

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.

ASTMH Annual Meeting

November 17-21, 2021

Wherever you are! (100% virtual)



Welcome Message from our President, Dr. Mahalia Desruisseaux

Hello friends in Parasitology!



We thought we'd meet in person this year, but nope.

It has been quite the challenging year by all standards; for some more so than others. While the pandemic has really reframed how we do our work; how we interact with our colleagues and our loved ones; how we deal with obstacles; and even our organizational operations (foregoing this year's pre-course meeting), we somehow are all still standing.

It is why I am particularly excited about what is in store for this year's annual meeting, the first to be chaired by our very own past president, Dr. Christine Petersen!

This year will be the inaugural Trager and Trainee symposium, organized and chaired by our ACMCIP trainee group and featuring the recipient of our most prestigious William Trager award and the winners of our 3-minute thesis contest. We are also excited about our 19th annual ACMCIP symposium, *Microsurgical Techniques in Parasitology*, chaired by Dr. Michael Hsieh. This year, we also had four ACMCIP members as candidates to represent YOU on the 2022 ASTMH Board. We thank all our members for choosing the next leaders of ASTMH in these challenging times for research, policy and funding. The new board members will be announced at the Trop Med meeting which will be held from **Wednesday, November 17 to Sunday, November 21st**.

We will also be filling a few vacancies in our executive council, with elections to be held at the business meeting on Friday, November 19th. If you have not yet registered for the meeting, please use this [link](#) to do so now! I really thought long and hard about how I wanted to end this message, and I don't know if I can put it into words. This year was hard. Regardless of our areas of focus, we all had to find ways to navigate what is seemingly a new normal; and for some, doing this while shouldering the added load of personal life stressors. As a New Yorker I can think of 101 colorful ways to describe this past year that are not for print. But I am thankful that I am surrounded by my loved ones and that I was able to lean on colleagues like you. So I want to end this message by saying please take care of yourselves and of each other, and remember to give yourself grace. And I truly hope this mess is over by next year!

Mahalia S. Desruisseaux, MD

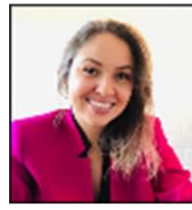
ACMCIP Candidates for the 2022 ASTMH Board



Sarah Volkman, ScD, FASTMH
Harvard School of Public Health, USA
Candidate for President-Elect



Keke Fairfax, PhD
University of Utah, USA
Candidate for Board Member



Camila Coelho, PhD
La Jolla Institute for Immunology, USA
Candidates for Trainee Representative



Bartholomew N. Ondigo, PhD
NIH/NIAD, USA
Candidates for Trainee Representative

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And the Award Winners Are...

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.

2021 Recipient: **Elizabeth Villasis Mayuri**, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH)



Elizabeth will use her fellowship to evaluate the functional role of antibodies from asymptomatic *P. vivax* infected individuals from the Peruvian Amazon in the *P. falciparum* and/or *P. vivax* merozoite invasion process into their host cells in a complement-dependent manner.

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 a Low or Low-Middle Income Country (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 will receive meeting registration and a contribution towards travel and will be recognized at the ACMCIP Council Meeting.



2021 Recipient: **Diogo Valadares**

Meeting Reminders

The ASTMH 70th Annual Meeting will be held on November 17-21, 2021 (Wednesday through Sunday) 100% VIRTUAL!!! #TropMed21 #IamTropMed



Council Meeting

Monday, November 8, 2021, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm EST

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. Please join us!

The 19th Annual American Committee of Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology (ACMCIP) Symposium

Bypassing Biological Barriers: Microsurgical Techniques in Parasitology

The ACMIP symposium is focused on the novel techniques to bypass biological challenges in helminth research to understand biology, transmission, and advance new therapies. The speakers are Lalita Ramakrishnan from Cambridge University, Johannes Mayer from the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, New Zealand, Jim Collins from University of Texas, Southwestern, and Mostafa Zamanian from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The symposium takes a deep dive into the wormy world of helminths with a focus on *Schistosoma mansoni* as well as parasitic nematodes.

Chair: **Michael H. Hsieh**, George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences

The 1st Annual ACMCIP Trager and Trainee Awardees Symposium

William Trager Awardee and Trainee Symposium

Session 73. November 19, 2021, 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm EST

ACMCIP business meeting will start around 5:20 pm EST

ACMCIP has awarded the William Trager Award for Basic Parasitology since 2015 to recognize a fundamental breakthrough in molecular, cellular, or immunoparasitology. ACMCIP strives to both celebrate the present excellence, as well as highlight the bright future of molecular, cellular, and immunoparasitology research. This symposium will highlight the scientific work of the **Trager**

Awardee (who will be announced at this year's plenary session), along with the work of trainee investigators in ACMCIP research. The symposium will feature an ASTMH Young Investigator awardee who works in parasitology along with the winners of the ACMCIP Trainee 3-minute thesis competition. The coupling of both **pivotal and emerging parasitology research** will serve as both an **educational and aspirational** event for ACMCIP trainee members and the broader ASTMH membership!

Chair: **Lola Fagbami**, University of Georgia

ACMCIP Scientific Sessions

As in past meetings, this year we highlight the numerous ACMCIP-associated oral and poster sessions on topics focused on cellular, molecular and immunoparasitology. These will include the Burroughs Wellcome Fund sponsored award-winning trainee presentations selected from this year's Woods Hole Immunoparasitology and Molecular Parasitology Meetings. As the program is being finalized, watch this space! For all the latest on ACMCIP scientific sessions and symposia, check out the [meeting website](#) and follow the action on twitter at [@ACMCIP](#)!

ASTMH 2021 Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, WHO Director-General since 2017, will present this year's welcoming remarks.



Dr. Tedros is the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency. He was born in the Eritrean city of Asmara and received a PhD in Community Health from the University of Nottingham. In 1999, he was one of the winners of the ASTMH Young Investigator Award!

Dr. Tedros has held many leadership positions in global health, including Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership; and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board. He served in Ethiopia's federal government for over a decade as Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Trainee Corner

Hi there! Although the unrelenting Covid-19 pandemic prevents us from gathering together in person,



your Trainee Team is excited to celebrate the winners of our 3-minute-thesis competition who will be presenting their work at the first ever **Trager & Trainee Awardee Symposium** (Friday, November 19 at 4:00 pm EST).

In the upcoming year, you can expect new and returning events, programming and content relevant to trainee engagement and development. We will continue our **"Parasites at the Fireside"** chat series to promote substantive interaction between our trainees and a varied group of parasitology experts in an intimate setting.

We also plan to increase the trainee focused offerings at the GOTropMED website to include skills like abstract writing, reviewer training and more. In order to ensure that we are addressing the needs of all our trainees, we will be conducting a survey that we encourage you to participate in. We value your feedback and suggestions and take them into account as we plan events.

Speaking of which, if you would like to help facilitate these events or suggest others, 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.

Spotlight: BIPOC in Parasitology

BIPOC in Parasitology (BiP) is a community of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color working broadly in the field of parasitology. Our goal, in partnership with our non-BIPOC colleagues in the field of parasitology, is to provide a safe, professional, collaborative, and collegial space to engage with each other. BiP was conceived in the aftermath of the 2020 “Black in Microbiology Week” and established by **Dr. Sabrina Absalon** (Assistant Professor, University of Indiana), **Dr. Rebecca Clements** (Postdoctoral fellow, University of Pennsylvania), **Dr. Pascale Guiton** (Assistant Professor, California State University East Bay), **Dr. Aoife Haeslip**, Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut), **Dr. Chi-Min Ho** (Assistant Professor, Columbia University), and **Dr. Joseph Smith, Jr.**, (Postdoctoral fellow, State University of New York, Buffalo).

Our community has grown since, powered by our signature event: “**Parasite Hour with BiP.**” In this monthly research seminar series, we create a space for BIPOC parasitologists to share their journeys in science, showcase their contribution to parasitology, and provide invaluable advice to future parasitologists. We have also launched a Slack channel, started a “Social Hour with BiP” to strengthen interactions between members of the community and aim to organize relevant professional and social events in the coming years. We encourage you to join hands with us to cultivate an equitable, and inclusive environment for every parasitologist everywhere. Engage with us on Twitter ([@BParasitology](#)) or register [here](#).

Parasitology without Borders!

There is an increasing number of online resources intended to foster collaboration, connections, and community among our global membership. Please share with us other ways that you stay engaged with the global parasitology community, and we would love to share them here

Women in Malaria

This year marked the 1st Women In Malaria (WiM) conference! If you missed it, here is a [full review of all talks](#) from the Malaria Eradication Scientific Alliance (MESA). You can also read more about the goals of the [Women In Malaria Initiative](#), check out the "Trends in Parasitology" [conference primer](#). Connect with them on the [WiM Slack](#) and [@womeninmalaria](#) on Twitter.

ParasiteSlack: a resource for the parasitology community, online

Sign up to access the ParasiteSlack at [ParasiteSlack.slack.com](https://parasiteslack.slack.com) where you can share job opportunities, fellowships, meeting information and also upload protocols as a resource.

Your ACMCIP Council

Position	Member
President	Mahalia Desruisseaux, <i>Yale School of Medicine</i>
Immediate Past President	Michael Ferdig, <i>University of Notre Dame</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	Keke Fairfax, <i>University of Utah</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>

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