

## 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. Michael Hsieh

Greetings to my parasitology colleagues/friends! I am very excited that the ASTMH Annual Meeting in Chicago is coming up soon.

As a schistosomiasis researcher, I am looking forward to continuing to build 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 ACMCIP Award Announcements!

**Congratulations to the ACMCIP Award Winners, to be celebrated at the 2023 Annual Meeting:**

### 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.

**2023 Recipient: Ines Ngoh, University of Bamenda, Cameroon**

### 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.

**2023 Recipient: Wenqiao He**

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 2023 Woods Hole Molecular Parasitology (**MPM**), Immunoparasitology (**WHIP**) and Kinetoplastid Molecular Biology (**TriTryp**) Meetings, to attend the ASTMH Annual Meeting. We will announce and celebrate these award winners at the ACMCIP Council Meeting. Stay tuned for the winners!

## 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.

## 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.

## Congratulations to all our award winners!

## GET READY for #TropMed23

The ASTMH 72nd Annual Meeting will be held on October 18-22, 2023 (Wednesday through Sunday) Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.



## ACMCIP Pre-Meeting Events (you won't want to miss)!

### American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP) Mentor/Trainee Lunch Kick-Off Panel

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm  
Crystal Ballroom C - Lobby Level (West Tower)

**All members are invited** to attend the ACMCIP Mentor/Trainee Lunch Kick-Off Panel. Whether you are a mentor or a trainee, come enjoy lunch and a sharing of experiences together. This is a great opportunity to connect within our committee community. Please join us!

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

*Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm*  
*Dusable – Third Floor (West Tower)*

**All members are invited** to attend the ACMCIP Council Meeting and become involved in your subgroup. Our goal is to make sure that the basic science of parasitology remains a central part of the ASTMH meeting, and all help is very welcome. Following the business meeting, we will be recognizing this year's award winners, including the recipients of our ACMCIP Travel Award for Low and Low-Middle Income country trainees, and ACMCIP Award for Advanced Training and the MPM, WHIP, and TriTryp award winners. Please join us!

## **ACMCIP Symposia**

### **77. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP) Symposium I: Molecular Mechanisms of Transitions Between Acute and Chronic Parasitic Infections**

*Friday, October 20, 2023, 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm*  
*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

### **90. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP) Symposium II: Trager, Trainees and Take-off!**

*Friday, October 20, 2023, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm*  
*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

## **ACMCIP Scientific Sessions**

### **15. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Parasite Immunology**

*Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:15 am - 12:00 noon*  
*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

### **35. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Protozoan Immunology**

*Thursday, October 19, 2023, 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm*  
*Grand Hall K - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

### **103. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Parasites – Protective Mechanisms**

*Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:00 am - 9:45 am*  
*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

### **108. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Parasites – Disease Mechanisms**

*Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:00 am - 9:45 am*  
*Plaza Ballroom - Lobby Level (East Tower)*

## **121. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Parasite Drug Resistance, Genomics and Biomarkers**

*Saturday, October 21, 2023, 12:45 pm - 2:30 pm*

*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

## **134. American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP): Parasite Biology – Genetic Approaches**

*Saturday, October 21, 2023, 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm*

*Grand Ballroom B - Ballroom Level (East Tower)*

## **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 2023 ACMCIP Trainee 3MT competition, **Jenna Dick** (*University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, United States*), **Ritwik Singhal** (*Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, United States*), and **Claudia Rohr** (*Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, United States*). These amazing students will present their exciting research at the **Trager, Trainee, and Take-off Awardee Symposium**, alongside the **Trager Award Winner** and the **“Take-off” Award Winner**. Don't miss it!

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. 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 for 2024! 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](mailto:acmcip.astmh@gmail.com). The [@ACMCIP](https://twitter.com/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](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>                                     | Michael Hsieh, <i>George Washington University</i>                                       |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b>                      | Mahalia Desruisseaux, <i>Yale School of Medicine</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>   |
| <b>Councilor-at-large</b>                            | Usheer Kanjee, <i>Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health</i>                            |
| <b>Councilor-at-large</b>                            | Selina Bopp, <i>Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health</i>                              |
| <b>Councilor-at-large</b>                            | Omar Harb, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>   |
| <b>Councilor-at-large</b>                            | Scott Linder, <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>                                       |

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