



ACCTMTH
Clinical Group

AMERICAN COMMITTEE
ON CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE
AND TRAVELERS' HEALTH



ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2024

NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE ►

New Faces within the Clinical Group
Successful CTropMed® Examinees

Hello from the Clinical Group

Dear Clinical Group Members,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season and returned to work this year refreshed and rejuvenated. I am very excited to have taken the reins from Natasha Hochberg who did a fantastic job leading the Clinical Group last year. As you know the Annual Meeting in New Orleans has recently moved from October to November, we hope as Taylor Swift sings you can “shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake it off” and adapt to the new dates. It does offer us an opportunity for a little more time to plan really awesome clinical symposia. The Scientific Program Committee is dedicated to maintaining lots of Clinical Content, but it’s on us, the Clinical Group members, to reach out to our network contacts and come up with new and exciting content and high-quality speakers. I ask as many of you as possible to submit an idea (or 2 or 3) for a symposium.

Building on last year’s meeting, we anticipate doing yet another Meet the Professor Session with an LMIC travel awardee as the expert who teaches us how to better care for our patients. In addition, this year we will be soliciting for Trainee cases, and plan to fund 3 trainees to attend and present their cases in the MTP session.

Another goal of our group this year is to “build the bench” by which I mean recruit and build enthusiasm for tropical medicine in the next generation of clinicians. We have funds to support local events for student/trainees at your academic institution. Last year one of our interns held an ACCTMTH supported pizza party at her local institution and did a screening of Claire Panosian’s excellent movie “Accidental Host - The Story of Rat Lungworm Disease”. If you have ideas for local events for trainees and want help funding them contact a Clinical Group Leader.

Warm regards,
Dr. Kyle Petersen,
President, ACCTMTH
kyle.petersen@usuhs.edu



The American Committee on Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers’ Health (ACCTMTH) Newsletter

Issue 1, 2024. Published quarterly.

© 2024 American Committee on Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers’ Health (ACCTMTH). All rights reserved.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented in the Newsletter is accurate and up-to-date, ACCTMTH and/or the ASTMH, its officers, members and staff will not be held responsible for errors or omissions. News pieces and commentaries in this Newsletter represent opinions of their authors, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Clinical Group or the Society as a whole.

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
241 18th Street South, Suite 501
Arlington, VA 22202 USA
+1-571-351-5409

Version 1.3

**Tips? Content ideas?
Send them our way!**

charles.tiu@u.duke.nus.edu
thieln@uw.edu

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

New dates set for 2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be moved to Nov. 13-17

The Society informed its members of its decision to move the dates of the Meeting via email last Feb. 16. Music icon Taylor Swift will be performing in New Orleans in October 2024, overlapping with the original Annual Meeting, hence the Society leadership elected to move the meeting. The venue will remain the same: New Orleans N. Morial Convention Center ▶.

Key Dates as of Press Time: Call for Symposia due **Mar. 5**, Call for Abstracts due **Apr. 10**, Hotel rooms block opens on **Mar. 1**. More information is available on <https://www.astmh.org/annual-meeting>.



LMIC Travel Award

The Clinical Group of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene would like to invite clinicians from low and middle income countries to apply for a travel grant to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. This travel award, introduced in 2023, recognizes a tropical medicine physician practicing in a low and low-middle income country who has demonstrated excellent clinical and teaching skills.

The travel grant will include complimentary registration for the meeting as well as \$2,500 for airfare, lodging, and meals for one person. If you are interested in submitting an application, please visit <https://www.astmh.org/subgroups/acctmth#awards>. Applications open Apr. 2.



Clinical Group: Announcing the Meet the Professor Trainee Case Competition

The Clinical Group will be holding a new trainee case competition this year. Travel funding will be awarded to three winners of the case competition to allow them to present their winning case at a Meet the Professor session at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in entering this competition, please think about a case you would like to submit and stay tuned for more information in our next issue!

New Clinical Group Members

Please welcome three new group members, Dr. Daniel Leung, Dr. Ralph Huits, and Dr. Hendrik Sy, as well as our two new interns, Natalie Thiel and Charles Tiu! They are looking forward to working with you all.



Dr. Daniel Leung, MD (President-Elect)

Dr. Daniel Leung is an Associate Professor and the Dr. Thomas D. Rees and Natalie B. Rees Presidential Endowed Chair in Global Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Utah. A native of Hong Kong, he received his BSc and MSc from the University of British Columbia, an MD from Wake Forest, completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, and a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Leung is the Utah site co-director of the Global TravEpiNet and GeoSentinel surveillance networks for travel-related illnesses. His research focuses on the mucosal immunology, epidemiology, and clinical management of diarrheal diseases.

Dr. Ralph Huits, MD, PhD (Councilor)

Ralph Huits is an internist, adult infectious disease physician and researcher at the Sacro Cuore Don Calabria hospital in Negrar, Verona, Italy. Since September 2021, Dr. Huits is a Co-Principal Investigator (Research lead) of GeoSentinel, the emerging infectious diseases network of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has extensive experience working in various settings overseas. Dr. Huits obtained a PhD from the KU Leuven, Belgium. His research focuses on the (molecular) epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of infectious diseases in travelers and endemic populations.



Dr. Hendrik Sy, MD (Student Representative)

Dr. Hendrik Sy is an Infectious Diseases Fellow at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, USA. After graduating from medical school at Charité in Berlin, Germany, he worked in Charité's Department of Infectious Diseases before completing his residency at Mount Sinai in New York. His clinical and research interest lies in neglected tropical diseases, with a particular focus on arboviruses, in collaboration with colleagues at CIDEIM in Cali, Colombia. He is excited to join the ASTMH Clinical Group as Student/Trainee Representative.

Natalie Thiel, MPH (Intern)

Natalie Thiel is a current medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She received her master's degree in environmental and occupational health sciences from the University of Washington School of Public Health and trained in outbreak response through the UW Student Epidemic Action Leadership program before working as the program manager of the UW COVID Response & Prevention Team. Her research focuses on One Health and zoonotic diseases. She is a director of her university's Infectious Disease Interest Group and a current iDMentorship365 Program member and IDSA GERM grantee. She is excited to join the ASTMH Clinical Group as one of this year's student interns.



Charles Kevin Tiu (Intern)

Charles is an MD-PhD Candidate at Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School in Singapore and is a Singhealth Duke-NUS Global Health Track PhD Scholar. Charles' thesis work and research interest lies mainly on the use of novel serological techniques and its applications on sero-epidemiology. His work mainly revolves around the use of Phage ImmunoPrecipitation Sequencing (PhIP-Seq) and he has worked with collaborators from Malaysia, the United States and Madagascar. Charles has contributed to Policy Small Working Groups in the International Federation of Medical Student's Associations, and has served as the Former President of the Asian Medical Students Association (AMSA) Singapore. He now serves as an Intern at the Clinical Group of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). In his free time, Charles enjoys hiking and trying out water activities.

Readers' Nook

Members' recommended books and media



In this Issue, Dr. Natasha Hochberg shares two recommended books:

Lost City of the Monkey God by Douglas Preston is the fascinating true story about the search for an archaeological site in Honduras. The expedition members trek through the rainforest and contract an infectious disease (and yes, you have to read the book to find out which one.) You can impress friends and family members by learning about Lidar.

► 326 pages, published by Grand Central in 2017. This book was a listed top 1 on the New York Times bestseller list and was one of New York Times' 100 Notable Books in 2017.

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese is a must read for those interested in tropical medicine. The book is an epic novel (as in 736 pages!) that tells the story of multiple generations of a family in India. Verghese, a physician trained in infectious diseases, is a master story-teller, and Hansen's disease plays a key role in the story.

► 736 pages, published by Grove Atlantic in 2023. Listed by the New York Times as one of the 100 Notable Books of 2023.

Images of the book covers are copyrights of their respective owners. Used here under Fair Use.

Upcoming Webinars

NYC
HEALTH +
HOSPITALS

You're Invited!

Friday, April 12th, 2024
11:00am - 3:00 pm (EST)
via Zoom

World Chagas day is coming! To commemorate this, we are organizing an interactive, half-day symposium on Chagas disease run by renowned experts.

Chagas disease, which is caused by the *Trypanosoma cruzi* protozoan, is a life-long parasitic infection that is known to be endemic to the areas of Mexico, Central and South America. Due to migratory trends, Chagas disease diagnosis has dramatically increased in non-endemic regions.

Most individuals have been infected in endemic regions and are in a chronic phase of the disease. Approximately 20-30% of patients will develop Chagas cardiomyopathy and up to 10% may have involvement to the gastrointestinal tract or nervous system. Untreated this is a lifelong illness and most individuals are unaware they are infected.

EINSTEIN
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Montefiore

World Chagas Day Symposium

An external event organized by Albert Einstein College of Medicine - Montefiore Medical Center

Friday, April 12th, 2024 | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm EST | Zoom

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center is organizing a World Chagas Day Symposium on April 12th, 2024 (Friday), from 11am to 3pm EST. Conducted via Zoom, this interactive symposium will bring faculty and experts from different U.S. universities. Based on their published schedule, the talks are followed by a Case-Based Discussion. Interested individuals may register online:

<https://www.einsteinmed.edu/centers/global-health/geographic-medicine-education/details/?id=56>

Chagas disease is a parasitic illness caused by the protozoa *Trypanosoma cruzi*, carried by vectors in the Hemiptera order (kissing bugs). Chagas disease is also known as American Trypanosomiasis; according to the Pan American Health Organization, it is endemic in 21 countries in the Americas, with approximately 6 million people affected.

Disclaimer: This is an external event, and is not organized by ASTMH or the Clinical Group. Please refer all questions to the event organizers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Have a Webinar Idea? Do you want to publicize your Webinar? Let us know.

Send us an email: charles.tiu@u.duke.nus.edu and thieln@uw.edu

This newsletter is published quarterly. Please note that the Clinical Group will have the final decision on which events to publish in the Newsletter.



Chris Montgomery
(Unsplash)

CTropMed® Examination

2024 CTropMed® Exam from Sept. 30 to Oct. 20

38 Recipients in 2023

The Society's annual Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travellers' Health (CTropMed® Exam) is scheduled to be conducted Sept. 30 to Oct. 20, 2024. Examinations will be held electronically in testing centers worldwide. This examination, first offered by the Society in 1995, tests candidates on knowledge of clinical tropical medicine and travellers health. Successful candidates will be awarded the Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine, subject to fulfilment of other requirements and criteria.

Interested candidates must have completed either a ASTMH-approved Diploma Course, or demonstrate evidence of practice in the field of Tropical Medicine. Registration for the exam will open around April or May 2024. More information is available on the society's website:

<https://www.astmh.org/education-resources/certificate-programs>.

Last year, a total of 38 individuals were awarded CTropMed®. Congratulations! One of the Certificate recipients was Dr. Kyle Petersen, incumbent Clinical Group President: *"I'm glad I took the exam last year, I thought it was a really fair assessment of one's clinical knowledge in tropical medicine and I'm really proud and happy to have the CTropMed® certificate and credential to add to my CV. For me, certification shows you have gone the extra mile to thoroughly understand the epidemiology, clinical management and prevention of tropical diseases."*

Sample Questions: Can you answer them?

If neither individuals nor population are treated, how long must vector control be continued to eliminate onchocerciasis from a designated region?

- (A) Less than one year
- (B) Five years
- (C) 10 years
- (D) More than 10 years

Diagnosis and treatment of infected persons is an important means of interrupting transmission due to which of the following?

- (A) American cutaneous leishmaniasis
- (B) Mediterranean visceral leishmaniasis
- (C) Gambian trypanosomiasis
- (D) Chagas disease

Congratulations to our 2023 CTropMed® Exam Recipients!

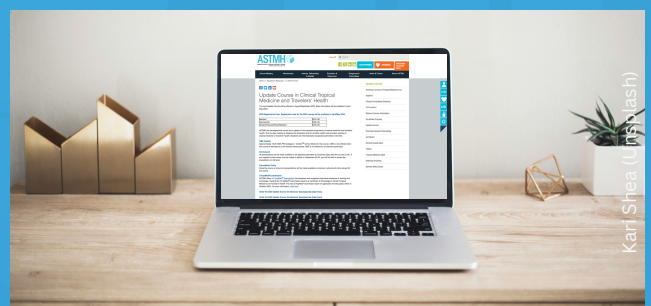
Ahamba, David	Manring, David
Ali, Mohsin	Mercedes, Rebecca
Allredge, Amanda	Montes, Kevin
Araki, Kotaro	O'Connor, Jennifer
Cardenas Alvarez, Jorge	Patel, Tulsi
Chason, Mattia	Pelote, Erica
Clemens, Sara	Petersen, Kyle
Cook, Samuel	Ramakrishnan, Balavinoth
Curtin, John	Sahara, Toshinori
Donahue, Matthew	Schutz, Lusana
Draganchuk, Jennifer	Spak, Daryl
Duffey, Megan	Swart, Benjamin
Geadas, Carolina	Tuan, Jessica
Halfen, John	Vanderhoef, Daniel
Hatharaliyadda, Buddhi	Wilson, Kristopher
Kelly, Devin	Zahradnik, Stephanie
Liu, Suefay	Zeitlin, Gary
Losey, Kaitlyn	Zheng, Lida
Mahadasa, Vikram	Zuniga, Marcela

▶ ASTMH's On-Demand Update Course

The Society has developed this two-day course as an update on the tenets of tropical medicine and travelers health.

The next Update Course will be offered in August or September 2024, with more information being available in April.

For more information, please visit <https://www.astmh.org/education-resources/update-course>.



Karl Snea (Unsplash)