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## 73rd CSM – SCM Annual General Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023**  
**Time: 15:15 –16:45 Atlantic Time**

**Room: Scotia Bank, McCain Building**  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

### Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88539570970?pwd=VHFSVnUvdW5tUzRHNEVEYTR5UXpQZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 3957 0970

Passcode: 213323

1. Welcome – Pascale Beauregard
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of minutes from 72nd Annual General Meeting, June 29, 2022, University of Guelph
4. Matters arising from 72nd Annual General Meeting minutes
5. President's Report – Pascale Beauregard
  - a) Positions on the Council needs to be filled
    - i. Meetings, Conference and Workshops
    - ii. Education Committee
    - iii. EDI Subcommittee
6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report – Kari Dunfield
  - a) EDI Subcommittee
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report – Jonathan Van Hamme
8. Past President Report – Alex Ensminger
  - a) CSM Website
9. Secretary Treasurer's report – Mazen Saleh
  - a. 2022 - 2023 Budget  
**Motion** to approve 2022 – 2023 presented budget
  - b. 2022 Audited Financial Statement  
**Motion** to accept the 2022 Audited Financial Statement prepared by Ms. Andrea Poole

c. Approval of current and future signing officers

**Current Signing Officers:** Wafaa Antonious, Pascale Beauregard, Kari Dunfield, Jon Van Hamme, Denice Bay, Sarah Piché Choquette, Mazen Saleh (*Please note:* Mazen needs to stay as a signing officer until all the bank paper work is finished for Hany, then Hany can take over as a signing officer).

**Future Signing Officers:** Hany Anany (Secretary/ Treasurer) and David Heinrichs (2<sup>nd</sup> VP).

**Motion** to approve current and future signing officers

d. Membership Report

e. CSM Website Report

10. Meetings' Secretary's Report – Denice Bay
11. Post Doctoral representative's report – Sarah Piché-Choquette
12. Student representative's report – Camille Ou
13. New Members of the Executive – Pascale Beauregard
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Dr. David Heinrichs
  - b. Secretary / Treasurer: Dr. Hany Anany
14. New Members of the Council - Pascale Beauregard
15. Meetings Conferences and Workshops
  - a. Report on 2022 conference – Cezar Khursigara and Kari Dunfield
  - b. Report on 2023 conference – Nik Thomas, Dalhousie University
  - c. Report on 2024 Conference – Martin McGavin
  - d. Future Conferences & Workshops – Tanaka Takuji
16. Reports from the sections
  - a. *Applied Environmental Microbiology* – Eric Bottos & Jennifer Ronholm
  - b. *Infections and Immunity* – Joel Weadge & Jean-Philippe Côté
  - c. *Molecular Genetics and Cellular Microbiology* – Jenny Lee Thomassin & John Whitney
17. Reports from committees
  - a. Education and Careers Committee – Dawn Bignell, Edel Lopez and Anni Moore
  - b. CMUE – Nicole Sukdeo & Maria Davis
  - c. Awards Report
    - i. *CSM Murray Award for Career Achievement* – Trevor Moraes
    - ii. *Fisher Scientific Award* – Alex Ensminger
    - iii. *Armand Frappier Award* – Cara Haney
18. Reports from representatives to outside organizations
  - a. *Canadian Journal of Microbiology* – Chris Yost & Kari Dunfield
  - b. *International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses* – Andrew Lang
  - c. *Biological & Chemical Defence Review* – Jon van Hamme
  - d. *ASM International Membership Comm. & Ambassador to Canada* - Christine Szymanski
  - e. *ASM Young Ambassador to Canada* – Landon Getz
  - f. *Partnership Group in Science and Engineering* – PAGSE – Thienny Mah
  - g. *Phage* – Alex Hynes
  - h. *CanFunNet*



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## **72nd CSM – SCM Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

**Time: 11:00 –12:30 PM ET**

**Rozanski 104**

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84342939756?pwd=S3BydVlyTkY1THo2aHhZdWNQU3dKUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 843 4293 9756

**Passcode:** 391171

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Welcome – Alex Ensminger**

Alex thanked everyone for participating in the AGM as it is part of being engaged in the society's activities. He then thanked the attendees for participating if this was their first time to attend the CSM Annual General Meeting (AGM) or their fortieth because they are an emeritus member. He explained that a large portion of the meeting will be Mazen's reports' presentation as the CSM Secretary / Treasurer. He explained that the version presented on the screen was slightly revised from the version that was sent earlier by email to the membership.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Sarah Piché-Choquette made a motion to approve the agenda, Denice Bay seconded the motion, all in favour, agenda approved.

#### **3. Approval of minutes from 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, June 17, 2021 via Zoom**

**Motion:** Peter Krell made a motion to approve the minutes from 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, Janet Hill seconded the motion, all in favour, minutes approved.

#### **4. Matters arising from 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting minutes**

Alex stated that there were no matters arising from the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting minutes.

#### **5. President's Report – Alex Ensminger**

##### **a. CSM Website – upgrade**

Alex: as the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, I volunteered to look after redesigning the website. We are close to finishing the work on the website. Some of the items related to the new website are the membership motions we will be voting on at this meeting. The second reason that the website is not ready yet is that we need high resolution images from past conferences, society's activities or they can be images to do with your research, please reach out to me or Wafaa if you have photos to share for the new website. The new website will be great as it will modernize the membership and the website.

I would like to thank the Executive for their support to me, it has been a very tough year for me. The President report is attached in the package, I just want to highlight one thing we have done last year. We tried to figure out how to support our members as they grow and have their own initiatives. CSM is a broad society but there

is a role it can play to support more focused initiatives. We reached an agreement with Fourwaves to use their platform as the conference website, and this will also allow us to share the licence with other events our members organize within the society for example PHAGE Canada. I would like to thank Chris Yost for spear heading this initiative.

**b. Motion to add a 5-year membership option to the current membership fees.**

Alex: this motion came from the discussion on membership engagement. We want to make it easier for our members to maintain their membership. We also want to make the membership numbers more stable and not only join the society to attend the conference. In some institutions the reimbursement for membership is not easy. Some members who reached out to us felt that if there was a five years renewal, they could run it through their grants. Any questions about that motion? It might be a good incentive to encourage membership and new ones to join the society. Janet said the two years membership was discounted. She asked will the five years be discounted along the same lines as the two years membership? Alex responded that most probably it will be calculated with the same rates as the two years membership. Adina Bujold: part of the cost for the supervisor is paying the trainees membership. She asked if the five years membership would apply to the students. Alex: there is value in having the five years for the students. Maybe they can have the discussion of the value of being members for five years and get their supervisor to pay for them.

**Motion:** Pascale made a motion to add five years membership to the CSM membership option, Michael Hynes seconded the motion, all in favour, motion approved.

**Notes to the minutes:** there was one vote of approval that was submitted online.

**c. Motion to add lifetime membership to retired members in the amount of \$250.**

Alex: In the version that was emailed, that motion stated “lifetime to emeritus members” we changed the wording to “retired members” as the word “emeritus” means differently in different institutions. Same ideas of having the membership engaged, we are offering a lifetime membership to retired members in the amount of \$250.

Peter Krell: according to my calculations, it is the cost of seven cases of beer. Peter asked where this calculation came from. Wafaa explained it was \$25 times 10 years. Ivan Oresnik stated that CSM had provisions for life time membership. Alex stated that was provided to honorary members which is given after a vote. We wanted to allow our retired members to stay engaged with the society and have the convenience of one time payment. Ivan: I have no problem with the amount, if I recall the emeritus membership is undersubscribed. Wafaa explained that this came because of a request from one of the emeritus members that they do not want to keep renewing every year and were looking for a one time payment. Alex stated that other societies offer the life time membership and they are not limited to emeritus members only. Wafaa asked if the amount should be removed from the motion and to be determined later. Michael Hynes noted that the CSM membership form on the web has 300 for life time membership. “Life time Emeritus membership: (10 years of membership fees) \$300 provide a life time membership status for Emeritus members. Please contact CSM Secretariat Mrs. Wafaa Antonious (info@csm-scm.org) to arrange for payment and application.” It was agreed to withdraw the motion and revisit the price accordingly.

**6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report – Pascale Beauregard**

Pascale stated that they can refer to her written report. She wanted to thank Alex for his leadership and volunteering to overlook the new website as it is not an easy task. She also thanked the longest serving LOC for their work and allowing us to be here today.

**7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report – Kari Dunfield**

Kari: I refer you to the report and I look forward to working with Pascale and the rest of the Executive Committee.

**8. Past President Report – Ayush Kumar**

## **a. EDI Report**

Ayush: my report is in the package. As I am stepping out of the Executive Committee when I started 3 years ago as a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Society of Microbiology, I did not have an idea that a microbe will bring the world to its knees for several years. I want to acknowledge and thank Janet as she was the CSM President when Covid hit. He thanked members of the executive (Alex, Pascale, Mazen and the LOC) and Janet Hill for her support when he was President. CSM is in a good financial position. He encouraged the attendees to look for colleagues from their institution who are not members of the CSM and encourage them to join the society. Ayush: make sure you be involved in the society, make sure you hold the society accountable, when you think there is something that is not done properly.

Alex encouraged everyone to read Ayush's report. Alex: EDI is one of Ayush's legacies. After Kari became 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, we gave her the position to be chairing the EDI subcommittee. We made it part of the EDI Committee terms that it be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and that both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs be members of the committee to ensure continuity in leadership.

## **9. Secretary Treasurer's report – Mazen Saleh**

### **a. 2021 - 2022 Budget**

Mazen presented the 2021 and 2022 budget, he explained that the column highlighted in Blue was the 2021 numbers that were presented through the auditor's report. The total revenue for 2021 was \$49,816.81. The yellow highlighted column is the 2022 numbers. The total revenue estimated for 2022 is \$66,168. The 2022 column includes revenue and expenses we have paid and received but also estimates to the end of the year. So, these numbers are in flux. He stated there was an explanation at the bottom of the budget regarding Note 1 related to ISME18. The total 2021 conference revenue is \$21,053.31. Expenditure is higher in 2022 because we are redesigning the website. The ones that have N and followed by a number are notes to explain some of the numbers. Total expenses for 2021 is \$60,908.96, total estimated expenses for 2022 is \$341,263.51. At 2021 we had a profit of \$9,961.220. For 2022 we are predicting a deficit of \$14,270.51. That is because the extra cost of redesigning the website, increased cost post Covid-19 and extra costs of precautions taken by the conference related to Covid-19. If we compare previous budgets, we always estimate deficits and most of the time end up with a profit. For 2021 it was estimated that there will be a deficit of \$10,144.29 but we ended up with a profit of \$9,961.20. So, we are expecting there will be a profit in 2022. Net Conference profits for 2021 was \$13,591.86 and the estimated 2022 Conference profit is \$3,969.74. Mazen asked if there were any questions, none was asked. The take home message is that CSM is doing well financially. Alex encouraged the attendees to approach their colleagues to join and them to renew their membership.

**Motion** to approve 2021 – 2022 presented budget

Mazen moved to approve the 2021-2022 presented budget, Denice seconded the motion, all in favour in person and online, budget approved.

### **b. 2021 Audited Financial Statement**

Mazen presented the auditor's report prepared by Ms. Andrea Poole. The most important notes are highlighted in red. The most important text in the letter from the auditor was formatted in red font which states that the auditor was satisfied with the books and felt that she was provided all the needed material to conduct her audit accordingly. The auditor deducted that the books are fairly presenting the financial situation of the society. Then he went through some of the 2021 figures that were highlighted in blue. He asked the attendees to refer to the end of the audited financial statement for the details of the various notes. He then went through the Statement of Operations report, \$63,409 is the revenue in 2021 and the expenses are \$53,448 and net profit of \$9,961, the balance at the end of the year is \$237,868 which is higher than 2020 end of year balance, which means that the society is growing financially when comparing year end of 2020 and 2021. The society had net cash of \$49,045 at the end of 2021. There is \$276,710 in Short Term Investments listed in the Statement of Financial Position. He asked if there were any questions. Adina asked about Liaising and Advocacy, what kind of activities that CSM does for those. Wafaa stated that \$992 was the Constant Contact subscription fees that CSM

uses to send mass emails. She added that “Membership in other organizations” in the amount of \$1,041 was the PAGSE membership fees and then they summarized some of PAGSE’s activities.

**Motion** to accept the 2021 Audited Financial Statement prepared by Ms. Andrea Poole

Mazen made a motion to accept the 2021 Audited Financial Statement prepared by Ms. Andrea Poole, Laura Hug seconded the motion, all in favour, in person and online, motion approved.

**c. Approval of current and future signing officers**

Wafaa listed the names of the current signing officers: Alex Ensminger, Mazen Saleh, Pascale Beauregard, Kari Dunfield, Sarah Piché Choquette, Ayush Kumar and Chris Yost and Wafaa Antonious. Ayush stated that his term would end in few hours. Neither him nor Chris should be included in the motion of signing officers approval. It was requested in the future that those whose terms were ending should not be included in the signing officers motion.

**Motion** to approve current and future signing officers

Denice made a motion to approve the signing officer after removing Ayush and Chris’ names from the list, Ayush seconded the motion, all in favour, in person and online, motion approved.

**d. Membership Report**

Mazen presented the membership report. 2019 is the highest membership number (749), but the 2022 (727) is catching up with it. The numbers have increased since the report was prepared. He then presented the membership in different regions, highest memberships are from Ontario and Québec. Then he presented the membership by sections. Section affiliation changes according to what they are presenting. Mazen confirmed that we don’t need any motions for the membership.

Alex stated that in past years future signing officers were approved at the AGM. Wafaa listed future signing officers: Camille Ou, Jon Van Hamme and Denice Bay.

**Motion:** Alex made a motion to approve future CSM signing officers and remove outgoing members, Sarah Piché Choquette seconded the motion, all in favour, in person and online, motion approved.

**e. CSM Website Report**

Mazen stated that the website report was included in the package for their information and he did not need to present it.

**10. Meetings’ Secretary’s Report – Chris Yost**

Alex thanked Chris for his continued services to the CSM. Chris served on the Executive Committee and was President in 2015 and then came back to serve as Meetings Secretary. He was great with the 2021 Virtual Meeting. He also thanked Denice for stepping in and serving as a Meetings Secretary. He added that he would present the Meeting’s Secretary report as it would be difficult for Chris to present it virtually.

**Motion:** to add an extra day to CSM Future Conferences to allow for social and networking opportunities.

Alex: the idea behind this motion is to allow the participants more time to relax and network. Next year, it will be in beautiful Halifax, this will allow the LOC to plan for a free afternoon to give the participants time to go and do some site seeing. It is up to the LOC’s discretion to extend the conference by one day or plan for a free afternoon.

Alex Hynes asked if the number of days of the conference were in the Bylaws. Alex Ensminger responded that he did not think it was in the bylaws, but the motion was introduced mainly to engage the membership.

Michael Hynes: we started on a Sunday, we used to start on a Monday to take advantage of discounted Sunday airline prices, but that has not been the case for few years now. I realize that sometimes there are constraints

that dictate the conference dates, but it is very late in June this year and after St. John Baptist, which means some of our members in Quebec already started their summer holidays. He requested that future conferences take that in consideration and maybe have the conference after father's day. Alex stated that sometimes the facilities were not available because of convocation, ASM has been lately having their conference late in June. Kari: do we still want to hold the conference in June or move it to August or hold it in completely different time. Alex stated that there were lots of nos from the attendees regarding holding the conference in August. Ayush: we also need to take in consideration members who have kids in schools. Wafaa explained that the space was only available to start on Sunday.

Cezar: I agree giving the flexibility but caution the LOC that it could be a trap to add an extra day to the conference as it would complicate matters more. He requested to make it clear that the motion was mainly to give the LOC the flexibility but not force them to have the extra day.

Aleeza: in lots of conference there is the last day optional field trip to participate in social events. Kari: there were a couple of add ons (the PD meet and greet and the EDI workshop) that we need to consider and were added to the program that made the schedule really tight.

**Motion:** Alex Ensminger made the motion that future LOC consider adding an extra day to the conference to allow for social and networking opportunities, Ayush seconded the motion, all in favour, motion approved.

#### **11. Post Doctoral representative's report – Sarah Piché-Choquette**

Sarah: I apologize if the report sounded a bit pessimistic as it was prepared few weeks ago, but the PD Meet and Greet actually took place and I was involved in the student mixer planning. I want to mention that I feel privileged working with the Executive. Alex added that Sarah had been providing the translation for the society's website and messages. He thanked her for all her services.

#### **12. Student representative's report – Vacant**

Our student representative position is currently vacant and will start in the fall.

#### **13. New Members of the Executive – Alex Ensminger**

Alex thanked Chris Yost for his long services to the society, he also thanked Denice for stepping in and becoming the new Meetings Secretary, He also stated that the education committee was looking for new members to join them. He thanked Ayush for his services and leading the society through Covid time, but the EDI is his legacy. He welcomed Jon Van Hamme from Thompson Rivers University as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Camille Ou, Université de Montréal, as the Student Representative.

#### **14. New Members of the Council - Alex Ensminger**

Alex welcomed the new members of the council and thanked the outgoing members and listed them.

#### **15. Meetings Conferences and Workshops**

##### **a. Report on 2021 conference – Chris Yost**

##### **b. Report on 2022 conference – Cezar Khursigara and Kari Dunfield**

Cezar thanked everyone on the executive and the report is there for everyone to read.

##### **c. Report on 2023 Conference – Nik Thomas, Dalhousie University**

Nik: looking forward to hosting the conference. We already have a LOC, we are close to Halifax waterfront. We do not have a theme yet, but we are working on it. Halifax is not that far from Montréal and Toronto, it is an easy flight. My email address is in the report, if you have questions, comments or suggestions please share it with me. We are trying to make the Halifax Conference as inclusive as possible.

##### **d. Future Conferences & Workshops – Tanaka Takuji**



Tak: we have identified conference locations up to 2026. So, I will start looking for 2027. If you are interested in 2027, please let me know.

## **16. Reports from the sections**

**a. *Applied Environmental Microbiology* – Laura Hug & Eric Bottos**

**b. *Infections and Immunity* – Georgina Cox & Joel Weadge**

**c. *Molecular Genetics and Cellular Microbiology* – Alex Hynes & Jenny Lee Thomassin**

All three sections chairs indicated that there were no additions to their reports and asked the attendees to read them.

## **17. Reports from committees**

**a. Education and Careers Committee – Denice Bay & Dawn Bignell, Edel Lopez**

Alex stated that the Education Committee was looking for new members. He added that it was a lot of work but very rewarding. He encouraged the attendees to consider joining the Education Committee.

**b. CMUE – Maria Davis & Nicole Sukdeo**

Maria: we had just under 100 persons who participated in the FOME, and are looking for new Committee members. Alex thanked the CMUE for organizing FOME and the workshops they ran during the pandemic.

**c. Awards Report**

**iv. *CSM Murray Award for Career Achievement* – Samantha Gruenheid**

**v. *Fisher Scientific Award* – Ayush Kumar**

Ayush: encouraged the members to nominate people, and they can start as of when they go back. Alex: if you see any terms of reference that you believe needs to be changed to make the award more inclusive please bring it to the attention of any member of the CSM Executive Committee.

**iii *Armand Frappier Award* – Carole Creuzenet**

Carole encouraged the supervisors to nominate their students if they think they are worthy. Only 5 nominations were received this year.

## **18. Reports from representatives to outside organizations**

**a. *Canadian Journal of Microbiology* – Chris Yost & Kari Dunfield**

Kari: Canadian Science Publishing is the sponsor of the Murray Award. CJM has a quite wide scope, we welcome articles, the cost for CSM members is only \$1,000 for open access. If you are interested to be an editor please approach Chris and Kari.

**b. *International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses* – Andrew Lang**

**c. *Biological & Chemical Defence Review* – Jon van Hamme**

**d. *ASM International Membership Comm. & Ambassador to Canada* - Christine Szymanski**

**e. *ASM Young Ambassador to Canada* – Landon Getz**

Landon did not have anything to add.

**f. *Partnership Group in Science and Engineering* – PAGSE – Thienny Mah**

Wafaa explained that there were changes in the management of PAGSE, the person who was there for years has left, Thienny contacted them for the report but it was not provided. We normally post the PAGSE report on the CSM website and would do that when we receive it.

**Motion:** Mazen made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Ayush, all in favour, meeting adjourned.

## 5. President's Report – Pascale Beauregard

My year as a president coincided with a return to calmer waters, and an immensely popular in-person conference in Halifax. First, I would like to thank the executive committee for their involvement and support throughout these 12 months. The friendly discussions, the openness to various points of view, learning about the involvement in teaching and research of each member is definitively a hidden highlight of this position.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Mazen, who is stepping down as the Secretary/Treasurer, for his contribution in the last 3 years. The society was lucky to benefit from his keen eyes and judicious advice. Also, I would like to give a special thanks to Wafaa Antonious for her ever-continuing commitment to the Society, and for her personal concern and attention she brings to the members of the executive.

This year, with the receding waters of the pandemic storm, some damages in our Canadian scientific landscape were brought directly under the sun. As the CSM executive, we wanted to continue demonstrating our strong support to our members and making EDI at the heart of our actions; consequently, actions were taken, and new initiatives were launched.

A critical issue in the Canadian funding system is the stagnant state of graduate students' fellowship offered by NSERC, which leaves these brilliant and hard-working young persons under the level of poverty. The CSM could not stay quiet about this issue and signed the open letter sent by the movement Support Our Science to the Prime Minister. When the federal budget showed that this problem was not being addressed, I lead the executive committee in writing a letter voicing our concerns that was sent to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry François-Philippe Champagne. As I write this report, we have not received an answer to our call.

In more positive news, we have made the Annual CSM Conference more accessible to our members from the developing world. The CSM Member international outreach special rate is now offered to researchers coming from Group A and Group B countries listed in the Research4life initiative. This initiative, as well as the EDI workshop and the career development workshop, are supported this year by a grant from the Burrough Wellcome funds.

CSM continues to support students and member-organized events, in both languages. This year, financial support was provided to the 6th edition of the BISP conference (Biologie Intégrative: Symbiose & Pathogénèse), the McMaster Biology Graduate Research Day and the Microbe pour tous – un job avec les microbes initiative.

As you might have all seen already, the new CSM website was launched during the spring. This great feat is the result of the hard work from our Past President Alex Ensminger. Thank you so much for spearheading this! While there are still bolts and knobs to be adjusted, this webpage was also an opportunity to revisit and refresh many forms and descriptions, for them to reflect the most current CSM situation. We also bonified them, and particularly in the French version, with inclusive language and EDI considerations.

The CSM is a formidable society, devoted to its members, as reflected with the popularity of the Annual conference. However, we are more than ever looking for members interested in actively contributing to our various committees, from the executive to the EDI and education committees. I considered serving the CSM to be a tremendously enriching, interesting, and privilege experience, and I am certain everybody here would agree.

I look forward to working under the leadership of Kari Dunfield this coming year, and to continue making the CSM shine.

## **6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report – Kari Dunfield**

The Canadian Society of Microbiologists has played an important role in my career development, first as a graduate student, then as the Co-Chair of the Guelph CSM Conference in 2022, the Co-Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Microbiologists and most recently as a member of the executive, this year as 1<sup>st</sup> VP. Throughout this time the CSM has been a supportive “academic family”. This year has highlighted the importance of this support. I had to take an unexpected leave due to a death in my family, and CSM members stepped up to help me out in a variety of ways, without requests for support or directions from me. I especially want to thank Jon Van Hamme, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for stepping in and taking responsibility chairing the EDI committee, for Pascale Beauregard, our President, for shouldering both of the 1<sup>st</sup> VP and President responsibilities this year. Also, I’d like to acknowledge the help of long-time CSM member and Editor of CJM, Michael Hynes, who stepped in to help in the role of Editor-in-Chief of CJM.

This year, as 1<sup>st</sup> VP I co-chaired the EDI committee, where we have progressed in our mandate to take actionable steps to provide a supportive, respectful and welcoming environment. We have organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual EDI workshop, with invited speaker, Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed from Dalhousie University who will lead a workshop entitled “Rethinking EDIA in 2023”, and we have initiated a CSM member EDI questionnaire for new and renewing members.

In a post-pandemic landscape, where physical, mental, and financial stress is unprecedented in our society, it is important for Canadian microbiologists the opportunity to interact with their peers and mentors across the country, and to develop relationships and access support through the CSM. As President next year, I look forward to the opportunity to work with the CSM Executive team to promote excellence in Canadian Microbiology by honouring Canadian Microbiologists through yearly awards for early career researchers, career achievement, and graduate student excellence, and to continue to support and promote the interchange of ideas through annual conferences, and through new opportunities for broader exchange of ideas to connect with the general public.

### **a. EDI Subcommittee Report – Jon Van Hamme and Kari Dunfield**

We are looking forward to having Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed lead the EDI workshop in Halifax this year. Dr. Watson-Creed is Associate Dean, Serving and Engaging Society, Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University, and previously served as Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health for Nova Scotia. The EDI committee worked hard to engage a local speaker for this event, something they will do again next year, as they felt it is important learn about the place where the CSM is hosted.

Concurrent with the launch of the new Society webpage (<https://csm-scm.org/>), an optional EDI questionnaire has been incorporated into the membership renewal process. The data will be anonymized at collection and provided to the EDI Committee for continual review. We hope this data will inform Society activities into the future.

Tasks for the EDI committee moving forward include:

- a. Write an EDI guidance document for conference LOCs to be included in an updated conference-organization guide. This year, the LOC relied on their institutional EDI guidance document and requested a CSM-specific document for future LOCs.
- b. Continue the discussion on if and how the CSM may collect and record diversity information from conference speakers and award nominees to improve representation. The main issue being that the data would not be anonymous. Having anonymous membership data starting next year will be a useful start.
- c. Review award nomination forms and subcommittee terms of reference from an EDI perspective.

The EDI committee always welcomes feedback and suggestions from CSM Members, would like to hear from interested volunteers, and are hoping to recruit a new student member.

## **7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report – Jonathan Van Hamme**

I enjoyed a great first year as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP this year. It is a good position from which to preview the many activities the dynamic Executive and supporting members volunteer for to keep the CSM vibrant (and in a good financial state). I served as interim co-chair of the CSM EDI committee with guidance from the chair, Dr. Kari Dunfield, and look forward to chairing this important committee next year as part of my role as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. I also continued in my role as chair of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee and as an Editor for the Canadian Journal of Microbiology.

## **8. Past President Report – Alex Ensminger**

Time flies when you're having fun(?). It's been a different 4 years than I expected when I joined the CSM executive, but I would do it all over again in an instant. It has been inspiring how the society has kept the support of our trainees at the core of everything that we do. We have come out of this as a stronger community, committed to inclusivity, empathy, and lifting each other up.

Four years ago I agreed to revamp the Society website. First, I want to warn everyone against volunteering for such an endeavor in other parts of your life. Second, I want to thank everyone for their patience, especially over the last few months as we smooth out issues caused by the transition to the new site. Special thanks go to our Secretariat Wafaa Antonious who has been working hard to make sure things run smoothly. The new website has a members-only section, which I hope will organically evolve into a place where we can connect outside of our annual meeting. It also should be easier to post job advertisements. Take a moment to try it out and let us know what you think. It is, like everything in the society, for you.

I want to end by thanking all those on the exec who have worked tirelessly over the past several years. Past Presidents Janet Hill and Ayush Kumar who helped show me the ropes, mostly by demonstrating steady, wise, and empathetic leadership in the most trying of times. I want to also thank our outgoing President, Pascale Beauregard, who has continued with this leadership style. The future of the society is bright and in good hands. Thanks to all those who have answered the call to service. For those considering whether to serve, it is one of the more rewarding service opportunities you can volunteer for. Just do it. (Just don't volunteer to fix the website).

**9. Secretary – Treasurer’s Report – Mazen Saleh**

**a) 2022 - 2023 Budget**

**CSM Budget to be presented in June 2023**

	<b>2023 June Estimated to Year End</b>	<b>2022 Audited Budget</b>	<b>2022 June Estimated to Year End</b>	<b>2021 Audited Budget</b>	<b>2020 Audited Budget</b>	<b>2019 Audited Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE SOURCES FOR OPERATIONS</b>						
Investment & Misc. Income	7,432.60	4,453.47	3,063.00	1,278.94	3,400.15	3,104.00
Membership Fees <b>N6</b>	36,000.00	39,660.00	38,933.50	36,396.25	33,669.75	40,197.75
Subscriptions to the CJM	350.00	656.50	606.50	798.00	500.00	668.00
Advertising & Sponsorship Income	1,640.00	1,875.00	1,425.00	2,625.00	675.00	1001.98
Awards Support	5,050.00	5,225.00	5,050.00	5,718.62	3,574.21	5,550.00
Beveridge Poster Support	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
ISEME 8	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00			
ISME18 Support		12,090.00	12,090.00	500.00		2,500.00
Knowles PD Award	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Burrows Award	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>55,472.60</b>	<b>68,959.97</b>	<b>66,168.00</b>	<b>49,816.81</b>	<b>41,819.11</b>	<b>55,021.73</b>

**REVENUE SOURCES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Awards Income						
Annual Conference Exhibits and Grants & Mtg Folder	46,000.00	30,306.79	53,500.00			45,512.39
Annual Conference Registration including Tickets	191,570.00	219,496.53	207,325.00	21,053.35		168,707.24
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>237,570.00</b>	<b>249,803.32</b>	<b>260,825.00</b>	<b>21,053.35</b>		<b>214,219.63</b>

<b>TOTAL OF ALL REVENUE SOURCES</b>	<b>293,042.60</b>	<b>318,763.29</b>	<b>326,993.00</b>	<b>70,870.16</b>	<b>41,819.11</b>	<b>269,241.36</b>
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## EXPENDITURES FOR OPERATIONS

Website Development - <b>N1</b>	5,000.00	6,902.00	9,000.00	4,141.22	165.00	336.00
Website Maintenance <b>N2</b>	2,325.13	826.36	438.00	496.50	1,611.50	1,147.50
Secretariat	29,000.00	29,542.00	29,000.00	27,596.00	26,485.50	29,369.00
Audit	4,000.00	3,950.00	3,950.00	3,950.00	3,900.00	3,850.00
Bank & Credit Card Charges	6,155.00	6,130.09	5,120.96	4,349.88	4,816.23	5,027.49
Balloting & Bylaws					200.00	
CJM Subscriptions	350.00	850.00	700.00	948.00	600.00	618.00
Membership in Other Organizations			1,040.90	1,040.90	1,040.90	2,231.27
Liaising & Meetings (board Travel) (Zoom)	200.00	140.00	140.00		140.00	129.09
Constant Contact (mass email app)	800.00	810.63	1,131.60	991.60	1,037.16	1,075.99
Translation						500.00
Office Supplies	100.00	825.62	374.79		48.94	-
Office Couriers (Award frames)						-
Office Copies						-
Storage & Shredding	450.00	375.00	350.00	350.00	282.00	264.00
Office Postage						-
Taxes & Miscellaneous	40.00	39.77	12.00	12.00	24.00	-
CSM Travel Awards <b>N3</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00			5,000.00
ISME 18 Travel Awards	-	10,000.00	10,000.00			
Under Graduate, Ambassador & ISME 8 Travel Awards	6,500.00	3,500.00	2,000.00		1,670.25	4,700.00
Murray, Thermo Fisher & Armand Frappier (Travel Exp inc.) Awards	5,000.00	5,789.92	4,500.00	3,500.00	3,578.39	4,988.88
Student symposium & Travel Awards	4,000.00	3,871.61	4,500.00	2,000.00		4,000.00
Poster Awards	3,375.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
Knowles PD Prize	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Burrows Award <b>N4</b>	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	3,000.00	
Awards Supplies	700.00	797.41	900.00	1,071.37	182.47	680.89
Education & Careers Committee						-
FOME	1,500.00					-
EDI Workshop		1,500.00				
Student Day Support	2,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	-		2,280.00
Oher Meetings Support <b>N5</b>			1,000.00	500.00	500.00	2,000.00
Board Travel	3,000.00	1,451.54	1,500.00			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>80,745.13</b>	<b>86,051.95</b>	<b>84,408.25</b>	<b>53,447.47</b>	<b>49,282.34</b>	<b>70,198.11</b>

## EXPENDITURES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Expenses Facility, AV, Food & Bev, signage, equipment rental	154,070.02	155,907.21	170,689.90	157.87		111,161.73
Executive & Council meeting food & Beverage (included above)	495.00					
Program Book & Poster Printing & Mail out						21.92
Meeting Planner Services & Travel	27,455.00	38,871.25	33,404.50			
Speakers Expenses	19,000.00	14,124.87	23,500.00			13,974.30
Meeting Supplies (Bags) & Labour, trip	8,750.00	20,696.55	8,306.00			19,382.80
Credit Card discount fees	7,292.10	14,290.22	14,006.86	1,568.12		10,748.42
Website & Alerts	6,879.00	7,805.50	6,948.00	5,735.50		2,159.25
Awards / International Outreach	1,000.00	1,000.00				1,590.82
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>224,941.12</b>	<b>252,695.60</b>	<b>256,855.26</b>	<b>7,461.49</b>		<b>159,039.24</b>

<b>TOTAL OF ALL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>305,686.25</b>	<b>338,747.55</b>	<b>341,263.51</b>	<b>60,908.96</b>	<b>49,282.34</b>	<b>229,237.35</b>
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<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-12,643.65</b>	<b>-19,984.26</b>	<b>-14,270.51</b>	<b>9,961.20</b>	<b>-7,463.23</b>	<b>40,004.01</b>
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<b>Net conference Profit ***</b>	<b>12,628.88</b>	<b>-2,892.28</b>	<b>3,969.74</b>	<b>13,591.86</b>		<b>55,180.39</b>
<b>Disbursement to LOC</b>						<b>17,590.16</b>

### Notes to Budget:

**N1** CSM has signed a contract with CryoDragon to redesign the website to reflect and be accessible by current technology. That cost is based on the contract and an estimate for additional hours might be charged by the current webmaster to help with the transfer of the website to a new hosting server and webmaster, installments were paid in 2021, 2022 and final payment is due in 2023. New website was launched in mid April, final invoice has not been received yet.

**N2** the new website will have annual subscription for MemberPress \$618 and WMPL \$150 (instant translator plug in), monthly plan of \$115 to maintain back end of the website and hosting fees & domain name \$876.

**N3** CSM added in 2018 twenty travel awards \$250 ea. for a total of \$5,000. These awards were not provided in 2021 since it was a virtual conference

**N4** In 2020 CSM contributed \$3,000 in support for Burrows Award to match contributions received from McMaster and Burrows family. These funds were deposited in a deferred account. Starting 2021, Burrows Award in the amount of \$500 will be given annually to support Womxn in Microbiology and their EDI activities.

**N5** In 2019 CSM allocated \$3,000 in the budget for a new initiative to support CSM Members' Events and allocated \$2,000 for Student research day events which it has been supporting.

**N6** 83 members renewed their membership since April 17 for a total of \$3,450. 2023 Membership renewal notice has not been sent out yet. \$25,659 were collected before the launching of the new website out of which \$13,400 were collected in 2022 (2YrSub)

As of **June 23, 2023**, CSM **BMO Savings** account balance is **\$331,054**, **Chequing** account balance is: **\$50,508**. BMO was offering 4.0% interest for GICs to be locked for 1yr, \$100,000 was invested on 24 March 2023, will gain interest \$4,000 when it matures March 2024. So the total of all three accounts: **\$481,562**. This total will go down when all the conference expenses are paid.

- 9. Secretary's Treasurer's Report cont'd**
- b) 2022 Financial Statements Audited**

**Canadian Society of Microbiologists**  
**Financial Statements**  
December 31, 2022



## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Members of  
Canadian Society of Microbiologists

### Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Canadian Society of Microbiologists, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

## Independent Auditor's Report, continued

- ♦ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- ♦ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ♦ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ♦ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Ottawa, ON  
June 28, 2023

  
**Numeris CPA Professional Corporation**  
Chartered Professional Accountant  
Licensed Public Accountant

**Canadian Society of Microbiologists  
Statement of Financial Position  
As at December 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 32,866	\$ 49,045
Short term investment	241,093	276,710
Accounts receivable	5,243	254
Prepaid expenses	14,035	10,333
HST receivable	<u>6,073</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 299,310</u>	<u>\$ 336,342</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,498	\$ 10,437
Deferred revenue (note 3)	73,928	86,972
HST payable	<u>-</u>	<u>1,065</u>
	81,426	98,474
<b>Balance</b>	<u>217,884</u>	<u>237,868</u>
	<u>\$ 299,310</u>	<u>\$ 336,342</u>

On behalf of the Board

*Paul B. Boyd* Member

*Mazen Saleh* Member

**Canadian Society of Microbiologists  
Statement of Operations  
and Changes in Net Assets  
Year ended December 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
<b>Revenues</b>		
Memberships - individual	\$ 39,660	\$ 36,396
Awards support	22,315	8,719
Interest income	4,453	1,279
Advertising and job postings	1,875	2,625
Subscription fees for CJM	657	798
Annual conference, Schedule 1	<u>(2,892)</u>	<u>13,592</u>
	<u>66,068</u>	<u>63,409</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Awards	32,709	9,571
Secretariat	29,542	27,596
Website	7,728	4,638
Interest and bank charges	6,130	4,350
Professional fees	3,950	3,950
Liaising and advocacy	2,402	992
EDI	1,500	-
Office	1,201	350
CJM subscriptions	850	948
Miscellaneous	40	12
Memberships in other organizations	<u>-</u>	<u>1,041</u>
	<u>86,052</u>	<u>53,448</u>
<b>(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	(19,984)	9,961
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	<u>237,868</u>	<u>227,907</u>
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 217,884</u>	<u>\$ 237,868</u>

**Canadian Society of Microbiologists**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year ended December 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Operating activities</b>		
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ (19,984)	\$ 9,961
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Short term investment	35,617	(1,279)
Accounts receivable	(4,989)	(254)
Prepaid expenses	(3,702)	1,945
HST receivable	(6,073)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,939)	(505)
Deferred revenue	(13,044)	(5,660)
HST payable	<u>(1,065)</u>	<u>979</u>
<b>Net (decrease) increase in cash</b>	(16,179)	5,187
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	<u>49,045</u>	<u>43,858</u>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 32,866</u>	<u>\$ 49,045</u>

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**Canadian Society of Microbiologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022**

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**1. Nature of operations**

The Canadian Society of Microbiologists was incorporated without share capital in 1958 under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act and is recognized as a not-for-profit organization for income tax purposes. The Society seeks to advance microbiology in all its aspects and to facilitate the interchange of ideas between microbiologists. The membership includes honorary, emeritus, ordinary, student, and post doc members.

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**2. Significant accounting policies**

The organization applies the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**(a) Revenue recognition**

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable when the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Other revenue, including membership and conference, is recognized in operations as the services are rendered.

Investment revenue is recognized as earned.

**(b) Capital assets**

Capital assets purchased at a cost of less than \$2,000 are expensed in the year of purchase. The Society does not own capital assets at this time.

**(c) Financial instruments**

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Unless otherwise noted it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks.

**(d) Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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**Canadian Society of Microbiologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022**

**3. Deferred revenue**

Beveridge Funds

In 2013 \$21,325 was transferred to the CSM from the Beveridge Memorial Scholarship Fund in order to support the Beveridge Poster Competition. Three prizes of \$500 will be awarded annually until the funds are depleted.

ISME-8 Funds

In 2013 \$50,000 was transferred to the CSM from the ACSME as part of the winding up of the ISME-8 conference surplus funds. The use of these funds is restricted by Terms of Reference agreed to by the CSM with a maximum annual disbursement of \$4,000.

Roger Knowles Funds

In 2017 funds were transferred from alumni of Roger Knowles' laboratory and the CSM in order to establish a memorial award. The use of these funds is restricted and will support a prize of \$500 to be given to the best oral presentation at the Post Doctoral Research Symposium at the CSM Annual Conference. The prize will be awarded annually until the funds are depleted.

Burrows Award for Womxn in Microbiology

In 2020 funds were donated by the Burrows family, McMaster University and matched by the CSM in order to establish an award that will recognize a womxn graduate student in microbiology who demonstrates both scientific excellence and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in the microbiological and related sciences. One prize of \$500 will be awarded annually until the funds are depleted.

	2022	2021
ISME 8 Funds	\$ 33,230	\$ 35,730
Deferred Membership	14,260	11,330
Burrows Award Deferred Support	11,500	8,500
Beveridge Scholarship	7,824	9,324
Roger Knowles Award	6,864	7,364
CJM Subscription Fees for Next Year	250	150
Deferred Revenue - annual meeting	-	14,574
	\$ 73,928	\$ 86,972

**4. Awards**

	2022	2021
CSM Travel Awards	\$ 17,000	\$ -
AF, Fisher, & Murray Awards	5,790	3,500
PD & Student Symposia Awards	4,372	2,500
Student Poster Awards	1,500	1,500
Undergrad, Ambassador, & Travel Awards	1,500	-
Students Research Day & members' events	1,250	500
Awards supplies and miscellaneous	797	1,071
Burrows Award	500	500
	\$ 32,709	\$ 9,571

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**Schedule 1**  
**Canadian Society of Microbiologists**  
**Schedule of Annual Conference**  
**Year ended December 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Registration fees	\$ 219,496	\$ 21,053
Exhibits and other commercial support	21,000	-
Grants	<u>9,307</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>249,803</u>	<u>21,053</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Facility	155,906	157
Planner	38,871	-
Conference supplies and other	20,697	-
Credit card fees	14,290	1,568
Speakers	14,125	-
Website and alerts	7,806	5,736
2022 conference award	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>252,695</u>	<u>7,461</u>
<b>(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	<u>\$ (2,892)</u>	<u>\$ 13,592</u>

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## 9. Secretary's Treasurer's Report – Mazen Saleh

### c) Membership Report

The first 2023 Membership renewal was sent out on June 20, 2023. Normally, these renewals are sent out in January of each year. We were awaiting the launch of the new website with the new features for membership before sending out the 2023 membership renewal. The new membership form would provide the option of renewing for five years in addition to the two and one year options that were available before. There is also the life time membership for Emeritus members. Also, the expiry date of membership will no longer be 31 December of the year but rather the date of the renewal. So, if a member renews on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2023, then their renewal date will be 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024.

It became apparent when the renewal message was sent out on June 20, that we need to go through the membership records that renewed near the end of March and April and ensure that all those who have renewed on the old server are marked paid on the new server.

## 9. Secretary's Treasurer's Report

### d) CSM Website Report

**Website:** 2022: Total of RCMS cost of services for 2022 was \$2,287.50 for 45.75 hours of website services. This also includes a **revenue of \$1,875** for 18.75 pages of paid job advertisements. So, if we deduct the revenue from the expenses then it is **\$412.50 net expenses**. A total of **50** job advertisement have been posted in 2022 for members in good standings.

**Alerts:** 7 email alerts and 1 election form were sent to in 2022 for a total of 8.75 hours and \$437.50 in expenses.

**2023:** to date 8 job advertisements were posted for members in good standings, 4 pages for paid advertisements were posted providing a revenue of \$400. 19.75 hrs have been provided in website services for a total of \$987.50. Thus one the revenue is deducted from the expenses, the total cost for the website services provided by RCMS is 587.50.

**Alerts:** 3 email alerts were prepared for a total of 3.0 hours & \$150.00 in expenses.

***The new website allows members in good standing to post their own job advertisement.*** This will save on the website expenses and provide the convenience for members to have their advertisement posted as soon as it has been approved by the Secretariat. Since the launching of the new website on April 17, 2023, **8 job advertisements have been posted by members in good standings.**

***Please note that the detailed website reports exported from Google Analytics are not available due to the transfer of launch of the new website. A new Google Analytics account has been created for the new website that will allow us to provide reports in the future.***

## 10. Meetings Secretary's Report – Denice Bay

In addition to the hard work of the CSM exec and education and careers committee, I would very much like to thank the Dalhousie U LOC chair Nikhil Thomas and his team/ volunteers including CSM Secretariat (Wafaa) for organizing this year's conference in Halifax. Despite a delayed start to this year's conference website registration and abstract submissions, **the 2023 conference registrations were high, with 533 registrants as of June 21, 2023.**

This year **we received and reviewed 438 abstracts**, 343 of which were scheduled for in-person poster presentations. In collaboration with Nik Thomas (LOC), we went to a conference abstract booklet for poster numbering and guidelines to define poster presentation scheduling times, as the poster hall Studley gym has a 260 person capacity limit. I will also follow up with Matthieu (from Fourwaves) to improve the automated poster numbering in the Fourwaves organizer system. This way, we can do this sorting more efficiently for next year's poster sessions.

**101 abstracts were submitted for various CSM trainee competitions** (92 student and 9 PDF symposium competitions), which was great to see and reflects CSM's continuing commitment to microbiology training and career advancement.

This year we had 80 submitted abstracts selected for talks in various conference symposia, which is an 18% success rate for attendee abstracts submitted this year.

We also had **relatively low numbers of submitted virtual abstracts** and virtual poster presentations/participation this year (**14 virtual abstracts**). It is notable that submitted virtual abstract numbers and virtual poster participation have been dramatically reducing since the pandemic ended in 2022, and coincides with the resumption of in-person conferences (as perhaps would be expected). Due to the significant reductions in virtual abstract submissions and virtual poster presentation numbers (<20 people/yr; ~4.5% participation) in the past 2 years, I recommend that the CSM Exec should discuss and assess the value and return on investment for continuing virtual abstract/poster presentations at future meetings.

It's been a pleasure to serve the CSM this year. Next year, I continue to look for methods to improve CSM reviewing and conference operations with LOC members, to make them more efficient and more reflective of the needs of our expanding and diverse society membership. If anyone has any constructive feedback to help us improve conferences, please reach out to me as our mandate is to better serve and advance microbiologist needs.

## **11. Post-Doctoral Representative Report – Sarah Piché-Choquette**

I feel privileged to have worked with the CSM executive for another year. Everyone in the exec and the LOC has done an amazing job, namely by managing and improving our society, organizing the CSM2023 conference, upgrading and launching the new CSM website, and even writing a letter to Justin Trudeau expressing our thoughts regarding the Canadian Federal Budget. Thank you all, it has been a tough but fruitful year.

During my second year as Post Doc representative, I have organized the second edition of the Postdoc Meet & Greet event. I also worked with Landon Getz to organize the second edition of the ASM Speed Networking event, and with Landon, Camille and two student volunteers from Dalhousie, Oriana and Maggie, to organize the Student Mixer. Additionally, I took part in reviewing abstracts for the Student Symposia and will evaluate talks from the Postdoc Symposium. However, my translation work has been greatly reduced compared to previous years, thanks to Pascale! Joking aside, I hope that everyone will enjoy this conference and hopefully, that Camille and I will not flood the CSM Twitter account with pictures and tweets over the conference.

## 12. Student representative's report – Camille Ou

It has been almost a year since I started as the Graduate Student Representative for CSM. Since then, I've been attending monthly executive meetings and involved in the student mixer organization. This year, I've encouraged student registration for the CSM conference and membership during local scientific events in Québec. For the coming year, I would like to expand promoting outside of my current network. A means to reach this goal will be to actively work on updating the list of student representatives of each institute. Please reach out to CSM if you are interested. Many positions are still vacant.

As for now, the Facebook and Twitter page are mainly used for job postings. I think we could utilize them even more to increase the CSM network and highlight microbiology research in Canada by sharing your publications or promoting your local scientific events. Please contact us on social media so we can share your research.

Also, the last "Meet the microbiologist" was published in July 2022. Thus, I would like to urge anyone who might be interested in being featured in "Meet the microbiologist" to send us a biography. This will be featured in our website and shared on social media. I think these capsules are an important initiative. As the Student Representative, I think by sharing your career and research interest, we can expand the reach and the diversity of Canadian microbiologists to our current and future students.

## 13. New Members of the Executive & Council– Pascale Beauregard

### a) 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Dr. David Heinrichs



David Heinrichs, PhD (Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Western Ontario) is internationally recognized for his multidisciplinary research program on the physiology and pathogenesis of staphylococci and, in particular, *Staphylococcus aureus* (and MRSA). In the past few years, his laboratory has discovered a new regulatory mechanism for key virulence factors in *S. aureus*, that coagulase-negative staphylococci can synthesize a purine analog that inhibits MRSA, how MRSA survives and grows within macrophages, and collaborated on studies to identify antivirulence compounds effective against MRSA.

David has been an invited speaker at conferences including Gordon Research Conferences on Staphylococcal Diseases and the Cell Biology of Metals, FASEB Trace Metals in Medicine, and the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, among others. David had been the recipient of a Faculty Scholar Award and the Dean's Award of Excellence at Western, the Early Researcher Award from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation and a CIHR New Investigator Award and received the Fisher Award from the Canadian Society of Microbiologists. He has served numerous times as scientific officer or panel member for CIHR peer review committees and is currently on the Editorial Boards for the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and *Infection and Immunity*. David has published over 100 peer-reviewed research articles cited over 9000 times.

## **b) Secretary / Treasurer: Hany Anany**

Guelph Research and Development Centre Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ph.D. Food Science, University of Guelph, 2010

- Adjunct Professor, Department of Food Science, University of Guelph
- Graduate Faculty, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Guelph
- Graduate Faculty, Department of Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Member of: Canadian Society of Microbiologists, International Association for Food Protection, International Society of Virus of Microbes
- Served as an active member of the CSM2022 University of Guelph Local Organizing Committee.
- Dr. Anany's research program is based on developing strategies that exploit the use of bacteriophages (bacterial viruses) for rapid detection and biocontrol of food borne pathogens.



## **14 Meetings, Conferences and Workshops**

### **a) Report on 2022 conference – Cezar Khursigara and Kari Dunfield**

This report provides an update on the 71st Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists that was held at the University of Guelph, June 26 – 29, 2022.

The theme for 2022 Conference was 'Microbes for Life' and focused on microbes in health and agriculture. However, all traditional CSM pillars were equally represented, including Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Infection and Immunity, and Molecular Genetics and Cellular Microbiology. CSM2022 U of Guelph Conference offered Virtual and In Person registration. The virtual component of the program included: Virtual poster presentations that were held the week before the conference. Virtual registrants had access real time to the Keynote lecture, three award lectures, Student Symposia, Post Doctoral Symposium and the three Sections Symposia. These sessions were recorded via Zoom and the recording was posted after the conference and remained available to all participants. CSM2022 Conference had the first CSM PD Meet and Greet Lunch.

CSM Executive and CSM 2020 Conference Co-Chairs decided on Friday, March 13, 2020 to cancel the CSM 2020 University of Guelph Conference due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Rozanski was used for the scientific sessions, Creelman for lunches and the Opening Reception. The Event Center (large spacious and modern gym) was where the posters, exhibits and banquet were held.

- a) We were able to clone the web content that was created for 2020, but Fourwaves changed the format of their platform that all content from 2020 had to be copied and updated with more current information.
- b) Those who have registered and paid for 2020 Conference were contacted more than once and given the option to have their registration extended to 2022 or refunded. This decision was taken to save on the cancellation fees that the conference will have to absorb. The majority of those who responded requested to have their fees moved to 2022.
- c) Most of the program and the speakers that were invited for 2020, were invited to present except a couple of speakers who were not available.
- d) All the U of G departments and colleges that have transferred funds to CSM2020 Conference U of G account indicated their willingness that the funds can be retained for 2022 Conference. CIHR grant funds of \$10,000 that were received in 2020 were used to cover the 2022 Conference expenses.
- e) The 2020 LOC members and Symposia chairs stayed and served on the 2022 Conference.
- f) The conference contract with RCMS was extended to 2022.
- g) Some of the symposia titles were refreshed.

### **Program:**

Beside the regular program components of the CSM conference that were accessible to the virtual registrants, the twelve symposia were only available through the in person participation. The twelve Symposia were:

1. Novel approaches to drug discovery
2. One Health - Animal and Environmental
3. Systems Biology of Disease
4. All About Phages!
5. Fungal Biology & Pathogenesis
6. Microbial Transporters (Membrane Proteins)
7. Food Safety: New Challenges
8. Microbiome from Farm to Fork
9. Virulence
10. Mechanisms of parasite pathogenesis
11. Microbial Stress Responses
12. Soil and Plant Microbial Ecology

**We would like to acknowledge the dedication, hard work and support of the longest serving CSM Conference Local Organizing Committee (LOC) (2020 – 2022)**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<a href="#">Kari Dunfield</a> (co-chair)	School of Environmental Science, Ontario Agricultural College	dunfield@uoguelph.ca
<a href="#">Cezar Khursigara</a> (co-chair)	Molecular and Cellular Biology, College of Biological Science	<a href="mailto:ckhurig@uoguelph.ca">ckhurig@uoguelph.ca</a>
Wafaa Antonious (Conference Organizer)	Rofail Conference & Management Services (RCMS) & CSM – SCM Secretariat	<a href="mailto:info@csm-scm.org">info@csm-scm.org</a>
<a href="#">Georgina Cox</a>	Molecular and Cellular Biology, College of Biological Science	<a href="mailto:gcox@uoguelph.ca">gcox@uoguelph.ca</a>
<a href="#">Jennifer Geddes-McAlister</a>	Molecular and Cellular Biology, College of Biological Science	<a href="mailto:jgeddesm@uoguelph.ca">jgeddesm@uoguelph.ca</a>
<a href="#">Rebecca Shapiro</a>	Molecular and Cellular Biology, College of	<a href="mailto:shapiror@uoguelph.ca">shapiror@uoguelph.ca</a>

	Biological Science	
<a href="#">Marc Habash</a>	School of Environmental Science, Ontario Agricultural College	mhabash@uoguelph.ca
<a href="#">Nicole Ricker</a>	Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College	<a href="mailto:nricker@uoguelph.ca">nricker@uoguelph.ca</a>
<a href="#">Hany Anany</a>	Guelph Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	hany.anany@canada.ca
<a href="#">Moussa Diarra</a>	Guelph Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	moussa.diarra@canada.ca
Hanan Shehata (PDF)	Integrative Biology, College of Biological Science	hshhata@uoguelph.ca

## Registration:

Registration Type	Number of Registrants
Virtual Regular Member	23
Virtual Student / PD/ Emeritus Member	29
Virtual Regular Non Member	2
Virtual Student / PD/ Emeritus Non Member	24
In Person Regular Member	117
In Person Student / PD/ Emeritus	374
In Person Regular Non Member	25
In Person Student / PD/ Emeritus Non Member	38
Speakers / Exhibitors & Complimentary Registrants	26

**Total number of registrants were 658, total number of abstracts that were presented 472.**

## Budget:

Annual Conference Exhibits and Grants & Mtg Folder	30,306.79
Annual Conference Registration including Tickets	219,496.53
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>249,803.32</b>

Annual Conference Expenses Facility, AV, Food & Bev, signage, equipment rental	155,907.21
Meeting Planner Services & Travel	38,871.25
Speakers Expenses	14,124.87
Meeting Supplies (Bags) & Labour, trip	20,696.55
Credit Card discount fees	14,290.22
Website & Alerts	7,805.50
Awards / International Outreach	1,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>252,695.60</b>

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>- 2892.28</b>
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The 2022 Conference Budget that was presented at the CSM 2022 Council and AGM meetings estimated a small profit of \$3,969. After all the expenses were paid and the CSM Financial Books were audited, it the Conference has a deficit of \$2,892.28.

- There is \$3,175 more in investment revenue compared to 2021. That is mainly because of the extra revenue from the conference registration that was invested in March till end of December when the U of G Conference Services invoice was finalized and was paid, plus higher interest rates.
- There is a strong relation between CSM membership numbers and the conference location and success. At end of 2022, CSM membership number reached the highest it ever had including 2019 which till then had the highest membership number.
- CSM has the largest HST refund of \$6,073 that is mainly due to claiming the conference expenses.
- CSM2022 Conference LOC with the blessings of the CSM Executive decided not to increase the conference registration fees, maintaining 2020 fees, inspite that the increase of cost of expenses (food & beverage).
- If the CSM2022 Conference increased the fees by \$20 it would have had extra revenue of \$12,500.
- CSM2022 Conference had to endure extra expenses related to Covid 19 precautions including social distancing. The cost for the tent was over \$7,000, we were aware of that expense before the conference and included it in our estimates for the budget.
- Also, the AV charges to pay for a technician to manage the sessions that were available via Zoom and to allow for overflow to accommodate for social distancing, have the recording available for the registrants was \$1,500.
- Some of the unexpected charges was mainly the staging for the president banquet that was in place before our event and we were told these expenses will be shared with previous events, but we were never provided with the actual cost inspite asking for it several times ended up to be \$11,173 CSM share, we estimated \$4,000 for that expense.

After 2 years of Covid, every one was in a celebration mode that we ended up with 435 attending the President Banquet and dancing the night away! We hope that you have enjoyed the longest organized CSM Conference 😊!

## **14. Meetings, Conferences and Workshops**

### **b) Report on 2023 Conference – Nikhil Thomas**

This report provides an update on the 72nd Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, June 25 – 28, 2023.

Dalhousie University and Halifax are located in *Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq*. We are fortunate to convene our conference experience in this beautiful territory.

#### **Locations and Venues:**

Most events are planned to occur on two adjoining Dalhousie University Campuses. The buildings are generally equipped with features for improved accessibility, including wheelchair ramps and elevators.

1) Studley

2) Carleton



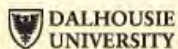
### STUDLEY CAMPUS

- Building not accessible
- Ground floor of building accessible only
- Entrance with ramp
- Bus Transit
- Full access to all floors in building
- Accessible washroom within building
- Ramp slope over 10%
- Hospitals
- Building mostly accessible
- Entrance suitable for wheelchair access
- Accessible parking space available



### CARLETON CAMPUS

- Building not accessible
- Ground floor of building accessible only
- Entrance with ramp
- Bus Transit
- Full access to all floors in building
- Accessible washroom within building
- Ramp slope over 10%
- Hospitals
- Building mostly accessible
- Entrance suitable for wheelchair access
- Accessible parking space available





The theme for 2023 Conference is ‘Microbial Ecosystems - Environment and Health’. All traditional CSM pillars are equally represented, including Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Infection and Immunity, and Molecular Genetics and Cellular Microbiology. CSM2023 Halifax Conference continued what started in 2022 and is offering Virtual and In Person registration. The virtual component of the program includes Virtual poster presentations that were held on June 20, followed by NSERC virtual Presentation. All registrants were encouraged to participate in the Virtual Poster Presentation. Virtual registrants have access in real time to the Keynote lecture, three award lectures, Student Symposia, Post Doctoral Symposium and the three Sections Symposia. These sessions will be recorded via Zoom and the recording will be posted after the conference and remain available to all participants. The second CSM PD Meet and Greet Lunch will be held on Monday, 68 registrants are participating. The Career Development, FOME and EDI Workshops will be held on Sunday. Three Exhibitors are participating with half an hour workshops on Monday and Tuesday. Canadian Science Publishing and CIHR III are also holding workshops on Tuesday. Monday, the Student Mixer will be held at Pacifico Bar which is few minutes from the water front. Two trips are scheduled on Tuesday one to a brewery and the second option is the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. For the first time we will have a free afternoon on Wednesday to allow our registrants to enjoy what Halifax has to offer. We will celebrate the success of the conference with the President Banquet that will be held at the Museum of Immigration Pier 21. After a nice dinner we will be presenting our trainees with various awards then dance the night away till 1 am.

Two of the three lecture halls used for the various sessions will be at the McCain Building with 495 & 250 seat capacities. The third lecture hall with 300 seat capacity is across the street at the newly built Fountain School of Performing Art building. The opening reception will be held at the Collaborative Health Education Building (CHEB). Exhibits and poster sessions will be held at the Studley Gym. 14 exhibitors will be participating and 340 posters will be presented over two days. Due to the large numbers and the capacity of the facilities, lunch will be split between the Howe Dinning Hall where warm meals with several stations will be offered and the McCain Building with buffet style meals.

Mrs. Wafaa Antonious, Rofail Conference and Management Services is the Conference Organizer.

### **Program:**

Beside the regular program components of the CSM conference that are accessible to the virtual registrants, the twelve symposia will only be available through the in person participation. The twelve Symposia are:

1. Synthetic Biology and Biotechnology
2. Antimicrobial Resistance
3. Microbial Surface Structures
4. Soil and Environmental Microbiology
5. Fungal and Eukaryotic Microbiology
6. Bioinformatics, Genomics and Genome Evolution
7. Marine Microbiology
8. Pathogenesis and the Host Response
9. Bacteriophage and Bacterial Defense Systems
10. Microbiomes in Health and Disease
11. Virulence and Gene Regulation
12. ‘Omic’ Approaches to Gene and Drug Discovery

**Dr. Elizabeth A. Edwards**, University of Toronto is the Keynote speaker and her presentation will be the opening talk.

We would like to acknowledge the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) who were responsible in putting the program together.

Nikhil Thomas(Chair)	Robyn Wright
John Rohde	Balakrishnan Prithiviraj
John Archibald	Robert Beiko
Morgan Langille	Zhenyu Cheng
Erin Bertrand	Julie Laroche

*As of June 13, 2023*

Registration Fees	Fees	# of Actual Registrants	Revenue to Date
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**In Person Registration**

Regular Member Early	480	100	\$48,000.00
Regular Member Late	580	11	\$6,380.00
Non-member Early	640	8	\$5,120.00
Non-members Late	740	3	\$2,220.00
Student / PD/ Emert/ Global Outreach Members - Early	285	266	\$75,810.00
Student / PD/ Emert/ Global Outreach Members Late	385	37	\$14,245.00
Student/ PD/ Emert/ non-member - Early	390	31	\$12,090.00
Student / PD/ Emert/ non-members Late	490	11	\$5,390.00
Speakers, specials, accompanying person	0	24	\$0.00

**Virtual Registration**

CSM Member - Regular	120	6	\$720.00
CSM Member - Undergraduate & Graduate Student/Postdoc/ Emeritus	70	6	\$420.00
Non-Member - Regular	220	1	\$220.00
Non-Member – Undergraduate & Graduate Student/Postdoc/ Emeritus	110	11	\$1,210.00

**One Day Registration (Available June 23rd)**

Member & Non member	270		
Member & Non member St & PD & Emeritus	180		

### Workshops

Career Development Workshop - Early Fees	30	73	\$2,190.00
Career Development Workshop - Late Fees	50		\$0.00
FOME - Early fees	30	44	\$1,320.00
FOME - Late fees	50	2	\$100.00
FOME or Prof Dev. only registration Early Fees	80	0	\$0.00
FOME or Prof Dev. only registration Late Fees	90		\$0.00
<b>Virtual:</b> Career Development Workshop	45	0	\$0.00
<b>Virtual:</b> FOME Workshop	45	0	\$0.00

### Social Event:

Guest - Opening reception	45	5	\$225.00
Banquet Tickets - Guest	90	5	\$450.00
Banquet Tickets - Reservation fees	20	337	\$6,740.00
Student Mixer (not included in the registration fees)	30	199	\$5,970.00
Trip - Brewery	25	110	\$2,750.00

### Exhibits & Sponsorship

Exhibitors (booth )	1,750.00	11	\$19,250.00
2nd booth / workshop	1,000.00	3	\$3,000.00
NEG & PacBio Discounted Booth	1,500.00	2	\$3,000.00
CSP Discounted Booth		1	\$1,700.00
Platinum Sponsor	5,000.00		\$0.00
Gold	2,750.00		\$0.00
Silver	1,750.00		\$0.00
Bronze	750.00		\$0.00
ASM Student Network \$1,000 US			\$1,300.00
BWF			\$5,000.00
CIHR			\$10,000.00
CIHR III ECR			\$2,750.00

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Registration	\$175,435.00
Social Events Tickets	\$16,135.00
Exhibitors (booth & workshops rentals)	\$26,950.00
Sponsorship Including Dalhousie University & CIHR & ASM	\$19,050.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$237,570.00</u></b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Opening Reception (all expenses - \$45 cost per person including 1 drink ticket) for 380	18,200.00
Opening Reception 2 security guards \$28/hr. X2 for 4 hrs. ea.	224.00
Liability Insurance	1,200 .00
Room Rental + Custodial & Setup	14,891.50
Banquet, estimated 350 attending (\$80/person, meals, drinks, gratuity included), Facility rental & Entertainment \$1,500, Bus \$1,500 Facility Rental \$1,800 Pier 21,	37,207.52
Graduate Student Mixer	7,270.00
Professional Development & FOME, Speakers, Food & Bev	2,287.00
Meeting Planner Fees based on 530registrants	24,890.00
Meeting Planner Travel & Accommodation	2,565.00
Round tables and chairs for lunch - estimate	
lunch X 3 \$8900 ea. For 550 registrants	26,500.00
Coffee breaks (3 am) for 430	14,000.00
Coffee Breaks & cash bar (PM breaks) (2 for 400) \$7600 ea. \$19/person 1 drink ticket included + \$2,500	17,880.00
Entertainment for opening reception	
Poster Boards (8 Wx4H) 44 @ \$90 ea.	3,960.00
Push Pins, 14 dots/ft @\$1.50 ea. Need 180 ft, order 200 - estimate	300.00
Brewery Trip	\$2,750.00
Exhibitor expenses: tables, chairs, skirted table, curtained booth for 14 booth \$140 ea + \$200 delivery + 12 Table for registration & Food & Bev upper lobby	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	3,000.00
Speaker Travel & Accommodation (11X\$1,500 ea + 2,500 keynote	19,000.00
Council Meeting lunch +gratuity	495.00
EDI speaker & coffee break	1,850.00
Fourwaves Hosting fees \$3/registration	1,545.00

Credit Card discount fees	5,747.10
Website & Alerts	2,200.00
Fourwaves Licence & virtual Fees & Video Recording	4,679.00
Other Expenses(swags) bag, water bottle, and stickers, (notepads & pens) & Other) \$10/person	6,000.00
International Outreach	1,000.00
Audio Visual rental, technical Support including Zoom & recording	\$2,300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$224,941.12</b>
<b>Net Profit based on estimated Revenue &amp; Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,628.88</b>

## 14. Meetings, Conferences and Workshops

### c) Report on 2024 Conference – Martin McGavin

Western is in a comfortable position to welcome a projected in-person attendance of 600 people to CSM 2024. Should attendance be higher, the planned meeting venues can accommodate a moderate increase. The City of London and Western University are located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples. Tribute to and inclusion of our native population is facilitated in part through the new 10,000 square foot Wampum Learning Lodge, which functions as a home-place for Indigenous learning initiatives at Western, and a touchstone for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to gather and learn together.

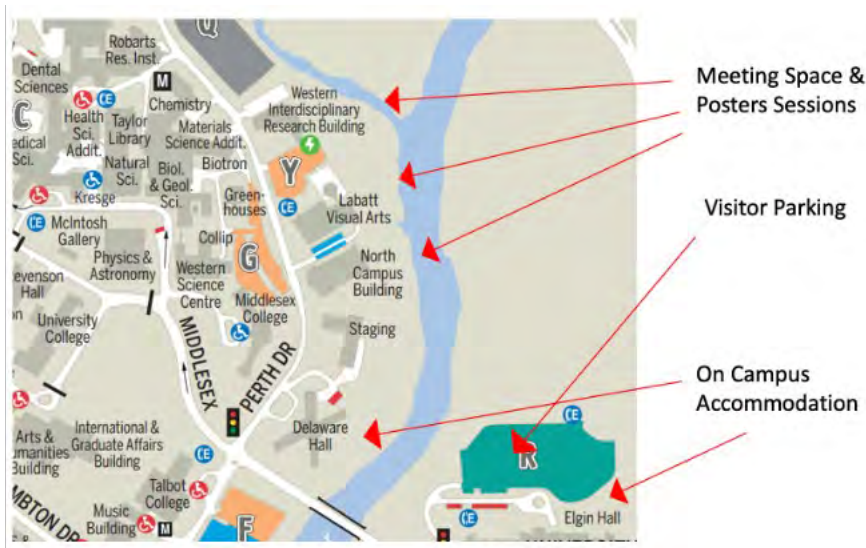
**Travel:** Western University is located towards the North end of London, and the city of London is located with easy access from the 401 and 403 series Highways along the Toronto-Hamilton-Windsor corridor. Attendees who arrive by air have two main options, one of which includes passing through Pearson International Airport in Toronto (YYZ). Here, connecting flights are available to London International Airport (YXU) or alternately travelers may book ground transportation from Toronto to London through a local service such as Robert Q Airbus that serves Toronto, London and Detroit airports. In addition to connector flights to and from Toronto, YXU also currently has direct service to and from several Canadian cities through Flair, WestJet, Swoop and Air Canada.

**Conference Theme:** The theme is still in development. Recognizing that recent themes of Microbes for Life and Microbial Ecosystems have captured all major CSM fields of study, our theme will strive to be equally inclusive. In recognition of RGE Murray and his long tenure at Western, we are looking at a theme that will reflect his interests and contributions to Microbiology.

**Conference Logistics:** Western University Conference Services has been engaged to assist with all aspects of conference proceedings, event planning, and accommodations. Venues and accommodations have been secured to satisfy all requirements for holding CSM 2024 on Western’s campus. The format of CSM 2024 will closely follow that of past meetings. Sunday will include Career Development, FOME and EDI workshops as well as keynote address and opening reception. Monday and Tuesday will include morning and afternoon sessions each comprised of three concurrently run symposia, afternoon exhibits, workshops and poster presentations, and large afternoon plenary sessions for student symposia, and the Armand Frappier and Thermo-Fisher Award Lectures. Monday will also include Postdoc Meet and Greet and Student Mixer as at past meetings. Wednesday morning will include three concurrent symposia and the Postdoctoral Fellow Research Symposium, while

afternoon sessions will include the AGM and Murray Award Lecture, with some free time ahead of the closing banquet.

**Conference Venues:** All events will be located on the main campus of Western University. Large plenary sessions, daily concurrent symposia, and exhibitors will be held in the North Campus building, while poster presentations will be split across the adjacent North Campus, Labatt Visual Arts and Western Interdisciplinary Research buildings, which are in close proximity to campus parking and accommodation. The closing banquet will be held at the Western Student Recreation Center (WSRC) where gymnasium space will be converted to accommodate a banquet with an estimated 450-500 attendees.



#### **North Campus Rooms and capacity:**

- NCB 101 – 789
- NCB 113 – 201
- NCB 114 -122
- NCB 117 – 122
- NCB 293 – 50

As the program develops and as needed, additional space is available across the road in Middlesex College (ie; MC 110 and 105B; capacity 380 and 144).

**Accommodations:** In working with and building on a partnership with Tourism London 200 guestrooms are being held at 5 area hotels all within 15 – 20 minutes from Western. Complimentary City bus passes are available for all conference attendees.

- Delta Hotels and Residence Inn by Marriott, Doubletree by Hilton, The Park Hotel & Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre

On Campus, accommodations are available in a private and semi-private room format, with kitchenettes. Economical traditional-style shared washroom accommodation is also available.

- 400 campus beds are currently being held at Elgin Hall & Delaware Hall that include parking, a full hot breakfast and campus wifi

**Dining and Entertainment:** Daily breakfast will be included for attendees who stay on Western campus at Delaware or Elgin Hall. Catering for conference attendees will be provided by Western’s Great Hall Catering, including opening reception, daily coffee breaks and lunch (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and closing

banquet. The cost for the closing banquet, including 3 course plated meal, and rentals for tables, chairs, china, pipe and drape décor and AV, is currently estimated at \$124/person. Daily box lunch will be provided at the Grad Club, located in Middlesex College across the road from North Campus Building. Attendees will also receive a Restaurant guide from Tourism London that will provide a list of dining options at local restaurants. The Masonville area (Fanshawe and Richmond) is ~ 15 min walk north of campus and has several options within Masonville Mall, and flanking area along Richmond and Fanshawe, while the downtown core and associated restaurants are south of campus.

**Events and Activities:** The Student Mixer will be held at the campus pub, The Wave in the University Center. Student volunteers on our organizing committee will organize a traditional pub tour of London's popular microbreweries, and for the adventurous a trip to the Treetop Adventure Park and Zipline at Boler Mountain. A trip to 100 Kellogg Lane, advertised as Canada's largest entertain complex is also an option (100kellogglane.com), including indoor ropes course, zip lines, trampoline park, ultimate warrior course, virtual reality zone, escape room, golf course simulators, art displays, and immersive Disney animation. Attendees are encouraged to take time before or after the conference to explore Southwestern Ontario. Nature and outdoor trails for hiking are available along the Thames River and Fanshawe Lake, while the popular Stratford Festival and beaches of Lake Erie and Lake Huron are accessible within a 30-45 minute drive.

## **14. Meetings, Conferences and Workshops**

### **d) Future Conferences – Tanaka Takuji**

The host search resumed. Currently 2027 and 2028 are negotiated with Québec-Ontario corridor universities.

**2023** Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, contact parson, Dr. Nikhil Thomas (n.thomas@dal.ca)

**2024** Western University, London, Ontario, contact parson, Dr. Martin McGavin (mmcgavin@uwo.ca)

**2025** Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, contact parson, Dr. Adnane Sellam  
(adnane.sellam@umontreal.ca)

**2026** University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, contact parson, Dr. Tracy Raivio (traivio@ualberta.ca)

## **15. Reports from the Section**

### **a) *Applied Environmental Microbiology* – Eric Bottos & Jennifer Ronholm**

The AEM Section received a total of 184 abstracts for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Upon review, all 184 were accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting as poster or oral presentations. From these abstracts, the AEM Section Chair and Vice-Chair selected 6 abstracts for presentation in the AEM Section Symposium.

### **b) *Infection and Immunity (II)* – Joel Weadge, Jean-Philippe Côté**

The Infection and Immunity section received 85 abstracts (general submission) for the 2023 CSM conference in Halifax. We were very impressed by the quality and breadth of topic of the abstracts. As a summary, this year there were 23 submissions to the student oral symposium and 4 individuals were selected to represent the I&I section. We also received 6 submissions for the postdoctoral symposium, 3 of which were selected, and 4 posters were chosen for the poster competition. For the I&I symposium, we offered the opportunity to present to 6 individuals by trying to cover breadth of topic, career stage and geographic representation as best possible. We look forward to seeing all of these impressive presentations and posters in person in Halifax.

## **c) *Molecular Genetics and Cellular Microbiology* – Jenny Lee Thomassin & John Whitney**

This year, the 2023 conference was scheduled in-person in Halifax. The chair aided with student competition selection, for which there were 20 MGCM submissions. The vice-chair was unable to attend the CSM meeting, as a result, Jessica R Sheldon (USask) volunteered to act as vice-chair for the MGCM symposium.

The chair and acting vice-chair (JRS) evaluated all 147 MGCM abstracts, and found none to be ineligible, but wished to highlight the following:

-The competition abstracts were included in the 'general abstracts' this year, which simplified the workflow for the section chair and acting co-chair.

-Several abstracts did not list PI or co-authors, failed to list affiliation or were unclear as to what 'affiliation' meant. In the future, it may be possible to add explanatory notes to the webpage to help those newer to the field learn its conventions.

From the combined list of extended and regular abstracts, the chair and acting vice-chair (JRS) selected 6 abstracts for the section symposium.

The chair and vice-chair were also called upon to select abstracts for the PDF competition. There was only 1 MGCM abstract submitted, therefore there is only 1 MGCM PDF presenter in the PDF competition. To increase the breadth of the pool for these submissions, we might want to consider incorporating distance-talks for PDFs specifically. This would provide the opportunity to stay connected with the Canadian science community while abroad on a postdoc which may not allow them to travel to the conference.

## **16. Reports from Committees**

### **a) Education and Careers Committee –Dawn Bignell, Edel Lopez & Anni Moore**

#### **Co-Chairs**

Dawn Bignell (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Edel Pérez-López (Université Laval), Anni Moore (Morningside University)

#### **Members**

Yannick Tremblay (University of Saskatchewan), Sarah Piché-Choquette (University of Calgary)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- A record number of extended abstracts (93 total) was received for this year's student oral symposium and poster competition. This represents the same number of abstracts received in 2022.
- A total of 54 applications were received for the ISME-8 student travel award. Five awards valued at \$400 each were given to the top applicants.
- The CSM Ambassador Award was offered again for the first time since the start of the pandemic. One application was received for the award, and this applicant was selected for the award.
- Six applications were received for the CSM Undergraduate Award, and all six applicants received an award.
- One application was received for the Burrows Award for Womxn in Microbiology, and this applicant was selected for the award.
- The career development workshop will take place at the annual meeting in Halifax and will feature presentations by Drs. Arinjay Banerjee and Edel Pérez-López.



- Dawn Bignell is stepping down as the Education and Careers committee co-chair after the annual meeting. The committee will need to recruit a new co-chair to replace Dawn, and at least two additional committee members.
- Thank you to everyone who assisted with the extended abstract reviews, and thank you to our volunteer judges for their help with the oral symposium and poster competitions!

## **STUDENT ORAL SYMPOSIUM AND POSTER COMPETITION**

This year, we again received a record number of extended abstract submissions for the oral symposium and poster competitions - 93 in total. This represents the same number of abstracts received in 2022. Most of the submitted abstracts were for the oral symposium competition (70 in total). The number of abstracts received for the poster competition (24 in total) was similar to last year (30). Members of the Education and Careers Committee (“Edcom”) were able to judge and rank all of the extended abstracts for the oral and poster competition, and the section chairs/vice-chairs assisted with the adjudication of the oral symposium abstracts. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the review of the extended abstracts!

Round two of the poster judging is being coordinated by Dawn and is currently ongoing. The judges for this round are the section chairs and vice-chairs. Round three of the poster judging will take place at the conference itself, and the selected judges for this round will be CSM members who are attending the conference. Potential judges are currently being contacted by email, and we thank those individuals who agree to participate in the judging process.

In the memory of Terry Beveridge, three poster prizes in the amount of \$500 will be handed out for each section: II, MGCM, and AEM. An ASM award comprising an ASM student membership and a book or journal will be handed out for best poster layout.

The judges for the oral symposium will be CSM members selected from the past presidents and conference attendees, and they are currently being contacted by email. We are grateful for the willingness of these individuals to contribute to the process. Four awards sponsored by Canadian Science Publishing (CSP), Canadian College of Microbiology (CCM), Cedarlane, and ISME-8 will be handed out to the top four oral presentations.

The student oral symposium competition chairing will be coordinated by the Edcom co-chairs and led by Edel and Anni.

## **AWARDS**

(a) **ISME-8 Student Travel Award:** A total of 54 applications for the ISME-8 travel award were received this year, and this is similar to the number received last year (55). The applications were reviewed by the Edcom co-chairs. Five awards valued at \$400 each were given to the following individuals:

- Zohra Zahir (University of Regina)
- Agnes Truc Nguyen (University of Saskatchewan)
- Athalia Voisin (University of Manitoba)
- Hayley Gorman (University of Calgary)
- Waleska da Cruz Nizer (Carleton University)

(b) **CSM Ambassador Award:** The Ambassador Award was offered again in 2023, which was the first time since the start of the pandemic. One application was received and was reviewed by the Edcom co-chairs. The successful applicant was Jordan Lin from the University of Toronto.

(c) **CSM Undergraduate Awards:** A total of six applications for this award were received this year, and the applications were reviewed by the Edcom co-chairs. Up to six awards valued at \$500 each are available. The recipients of the award were:

- Agnes Truc Nguyen (University of Saskatchewan)
- Aliza Khaitin (University of Toronto)
- Silken Tschofen (University of Victoria)
- Wimmy Miller (McGill University)
- Christine Baglio (McMaster University)
- Laurence Couture (Université de Sherbrooke)

(d) **Burrows Award for Womxn in Microbiology:** One application for this award was received and was reviewed by the Edcom co-chairs. The successful applicant was Ellen Sykes from the University of Manitoba.

The Edcom members would like to congratulate all of the award winners!

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Career Development Workshop will take place on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at the annual CSM meeting in Halifax and will be co-chaired by Dawn Bignell and Edel Pérez-López. The theme of the workshop is *“The use of social media to fight misinformation and advance early careers for microbiologists”*. Dr. Arinjay Banerjee from the University of Saskatchewan will present on *“Social media as a boon for science”*, and Dr. Edel Pérez-López from the Université Laval will present on *“Breaking the taboo of self-promotion in Academia”*.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Dawn Bignell has served as Edcom co-chair since 2018 and will be stepping down from this position after the annual conference in Halifax. She has found serving the CSM in this capacity to be a highly rewarding experience, and she will continue to be available to assist the Edcom as required. Edcom co-chairs Edel Pérez-Lopez and Anni Moore will continue in their current positions until 2024 and 2025, respectively, and current Edcom members include Yannick Tremblay and Sarah Piché-Choquette. It is recommended that at least two new committee members be recruited immediately, and that an additional co-chair be recruited to replace Dawn.

### **b) CMUE –Nicole Sukdeo & Maria Davis Committee on Microbiology Undergraduate Education (CMUE) Report –**

The CMUE has continued our offering of online webinars to support CSM members with interests in student-centred teaching practices, and innovative approaches to microbiology education. We held one online session on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, titled “Enhancing student engagement: A showcase of two strategies.” One of the presenters at this online event, Mr. Ryan Suleman (a biology instructor at Camosun College in Victoria BC) has joined the CMUE, and we are pleased to have a member who brings perspectives in community college education to the committee.

For FOME 2023, the committee is excited to announce a Keynote session with Dr. Jennifer McDonald, a Biology Assistant Professor at St. Mary’s University. We have chosen a theme of “Microbiology for All” for this year’s FOME. This theme is addressed by Dr. McDonald’s keynote lecture that focuses on generating student engagement for microbiological topics. The keynote lecture will be followed by five MicroFOME presentations that focus on:

- student engagement through presentation-based coursework

- creating inclusive learning environments in introductory microbiology
- agar art as a microbiological learning activity
- incorporating Indigenous perspectives into microbiology courses.

All presentations are relevant to the theme of “Microbiology for All” with considerations for inclusive teaching and learning, as well as participatory elements in the classroom.

This year we will also have our first FOME-themed poster presentation by Michael Shamash, Laura Carolina Camelo Valera, and Jasmin Chahal (all authors affiliated with McGill University) titled “*Integrating bioinformatics into undergraduate curricula via optional workshops.*” We hope to continue to increase the profile of the CMUE within the CSM, and the avenue of education-themed posters is a step in that direction.

As the committee continues to develop ideas looking forward to CSM 2024, CMUE will continue its efforts to support microbiology educators over the next 12 months using virtual workshops. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the CMUE members for their efforts towards planning of events in the past year and for FOME 2023. I would sincerely like to thank Dr. Maria Davis, the Vice Chair (2022-2023) and Past Chair (2021-2022) of the CMUE. Dr. Davis has spearheaded the establishment of CMUE terms of reference to ensure efficient transfer of knowledge to new chairs, and she has led the CMUE to spotlight EDI-promoting practices in the classroom through sharing her (pedagogical and DBER) insights, as well as co-curating presenters that integrate these elements into their pedagogy.

As a committee, we look forward to welcoming new chairing members in July 2023, with Dr. Nicole Sukdeo staying on in the position as Past Chair. We would also like to thank the CSM executive, CSM2023 Local Organizing Committee and the CSM Secretariat for their continued support.

## **c) Awards Report**

### **i CSM Murray Award for Career Achievement – Trevor Moraes**

“The committee has selected Dr. Michael Surette as this year’s recipient of the CSM Murray Award. The committee considered the depth and breadth of Dr. Surette’s contributions to the fields of quorum sensing, bacterial chemotaxis, and the cystic fibrosis lung microbiome where he has published over 275 research papers. Dr. Surette is a distinguished Canadian microbiologist, former winner of the CSM Fisher award in 2000, a Tier I Canada Research Chair in interdisciplinary Microbiome Research and is a Fellow of the American Society of Microbiology. In his ~35-year academic career, Dr. Surette’s research has traversed the molecular (e.g., description of protein-DNA complexes), the genetic (e.g., identification of novel genes), the bacterial (e.g., recognition of novel microbial pathogens), and has put forward many pioneering ideas including describing the human lung microbiome as a poly microbial community. Dr. Surette has been outstanding mentor (as described by former mentee’s nomination letter) and a generous collaborator and contributor to the scientific community at large. In summary, Dr. Surette is highly deserving of the 2023 CSM Murray Award.”

### **ii. Fisher Scientific Award – Alex Ensminger**

The ThermoFisher award recognizes new researchers in the microbial sciences and the committee charged with selecting one award winner is chaired by the Past President of CSM. I want to thank this year’s adjudication committee (Chris Yost, Rebekah DeVinney, Mazen Saleh, Dawn Bignell, and Edel Pérez Lopez) and to recognize the exceptional cohort of applicants. If this year’s competition is any indication, the future of microbiology research in Canada is remarkably strong. We received five strong applications and were faced with a challenging task of choosing only one. This year’s award winner is Jennifer Geddes-McAlister from the

University of Guelph-congratulations!!! Given the strength of this year's applicant pool, all of the applicants should also be proud of getting to this point. For those of you eligible next year - apply again. For those who aren't, keep your stick on the ice and your head up. I look forward to celebrating your Murray Award someday!

### **iii Armand Frappier Award – Cara Haney, Lawrence Goodridge & Shawn Lewenza**

There were 9 outstanding applicants for this year's CSM Armand-Frappier Award. The committee reviewed the EDI materials provided by CSM and expressed a commitment to evaluate the science and contributions of the nominees on its own merit. Each member of the committee ranked the applicants considering publications, research statement, prior awards, letters of recommendation, and teaching and technical contributions then met for 1 hour to discuss. After the discussion, no consensus was reached and so the committee re-ranked the applicants, which resulted in a consensus.

The committee recommended Elisse Magnuson from McGill University for the 2023 CSM Armand-Frappier Award. Elisse's research focuses on characterizing novel polar microbial bacteria in hypersaline springs in the Canadian Arctic. This work is exciting as it provides insights into the kind of life that could exist in extreme habitats beyond earth. This work was selected as one of the top 10 scientific discoveries of the year in Quebec, and Elisse has won a number of awards for her science and oral presentations. The committee feels she is highly deserving of this year's CSM Armand-Frappier Award.

## **17. Reports from Representatives to outside organizations**

### **a) Canadian Journal of Microbiology - Chris Yost and Kari Dunfield**

Prepared by: **Josephine E. Sciortino**, Editorial Director, CJM

Canadian Science Publishing is proud to be affiliated with the Canadian Society of Microbiologists in publishing the Canadian Journal of Microbiology.

We mutually benefit from our partnership:

- CSM members are part of the Editorial Board
- CSM members act of peer reviewers
- CSM members are welcome to submit to the journal and provide topics for Collections/Special Issues
- CSP provides sponsorship support for the annual CSM conference
- CSP provides educational opportunities for meeting attendees (i.e., author workshop)
- CSP offers a financial award for The Murray Award
- CSP offers an exhibit booth as a touchpoint for attendees

In 2022, CSP underwent a major reorganization and we have redirected our resources to support journal development. As such, CJM now has a dedicated Journal Development Specialist, Tracy Fegan, to support Chris Yost and Kari Dunfield. Tracy will be working closely with Josephine Sciortino, CJM's Editorial Director. We also have a dedicated Peer Review Coordinator, Katherine Kurowski, who will handle the peer review process in ScholarOne.

Canadian Science Publishing is working hard to establish more transformative agreements so that the open access publishing model can be implemented.

CSP currently has agreements with:

- Canadian Research Knowledge Network
- University of California
- Canadian Federal Science Libraries Network

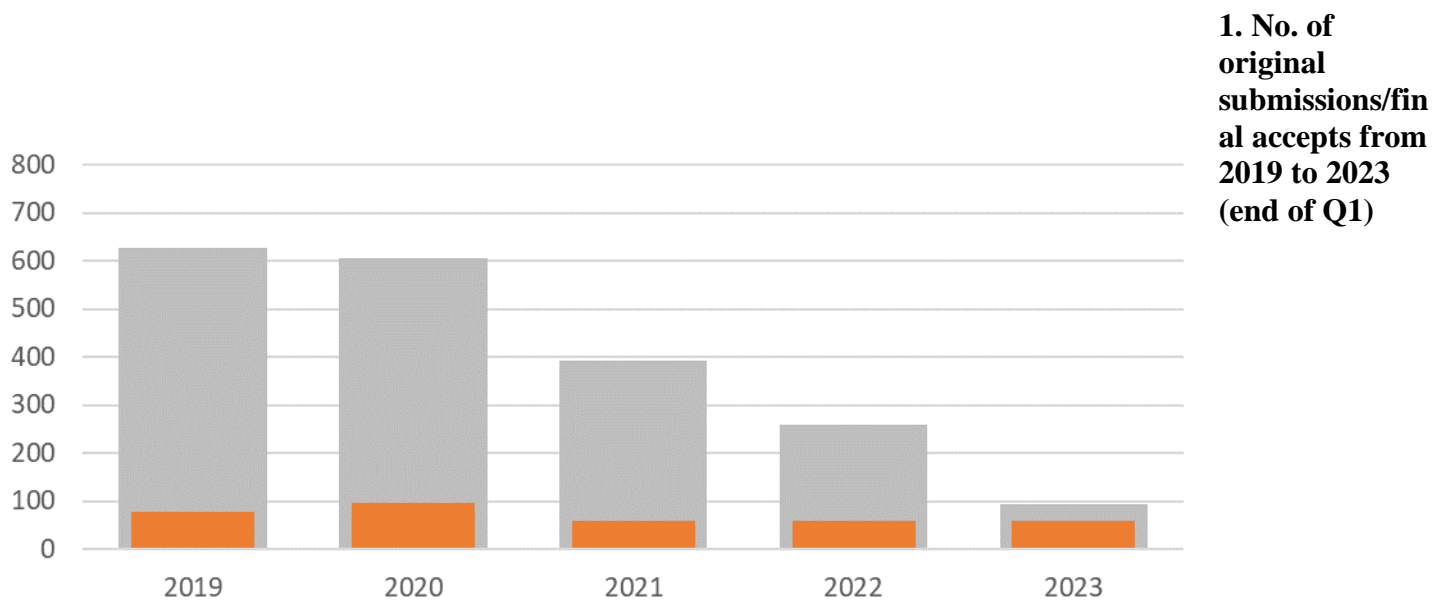
- ETH Zurich
- University of Oslo (including Oslo University Hospital)

The current discounted open access fee (\$1000) for CSM members should make it very attractive for authors to submit. We want to continue to encourage members to submit and to support their society journal.

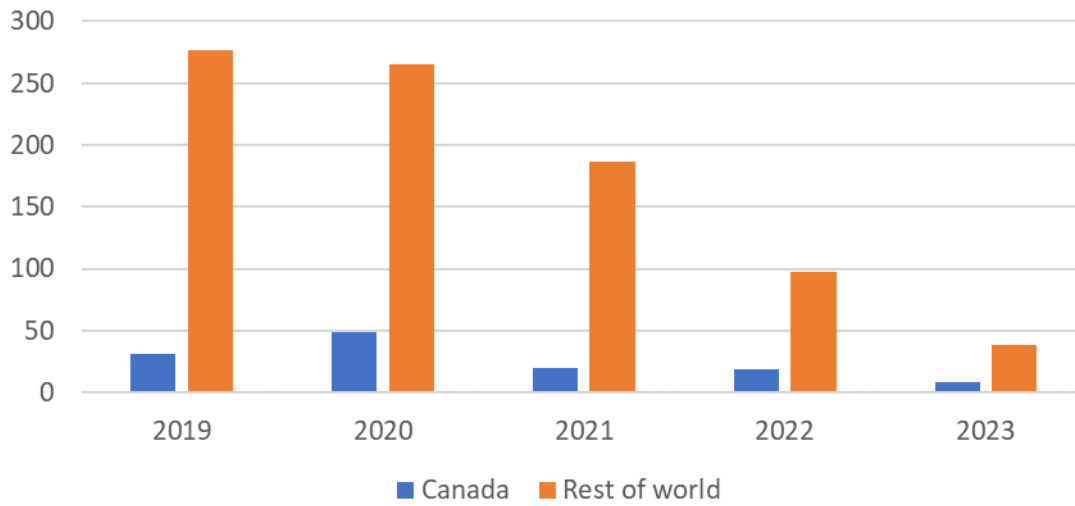
Some editorial statistics to keep in mind:

- CJM has a 76% rejection rate
- 50% of papers are rejected without review
- Mean number of days from submission to first decision: 56 days
- Turnaround times can be improved – we are looking to ensure that the subject matter of our board members matches the papers we are receiving – this will facilitate peer review and can lead to lower turnaround times

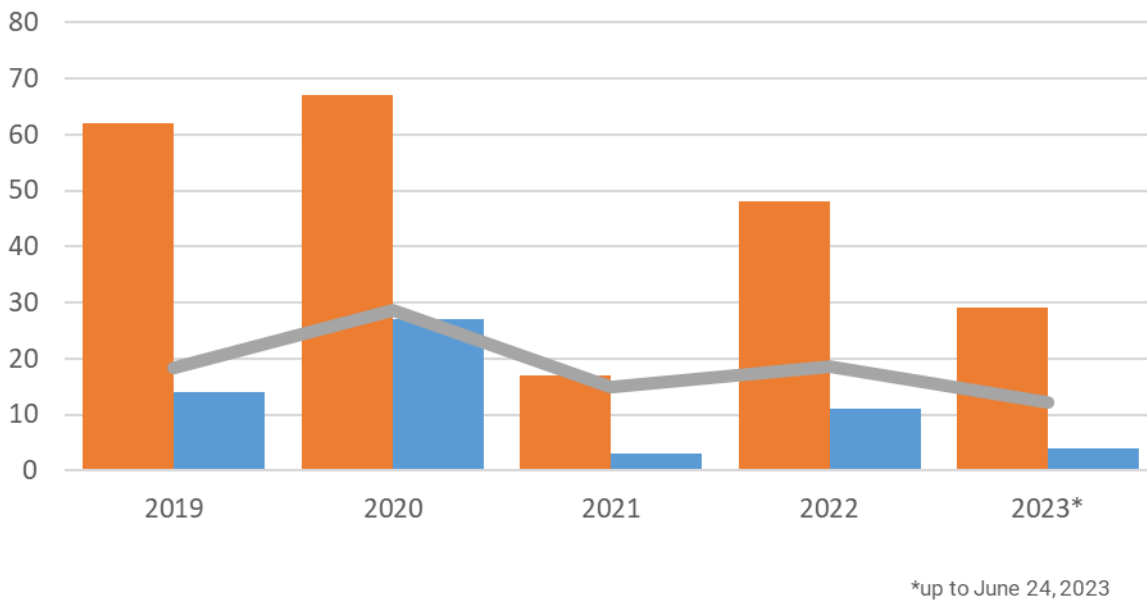
### More Editorial Statistics



## 2. Canadian submissions since 2019, compared to the rest of the world

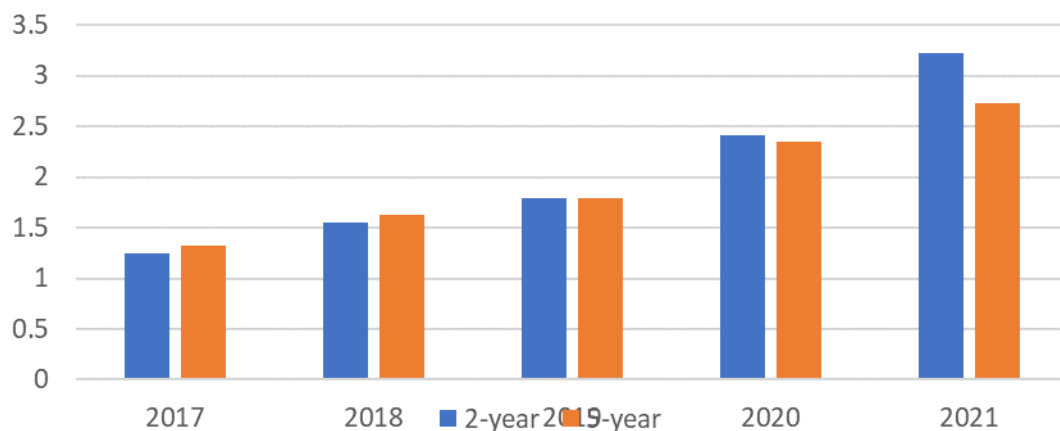


## 3. Percentage of open access vs. closed access, since 2019



### 3a. CJM Journal Impact Factor since 2017

Our Journal Impact Factor (JIF) increased for 2021. Of note, is the steady increase of the 5-year impact factor that accounts for the longevity and general importance and quality of journal articles published in CJM. Data based on the Clarivate Journal Impact Factor data.



#### How is the journal impact factor calculated?

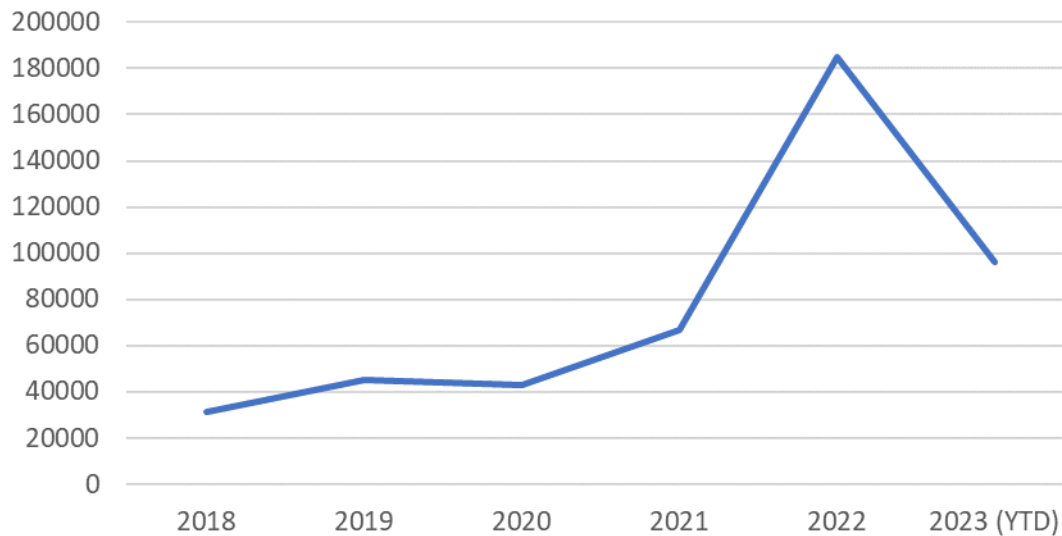
The JIF is a result of citations in 2021 of content published in 2019 + 2020. See screenshot below for the 2021 (2-year JIF) calculation. The 5-year JIF is calculated based on articles published in the previous 5 years rather than 2.

Journal Impact Factor™ is calculated using the following metrics:

$$\frac{\text{Citations in 2021 to items published in 2019 (298) + 2020 (173)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2019 (81) + 2020 (65)}} = \frac{471}{146} = 3.226$$

#### 4. CJM website downloads since 2018

This data is based on CSP Atypon Data, June 2023.



**5. CJM Publications:** A select list of papers with high downloads relative to their publication date. These papers illustrate the wide geographic reach of CJM.

- Horizontal transfer of antibiotic resistance genes in clinical environments (Minireview)
  - 58,623 downloads (jump from 9595 in 2021)
  - Authors: Andrew D.S. Cameron, Nicole A. Lerminiaux (U of Regina, SK)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjm-2018-0275>
- Dengue virus: epidemiology, biology, and disease aetiology (Review)
  - 40,570 downloads
  - Authors: Sudipta Kumar Roy and Soumen Bhattacharjee (West Bengal)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjm-2020-0572>
- Plasmid persistence: costs, benefits, and the plasmid paradox (Review)
  - 17,527 downloads
  - Authors: Alex Wong, Amanda C. Carroll (Carleton University, ON)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjm-2017-0609>
- Zika virus: an emerging challenge to public health worldwide (Review)
  - 16,289 downloads (jump from 3093 in 2021)
  - Authors: Manisha Sharma, Samander Kaushik, Divya Dhull, Vikrant Sharma, Yashika Sharma, Sulochana Kaushik (Maharshi Dayanand University & Himachal Pradesh University, India)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjm-2019-0331>
- Renaissance of vancomycin: approaches for breaking antibiotic resistance in multidrug-resistant bacteria (Minireview)
  - 12,903 downloads (jump from 3839 in 2021)
  - Authors: Eric Mühlberg, Florian Umstätter, Walter Mier, Christian Kleist, Philipp Uhl, Cornelius Domhan (Heidelberg University, Germany)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjm-2019-0309>



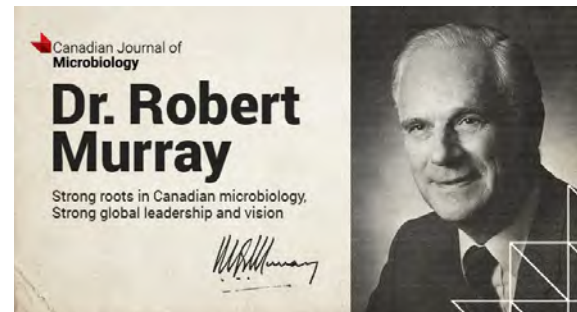
- A review of the taxonomy, genetics, and biology of the genus *Escherichia* and the type species *Escherichia coli* (Review) – Open Access
  - 9467 downloads
  - Authors: Daniel Yu, Graham Banting, and Norman F. Neumann (School of Public Health, U Alberta)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjm-2020-0508>
- Frontrunners in the race to develop a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (Review) – Open Access
  - 8096 downloads (jump from 5353 in 2021)
  - Authors: Brian L. Mark, Peter Pelka, Raquel L. Russell
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjm-2020-0465> (U of Manitoba, MB)
- *Prototaxites* reinterpreted as mega-rhizomorphs, facilitating nutrient transport in early terrestrial ecosystems (Article) – Open Access
  - 3700 downloads
  - Authors: Vivi Vajda, Larissa Cavalcante, Kristoffer Palmgren, Ashley Krüger, and Magnus Ivarsson (Museum of Natural History, Sweden)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjm-2021-0358>

## 6. CJM Strategic Initiatives

- Increase number of quality papers
- Increase number of collections
- Increase society involvement
- Improve editorial board engagement

### Completed Collection

- Tribute Issue on Dr. Murray: Guest Editors: Susan Koval (Western University) and Cezar Khursigara (University of Guelph)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/topic/cjm-murray-tribute>



### Current Call for Papers:

- Microbial Ecology & Evolution: Guest Editors: Aleeza Gerstein (University of Manitoba) and Leanne Grieves (McMaster University)
  - <https://cdnsiencepub.com/topic/cjm-microbial-ecology-evolution>



### Collections in initial stages:

- Synthetic biology
- Fungal Research
- Food Microbiology
- AMR and OneHealth
- Wastewater
- Food microbiome + soil health

## **b) *International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses – Andrew Lang***

Access to all the latest information about ICTV activities and updates is available at the ICTV website (<https://ictv.global/>). At this site you can also subscribe to the ICTV email newsletter. Some recent and ongoing ICTV highlights:

- An overview paper about the ICTV and viral taxonomy was published in May: Siddell et al. 2023. Virus taxonomy and the role of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). *Journal of General Virology* 104: 001840 (doi: 10.1099/jgv.0.001840).
- Taxonomic proposals submitted over the previous year were reviewed by the ICTV Executive Committee in July 2022 and ratified by the ICTV Membership in April 2023. The current virus taxonomy (ICTV Master Species List 2022 MSL38.v2) is available online at <https://ictv.global/msl>. A paper describing the latest changes was published in *Archives of Virology* (doi: 10.1007/s00705-022-05516-5).
- The ICTV Online (10th) Report on Virus Taxonomy is available and freely accessible at <https://ictv.global/report>. Summaries of the Online Report chapters are published in the *Journal of General Virology* ICTV Virus Taxonomy Profiles section. These summaries are linked to the full Online Report chapters on the ICTV website and are indexed in PubMed.

## **c) *Biological & Chemical Defence Review Committee of DND – Jonathan Van Hamme***

I hereby submit to the CSM-SCM a report on the activities of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee (BCDRC) for the period April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023. In this reporting period the BCDRC included Dr. Heather Durham (Montreal Neurological Institute; representing the Society of Toxicology of Canada), Dr. Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz (University of Toronto), Dr. Jonathan Van Hamme (Thompson Rivers University; representing the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, and Chair), and Executive Officer Brigadier General (ret'd) James Selbie. Our website can be found at <http://www.bcdrc.ca/> with links to formal, public reports.

The mandate of BCDRC is to provide an independent, third-party review of the Biological and Chemical Defence (BCD) research, development and training activities undertaken by the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with a view to assessing whether these activities are defensive in nature, and that they are conducted in a professional manner with minimal risk to public safety and the environment. Recent conflicts reported in the news documenting the use of chemical weapons, and potential use of biological agents, makes the Committee's work ever more important and relevant.

During its 2022 visits the Committee was satisfied that DND and the CAF are maintaining a purely defensive policy in biological and chemical warfare research, countermeasures, surveillance, and training; that such research is compliant with Canada's obligations as a signatory state to the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention; and that such research does not pose a threat to public safety or the environment. Based on observations during its visits, the Committee made several recommendations that will be published in its 2022 Annual Report on the BCDRC website. Public release of the report is delayed given the war in Ukraine. A full report of the Committee's diverse activities can be found at: <http://bcdrc.ca/annual-reports/>.

Dr. Heather Durham retired from the Committee this year, having served three separate tours, beginning in 1995, for a total of 17 years contributed, seven as Chair. Dr. Durham is the longest-serving member of the BCDRC. Dr. Durham's dedication and leadership to the Committee and to Canada was recognized in a personal

letter from The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Anita Anand. Dr. Durham's intellect, energy and sense of humour will be missed.

The BCDRC is fortunate to be joined by Dr. Christine Vande Velde, a Professor at the Université de Montréal and Scientific Director of the Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Vande Velde is a strong addition and situates the BCDRC in an excellent position.

I continue my term as Chair of the BCDRC, a position I assumed on April 1, 2021.

**d) *ASM International Membership Comm. & Ambassador to Canada – Christine Szymanski***

This is my last year of my second 3-year term as the ASM Ambassador to Canada (ending December 31, 2023). Each year, the Ambassadors submit requests to ASM for funds to support the CSM Annual Conference. Previously, the country ambassador has submitted a grant to fund the ASM Student Poster Prize at the CSM Annual Conference. The young ambassador submits a grant to fund a CSM/ASM student networking event. The work plans and funding requests are due by the end of January (decisions are sent early March) and the ambassadors work together with the local organizing committee on these submissions. There are also opportunities to request funds for special ASM lectures or sessions at the CSM Annual Conference, and also for organizing microbiology specialty meetings in Canada. For these opportunities, you would need to contact the ambassadors prior to January 30 of the year you are planning to host the event. This year, I submitted a request for one Student Poster Prize. ASM has agreed to again fund the request (1 membership and e-book, a combined \$250 value) awarded at the Canadian Society of Microbiologists Annual Conference.

**e) *ASM Young Ambassador to Canada – Landon Getz***

This is my second year as ASM Young Ambassador (ASM-YA) to Canada. On a personal note, I have finished my PhD at Dalhousie University, and started a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto. In my role as the ASM-YA, I have once again proposed two events: a student speed networking event as part of the student mixer as the annual meeting, and an underrepresented microbiologist seminar series. To support these events, I submitted an application to the ASM Young Ambassador Project Fund, which was successful. ASM will provide 1200USD to support the Student Speed Networking Event being held in conjunction with the Student Mixer at the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting. The speed networking event has been planned in partnership with the Postdoctoral Fellow Rep Dr. Sarah Piche-Choquette and the Student Representative Camille Ou, as well as the Annual Conferences LOC members Oriana Robinson and Maggie Hosmer.

This year, I also had the privilege of co-founding the Pride in Microbiology Network, which we launched in conjunction with Pride month in partnership with Nature Microbiology. This organization, with which you can read more about here (Nat Micro: <https://rdcu.be/ddCzh>) or here (website: <https://prideinmicrobiology.github.io>) is designed to support and mentor 2SLGBTQIA+ microbiologists around the world. I mention this here in this report to share this information with the CSM Executive, as we hope in the future to build close relationships with societies, including both ASM and CSM.

#### **f) *Partnership Group in Science and Engineering – PAGSE – Thien-Fah Mah***

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) has undergone a substantial re-organization over the past few years. The most notable is formal registration as not-for-profit, which required a new organizational and governance structure. Under this new structure, PAGSE now has a CEO, Adam Shuhendler, who started this past spring, and a Board of Directors that includes representatives from all sectors of the NSE as well as past Chairs. Due to this reorganization, alongside the challenges caused by the SARS Cov2 pandemic, many PAGSE activities were either modified or canceled. The good news is that things are starting to ramp up. PAGSE recently hosted its first in-person Bacon and Eggheads breakfast lecture since the pandemic started. On May 4, 2023, Donna Strickland, Nobel prize-winner in Physics (University of Waterloo) gave a seminar entitled “Photonics for the Environment: Using Light to Save the Planet”.

Adam Shuhendler has several exciting ideas to support PAGSE’s mission (in Adam’s own words) “to work collectively to represent the Canadian science and engineering community to the Government of Canada, and to advance research and innovation for the benefit of Canadians.” I look forward to reporting on these activities in the future.

#### **g) *Report for Phage Canada – Alex Hynes***

This is the first year with a representative of the nascent Phage Canada on CSM council but reflects the phenomenal support this initiative has received from the CSM in 2022 and 2020. Phage Canada is also delighted to see another dedicated phage session at CSM2023, with the hope that a few more years of this to get the ball rolling will soon establish the CSM as the natural place for phage work, and eventually mean we can phase out these dedicated sessions. Phage Canada itself still aims to host a virtual meeting every two years, so 2023 is an 'off' year. The organization has undergone some major steps towards becoming something more concrete, going from an informal entity largely existing as a mailing list on Alex's computer to a registered non-profit, co-founded by Alex and Dr. Greg German (a clinician). That has started a cascade of small changes to ensure it can outlast the efforts of any one member, although our hope is to continue to partner very closely with the CSM.

#### **h) *CanFunNet***

*Report not available.*