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PRESS RELEASE
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MASSBAY PROFESSOR TO BE HONORED AT STATE HOUSE
Dr. Sarmad Saman will be honored on Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day

Wellesley Hills, Mass. – Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) Associate Professor of Microbiology and Science Department Chair **Sarmad Saman, Ph.D.** will be honored at the Massachusetts State House on October 21 in celebration of Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day.

Dr. Saman is one of four biomedical research leaders honored by the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Inc. He and Ms. Ruth Chappel (Instructional Leadership Specialist in Science, Springfield Public Schools), Dr. Douglas Melton (Co-Director, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute), and Dr. Aldo A. Rossini (Chief, Division of Diabetes, UMass Medical School) will attend a state house ceremony that will honor their ability to lead and those who educate the next generation of leaders.

The Massachusetts Legislature created Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day in 2006 and each year since, MSMR has honored leaders in the biomedical research field.

Dr. Saman's research work concentrates on the isolation and identification of microorganisms from various environments in addition to studying the co-evolution of antibiotic resistance and probiotic bacteria. Dr. Saman and his Research Associate Patty Slattery's work was rewarded in the summer of 2006 with a confirmed isolation of a new type of bacteria from snow that have not been described or sequenced before that was named *Bacillus samanii*. This past month the pair isolated another new bacteria and yeast from the Hockomock Swamp and they have others at various stages of purification, isolation and identification.

"These findings allow us to understand how life evolves, how it impacts us, and interacts with us," said Dr. Saman. "We need to study what is out there so that we can understand how organisms interact and how it all allows life to proceed."

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Dr. Saman has been at MassBay since January 2003 where he established the Environmental Sciences & Safety Program with its research component that made MassBay the only community college in Massachusetts and one of the few in the United States that offers a research component with its academic programs. Dr. Saman served as an Interim Dean for the STEM Division at MassBay during the Spring of 2008 and was elected for the Department Chair position in the Fall of 2008.

About MassBay Community College

Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five divisions of academics: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).

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