



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

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Contact: Office of External Affairs

Voice: 301-295-1219 Fax: 301-295-3757

Email: anicholson@usuhs.mil

News Release

American Society for Microbiology Selects Dr. Alison O'Brien as President Elect

Bethesda, Md. — Alison O'Brien, Ph.D., an internationally recognized microbiologist, professor and chair of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was selected as President Elect of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM).

Dr. O'Brien is a world-renowned expert in bacterial toxins and microbial pathogenesis. She has over 170 publications and has been continuously funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for her work on the "hamburger bug," *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, for the past 23 years. She has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the American Society for Microbiology journal, *Infection and Immunity*, since 1999 and is the current President of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Immunology Chairs. Her previous honors include membership on advisory panels for the NIAID, the Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As President Elect of ASM, Dr. O'Brien will serve a one-year term from July 2007-July 2008. She will then serve a one-year term as President from July 2008 to July 2009.

The ASM is the world's largest scientific society of individuals interested in the microbiological sciences. The Society's mission is to advance microbiological sciences through the pursuit of scientific knowledge and dissemination of the results of fundamental and applied research.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is located on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. The university provides military and public health-relevant education, research, service and consultation to the nation and the world. USU is a typical academic health center with a unique focus on health promotion and disease prevention and the specialized mission of educating health care practitioners to deal with peace and wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies.

For more information, call the Office of External Affairs at (301) 295-1219.