



## *Microbiology Award for Excellence in Mycology*

Presented annually to a meritorious graduate student in the  
Microbiology and Plant Pathology Department

The Microbiology Award for Excellence in Mycology was established on behalf of the San Diego Mycological Society in honor of Dr. Moselio Schaechter. Dr. Moselio Schaechter, “Elio,” was born in Milan, Italy and in 1940 at age 12, he and his parents found refuge as European Jews in Ecuador. When he was 14, an interest in microbiology was inspired after he read *Microbe Hunters*, by Paul de Kruif. Studies in high school and medical school plus his work in bacteriology laboratories led him in 1950 to the University of Kansas and University of Pennsylvania for graduate degrees. He was soon drafted and served in the US Army doing microbial research at Walter Reed, later spending time in Denmark doing postdoctoral study.

After his first job at the University of Florida Medical School, in 1962 Elio joined Tufts University in Boston for a 33-year career, chairing their Dept. of Molecular Biology for 23 years. He also served as President of the American Society for Microbiology, 1985-86. It was in Boston that Elio began his serious interest in mycology as a hobby and joined the Boston Mycological Club—the oldest amateur mushroom club in the US—where he actively participated and led for years. It is San Diego’s great fortune that when Elio left Boston in 1995, life brought him here and before long he helped organize San Diego Mycological Society. He has been a great inspiration and teacher to many over the years while he has never left academia, maintaining teaching positions at both SDSU and UCSD.

The Microbiology Award for Excellence in Mycology will be awarded to **one** meritorious graduate student in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology (MPP) at the University of California, Riverside. A faculty committee will identify the applicant that has demonstrated excellence in research and creative forward-thinking in their dissertation research. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1000, an engraved plaque and an engraved certificate signed by the Department Chair. The award will be presented following the annual Microbiology and Plant Pathology Student-Invited Lectureship.

### **Eligibility**

All graduate students currently enrolled and in good standing in a Ph.D. program in the MPP Department. *The student can be a member of any graduate program as long as they are working in the laboratory of a faculty member belonging to the MPP Department.* The student’s research focus should be on mycology. All aspects of fungal biology and ecology are encouraged. Students may only receive this award once and are only eligible for one departmental award per year.

### **Application Process**

To apply, please submit the following in **a single pdf** to the online submission form by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

1. A cover page including the title of the dissertation project, the name of the student applying for the award, and co-signatures of the student and the major professor.
2. A research statement that describes the student’s dissertation project (3-page limit).
3. List of publications, presentations and awards.