

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### XXVI and XXXX

Professor, why are you using these Roman Numerals? Ah, my friend, you see when people want to indicate some events to be very special they will use Roman Numerals to separate them from ordinary occurrences such Super Bowl 39 is written as XXXIX and 28th Olympics is written as XXVIII. “XXVI” and “XXXX” indicate two important events in my Summer of 2006.

We just completed the 26<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology at Kansas State University with scientists from many countries and States who came to spend 8 days of intensive interactions in many aspects of applied microbiology. It was a great success and everybody went home happy. This year we had a lot of Australians come all the way from Down Under to share their time and talents in the workshop. Here is where the story of the Roman Numerals begins.

During the workshop I received a certificate from American Society for Microbiology (ASM) informing that I just reached 40 year member status. Forty years? That is a very long time. Many readers of this Journal probably were not born in 1966 when I became an ASM member! I highly recommend that all young professionals join their chosen professional society early and be as active as possible so that they can reach their 30th or 40th year membership status as soon as possible. One cannot retroactively add number of years on your membership years. Time does not go back!! So, I am enjoying my XXXX years as an ASM member.

But, Professor shouldn't you use XL for forty? Yes, I know, I know. Here is where all the numbers collided. Because there were so many Australians in the workshop they reminded me of a great beer in Australia named “XXXX”. So to celebrate the success of XXVI workshop and my XL years of ASM membership I will consume some XXXX to uplift my spirit (no pun intended).

Cheers, mate.

The XXVII workshop will be from June 15 to 22, 2007. See you all in Manhattan, KS

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG