

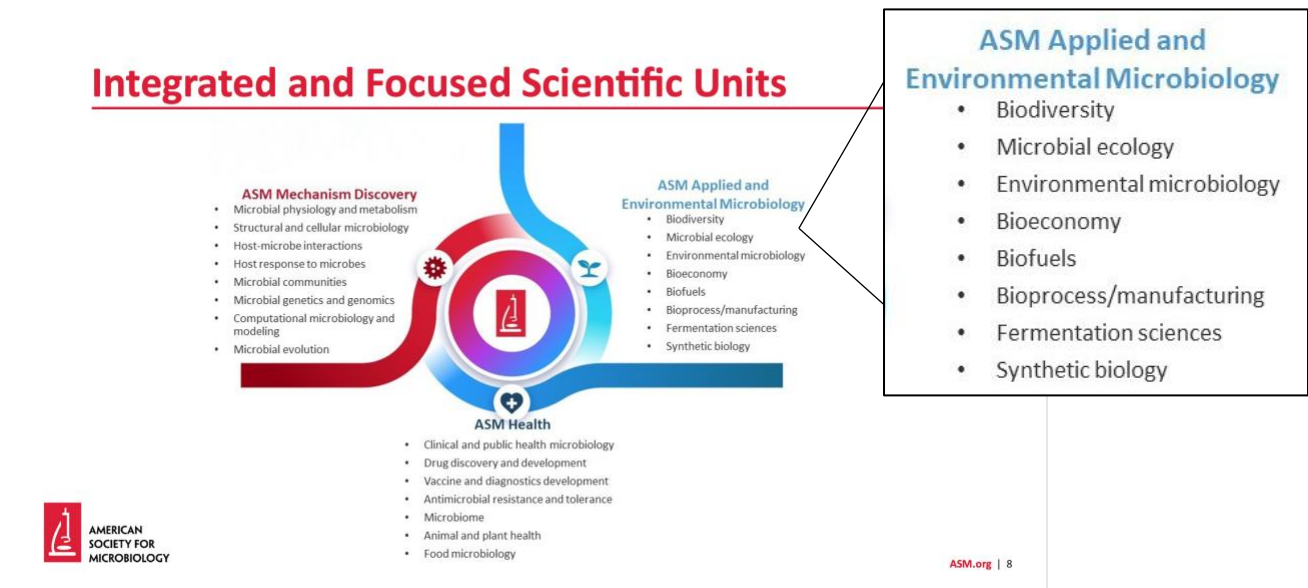
ASM Applied and Environmental Microbiology Chair Position Description

ASM is currently seeking a visionary, volunteer to serve as the inaugural Chair of ASM Applied and Environmental Microbiology (AEM), a key component of the [ASM Strategic Roadmap](#). The Chair will play a leadership role in setting the scientific direction and priorities in the areas covered by ASM AEM, in close partnership with the full-time staff Scientific Director.

Position Overview. The ASM AEM Chair oversees efforts to identify opportunities in emerging areas at the intersection of the subdisciplines within the portfolio (see graphic below), providing strategic direction to help ASM shape the future of the microbial sciences. The ASM AEM Chair will have as its beacon the empowering of ASM members and all stakeholders to concretely and actively define and shape the future of the field in those areas that the unit chooses to prioritize. These may or may not be the specific areas of expertise of the Chair; hence, it is essential that the Chair is an accomplished individual with broad views and vision for the future of all the microbial sciences.

Recognizing the global nature of microbiology, the Chair will bring to the position a network of internal and external stakeholders, working in close partnership with the ASM AEM Director (a senior member of the ASM Staff), the ASM AEM Scientific Advisory Council (elected by the ASM membership)* and the other ASM scientific units.

* Note that this is a unit within ASM and not a role within the journal of the same name. The initial Scientific Advisory Council will be appointed by the ASM Board of Directors to serve in the interim. Elections will be held in 2026.



Key Roles and Responsibilities

Prioritization and Strategic Development

- Work closely with ASM AEM Director and ASM's AEM Advisory Council to identify and prioritize scientific objectives within the units scientific portfolio, to develop approaches and strategic plans where ASM can be the association that helps propel the field forward within ASM's strategic framework.
- Leverage deep and expansive knowledge of microbial sciences and expertise in the field to provide guidance and direction on scientific trends, ensuring alignment with organizational priorities to identify scientific gaps, remove roadblocks and propose concrete solutions.
- Provide direction on ways to enhance ASM's global efforts.

Collaboration

- Ability to chair a diverse scientific advisory council with broad scientific interests. Someone who can bring together people with differing viewpoints to move forward with a shared vision.
- Forge strategic relationships and collaborations with key stakeholders, not only within the ASM membership, but also external multidisciplinary research communities, industry partners, government agencies and global organizations.
- Extend reach beyond the microbiology space by identifying and capitalizing on opportunities for collaboration with non-traditional partners and audiences.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Effectively and concretely shaping the future of the field, cannot be done alone by ASM. Bringing others along and forging partnerships that drive impact and sustainability is key to success.
- Identify and engage a diverse scientific team of ASM members and non-members, providing leadership that ensures alignment with organizational goals.
- Foster engagement within the community by empowering team members to contribute their expertise and perspectives toward collective objectives.

Qualifications

- An ASM member in good standing.
- An “obsession” for making an impact in defining what the future of the field should be.
- Not a “command and control” individual, but a team player, who, first and foremost, wants to tap all the talent and expertise they can find to advance the field.
- A visionary, well-respected scientific leader within and outside the microbial sciences community with deep knowledge of applied and environmental microbiology-related trends, opportunities and gaps in the field.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to distill complex information for diverse audiences.
- Strong network within the scientific community and ability to leverage the expertise of the network.

- Demonstrated leadership in developing strategic relationships and collaborations with industry, government, academia and other stakeholders.
- Proven track record for Identifying and prioritizing key scientific initiatives amidst competing demands. Has a keen ability to sift through complex and varied scientific discourse and information and distill information to identify emerging trends, opportunities and gaps in the field, with a goal of driving ASM's scientific direction.
- Team player. Understands the deep and well-rounded partnerships with the Scientific Director and the staff.
- Understands and internalizes the [ASM PIAA principles](#), and [ASM values](#).

Desired Qualities

- Passion for ASM's mission and a commitment to advancing the role of science in addressing global challenges.
- Ability to see how various aspects of applied and environmental microbiology come together to advance the field, as opposed to representing specific areas of scientific interest.
- Creates a motivational climate, values diversity of thought and builds consensus.
- Understands global trends and perspectives.