

# American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP)

We welcome all ASTMH members with interest in basic parasitology to join our subgroup and contribute to our programs.



## Welcome Message from our President, Dr. Mahalia Desruisseaux

### Hello Friends in Parasitology!



Happy Spring and hopefully a graduated return to a new normal. In this edition of our newsletter is a special community highlight showcasing the work and mission of BIPOC in Parasitology, an incredible team working to bring diversity and equity to Parasitology.

This edition also highlights the activities our ACMCIP trainees have been involved in since the November Annual Meeting. We continue to support our trainee initiatives, including the ACMCIP Bonfire fundraising campaign, where you can order ACMCIP swag items like coffee mugs, tote bags, T shirts and sweatshirts. All proceeds will go toward ACMCIP Trainee activities, including sponsorship of the 3-minute thesis presentations at our Annual Meeting. Check out the announcement for the 3-minute thesis competition below! Announcements for ACMCIP awards are listed below, including the inaugural ACMCIP Junior Investigator Award.

It has been a tough yet interesting couple of years with this new normal, with lots of highs and also many lows. I can personally attest that at your lowest you may not always remember to fill your cup or even what fills your cup. If you are one of the more than 50% of academic researchers or physicians who are experiencing burnout or depression during the pandemic, you know that it can feel insurmountable even when you haven't yet recognized that you're burned out. But you are not alone. It is ok to not have it all figured out. Lean on your support system. Surround yourself with people who will help you figure out how to get your cup refilled, including a mental health professional. Take care of yourself and take care of each other. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Seattle this October.

**Mahalia S. Desruisseaux, MD**

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## 2022 ACMCIP Award Announcements!

### Travel Award for Low/Low-Middle Income Country Trainees ([Download Guidelines](#))

The ACMCIP student travel award will recognize a student or trainee who is primarily based in a Low/Low-Middle Income Country (LMIC) and who submits an abstract to the ASTMH Annual Meeting representing novel and exciting research in the field of molecular, cellular or immunoparasitology. The trainee must be, or become, an ASTMH and ACMCIP member.

**Application Deadline: April 6, 2022** ([Submit your application HERE](#))

### Exchange Fellowship Award ([Download Guidelines](#))

Generous funding from our ASTMH parent body, along with your membership contributions, has allowed us to continue this award for 2022. It is aimed at all levels of trainees (including junior independent researchers) seeking to gain new or additional research skills by visiting laboratories that employ cutting-edge methods. This award, up to \$500 for domestic travel and \$2,000 for international travel, will aid trainees in augmenting their molecular or immunoparasitology studies by supporting travel from or to an ACMCIP member's laboratory. The trainee must be, or become, an ASTMH and ACMCIP member.

**Application Deadline: May 9, 2022** ([Submit your application HERE](#))

### The William Trager Award for Fundamental Breakthrough in Parasitology Research



The William Trager Award, established by the ACMCIP in 2015, recognizes a fundamental breakthrough in molecular, cellular or immunoparasitology. This annual award is named in honor of Prof. William Trager, PhD, a past President of ASTMH who established *in vitro* culture conditions for *Plasmodium* parasites and thereby directly enabled almost all the current fields of basic and applied malaria research. This is not a career recognition award but is to recognize a recent breakthrough in basic parasitology that has been published (usually with the nominee as corresponding author) between two and 15 years ago. The awardee will be announced during the ASTMH Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony and the award will be made at ACMCIP's Business Meeting. The [guidelines](#) will be available in mid-April.

**Nomination Deadline: May 23, 2022**

### New Award in 2022: ACMCIP Junior Investigator Award

Stay tuned for more information in April.

## SAVE THE DATE for #TropMed22 (in person!)

The ASTMH 71st Annual Meeting will be held on October 30 - November 3, 2022 (Sunday through Thursday) at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle! Submit your abstracts for the meeting by April 6, 2022.

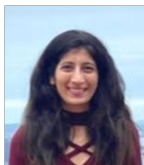
([Abstract Submission Guidelines](#))

## Trainee Corner

Hi there! Despite the COVID-19 pandemic raging on with seemingly no end in sight, *your* trainee team is committed to delivering programming and content to promote trainee engagement and development.

We begin with a huge CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 2021 ACMCIP Trainee 3MT competition, Avantika Ahiya (Drexel University College of Medicine) and James Blauwkamp (Indiana University School of Medicine). They presented their exciting research at the first ever **Trager & Trainee Awardee Symposium**, alongside the Trager Award Winner, Dr. Manoj Duraisingh (Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health).

#### Inaugural Trager & Trainee Awardee Symposium Speakers



**Avantika Ahiya**  
Drexel University College of Medicine  
@AvantikaAhiya



**James Blauwkamp**  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
@James\_Blauwkamp



**Manoj Duraisingh, PhD**  
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health  
@DuraisinghLab

We thank the ACMCIP Executive Council for their continued commitment to trainee engagement by once again sponsoring the **Trager & Trainee Awardee Symposium**, to take place at #TropMed22. This means it's time for another 3-Minute Thesis Competition!!! The contest is open to doctoral or Masters' students completing a dissertation or thesis in basic cellular/molecular or immunoparasitology. More information about the contest, including submission instructions can be found [here](#). We encourage all eligible trainees to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Don't forget about the ACMCIP Bonfire store ([ACMCIP | Official Merchandise | Bonfire](#)). You can show your parasitology pride with ACMCIP swag like coffee mugs, tote bags, T shirts and sweatshirts. The proceeds from this campaign will go toward supporting ACMCIP Trainee activities. You can also support our trainees with a donation at this site.



The GOTropMED (Global Online Tropical Medical Education) website, overseen by the ASTMH Digital Education Committee, remains a rich repository of resources that are especially relevant for trainees, including a webinar on submitting successful abstracts for the ASTMH Annual Meeting! The library is regularly updated with new content, so check it out and check back often ([gotropmed.astmh.org](http://gotropmed.astmh.org)). The site is free with ASTMH membership; just log in with your ASTMH username and password.

If you would like to contribute to the trainee team, please send an email to [acmcip.astmh@gmail.com](mailto:acmcip.astmh@gmail.com). The [@ACMCIP](#) Twitter account has also become a significant avenue of engagement with our global membership. We encourage all trainees to join Twitter and follow the **#ACMCIPtrainees** hashtag to keep up with our activities and connect with the broader parasitology community.

### Community Highlight:

**Building an inclusive and equitable parasitology research community with BIPOC in Parasitology (BiP)**

The recent social upheavals in the United States have forced many institutions to re-evaluate their commitment to racial equity and social justice. Academic and scientific institutions, funding agencies, research groups, and scientists have revamped efforts toward achieving diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). These efforts demand that stakeholders in STEM recognize and dismantle systemic and attitudinal barriers that have, and continue to, prevent equitable access to these fields from historically marginalized communities.

While the benefits associated with a diverse STEM workforce are well documented, there is no consensus on the best way to achieve this long-standing goal. Representation, inclusion, and a sense of belonging matter for the recruitment and retention of people from historically marginalized communities. To this end, a wide range of grassroots-style, often trainee-organized groups arose in 2020 without any formal structure or support. Notably, groups historically excluded from academic research and administrative positions have often been initiated to support their communities (rather than “top-down,” these initiatives are “ground up” in nature). These organizations used social media platforms with hashtags, including #BlackinMicrobiology, and offered virtual symposia to increase the visibility of scientists of color, showcase the tremendous contributions they bring to STEM fields, and bring awareness and possible solutions to the discriminatory practices these communities continue to face.

BIPOC in Parasitology (BiP) is a community of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color studying parasites around the world. BiP was conceived after the 2020 Black in Microbiology Week and currently boasts over 150 members and more than 1,500 followers on social media. In partnership with our non-BIPOC colleagues in the field of parasitology, our goal is to provide a safe, professional, collaborative, and collegial space to engage with each other. BiP seeks to not only promote the contributions of BIPOC parasitologists but also strives to increase BIPOC representation and cultural awareness of communities most impacted by parasitic infections within the broader parasitology community.

BiP is governed by a board of young faculty and postdoctoral fellows who volunteer their time, experience, and network to conceptualize and organize our activities. Our signature event, Parasite Hour with BiP, is a monthly research seminar series that provides a space for BIPOC parasitologists to share their journeys in science, showcase their contribution to parasitology, and provide invaluable advice to future parasitologists. We also curate opportunities for academic positions, jobs, and funding sources that we share with our community. BiP has also participated in major parasitology conferences, including the Molecular Parasitology Meeting in 2021 and the 2022 British Society of Parasitology Meeting. Our presence at these meetings allowed us to share our aspirations, connect BIPOC parasitologists with each other, and highlight the challenges and joys associated with working toward diversity, equity, and inclusion in our field.

Our mission toward a diverse and equitable research community can and will be achieved when the entire parasitology community engages to break the status quo; so we invite all parasitologists to join our efforts and work toward creating a field that is more collaborative, anti-racist, and equitable. We all strive to uncover the secrets of parasitic organisms and, in so doing, help alleviate the burden of parasitic diseases that plague populations all over the world. These efforts will be strengthened by an inclusive and diverse workforce. We are looking forward to engaging with all parasitologists as we work to provide more opportunities for professional development and community building for BIPOC parasitologists in the years to come.

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New York Buffalo

## ParasiteSlack: an online resource for parasitology

Sign up to access the **ParasiteSlack** ([ParasiteSlack.slack.com](https://parasiteslack.slack.com)) where you can share job opportunities, fellowships, meeting information or ask questions of the community. They are requesting that the community upload protocols as a resource also. If you have any ideas for how to make it more useful to you or suggest new channels for your parasite, let them know. I asked for a #ParasiteImmunology channel, *et viola*, we have a new community! So get Slacking!

## Your ACMCIP Council

<b>Position</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>President</b>	Mahalia Desruisseaux, <i>Yale School of Medicine</i>
<b>President Elect</b>	Michael Hsieh, <i>George Washington University</i>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Michael Ferdig, <i>University of Notre Dame</i>
<b>Councilor for Awards &amp; Pre-Meeting Course</b>	Jeff Dvorin, <i>Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health</i>
<b>Councilor for Communications</b>	Amy Kristine Bei, <i>Yale School of Public Health</i>
<b>Councilor for Symposia</b>	Regina Joice Cordy, <i>Wake Forest University</i>
<b>International Councilor</b>	Carolyn Kifude, <i>Kenya Medical Research Institute</i>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Amanda Lukens, <i>Broad Institute/Harvard Chan School of Public Health</i>
<b>Trainee Councilor</b>	Lola Fagbami, <i>University of Georgia</i>

If you have any questions regarding ACMCIP, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Cellular, and Immunoparasitology



**3MT** **THREE  
MINUTE  
THESIS**  
**COMPETITION**

3 winners will be selected to give an oral presentation at [#TropMed22](#)

[Click HERE for contest rules and guidelines](#)

**Submission Deadline: April 15, 2022**