

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 past President, Dr. Mahalia Desruisseaux

Hello friends in Parasitology!



Hello friends in Parasitology. Happy Spring! It was so wonderful to see everyone in person at the 71st Trop Med meeting in Seattle, WA. It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve as your ACMCIP president for the past 2 years, where it truly felt like I was standing on the shoulders of giants.

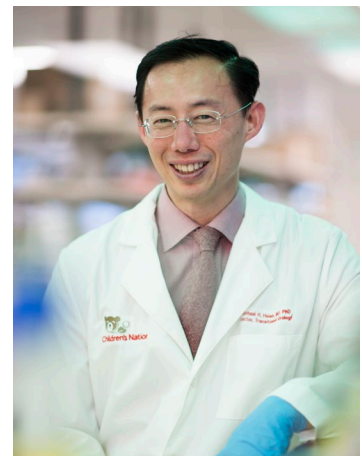
This edition highlights the activities of our ACMCIP trainees have been involved in since the Fall meeting. We continue to support our trainee initiatives, including the ACMCIP Bonfire fundraising campaign where you can order ACMCIP swag items. All proceeds will go toward ACMCIP Trainee activities, including sponsorship of the 3-minute thesis presentations at our annual meeting. Announcements for ACMCIP awards are listed below, including the 3-minute competition and the ACMCIP Take-Off award in Parasitology Research (formerly the ACMCIP Junior Investigator Award).

Mahalia S. Desruisseaux, MD

Welcome Message from our incoming President, Dr. Michael Hsieh

Greetings to my parasitology colleagues/friends! I am very excited that the ASTMH Annual Meeting in Seattle was in person for the first time since the pandemic started. Hopefully, you have adjusted to our new normal.

As a schistosomiasis researcher, I am looking forward to building on ACMCIP's historical strengths in Apicomplexa parasitology by expanding upon our outreach to helminthologists and other parasitologists. We are one big family.



Speaking of family, please join me in welcoming our four new councilors-at-large: **Usheer Kanjee**, **Selina Bopp**, **Omar Harb**, and **Scott Lindner**. Usheer is a Research Scientist in the Duraisingh malaria lab at Harvard. Selina is a Senior Research Scientist and also a Harvard-based malariologist. Omar is at University of Pennsylvania and a bioinformatician focused on parasites. Finally, Scott is a Penn State-based faculty member who studies malaria through transcriptomics and proteomics-based approaches.



Herein you will find announcements regarding important upcoming dates. In this issue, we highlight the awardees from the meeting, including the Travel Award for LMIC Trainees, the Exchange Fellowship Award, the William Trager Award, and our new Take-Off Award. I am particularly thrilled about this award because it spotlights early career investigators with outstanding career trajectories. Finally, the newsletter includes a feature from the Trainee Corner.

Michael Hsieh, MD

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- 2023 Award Announcements and Deadlines
- Trainee Corner
- Community Highlight (3MT competition and Trager, Trainee, Take-off Symposium)

2023 ACMCIP Award Announcements!

Congratulations to the ACMCIP Award Winners, celebrated at the 2022 Annual Meeting:

ACMCIP Exchange Fellowship



Aimed at all levels of trainees, including junior independent researchers seeking to gain new or additional research skills by visiting laboratories employing cutting-edge methods. The trainee must be or become an ASTMH and ACMCIP member at the time of application submission to be eligible. This year's winner will use his fellowship to work with Dr. Petersen at University of Iowa to look at disease transmission dynamics of Leishmaniosis.

2022 Recipient: Ashish Shukla, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Jaunpur, India

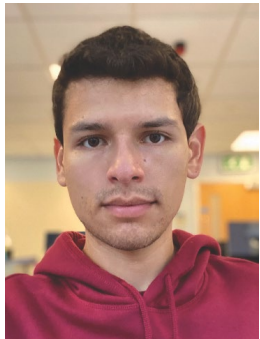
ACMCIP Travel Award for Low-Middle Income (LMIC) Trainees



This ACMCIP sponsored award provides funding for one LMIC trainee (student or postdoc) to attend the ASTMH Annual Meeting. To be eligible, the trainee must be primarily working and living in an LMIC, not based full-time in a US or European research institute. The applicant must be a member of ACMCIP, and submit an abstract to the ASTMH Annual Meeting in the fields of molecular, cellular or immunoparasitology research. The award winner receives meeting registration and contribution towards travel.

2022 Recipient: Laty Gaye Thiam, Institut Pasteur de Dakar

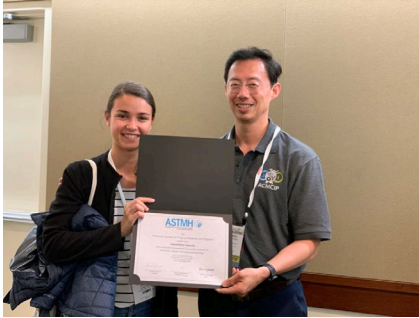
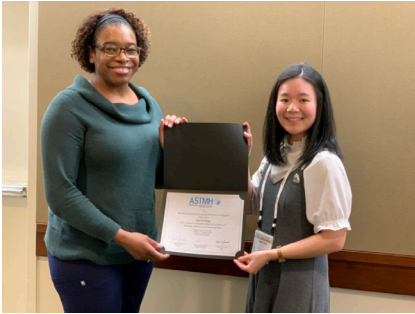
ACMCIP Award for Advanced Training



This ACMCIP-sponsored award is designed to defray travel expenses for trainees to attend practical training courses in the fields of molecular, cellular or immunoparasitology. Trainees can use the award to attend any post-graduate level training course of at least one day in duration. To avoid conflicts of interest in selection, ASTMH Pre-Meeting Courses are not courses that can be supported by this award. This year's winner will use his award to attend the Biology of Parasitism (BoP) course in Woods Hole.

2022 Recipient: Brandon Mercado-Saavedra, University of Cambridge

Finally, as in years past, we used the generous funding from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to support outstanding trainees, selected based on their presentations at the 2018 Woods Hole Molecular Parasitology (**MPM**), Immunoparasitology (**WHIP**) and Kinetoplastid Molecular Biology (**TriTryp**) Meetings, to attend the ASTMH Annual Meeting.





Congratulations to all our award winners!

Award Deadlines for 2023

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: March 22, 2023 ([Submit your application HERE](#))

Exchange Fellowship Award

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.

We will begin accepting applications on April 5. ([Download the Guidelines](#))

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to attend any post-graduate level training course of at least one day in duration. To avoid conflicts of interest in selection, ASTMH Pre-Meeting Courses are not courses that can be supported by this award. The trainee must be, or become, an ASTMH and ACMCIP member.

We will begin accepting applications on April 5. ([Download the Guidelines](#))

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 annual Trager, Trainee, and Take-off symposium.

Nominations Open: April 25, 2023

Application Deadline: May 8, 2023

ACMCIP Take-Off Award in Parasitology Research

The ACMCIP Take-Off Award in Parasitology Research, introduced in 2022, recognizes a junior scientist who has made significant contributions in the fields of cellular, molecular and immunoparasitology. The awardee will be announced at the annual Trager, Trainee, and Take-off symposium.

Nominations Open: April 25, 2023

Application Deadline: May 8, 2023

SAVE THE DATE for #TropMed23 (in person!)

The ASTMH 72nd Annual Meeting will be held on October 18-22, 2023 (Wednesday through Sunday) Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Abstracts will be due **March 22, 2023**. ([Abstract Submission Guidelines](#))

Trainee Corner

Hi there! *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 2022 ACMCIP Trainee 3MT competition, **Merryn Fraser** (The Australian National University, Acton, Canberra, Australia), **Kevin**

Owuor (University of Nairobi, Nairobi City, Nairobi County, Kenya), and **Dinah Nahid** (Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA). These amazing students presented their exciting research at the newly renamed **Trager, Trainee, and Take-off Awardee Symposium**, alongside the Trager Award Winner, **Dr. Laura Knoll** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) who presented her work on Modeling *Toxoplasma* sexual development in mice & microphysiological devices and the Junior Investigator Award Winner **Jill E. Weatherhead** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA).

We thank the ACMCIP Executive Council for their continued commitment to trainee engagement by once again sponsoring the **Trager, Trainee, & Take-off Awardee Symposium**, to take place at #TropMed23. 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 will be coming soon! 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). 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. 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.

ParasiteSlack: an online resource for parasitology

Sign up to access the **ParasiteSlack** (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

Position	Member
President	Michael Hsieh, <i>George Washington University</i>
Immediate Past President	Mahalia Desruisseaux, <i>Yale School of Medicine</i>
Councilor for Awards & Pre-Meeting Course	Jeff Dvorin, <i>Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health</i>
Councilor for Communications	Amy Kristine Bei, <i>Yale School of Public Health</i>
Councilor for Symposia	Regina Joice Cordy, <i>Wake Forest University</i>
International Councilor	Carolyn Kifude, <i>Kenya Medical Research Institute</i>
Secretary/Treasurer	Amanda Lukens, <i>Broad Institute/Harvard Chan School of Public Health</i>
Trainee Councilor	Lola Fagbami, <i>University of Georgia</i>
Councilor-at-large	Usheer Kanjee, <i>Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health</i>
Councilor-at-large	Selina Bopp, <i>Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health</i>
Councilor-at-large	Omar Harb, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
Councilor-at-large	Scott Linder, <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>

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