In this second CMMC Newsletter you will find an update of our activities and available materials. Please let us know what else we can do (send to pmcnult@asmusa.org).

**Background and Membership**

The CMMC is part of the Professional Practice Committee and was organized in 2012.

**Members:**
- **Kevin Alby**, University of Pennsylvania Health System
- **David Craft**, Hershey Medical Center
- **Abby Cunanan**, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital
- **Scott Cunningham**, Mayo Clinic
- **Janet Hindler**, UCLA Health System (Chairperson)
- **Kristie Johnson**, University of Maryland Health System
- **Marie Pezzlo**, Irvine, CA
- **Irving Nachamkin**, University of Pennsylvania Health System
- **Peggy McNult**, ASM

**Goal:**

To Mentor:

- Practicing Clinical Microbiologists (CM)
- Future Clinical Microbiologists (expose students to CM as a career option)
CMMC has created a Bench-Level Clinical Microbiologist Career Development Guide!

The Guide is designed to provide assistance to young clinical microbiology laboratory technologists as they navigate potential career paths within the clinical laboratory. Careers in technical and supervisory management, near-bench research, and advanced education/certification are covered in great detail with helpful resource links included.

Recap of CMMC’s Participation at ASM General Meeting 2015

2015 New Microbiology Technologist Professional Development Grant Program

A summary of the 2015 New Microbiology Technologist Professional Development Grant program including comments from some of the awardees was featured in the September Issue of Microbe.

CMMC members host workshop “Clinical Communication: How to Write and Present Microbiology for a Clinical Audience”

The workshop conducted by CMMC members focused on abstract and manuscript writing as well as poster and PowerPoint presentation skills. Over a dozen participants received brief lectures hitting the high points and then were able to spend time in a small group getting specific hands on experience for topics of their choice. Feedback from the workshop was very positive, so stay tuned for future content from the CMMC on this topic!

ASM General Meeting Workshop “Microbiology Career Choices: What’s Available and How to Succeed.”

Several CMMC members contributed to this career workshop. Nearly 500 domestic and international meeting participants at various stages in their education ranging from undergraduate to post-doctoral fellow attended the program. Most were on a doctoral (MD and/or PhD) level educational track. Among the 30 or so tables dedicated to various disciplines in microbiology, were seven labeled as “Hospital, Clinic or Healthcare Facility” at which a clinical microbiology mentor was stationed. Participants interested in clinical microbiology could elect to join up to 9 other participants and the mentor for a 40 minute session (there were 4-40 minute sessions during the workshop). Mentors were asked to facilitate through introductions, description of a typical day in their workplace, share their journey, and discuss entry points, successes, opportunities and benefits of a career in clinical microbiology. Most participants had some knowledge of clinical microbiology and were eager to hear the mentor’s story and to discuss training and certification opportunities. There were many questions on how to prepare and compete for the limited number of CPEP program positions. Participants were provided the “Focus on Careers in Clinical Microbiology” handout prepared by the CMMC and given information on how to contact their workshop “mentor” in the future.
A CMMC member reflects on his mentoring during ASM General Meeting 2015

“I had the pleasure of mentoring two New Microbiology Technologist Professional Development Grant awardees, Megan Waller from Inova Health/Johns Hopkins Health System in Maryland and John Ford from United Regional Laboratory in Texas. This was their first time attending a national ASM meeting and from the moment we met, I could sense their excitement and anticipation about the meeting. It reminded me of how I felt attending my first ASM meeting over 30 years ago (I'm getting too old to remember where the first one was!). I met with Megan and John over breakfast where we discussed general logistics about the meeting and how to best navigate the meeting without getting too overwhelmed. It was also a good time to discuss some of the clinical microbiology related activities and particularly the Division C Business meeting, which they both attended. Other discussions involved ways to get involved with national ASM as well as local ASM branch activities. Finally, I got the sense that our mentees appreciated having a senior member of the Society available to discuss any issues or answer questions during the meeting. Overall, I really enjoyed having the opportunity to serve as a mentor for Megan and John and look forward to doing the same for next year's grant awardees.”

– Dr. Irving Nachamkin, CMMC Member

Other News

• CMMC contributes to “Microbe Mentoring”

CMMC was asked to contribute an article to the “Microbe Mentoring” section of the September issue of ASM’s Microbe. Click here to view the answer to “How can I make myself more marketable for a career in Clinical Microbiology?”.

• Three New Microbiology Technologist Professional Development Grant Program awardees assigned to ASM committees!

Robert Bowden from University of Florida and Megan Waller from Inova Health Systems/Johns Hopkins Medicine were invited to participate in the Professional Practices Committee Online Education Task Force. The task force is charged with developing a strategy for ASM’s clinical microbiology online education.

Abby Cunanan from Sentara Norfolk General Hospital was invited to join CMMC to assist the committee in better understanding the concerns of early career clinical microbiologists.

• Redesign of “Career” Materials on ASM Website

CMMC members are assisting ASM with consolidation of ALL “Career Information” on ASM’s website with a projected timeline for completion in late 2016.
New Microbiology Technologist Professional Development Grant Program 2016

• Up to 10 grants will be awarded to non-doctoral-level clinical microbiology technologists who:
  o have worked as clinical microbiologists for no less than 1.5 and no more than 5 years;
  o primarily work at the bench;
  o demonstrate an interest in expanding their career beyond bench work;
  o are members of ASM;
  o have never attended a national ASM General Meeting.

• Designed to inspire newer bench-level clinical microbiologists to get more engaged in our profession by attending the ASM General Meeting in Boston, June 16-20, 2016.

• Recipient will be mentored by a member of CMMC, attend scientific sessions, meet with commercial vendors, interact with other clinical microbiologists and report back to their mentor for future professional development.

• The Grant program is designed to encourage and recognize a new generation of leaders in clinical microbiology.

Stay tuned for more information on how to apply for this program (available January 2016).
Materials Available to Help You Mentor

Location: ASM Clinical Microbiology Portal

- **Case Studies** - select “View CM Case Studies”

  Eight Case Studies in PowerPoint format that cover a variety of different types of infections are now available. Each Case starts with a patient’s symptoms, proceeds through laboratory testing and ends with an explanation of the final diagnosis. These exercises can be used for teaching students at any level and can be edited to fit the instructor’s needs. Two Case Studies will be added quarterly. The Case Studies have been prepared by CPEP fellows and others …… anyone interested in submitting a “Case”, please contact CMMC!

- **Video (5 min)** – “Life in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory”; select “See and Hear What a CM Does”

- **PPT presentation** – “Preparing Students for a Career in Clinical Microbiology”; select “Career Presentation Materials”

- **Brochure** – “Focus on Careers in Clinical Microbiology”; select “Careers in Clinical Microbiology”

- Check out the Additional Mentoring Materials under “Explore the Profession” tab of the Portal.