

**ISAPP sponsors symposium at 2005 meeting of the
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
July 27, 2005 San Francisco**

Report filed by James Versalovic, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX:

The 2005 meeting of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) included the International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology (ICBAM). As part of ICBAM, James Versalovic, MD, PhD, from Baylor College of Medicine chaired a session entitled "Probiotic Functions of Microorganisms" on July 27, 2005. Dr. Versalovic delivered the first lecture and included a brief discussion of ISAPP and its mission. He described studies of immunoprobiotics or the ability of probiotics to modulate host immune responses. Ultimately, specific probiotic strains may be useful for immunotherapeutic purposes. Karen Madsen, PhD, from the University of Alberta described the abilities of probiotic strains to reduce intestinal permeability and how probiotic DNA may modulate intestinal epithelial cell functions. Peter Lee, M.D., from Stanford University described his efforts to engineer *Lactobacillus jensenii* for the prevention of heterosexual transmission of HIV-1. Dr. Lee discussed the progress of his company, Osel Inc., regarding the expression of molecules that may block HIV transmission. Finally, David Pridmore from Nestle Inc. in Lausanne talked about the latest insights into the structure and biology of the genome of probiotic *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533.