

ACCTMTH



Clinical Group



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE & HYGIENE
OFFICIAL SUBGROUP OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE & HYGIENE



ISSUE 3 | OCTOBER 2025

**American Committee on Clinical Tropical
Medicine and Travelers' Health (ACCTMTH)**

Official Subgroup of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

NEWSLETTER



Roadmap to the 2025 Annual Meeting

President's Welcome

We are all excited for the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in Toronto in November. As a sneak peak at the schedule, highlights include the Marcolongo Lecture on Management of Malaria in Travelers, and symposia on Science Communication for Healthcare Professionals, "What's New" in Clinical Tropical Medicine, Acute Febrile Illness in South and Southeast Asia, Point-of-Care Ultrasound for ID, and a special symposium to celebrate the legacy of Vincenzo Marcolongo, a Canadian physician who was a pioneer in travel medicine. For the trainees, we have several "Meet the Professor" sessions, a trainee Case Competition, and the highly anticipated Pub Trivia Night. In addition, there will be hundreds of clinical tropical medicine research abstracts presented. Don't forget to stop by our booth in the Exhibit Hall to say hi to a Council member.

A reminder that it's still not too late to register for the Update Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine & Travelers' Health (organized by Aisha Khatib and German Henostroza), which held its Day 1 (recording available) on Sept 27, and will have a hybrid (virtual and in-person) Day 2 on Nov 9. We are also looking forward to the Pre-Meeting course on "Challenges in the Treatment of Tropical Diseases: Emerging Resistance and Difficult to Manage Infections" (organized by Sapha Bakarti and Miguel Cabada), featuring a wonderful lineup of speakers - please consider registering if you haven't already done so!

As this is the final newsletter issue as Clinical Group President, I wanted to thank all those whose efforts make our Group a success - from those serving on Council, to the reviewers for the Essay and Case competitions, to those serving on the STLG, Trainee Engagement, and Communication subcommittees. I want to especially highlight the work of our Interns Victoria Cavallino and David Adetula, and our ASTMH Subgroups Manager, Buffy Finn. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you!

See you in Toronto!

Sincerely,
Daniel Leung, MD, FASTMH
President, ACCTMTH



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

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Tips? Content ideas? Send them to the Clinical Group Interns!

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ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Clinical Pre-Meeting Course

CHALLENGES IN THE TREATMENT OF TROPICAL DISEASES: EMERGING RESISTANCE AND DIFFICULT TO MANAGE INFECTIONS

This course brings together leading global experts to address the growing challenges of treating tropical diseases in the era of emerging drug resistance and complex infections. This timely course is essential for clinicians, researchers, and public health professionals involved in tropical and travel medicine worldwide.

Course Organizers:

Sapha Barkati, MD, MSc, DTM&H and
Miguel Cabada, MD, MSc

In Person Only:
InterContinental Toronto Centre
225 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Room - Oakville (Upper Level)



Sunday November 9
8:15 am - 5 pm EST

[MORE INFO](#)[REGISTER HERE](#)

UPDATE COURSE IN CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE & TRAVELERS' HEALTH



Day 1: September 27



Livestream



8:30 am - 5 pm EST

Day 2: November 9

In-person & Livestream
InterContinental Toronto Centre
225 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Room - Ballroom A

8:15 am - 5 pm EST

ASTMH has developed this course as an update in the essential components of tropical medicine and travelers' health. This meeting is designed for physicians and for all other health care providers working in tropical medicine or travelers' health. Speakers are internationally recognized authorities in the field and cover a broad range of topics. Registration is still open and new registrants will receive access to a recording of the Day 1 sessions.

[MORE INFO](#)[REGISTER HERE](#)



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Marcolongo Lecture: Navigating Malaria Risk

This year's lecture will feature Dr. Anne McCarthy (University of Ottawa) and Dr. Michael Libman (McGill University), the past and current chairs, respectively, of Canada's Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT). They will provide an update on recent advances in the risk assessment, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria, focusing on the travel medicine practitioner.



Dr. Anne McCarthy
University of Ottawa

Organizer
Dr. Daniel Leung
University of Utah
School of Medicine



Dr. Michael Libman
McGill University

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 14:15

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Duration: 45 minutes

ACCTMTH Business Meeting

The ACCTMTH Business Meeting at the will provide updates on the Committee's activities, initiatives, and future plans. Members can expect engaging discussions, leadership reports, and opportunities to share ideas that will shape the direction of the Clinical Group for the coming year.

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 15:00

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Duration: 30 minutes



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Science Communication for Healthcare Professional

American Committee on Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health (Clinical Group - ACCTMTH) Symposium II: Science Communication for Healthcare Professionals Science communication experts will address key skills, lessons learned and how to get involved with science communication in healthcare. Speakers will discuss different modes of science communication, including print, radio and podcasts and TV engagement with mainstream media and social media as well as innovative ways to engage with community stakeholders.

Organizer

Jill Weatherhead

National School of Tropical Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine

Speakers

Isaac Bogoch (Toronto General Hospital):
Engaging with mainstream and social media

Claire Panosian (University of California, Los Angeles):
Marrying tropical medicine and journalism

Andrew Hamuza (Kamuzu University):
Using social innovation for community engagement

Daniel Griffin (Columbia University):
Podcasting for healthcare professionals

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 16:30

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Meet the Professors Sessions

The Meet the Professor sessions at the ASTMH Annual Meeting offer an interactive learning opportunity for students and trainees to discuss challenging clinical cases in tropical medicine with seasoned experts. This year's session will also feature a Trainee Clinical Case presentation, showcasing exceptional work by an emerging clinician selected through a competitive review process.

Session 33 - Cases from South Asia

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 12:45

Location: Convention Center - Room 801B (Level 800)

Session 69 - Trainee Case Competition

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 10:15

Location: Convention Center - Room 714 (Level 700)

Session 81 - Clinical dilemmas in Tropical Diseases among migrants

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 12:15

Location: Convention Center - Room 801B (Level 800)

Session 127 - Same Story, Different Faces

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 12; 11:15

Location: Convention Center - Room 801B (Level 800)

Organizer

Rachel Martin-Blais

Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

2025 Annual Meeting

November 9-13

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Toronto, Ontario, Canada



REGISTER NOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR VISA!

PLEASE NOTE: The Government of Canada requires that you register for the ASTMH 2025 Annual Meeting first before we can provide you with a letter of invitation for visa purposes.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Family Feud

This year's Annual Meeting in Toronto will feature our own take on the syndicated U.S. game show Family Feud. For those who are not familiar, Family Feud contestants compete to determine the answers to various pre-answered survey questions. With our version, Fever Fued, contestants will compete to guess your answers to a mix of fun tropical medicine related questions in our survey. You don't want to miss it!

Host

Mark Kortepeter

Uninformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 18:45

Location: Convention Center - Hall F/G (Level 800)

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Marcolongo Celebration: Milestones in Travel Medicine

Dr. Vincenzo Marcolongo's vision to comprehensively address the new challenges to medicine posed by increasing cross-border movement of people and pathogens laid the foundation of the present-day discipline of travel medicine. In 1960, he founded the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT) to inform travelers of health risks and raise awareness of travelers' health among professionals and medical practitioners worldwide. To honor his legacy, the 'Vincenzo Marcolongo Celebration' symposium brings an overview of state-of-the-art developments in risk assessment for travelers' health, that resonate the lasting impact of Dr. Marcolongo's groundbreaking work. It will also reflect on the current state and future of education in Tropical Diseases and Global Health.

Organizer

Ralph Huits

IRCCS Ospedale Sacro Cuore Don Calabria

Co-Chair

Aisha Khatib

University of Toronto

Speaker

R. Ryan Lash

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 16:00

Location: Convention Center - Room 717 (Level 700)

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Additional Clinical Tropical Medicine Sessions

ACCTMTH Clinical Research Award Session

Date & Time: Sunday, November 9; 12:00

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Session 6 - Bacterial Infections & Antibiotics

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 08:30

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Session 20 - Febrile Illness Diagnosis and Epidemiology

Date & Time: Monday, November 10; 10:45

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

ISTM TropMed Subgroup Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 08:00

Location: Convention Center - Room 709

Point of Contact: Kyle Petersen (kyle.petersen@usuhs.edu)

Session 68 - Parasites, Viruses & Others

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 10:15

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Live Recording of ISTM/ASTMH Travel Unraveled Podcast: Unwanted Souvenirs - Top 5 Parasites in Travelers

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 13:30

Location: Convention Center - Room 605

Check out the podcast and listen to the recording later on: <https://learning.istm.org/podcast>

Session 85 - HIV and Co-morbidities

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11; 13:45

Location: Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700)

Session 154 - Clinical Tropical Medicine Debates: Chikungunya Vaccine & Leishmaniasis Therapy

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 12; 16:45

Location: Convention Center - Room 801A (Level 800)

Check out more clinical sessions in the ASTMH Annual Meeting app! On the sessions page, select "Filter Sessions" and select "Filter by topic: Clinical Tropical Medicine"



ROADMAP TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Clinical Pub Trivia Night

Come join us for a fun-filled collegial competition, sponsored by the ASTMH Clinical Group. This event is a chance to meet other professionals interested in clinical tropical medicine, show your knowledge, learn some new fun facts, and enjoy snacks. Don't worry if you are new to trop med. Teams will be a mix of people with different levels of experience, and you won't be asked to answer any question alone. The winning team takes home prizes and bragging rights.

First 50 attendees to arrive will receive a drink ticket.

Organizer

Jill Weatherhead

National School of Tropical Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 12; 19:15

Location: InterContinental Hotel - Ballroom A (Lower Level)

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

SPONSOR

ASTMH Clinical Group and the Trainee Engagement Subcommittee
Food and drink sponsored by the Martin S. Wolfe Mentoring Award Fund. The 2025 award winner will be announced at the Clinical Group Business Meeting. Read more about the award [here](#)

REGISTER HERE



Visit us during the opening reception and
coffee breaks at booth 903 in the Exhibit Hall!

Grab a cookie and win some prizes!



Stay Connected and follow us for updates
during the meeting!!

LinkedIn [ACCTMTH LinkedIn](#)

BlueSky [@acctmth.bsky.social](#)

Instagram = [@acctmth.clinicalgroup](#)

Meet 2024 Clinical Research Award Recipient

Can you briefly introduce yourself and your current academic or professional role?

My name is Mary Ellen Owings, and I'm currently a third-year medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine in Jackson, Mississippi.

How did you get to know about ASTMH and the Clinical Group, and when did you join?

I was first introduced to ASTMH and the Clinical Group while pursuing my Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans. My mentor and professor, Dr. Latha Rajan, introduced me to the Society and its mission. After completing my degree, I officially became a member in 2024 during my first year of medical school.



Mary Ellen Owings

What motivated you to pursue the specific research project that earned you the ACCTMTH Clinical Research Award last year?

While studying tropical medicine at Tulane, I found myself deeply engaged with public health topics but knew I ultimately wanted to pursue medical school and clinical practice. For my capstone research project, I aimed to bridge both interests by focusing on a local topic relevant to clinical tropical medicine. With the guidance of Dr. Latha Rajan and Dr. Obinna Nnedu, I developed a project evaluating the response to a local mpox outbreak. It was a unique and valuable opportunity to engage in real-world clinical tropical medicine in the southern United States.

Could you give us a brief overview (including the key findings) of the research you presented at the ASTMH Annual Meeting?

My research evaluated the response of a large health care system during an Mpox outbreak in Louisiana and southern Mississippi. We focused on diagnostic delays, concurrent STI testing, and adherence to CDC treatment guidelines to identify areas for improvement. Key findings included:

- The average time to receive mpox test results was 4.8 days, with some patients waiting up to 10 days.
- About 52% of mpox-positive patients were concurrently tested for at least one other STI (syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea), and 20.8% tested positive for syphilis, notably. A few also tested positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea.
- Of the 12 patients who met CDC criteria for tecovirimat treatment, only 5 (41.7%) actually received the medication. Additionally, 5 patients received tecovirimat despite not meeting the criteria.

Overall, our study highlighted the need for timely diagnostics, comprehensive concurrent STI testing, and equitable access to treatment in the management of mpox outbreaks.

Finalists for the 2025 Clinical Research Award will present their research and during the ACCTMTH Clinical Research Award Session on Sunday, November 9 by 12:00 at Convention Center - Room 713 (Level 700), and winners will be announced during the Annual Meeting.

Awards

Student Trainee Leadership Group Essay Contest Winners



Ian Drobish, *National Institutes of Health, United States*

Rizwana Khan, *International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh*

ACCTMTH LMIC Clinician Travel Award



Leonard Kambewa

Ministry of Health, Malawi

Clinical Trainee Case Competition



Elizabeth Wendt

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States



Anjely Sebastian

Kasturba Medical College, India



Renato Bobadilla Leon

University of California San Diego, United States



Melissa Gutierrez

Universidad del Valle, Colombia

The **ACCTMTH (Clinical Group) LMIC Clinician Travel Award** is a 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 **Clinical Trainee Case Competition** is an educational session that features unique clinical cases of tropical diseases presented by clinical trainees (medical students, residents, post-doctoral fellows and other allied healthcare professional students) that had been evaluated, diagnosed and treated by the trainee under faculty supervision at their training facility. This year, to listen to their presentations, attend Session 69 Meet the Professors.



Clinical Group Opportunity Watch

✓ ACCTMTH Funding for Trainee Events

The Clinical Group will be funding selected in-person events focused on increasing interest in tropical medicine among students and trainees. These events may include film viewings, career talks, or other activities that introduce ASTMH and tropical medicine to trainees. Funds of up to US\$200.00 will be provided on a reimbursement basis to selected proposals.

Interested parties may send a 1-2 page proposal to [Buffy Finn](#), cc-ing Clinical Group President [Dr Daniel Leung](#), at least 1 month before the event.

Deadline: On a rolling basis (10 awards per year)

✓ Join the United States Chagas Disease Providers' Network for: Acute Autochthonous Chagas Myocarditis in Texas

Although a large segment of the U.S. population is at risk for Chagas disease, many healthcare, public health, and community health workers do not receive systematic training about this parasitic infection and its epidemiology, transmission, risk factors, and clinical manifestations. This lack of training is especially concerning for residents of the Southern United States and for immigrants from continental Latin America, places inhabited by infected Triatominae vector species. Researchers advocate that at-risk children, women of reproductive age, and immunocompromised individuals in these populations should be prioritized for Chagas disease screening, and those who are infected should be treated to reduce the possibility of severe sequelae.

This case conference aims to advance learner knowledge about the evidence-based recommendations for Chagas disease diagnosis and management, monitoring of treatment side effects, and implementation of strategies for screening and prevention.

Presenters

- Chia-Chi Angela Fu, MD
 - Medicine-Pediatrics Infectious Diseases Fellow, Baylor College of Medicine
- Gabriela Rodas Cedeno, MD
 - Pediatrics Infectious Diseases Fellow, Baylor College of Medicine
- Jaime Fergie, MD
 - Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist and Medical Director, Driscoll Children's Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas

Monday November 3rd | 3pm - 4pm CST | [JOIN HERE On Zoom](#)

Do you have any opportunity you would like to share with the Clinical Group members for our next issue?

Please send it to the Clinical Group Intern
David Adetula (davidadetula@gmail.com)