



2020 SIMB Election for Board of Directors

The SIMB Election for positions on the Board of Directors will commence March 2, 2020. The election will end at noon EST on March 31, 2020, and members must join/renew by March 30, 2020, by noon EST to be eligible to vote.

Current members for 2020 will receive login instructions for accessing the voting module.

The first step in the election process is the identification of the Nominations Committee (NC) consisting of the chair and least two members. The committee members are approved by the Board and serve only for the current year and cannot be reappointed within a three-year period. The NC proposes a slate of candidates (usually at least two candidates for each position) with input from the membership. The candidates must be current SIMB members with a demonstrated interest and involvement in SIMB. Upon acceptance of the nomination, the NC informs the candidates of the duties and responsibilities required by each position. In addition to the NC, candidates can be identified via Article 5, Section 4 in the SIMB Constitution using a petition process.

The final slate of candidates is due to the president by the first board meeting during the annual meeting. Candidates must submit a biography and photograph by October 15, 2020, for publication in the October-December issue of *SIMB News* and for posting on the website. After voting ends, the Election Committee, consisting of a minimum of two SIMB members, receives access to the voting module and certifies counts from online voting, as well as any paper ballots previously requested and postmarked no later than the deadline date for electronic voting ballots, and delivers the results to the SIMB President and SIMB Secretary for announcement.

The election process and ballots are available for inspection for at least 30 days following the annual meeting. Ballots and records are destroyed six months after the election (unless otherwise directed by the Board) and final tabulation of the votes is preserved.

Candidate for President

Noel M. Fong



A yeast geneticist by training, Noel is Director of Strain Development at Nucleis LLC, where she does Metabolic Engineering for construction of microbial strains making custom oils and metabolites in fungi and

bacteria. She thrives in startup companies, having worked at Zymogenetics and early Chiron. She is broadly trained, having received her Ph.D. in Microbiology and M.S. in Food Science from U.C. Davis, and her B.S. in Chemistry and Biophysics from U.C. Berkeley. She did her postdoc at the University of Michigan Medical School/Parke-Davis in insulin signaling for diabetes, and trained at the Seattle Culinary Academy in pastry (as bread baking IS an application of yeast!).

I first learned of SIMB (then SIM) when I was a Research Associate at my first job at Chiron. Having been to other scientific meetings before, I quickly saw that SIM was unique in that it offered the same scientific rigor, but coupled with reduction to practice and a vision to practical applications in the future. Throughout my 30+ years as a member, SIMB has given me so much - opportunities to establish personal and professional connections with colleagues in industry and academia who have guided my career, and a venue where I presented my work in person and in print. It is my professional 'home,' and I believe in giving back:

- ▶ Conference Chair for the 2018 General Meeting in Chicago
- ▶ Program Committee for Fermentation for the last 10 years
- ▶ Session Speaker
- ▶ Education committee member
- ▶ Diversity committee member

- ▶ Former President of the Northern California local chapter
- ▶ Actively working to revive the Southern California chapter.
- ▶ Reviewer for the Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology and Enzyme and Microbial Technology.

I am dedicated to service to the Society, and would be honored to be your President. As a board member, I promote:

1. Career development at two key junctures:
 - (a) Preparing students for the transition from school to industrial careers, especially that first job. This entails preparing students to get the kind of experience industry values while still in school, and (b) Working with mid-to-late career individuals to expand and showcase their skills and explore options.
2. Ensure the ongoing financial health of SIMB by (a) growing the membership – individual and corporate, (b) increasing meeting attendance and sponsorship, and (c) (re)positioning *JIMB* to maintain prominence and profitability in this era of OpenSource publishing.
3. Cross fertilization with organizations with common interests to exchange ideas or forge collaborations. e.g. ASM, IFT and ACS all touch upon different aspects of fermentation. This also extends to our international counterparts. As President of the Northern California section, I had organized a Summit of local professional societies, where representatives from 30 groups gathered to network.
4. Ongoing evaluation of topics to cover at conferences. This entails identification of emerging areas, and re-balancing or recombining areas to reflect industry trends.

Candidate for President

Michael Resch



Michael Resch earned his PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Colorado State University working on protein-DNA interactions in chromatin. Dr. Resch began his career at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in 2008 working on projects funded by industrial partnerships and the Department of Energy. His research focus now spans from biomass feedstock processing and conversion, CO₂ utilization, low carbon ammonia production and other technologies to enable a future circular carbon economy.

Along with being a member of SIMB since 2008, Dr. Resch is also a member of American Chemical Society and has served on the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* Editorial Board. He has contributed to the Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals and SIMB Annual Meetings as a session convener/chair, and invited speaker, a member

of the SIMB Annual Meeting Biocatalysts Program Committee and was elected to the SIMB Board of Directors in 2017.

As an SIMB Board Member Michael has been working to improve the conference experience for sponsors, organizers and attendees by updating the on-line registration system and initiating a more user-friendly smart phone program viewer. He is also dedicated to keeping SIMB meetings and publications subscribed by high impact academic and industrial science. Michael has pushed to streamline the meeting structures into two annual meetings and specialty meetings. Also, he would like keep the meetings programs flexible allowing integration of novel scientific topics and encourage young investigators to organize sessions alongside scientific pioneers. All of this is in the hope to enable an atmosphere where international academic, industrial and government stakeholders can develop well-rounded meetings with diverse viewpoints.

Webpage: <http://www.nrel.gov/bioenergy/bios/michael-resch.html>

Candidate for Treasurer

Steven Singer



I am a Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Director of Microbial and Enzyme Discovery at the Joint BioEnergy Institute in Emeryville, CA. My group studies ways to convert plants, methane and carbon dioxide to biofuels and bioproducts. I have served on the Organizing Committee for three annual meetings and was chair of the Environmental Section for the 2017 meeting in Denver. I have also served on the Nominations Committee in 2017. As Treasurer, I will work with the President and Board of Directors to ensure that the Society remains on a solid financial footing and will pursue new sources of revenue. I think the Society provides a unique perspective on microbiology that is relevant to scientists and engineers involved in both fundamental and applied research, and will use my role as Treasurer to expand its membership.

Candidate for Treasurer

Laura Jarboe



Laura Jarboe is an Associate Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Iowa State University and former Chair of ISU's Interdepartmental Microbiology Graduate program. Her research program generally focuses on engineering robust microbial cell factories in order to increase the economic viability of bio-production platforms, often involving engineering of the cell membrane and strategies to improve utilization of biomass-derived monomers. Jarboe's lab is also involved in the characterization of microbial attachment and microbial utilization of anhydrosugars. Laura has been a member of the SIMB Diversity committee since 2014 and is completing a first term as SIMB Treasurer.

Candidate for Board of Directors

Raj Boopathy



Dr. Raj Boopathy is an Alcee Fortier Distinguished Service Professor of biological sciences at the Nicholls State University, USA. He received the Jerry Ledet Foundation Endowed Professorship in Environmental Biology in 2002 and John Brady

Endowed Professorship in 2012. In 2008, Dr. Raj Boopathy received the Nicholls State University's Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence. He has more than 30 years of research experience in the area of bioremediation and bio-processing. His research involves bioremediation of hazardous chemicals including oil spills and explosives, biological treatment of wastewater, antibiotic resistance genes in the environment, and bio-ethanol production. He has published 167 research papers in peer-reviewed journals and 17 book chapters. He edited one book. His research work has been cited more than 7,000 times with h-index of 47. Dr. Raj Boopathy reviewed research grants for National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, US Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and numerous private agencies and foreign governments including South Africa, Switzerland, Indonesia, and Israel. He is the editor of International journal of Biodeterioration and Biodegradation (IBB), Current Pollution Reports, and the Journal of Applied Sciences (Section, Environmental and Sustainable Science and Technology). He also serves as a senior editor of the Journal, Renewable Bioresources and is on the Editorial Boards of various International journals including Bioresource Technology and the International Journal of Soil and Sediment Contamination. Dr. Raj Boopathy received Fulbright scholarship and spent six months teaching and conducting research at the Institute of Technology (ITB) in Bandung, Indonesia in 2007. He also received European Union-US biotechnology Fellowship and Leverhulme commonwealth fellowship. He has been elected as a Fellow of various societies including International Union

of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (SIMB) and the International Forum on Bioprocessing (IFBioP). Dr. Raj Boopathy was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Specialist to visit various countries for next five years by the US State Department and he recently visited Malaysia and Indonesia as a Fulbright Specialist. Dr. Boopathy received Dr. Waksman Award from SIMB for his contribution in Microbiology Education in 2017. Dr. Boopathy is the recipient of the World Class Professor (WCP) award from the Government of Indonesia.

Specific SIMB Activities and Services:

- ▶ SIMB Annual Meeting Program committee member (2015 to 2018)
- ▶ SIMB Annual Meeting Environmental Session Chair (2016-2018)
- ▶ SIMB Annual Meeting Program Chair for Environmental Session for 2018 Meeting.
- ▶ Invited as a Speaker at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meeting
- ▶ Elected as SIMB Fellow in 2016
- ▶ Received Waksman Award from SIMB in 2017
- ▶ Reviewed Research Papers for the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*
- ▶ Guest Editor of the Special Issue of *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology* -2019
- ▶ Served as Poster Judge at the SIMB Annual Meeting for the past three years
- ▶ Committee Member of Awards/Honors
- ▶ Committee Member of Membership Committee
- ▶ SIMB 2019 Annual Meeting- Students/Posters Committee

If I am elected as a director I will continue to serve SIMB on various activities mentioned above and I will focus my energy in increasing the SIMB membership and enhance our society's visibility in Asian and Latin American Countries. I am asking your vote to elect me as a member of the board of directors.

Candidate for Board of Directors

Robert S. Donofrio



Dr. Robert S. Donofrio holds the position of Vice President of Food Safety Research and Development at Neogen. He joined Neogen in February of 2016. He is responsible for the strategic vision, resource management

and coordination of product development activities for the following laboratory groups: Immunodiagnostics, Biochemistry, Neogen Culture Media, Molecular biology, Pathogen Detection and General Microbiology. Dr. Donofrio also oversees the Neogen Validation laboratory which is responsible for performing internal product validation and coordinating third party product certification and approval through groups such as AOAC, AFNOR, Health Canada and MicroVal. Dr. Donofrio is also responsible for establishing key collaborations with university and private research centers as well as evaluating novel technologies for potential integration into Neogen's product portfolio. Prior to Neogen, Dr. Donofrio spent 16 years at NSF International, a public health and safety company with primary functions in standards authoring and third party, independent auditing and testing / claim verification. During his tenure at NSF, Dr. Donofrio served as the Director of the Microbiology and Molecular Biology for over a decade and then as Director of the Applied Research Center for his final 3 years. He was awarded the NSF Star Employee Award in March of 2001 (was nominated for the same award in 2008) and guided his laboratory to the 2006 NSF Team of the Year Award.

Dr. Donofrio obtained his B.S. in Biology from the University of Dayton in 1994 and his M.S. in Environmental Microbiology from Duquesne University in 1996, where he was named Graduate Student of the Year. Dr. Donofrio

obtained his doctoral degree in Microbiology from Michigan Technological University in May of 2009, under the guidance of past SIMB President Dr. Susan T. Bagley.

Dr. Donofrio has authored dozens of publications for peer reviewed journals (including the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*), trade journals and training materials. In addition to the Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (SIMB), he is a full member of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Association of Analytical Communities (AOAC), and American Society for Microbiology (ASM).

Dr. Donofrio has been involved with SIMB throughout his entire professional career, starting as a poster presenter at the Annual Meeting in 1997 and most recently serving as Program Chair for the 2018 Recent Advances in Microbial Control Conference. Over those 20 years, Dr. Donofrio was the organizer for the Annual Meeting poster session for 10 years, authored multiple posters, presented talks and served as session chair for several Annual Meetings and RAMC meetings, was his company's primary representative for SIMB corporate sponsorship while at NSF International and Neogen and even served as an exhibitor at various SIMB conferences. He is most proud of the two terms he served on the SIMB Board of Directors as Secretary, cycling off in the Summer of 2018.

Dr. Donofrio's reason for running for the position of Director, other than for a love and respect of the Society and passion for microbiology, is to bring the representation and perspective from the food, cosmetics and water diagnostic sectors and third party commercial testing lab sector to SIMB. This includes expertise in commercial method/kit development (bridging the development gap between academia and industry and adoption of novel technologies), method validation, standard development, regulatory compliance, and quality control implementations.