !

Highlights of YLC-facilitated in-depth symposia at Microbe 2023

Evaluation of carbapenem and ceftazidime/avibactam resistance in *Enterobacterales* during the Covid-19 pandemic

- ❖ Daniela Cejas, a member of the Young Leader Circle from Argentina, shed light on the progression of antibiotic resistance within Enterobacterales amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Prior to the pandemic, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was acknowledged as a severe global crisis, projected to culminate in 10 million annual deaths by 2050. This projection was profoundly affected by the excessive and inappropriate use of antimicrobials during the pandemic.
- ❖ Delving into the subject, Daniela meticulously explored the landscape of carbapenem and ceftazidime avibactam resistance among Enterobacterales in Argentina over the past 4 years.
- ❖ She underscored the pandemic's catastrophic impact on AMR, hastening the surge in resistance.
- ❖ In conclusion, Daniela heightened awareness about judicious antibiotic usage, advocating for responsible antibiotic stewardship.



Daniela Cejas
Young Leaders Circle Member

Being a Microbiologist in the One-Health Era: Global perspectives, sharing experiences, and gaps to be overcome

- ❖ Fatima Aziz, Young Leaders Circle member (Pakistan) gave a Global Overview of Practices and Education in the One Health Era In a joint session between the ASM Young Leaders Circle (YLC) and the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) from the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID).
- ❖ She explained the One Health concept and its importance, emphasizing the importance of an overarching approach to disease management and surveillance that includes the environment, humans, and animals.
- ❖ Gaps and challenges to the implementation of the One Health concepts in Low Middle Income countries were highlighted.
- ❖ Lara Payne, a representative of ESCMID TAE, provided a European viewpoint on One Health during her presentation titled "One Health: Microbiology Learning Points from Europe."
- ❖ The symposium emphasized the global burden of infectious diseases and underscored the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance
- ❖ The pronounced risks climate change poses to global health and food security were emphasized. A call to action was made, urging us to foster innovation, safeguard the environment, and unite our endeavors to promote individual, animal, and planetary health.



Fatima Aziz
Young Leaders Circle Member

Highlights of YLC-facilitated in-depth symposia at Microbe 2023

“Striking Gold- How to get funded as an Early –Career Scientist ”

- ❖ Crafting a well-structured grant proposal, designed to tackle pertinent scientific questions, is pivotal for securing research funding. Francis Muchaamba, YA to Switzerland and Young Leader Circle Chair, highlighted key strategies for formulating compelling and successful scientific grant proposals.
- ❖ He underscored the significance of cultivating a unique, novel, and innovative idea that bridges a gap or has potential significant societal impact. Understanding the nuanced funding landscape was stressed, with the imperative of tailoring proposal content with the objectives of funding entities.
- ❖ In crafting the proposal, a strong rationale and background is mandated, with the inclusion of preliminary data, important for elucidating the viability of the research idea and plan. The power of collaboration was emphasized as a potent tool to bridge skill gaps amongst applicants.
- ❖ Another essential point that arose was self-assessment through SWOT analysis. Highlighting your strengths (unique selling points), addressing any potential weakness, mitigating vulnerabilities, and harnessing opportunities for personal and societal progress, are all pivotal to proposal acceptance.
- ❖ Francis concluded with “Rejection is not failure but an opportunity to learn and must be considered as a potential stepping stone to success”.



Francis Muchaamba

YLC Chair 2023-2024

Collaboration with the ESCMID



The YLC collaboration with the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and with the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) is continuing to grow stronger.



This collaboration includes (but is not limited to) :

- Participation of new YLC chair at the 33rd ECCMID 2023 (Copenhagen, Denmark) and at the TAE Day
- The YLC is invited to the 34th ECCMID from 27-30 April 2024 Barcelona, Spain
- ESCMID TAE representatives participated and presented at Microbe 2023
- Submission of joint sessions to ECCMID 2024
- Submission of joint sessions to Microbe 2024
- Working together towards Sustainability
- YLC representatives Co-organised and Facilitated at the 1st TAE Leadership Academy Course (28-30 October 2022, Belgrade, Serbia)



- This capacity-building workshop was designed to help and support individuals as they develop a range of personal and professional skills which will contribute to their effectiveness as future leaders in Microbiology
- For more information visit: <https://www.escmid.org>



The Microbial Times

Articles about our microbial world

YLC is excited to feature a new ASM sponsored and ASM Young Ambassador managed microbiology blog, the Microbial Times! This new blog publishes everything related to microbiology and its content is prepared by early career scientists. You can find posts about recently published articles, microbiology news, professional development, and personal experiences in microbiology aimed for a general, technical audience.

We compiled some information about the blog and hope you enjoy reading it!

Where does the name Microbial Times come from?

The name for this blog is a play on The Times / The New York Times. But when you think about it, our world is full of microbes. They are the most abundant and diverse life forms. We therefore live in a microbial world (not material, sorry Madonna), and these are the microbial times.

What is the mission of the Microbial Times?

This site aims to elevate the research and voices of early career microbiologists to the general public. This site is also intended to build community among ASM.

Who can contribute?

Any early career microbiologist who is also an ASM member. Not an ASM? Click [here](#) for details and how to join! If you are interested in writing for us, visit the "How to Contribute" page here.

Recent articles.

Source: the Microbial Times blog



Click [here](#) to check out the Microbial Times!

Yaprak Ozakman

YLC Vice Chair (Chair Elect), Research Scholar at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

I wanna ask YA... (Q&A for YA)

To all of our ASM Young Ambassadors,

Have you encountered problems with running a workshop?

Are you unsure about how to talk to your colleagues to invite them? A bit scared of talking to the professor about being involved with an ASM event?

Let us help you! We have probably been in a similar situation as you and may be able to give you some tips and suggestions.

And if we don't know the answer, we'll try to find it for you!

We also would like to hear from you any feedback about this newsletter!

Please send all your questions and comments to:

asm.ylcircle@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED!

Young Ambassador Website

<https://asmyoungambassadors.wordpress.com/>

Ambassador LinkedIn Group

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13832986/>



*Young Leaders Circle Twitter**

[@young_asm](https://twitter.com/young_asm)



Young Leaders Circle e-mail

asm.ylcircle@gmail.com

**Want to have your Ambassador activity featured in a tweet?*

Send us an email!

Meet your YLC Team (July 2023 – July 2024)



Francis Muchaamba | YLC Chair Elect | Switzerland | francis.muchaamba@uzh.ch

- Awarded Developing Scientist Award at FoodMicro 2022
- Appointed to the Early Career Commission of the Swiss Society for Microbiology



Yaprak Ozakman | YLC Vice Chair Elect | New York, US | ozakmany@mskcc.org

- Research Scholar at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- Appointed as the Review Editor of Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology



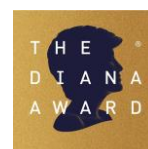
Matthew Tuttle | Former YLC Chair | Ohio, US | mtuttle4@vols.utk.edu

- Research Scientist, Biological and Nanoscale Technologies Division, UES Inc.
- Synthetic Biology and Biomaterials Researcher at the Air Force Research Laboratory



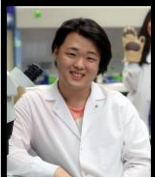
Iyiola Oladunjoye | Young Ambassador to Nigeria | iyiolaoladunjoye@gmail.com

- Erasmus Master Student, Leading International Vaccinology Education
- Received the Diana Award, a prestigious accolade a young person aged 9-25 years can receive for their social action or humanitarian work



Fatima Aziz | Former Young Ambassador | Pakistan | fatimaziz110@gmail.com

- Assistant Manager (Research) Aga Khan University
- Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Fellow
- International Society for Infectious Diseases Emerging Leaders Chair



Alex Kang | Student Chapter Representative | Texas, US | dk30@rice.edu

- Ph.D Candidate at Rice University
- American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellow, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Student Trainee



Daniela Cejas | Former Young Ambassador | Argentina | danielacejas@ffyb.uba.ar

- Ph.D. CONICET assistant researcher & microbiology teacher at University of Buenos Aires.
- Appointed to Antimicrobial Committee of Argentine Microbiology Association.



New Members



Adronisha Frazier | Young Ambassador to Louisiana | adronisha2006@yahoo.com

- Doctoral candidate at Louisiana State University and Natural Sciences Department Chair and assistant professor of biology at Northshore Technical Community College in Louisiana

"I enjoy spending time with my family. I love teaching my daughter about diverse cultures through traveling. I love designing, sewing, and creating on my free time. »



Nikolai Bayro | Young Ambassador to Mexico | bayrojablonskinikolaiemmanuel@gmail.com

- 6th year medical student currently completing his social service at the Hospital Civil de Guadalajara, Juan I Menchaca, in the Internal Medicine Division.

"I use most of my free time to watch movies, or investigate more about the history of cinema. I also love hiking, especially when it involves carrying everything and camping in the woods." »



Mark Adu Gyamfi | President UENR Chapter, Sunyani-Ghana | Markkwabenaadugyamfi@gmail.com

- BSc biological scientist (3rd year undergraduate student)

"I am a dedicated and enthusiastic scientist and I use my free time to research higher opportunities and internships, job roles, and create connections. »



Daniela Mendoza | YA to Venezuela | daniela.lm.millan@gmail.com

- Medical doctor, professor assistant of Microbiology ("Dr. Luis Razetti" School of Medicine, Central University of Venezuela), and medical director of VACTER

"In my free time I like to volunteer in mobile medical clinics for indigenous communities, and cooking for family and friends. »

What is happening in ASM?

- **ASM Clinical Virology Symposium**
September 9-12 | West Palm Beach, Florida



- **ASM/ESCMID Joint Conference on Drug Development to Meet the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance**
September 19-22 | Boston, Massachusetts



- **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS)**
November 15-18 | Phoenix, Arizona



- **ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE)**
November 17-19 | Phoenix, Arizona



- **ASM Microbe 2024**
June 13-17, 2024 | Atlanta, Georgia



➤ Other ASM events: <https://asm.org/Events>

A message from Francis Muchaamba, PhD

Elected Chair for the ASM Young Leaders Circle 2023-2024

ASM Young Ambassador to Switzerland
Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene | University of Zurich



It's a great honour to be elected as the next YLC Chair! I will uphold and build upon the strong leadership of my predecessors.

As we move forward, let us not forget that true leadership is not about an individual, but about all of us working in harmony to achieve our shared vision. So, I call upon each of you to contribute your best, bring your innovative ideas, and be open to embracing change.

Let's rise to the occasion and make this year one of the most memorable and successful. Thank you for your trust, dedication, and unwavering commitment. Together, greatness awaits us.

Want to learn more? Check out our publication in the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education!

Special Series: Scientific Literacy



JMBE Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education



Promoting Science Literacy and Awareness across the Globe: the Role of Scientists as Science Ambassadors

©Matthew J. Tuttle,^{a*} Daniela Cejas,^b ©Donghoon Kang,^c Francis Muchaamba,^d Britta Goncarovs,^e Yaprak Ozakman,^f and Fatima Aziz,^g Arnaud Orelle,^h on behalf of the Young Leaders Circle of the American Society for Microbiology

^aDepartment of Microbiology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

^bIbaViM Institute, Facultad de Farmacia y Bioquímica, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

^cDepartment of BioSciences, Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA

^dInstitute for Food Safety and Hygiene, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

^eSynlogix Therapeutics, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

^fImmunology Program, Sloan Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA

^gDepartment of Paediatrics and Child Health, The Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan

^hScientific Direction, Lab'Science, Nazelles-Négron, France

This publication was part of a special series in the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education focused on Scientific Literacy. In this perspective article, we discussed the promotion of science literacy using an ambassador approach, whereby two-way dialogue is established between scientists and public audiences. We highlighted ASM programs, particular the Young and Country Ambassador Programs, as well as programs of other scientific societies. The article discusses the benefits and challenges of an ambassador approach, provide suggestions for improvement, and ultimately advocates for ambassador programs.

We encourage you to check out the full article at the website below!

<https://doi.org/10.1128/jmbe.00041-23>

Inspirational quote

“Microbiology is the key for all biology. Microbiologists need to step up and provide leadership.”

Margaret McFall-Ngai