through his passionate determination to learn new principles in the field." He is credited with motivating the lab to work at a higher level and is known for sharing what he has learned at scientific meetings with colleagues.

Today, Guruswamy oversees three major centers' mycology/mycobacteriology testing services. He is known for his zest to improve the lab and his quest to always learn more to enhance patient care. His work at the bench is exemplary, and his enthusiasm is noted by all who encounter him.

Raymond W. Sarber Award


Hull

Recognizing students for research excellence and potential, the Raymond W. Sarber Awards are presented in honor of Raymond W. Sarber and his contributions to the growth and advancement of ASM. **Travis D. Hull**, an undergraduate student at Juniata College in Huntington, Pa., and **Pratik Shah**, a graduate student in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, have been chosen as the 2009 laureates.

Hull has conducted independent research on microbial development in the microbial genetics laboratory since 2006. His research has focused on the study of prokaryotic development, using transposon mutagenesis as a genetic tool in the model organism *Streptomyces coelicolor*. He has characterized several interesting cell division and developmental mutations.

He spent the summer of 2008 in the laboratory of Gregory Stahl at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he researched immunology and physiology using eukaryotic mouse models. He received an American Heart Association Undergraduate Summer Fellowship which provided extramural funding for his summer project.

Hull is very active on campus, where he is a teaching assistant in the microscopy laboratory. He is also a tutor, a peer group leader, Treasurer of the ASM Juniata College's Student Chapter, and President of the Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society. He has already earned numerous awards, including the Juniata College's Presidential Scholarship, a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the Dr. Homer C. and Ethel F. Will Endowed Scholarship in Biology, the Clarence R. Pentz Endowed Pre-Medical Scholarship, and two ASM meeting travel grants.

He has recently completed his secondary applications for M.D./Ph.D. programs where he would like to pursue a career in infectious disease research and the medical profession. His career goals are supported by his nominator, Jennifer A. Bennett, William J. von Liebig Scholar in Biology, Juniata College. Bennett remarks, "His motivation, academic achievements, and early research success make him especially suited for a career as a physician scientist in the field of infectious disease research."


Shah

Pratik P. Shah received his B.S. and M.S., both with honors, from the University of Mumbai, India, and began his Ph.D. training in 2004 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Shah's thesis research is the role of polyamines and polyamine biosynthesis and transport systems in the human pathogen *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. His work has partially elucidated the role of these transport systems in *S. pneumoniae* pathogenesis. It has shown that polyamines are important for bacterial response to temperature shock, oxidative stress, choline limitation, and in vivo growth. His research reaffirms the importance of basic metabolic pathways in bacterial survival and virulence in various host-imposed microenvironments. Currently, Shah's research involves elucidating the role played by the polyamine biosynthesis genes/proteins as well as the *pot* operon in the pathophysiology of pneumococcal infections. He has already published six papers, for four of which he is the first author, and two additional papers are under review.

Shah was selected to participate in the ASM Kadner Institute, which helps students choose and succeed in a microbiology career. He was also selected to participate in the NIH National Graduate Student Research Festival, which exposed him to cutting-edge research and potential future collaborations.

His postdoctoral training interests are to explain the contributions of genes and proteins of human bacterial pathogens involved in adaptation of the host environment and the true virulence factors which are expressed in vivo. Shah would like to obtain a faculty position in an

academic setting and focus on identifying candidate genes/proteins which represent novel therapeutic targets for rational drug design and potential vaccine antigens that would dramatically improve public health.

Shah was nominated by Richard O'Callaghan, Chair, Microbiology Department, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

TREK Diagnostic ABMM/ABMLI Professional Recognition Award


Snyder

James W. Snyder, Ph.D., D(ABMM), Director, University of Louisville Hospital, and Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology, Division of Laboratory Medicine, University of Louisville School of Medicine, is honored with the TREK Diagnostic ABMM/ABMLI Professional Recognition Award. This award recognizes a Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) or the American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology (ABMLI) for outstanding contributions to the professional recognition of clinical microbiologists and/or immunologists.

Snyder is honored for his efforts in bioterrorism preparedness, which began several years before the 2001 anthrax attacks. He authored the Cumitech publication *Laboratory Safety, Management, and Diagnosis of Biological Agents Associated with Bioterrorism* in 2000, and the American Academy of Microbiology colloquium report, "Bioterrorism Threats to our Future" (http://www.asm.org/Academy/index.asp?bid=2159). These publications helped form the basis for the training of frontline clinical microbiologists to be prepared for detection and identification of possible bioterrorism agents.

Snyder is a charter member of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) that was created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to prepare the laboratory for bioterrorism events. The foundation of the LRN is comprised of the sentinel laboratories that perform diagnostic microbiological testing. Snyder represented clinical microbiologists and provided essential input to the LRN leadership on the laboratories' capabilities and needs. He has served on the ASM's Working Group on Sentinel Protocols, which were adopted by ASM and are the standards for the other professional groups in the LRN. The 2001 anthrax attack was diagnosed by a clinical laboratory using the techniques outlined in the *Bacillus anthracis* Sentinel Protocol.

Snyder received his Ph.D. from the University of Dayton and is certified by the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM). He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Snyder was nominated by Vickie Baselski, Ph.D., D(ABMM), Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, and an American Academy of Microbiology Fellow.

Committee on K-12 Education Drafts New Strategic Plan

The ASM Education Board Committee on K-12 Education held a strategic planning retreat on 26–28 September 2008 at ASM headquarters in Washington, D.C. In attendance were Committee chair Mark Gallo; Committee members Priya DasSarma, Steve Wagner, Dave Westenberg, and Dorothy Zinsmeister; and Education Board chair Neil Baker. During the three-day retreat, participants reaffirmed the Committee's mission and strategic goals and updated its strategic plan for 2008–2010.

Gallo began the retreat with a discussion of the goals of the Committee. He explained that the mission of the Committee is to "promote access, excellence, professional development, and advancement in K-12 microbiology education; promote the community of microbiologists and educators in K-12 education; and assume a leadership role in the teaching and dissemination of microbiology at the K-12 level."

By using the data gathered from a review of current programs and challenges (see below) and thinking strategically about their role as the Society's leadership group for K-12 education, the Committee members created a list of projects to develop and deliver in the next