

ACMCIP SUBGROUP (AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND IMMUNOPARASITOLOGY)

18th Annual ACMCIP Virtual Business Meeting

Monday November 16th, 2020
10:20-10:45am EST
ASTMH 69th Annual Meeting

Meeting was held virtually with ACMCIP President Michael Ferdig presenting.

Agenda:

1. **Welcome and Introduction**
2. **Activity update**
3. **Awards**
4. **Introduction to Trager Award recipient & award acceptance**
5. **Concluding remarks and official hand-off to President Elect Mahalia Desruisseaux**

1. Welcome and Introduction

ACMCIP President Michael Ferdig convened and lead the virtual meeting, beginning with a welcome and overview of the agenda.

He made mention of a phenomenal ACMCIP Pre-meeting Course this year organized by Stephen Hoffman and John Adams: *"The Science and Business of Vaccines against Tropical Parasitic Diseases in the COVID19 Era"*

- Speakers included: Robert Seder, Niraj Tolia, Faith H.A. Osier, Alessandro Sette, Peter Kremsner, Adrian Hill, Andrea Carfi, Meta Roestenberg, Said Jongu, Peter Hotez, Holm Keller, Galit Alter, Simon Draper, and B. Kim Lee Sim

Mike took the opportunity to additionally acknowledge both Steve Hoffman and John Adams for their fundamental role in establishing ACMCIP nearly 20 years ago-- Steve for stating the need for ACMCIP when he was ASTMH president, and John for bringing together the first leadership of ACMCIP.

The ACMCIP Objectives (or role in ASTMH) were then reviewed:

- To promote an organization that **facilitates interactions** among scientists who work in the **varied disciplines of parasitology**, especially in basic laboratory, pre-clinical and translational research, clinician sciences and population-based sciences.
- To foster **transfer of fundamental discoveries in basic research** to applications that improve human health and to promote learning basic science aspects of parasitic diseases from humans afflicted with parasitic diseases.

2. Activity updates

See our Fall Newsletter (linked on the ACMCIP webpage: <https://www.astmh.org/subgroups/acmcip>) for details and contact us with your questions and ideas.

- a. We continue to identify ways to emphasize **meaningful engagement** and diverse team approach to

ACMCIP leadership that facilitates creativity and integration among our council, trainees, communication councilor, the tweet team.

- b. Several new ACMCIP council members take us a big step toward increasing representation across parasite species, ways of doing science, global communities, and **all measures of diversity and inclusion**.
- c. Our Twitter account and branding, @ACMCIP, continues to improve our **real-time communication with our diverse and world-wide membership**. Expanded outreach efforts and social media presence (digital footprint is expanding, now 1200 Twitter followers); energized by **trainee events**, participants from more than 70 institutions on 6 continents and strong representation from LMICs.
- d. **Empower** and engage trainees! Among these steps including them on council subcommittees (Strategic planning, Symposia, PMC, New awards), Awards, A new symposium, highlight trainee rising stars.
- e. Coordinate with Molecular Parasitology (MPM) and Immunoparasitology (WHIP) and Tri/Tryp to bring winners present at ASTMH in ACMCIP symposia (thank you Victoria McGovern and BWF).
- f. Some new target ideas underway:
 - **Identify gaps and needs:** focus on the career transitions (highlighted by our trainee survey) at which we are differentially losing women (see our planned new award); recognizing the diverse career paths; visibility/fund raising; building a pipeline of leaders.
 - Beginning in Annual Meeting 2021, we **will host a second ACMCIP symposium** that will feature our Trager awardee and highlight exceptional trainee research.
 - We will actively harness the richness of diversity and talent **via a new junior faculty award** that highlight work of persons underrepresented in STEM/ Medicine .
 - Invite a second International Councilor so we have an international team to **span a wider range** of approaches to science and representation.
- g. **Trainee Corner (now part of the newsletter)**
 - Highlight and celebrate the amazing work of ACMCIP trainees.
 - Expand our outreach with a trainee TEAM integrated with our communications team.
 - Lola Fagbami (Councilor for Trainees) and the trainee team (including Adesola, Jennie, Joanne Power, and Kate) are very active:
 - Administered a trainee survey; Assembled an online workshop on Science Communication; Launched a fireside chat series.
 - there will be additional programming for trainees including (but not limited to) journal clubs, 3-minute thesis presentations, writing hours for grants/manuscripts and more!

- h. **Your ACMCIP Council** If you have any questions or ideas regarding ACMCIP, please contact us!
- New members of our team include: President Elect, Mahalia Desruisseaux (Yale), Keke Fairfax (Utah), Communication Councilor, Amy Bei (Yale), International Councilor, Carolyne Kifude (KEMRI/US Army Medical Research Directorate-Africa), Trainee Councilor, Lola Fagbami (UGa) replaced Aabha Sharma (Harvard) mid year when Aabha moved to a new job
 - For the complete list of ACMCIP Councilors, please refer to the list at the end of these notes

3. ACMCIP Awards

Our awards are designed to empower trainees and early career researchers from around the world and to highlight excellence in research; we aspire to build a pipeline of leaders.

New Award next year...

- which seeks to showcase the richness of diversity and talent that targets a new junior faculty; this award will highlight underrepresented in Molecular, Cellular or Immuno-Parasitology
- Furthermore, this award will target scientists at career transition stages (e.g. our recent trainee survey made clear the extent to which we disproportionately lose women members at critical career transitions, e.g. from postdoc to faculty).
- ****PLEASE spread the word! We must tap into our rich applicant pool and your help is needed. Alert trainees and early career researchers to these awards (deadlines to apply are usually in April, we will send notices).**

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

Provides funding for one LMIC trainee (student or postdoc) to attend the ASTMH Annual Meeting. The trainee must be primarily working and living in a Low or Low-Middle Income Country (LMIC).

2020 Recipient: Laura Baquedano Santana, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

ACMCIP Exchange Fellowship

Aimed at all levels of trainees, including junior independent researchers seeking to gain new or additional research skills by visiting laboratories to learn/employing cutting-edge methods.

2020 Recipient: Fehintola Ajogbasile, Redeemers University, Nigeria

ACMCIP Award for Advanced Training

This ACMCIP sponsored award is designed to encourage trainees to explore new parasitological systems, obtain advanced knowledge in cutting-edge research topics and technologies and make new collaborative connections. Applicants can use the award to attend a post-graduate level training course in any field of molecular, cellular or immunoparasitology research.

2020 Recipient: Lisa Gibbs, University of Utah, United States

4. Trager Award Introduction and Acceptance NEW ACMCIP symposium in 2021!

- To include a presentation by the Trager Award winner
- Trainee-guided talks to highlight the cutting-edge work of our up-and-coming parasitologists

****For today, we will have an introduction our 2020 Trager Award winner by past winner, Elizabeth Winzeler; this will be followed by a brief presentation by this year's awardee.****

William Trager Award for Basic Parasitology

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 of 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 fifteen years before the date of nomination. The awardee will be announced during the ASTMH's Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony and the award will be made at ACMCIP's Business Meeting.

2020 Award Recipient: David Fidock, Columbia University Medical Center

5. Meeting Conclusion

Mike Ferdig concluded the meeting by symbolically passing the gavel to our now President, Mahalia Desruisseaux.

2020-2021 ACMCIP Council:

President: Mahalia Desruisseaux (Yale School of Medicine)

Immediate Past-President: Mike Ferdig (Notre Dame University)

Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Lukens (Broad Institute/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

Councilor (Annual meeting symposia): Keke Fairfax (University of Utah)

Councilor (Annual meeting symposia): Michael Hsieh (George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences)

Councilor (Awards): Jeff Dvorin (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

Communications Councilor: Amy Bei (Yale School of Public Health)

International Councilor: Carolyne Kifude (KEMRI/US Army Medical Research Directorate-Africa)

Councilor for Trainees: Lola Fagbami (University of Georgia)

AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND IMMUNOPARASITOLOGY (ACMCIP)

2021 Executive Council

Member/Position	Term Expires
Mahalia Desruisseaux, <i>President</i>	2021
Michael Ferdig, <i>Immediate Past-President</i>	2021
Amanda Lukens, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	2021
Keke Fairfax, <i>Councilor (Annual Meeting Symposia)</i>	2021
Jeff Dvorin, <i>Councilor (Awards and Pre-Meeting Course)</i>	2021
Amy Bei, <i>Councilor for Communications</i>	2021
Carolyne Kifude, <i>International Councilor</i>	2021
Lola Fagbami, <i>Councilor for Trainees</i>	2021

CHARTER OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND IMMUNOPARASITOLOGY

Objectives

The American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP) is organized under the auspices of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) and has the following objectives:

- To promote an organization that facilitates interactions among scientists who work in the varied disciplines of parasitology, especially in basic laboratory, pre-clinical and translational research, clinician sciences and population-based sciences.
- To foster transfer of fundamental discoveries in basic research to applications that improve human health and to promote learning basic science aspects of parasitic diseases from humans afflicted with parasitic diseases.
- To sponsor symposia or workshops to promote advanced research in medical parasitology.
- To facilitate recruitment and training in the most recent advances in medical parasitology.
- To recognize outstanding contributions to parasitology.
- To coordinate interactions and activities with other

organizations and sponsored meetings to promote the objectives of ACMCIP.

- ACMCIP will meet at least annually under the aegis of the ASTMH Annual Meeting.

Membership

Membership will require attendance at the annual business meeting of ACMCIP, as certified by a sign-up sheet circulated at the meeting.

Established investigators will be assessed an annual fee of \$25.00 per year. No fee will be charged to post-doctoral or pre-doctoral trainees. Membership will continue unless a member is absent from three consecutive annual business meetings. A former member may reinstate membership by attendance at any subsequent annual business meeting of ACMCIP. ACMCIP will establish a fund for voluntary donations to be managed by ASTMH. Funds will be used for activities that further the objectives of ACMCIP, including receptions, annual awards, fellowships and international training opportunities, payment of page charges in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* for qualifying articles (eg. editorials, topical reviews, symposium proceedings, cutting-edge papers, etc.).

Organization

There will be an elected leadership in the form of an Executive Council. The membership of the Executive Council should reflect the wide diversity of ASTMH, include a diverse set of disciplines and be international in scope. There will be an elected Chair. Councilors will be elected to represent the major aspects of molecular, immunological, biochemical, cell biological and clinical field aspects of medical parasitology. There will be an annual business meeting of ACMCIP during the ASTMH Annual Meeting. Administration of ACMCIP will be done in close relationship to the ASTMH office and the chair of the program committee. Subcommittees will be formed to deal with important issues such as awards, training initiatives, fundraising, interfacing with the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, planning of ACMCIP-supported symposia and workshops at the ASTMH Annual Meeting, to coordinate the selection of speakers from the Woods Hole Molecular Parasitology meeting and the Woods Hole Immunoparasitology meeting to present at the ASTMH Annual Meeting.

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND IMMUNOPARASITOLOGY (ACMCIP)

Awards

ACMCIP Exchange Fellowship

Award Recipients

2020

Fehintola Ajogbasile
Redeemer's University

2019

Jessica Schue
Johns Hopkins University

2018

Martha Guevara Becerra
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
Anurag Kushwaha
Banaraas Hindu University

ACMCIP Award for Low and Low Middle Income Trainees

Award Recipients

2020

Laura Baquedano Santana
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

2019

Kritika Chaddha
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Godwin Kwakye-Nuako
University of Cape Coast

2018

Syed Mian
Jawaharlal Nehru University

2017

Rogger Carmen
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

2016

Emna Harigua Souiai
Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia

2015

Abel Nathan
Madurai Kamaraj University, India

ACMCIP Award for Advanced Training

Award Recipients

2020

Lisa Gibbs
University of Utah

2019

Mary Lynn
University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health

2018

Ruwandi Kariyawasam
University of Toronto

2017

Camila Coelho
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Maria Luisa Simoes
Johns Hopkins University

2016

Vanessa Moraes
Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

2015

Heidi Hillesland
University of Washington

William Trager Award for Basic Parasitology

Award Recipients

2020

David Fidock
Columbia University Medical Center

2019

David Horn
University of Dundee

2018

Elizabeth Winzeler
University of California, San Diego

2017

Boris Striepen
University of Pennsylvania

2016

Stefan Kappe
Center for Infectious
Disease Research

