

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for SIMB



Joy Doran-Peterson

Dr. Joy Doran-Peterson is currently a Professor of Microbiology, Founding Director of UGA's Professional Science Master's Program in Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing (where students are trained in STEM disciplines and the business of industrial science), and Founding Director of the Biofuels, Biopower, and Biomaterials Initiative (now the Bioenergy Systems Research Institute). At the American Society for Microbiology, she served as Divisional Group III Representative, as Division O (Fermentation and Biotechnology) Chair, and as a member of the General Meeting Planning Committee. She was also Chair for the American Academy of Microbiology Colloquium on Training the Next Generation of Microbiologists for Bio-based Industries and was a featured speaker on the "Microbiology of the Bioeconomy" at the Microbes After Hours

event at ASM headquarters. Joy has been active in SIMB for many years, serving first as a speaker at the Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals Meetings and the SIMB Annual Meetings, convening sessions at these meetings, judging posters, and serving as a luncheon mentor and a member of the Education Committee. In 2015 she was the Program Chair for the Annual Meeting where she implemented a new feature called the Science Slam. This activity was well received and she hopes to be able to contribute to implementation of the SIMB Strategic Plan in a more concrete way. She is a strong proponent of the Vision for SIMB to be "the leading international professional society in industrial microbiology and biotechnology".

TORS ELECTION DIRECTOR



Susanne Kleff

Susanne earned both her Master's Degree in Biology and her PhD from the University of Cologne–Germany, characterizing recombination enzymes and genes from Bacteriophage T4 and yeast. As a postdoctoral fellow at the State University in New York at Stony Brook, she identified and cloned the first histone acetyltransferase in yeast. During a 2-year academic employment at Michigan State University she analyzed the expression of genes involved in carcinogenesis and apoptosis in a human fibroblastic cell line.

Susanne's passion for—and commitment to—the development of sustainable technologies is an asset to MBI's leadership team. As Project Manager and Senior Scientist, her extensive experience is instrumental in the development of unconventional organisms as well as fermentation and recovery processes

for C4-dicarboxylic acids and their successful demonstration at pilot scale. Within MBI's derisking operations—where she has worked with companies such as *Genomatica* and *OPX*, as well as with academic organizations—Susanne plays a pivotal role in initial technology transfers and scale-ups.

Susanne sees a synergistic alignment between her role as part of the MBI management team and the goals of the Society: she is dedicated to fostering scientific discovery and propelling their industrial applications. Susanne has been attending SIMB meetings since 2003 and has found a home in this community of like-minded scientists. She has served on poster review panels for the Society, attended the annual Board meetings, and recently became the Chair person for a committee to expand the society's international outreach. She is especially interested in promoting outreach and fostering collaborative dialogues between academia and industry. She is honored to have been nominated for Director of SIMB.

The majority of Susanne's career was spent at MBI, where she serves as Project Manager and Senior Scientist. She has been instrumental in the development of unconventional organisms, fermentation and recovery processes for C4-dicarboxylic acids and their successful demonstration at pilot scale. As part of MBI's derisking program, she played a pivotal role in the initial technology transfers and scale-up with *Genomatica*, *OPX*, among other companies and academic organizations.

Her passion and enthusiasm for applied microbiology and environmental stewardship made her an active member in the Society for industrial microbiology, where she serves as chair for a committee on international outreach. In her spare time Susanne likes to run, read and ride motorcycles.

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K. Thomas Klasson

Thomas is a biochemical engineer researching biofuel and bioproducts from sugar crops via fermentation. He received his M.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden and his Ph.D. in (Bio)Chemical Engineering, from University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. After his post-doctoral work on synthesis gas fermentation at the University of Arkansas, he was the Biotechnology Laboratory Director at the University's Engineering Research Center. Dr. Klasson worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 12 years as a R&D Engineer and Group Leader of the Biochemical Engineering Research Group and the Remediation Technology Group before joining the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in 2004 as a Research Leader for the Commodity Utilization Research Unit (26 members). The group's research activities include development of fermentation processes for converting agricultural waste to fuels and products, enzymatic upgrading of vegetable oils, alternative use and recovery of cotton seed oil, and process improvement of sugar factories. He has authored over 160 research journal articles, book chapters, and scientific reports. He has done numerous invited presentations and often serves as expert reviewer for proposals and projects for the U.S. Department of Energy, Bioenergy Technology Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Klasson is a member of SIMB and has organized SIMB's Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals for the last 10 years, serving as the Symposium's chair (even years), co-chair (odd years), and on the Organizing Committee (every year). Thomas is also a member of American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and the American Society for Testing and Materials International. He has held seven officer positions with local sections of AIChE. If elected as Director, he will bring administrative and technical experience from academia, national laboratories, federal government, and conference organization. He has a passion for science and would like to work on increasing the number of local SIMB sections and encourage SIMB member participation as science judges in local science fairs.

SIMB Election opens February 15, 2016

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 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.

TORS ELECTION DIRECTOR



Steven Van Lanen

Steven Van Lanen earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2003 and was an NIH-sponsored postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Ben Shen, then at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, from 2004-2007 prior to beginning his independent career at the University of Kentucky in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He became a member of the Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology in 2003 and has routinely contributed to the annual meeting with presentations and service as a session chair in Biocatalysis. He served on the Strategic Planning Committee for Past President Leonard Katz from 2014-2015, during which time he helped organize the 1st Natural Product Discovery and Development in the Post Genomic Era meeting held in San Diego. Steven has also been on the Editorial Board of JIMB since 2008 and was a guest co-

editor for a JIMB issue dedicated to Sir David Hopwood in 2014. His vision of SIMB is to be the preeminent global society for all topics related to industrial microbiology and biotechnology that will be achieved, in part, by organizing top quality meetings showcasing cutting-edge and contemporary science, expanding opportunities for members to interact across disciplines, job sectors, and geographic location, and increasing the public awareness of the connections between the scientific interests of the Society and the benefits to humanity.

Candidates must submit a biography and photograph by October 15 for publication in *SIMB News* and for posting on the website. After voting ends, the Election Committee, consisting of a minimum of two SIMB members, receives the tallies from online voting, as well as any paper ballots, and delivers the results to the president and secretary.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for SIMB PRES



Nigel Mouncey

My love affair with microbes began at a very early age as my father was a microbiologist and we had lots of scientific journals and books lying around at home for an inquisitive young boy to peruse. So it was only natural to follow this affair through my education, with BSc and PhD degrees in microbiology. This led to my first TransAtlantic experience with postdoc positions at Harvard and UT-Houston teasing apart the intricacies of bacterial regulatory systems. Deciding my skills could be valuable in industry, I joined Roche Vitamins in New Jersey to develop further improved production strains for vitamin B2. After a move to Switzerland and a company metamorphosis (to DSM), I worked with a fantastic multi-disciplinary team to develop a new and direct fermentative route to vitamin C. I headed back to the US to join Dow AgroSciences to build a team to improve the fermentation productivity for commercial insecticides. Today, with 17 years of Industry Microbiology experience, I am the R&D Director

for Bioengineering and Bioprocessing R&D at Dow AgroSciences where I lead a team of 70 people passionately developing and improving microbial strains and fermentation processes for insecticides, fungicides, propionic acid and other chemicals of commercial interest.

Throughout my career, I've always considered the SIM (and now SIMB) as the Society that you must belong to as an Industrial Microbiologist to not only be aware of what cool science is going on but how to approach science and conduct yourself as a scientist. Over the years of my membership, I've been fortunate to be invited to give a number of presentations, including the Industry Award presentation in 2014 on behalf of Dow AgroSciences. Our membership spans the full spectrum of diversity, and I'm honored to be a member of the SIMB Diversity Committee to further promote diversity in our Society and of our Society.

Vision for SIMB: Industrial Microbiology is going through a resurgence, expanding the palate of microbial products from low-value platform chemicals and fuels to high-value specialties, advanced antimicrobials, biotherapeutics and even the application of microbes themselves to improve crop yields. SIMB will be the leading professional society in bringing together these diverse applications, to promote the developing and leveraging of the best technologies and scientific excellence across applications, to break down barriers between Industry and Academia to foster new partnerships and career development opportunities, and to proactively encourage and expand diversity in SIMB and our field. SIMB will play a key role across our field in promoting industrial microbiology and biotechnology and to build this community by expanding the Society's communication platforms and engagement, both domestically and internationally. I would like to see SIMB strengthen the links between academics and industrial microbiologists to accelerate advances in product and technology development. The development of the full repertoire of skills needed to becoming a successful scientist, whether in academia or industry, for early-career scientists (graduate students, postdocs, junior faculty and early stage industry career) needs to be a key part of SIMB's future and the Society should develop mentorship and training programs to effect this. In my role at Dow AgroSciences, I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to hire great scientists and SIMB should be seen as the go-to-place to recruit top talent.

I have gained a tremendous amount of valuable knowledge, colleagues and friends through my membership of SIMB and I thoroughly look forward to upholding the Society's Core Values through serving as President-Elect.

TORS ELECTION IDENT-ELECT



Debbie S. Yaver

Debbie received both her Bachelors of Arts in Bacteriology and Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology from University of California, Davis. Prior to her graduate work, Debbie worked for two years at SRI International in the microbiology department on oil field microbiology. She began her industrial career as a Scientist in Fungal Expression with Novo Nordisk Biotech (now called Novozymes, Inc.). Debbie has been with Novozymes, the world's largest supplier of industrial enzymes and microorganisms, for 23 years. At Novozymes, she directs research departments that focus on engineering microbial strains for production of enzymes, other proteins and small molecules as well as genomics and bioinformatics. She is an inventor on approximately forty issued patents and author on more than 20 peer reviewed publications.

She has also given presentations on her work at many international meetings and has chaired sessions at several scientific conferences. Debbie has remained active at UC Davis and has taught for many years a graduate level seminar at UC Davis on industrial biotechnology from discovery to product which is part of the Designated Emphasis in Biotechnology program. She is also a member of the Executive Committee for the UC Davis NIH Training Grant for Biomolecular Technology, the Advisory Committee of the UC Davis CREATE-IGERT Training program, and the Advisory Board for the Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing at University of Iowa. In 2014, she received the first Rosalind Franklin Award for leadership in industrial biotechnology awarded by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

Debbie has been a SIMB member since 2006 and is currently on the SIMB Board of Directors. She is chair of Presidential Committee on Strategic Planning which recently developed a new strategic plan. Debbie has spoken, chaired sessions and served on the program committee for the SIMB Annual Meeting over the last several years. She is the program chair for the 2016 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. She has also served on the organizing committee for the last two Recent Advances in Microbial Control (RAMC) meetings, and is on the organizing committee for RAMC 2016. Debbie's vision for SIMB is that it continues to organize high quality meetings that bring together scientists from around the world to share recent results, forge collaborations and discuss important issues and trends in industrial microbiology and biotechnology. She is passionate about diversity issues in STEM and fully supports SIMB's diversity initiatives. She would also like to see SIMB take a lead in educating the public to the benefits to industrial microbiology and biotechnology.