Dear SCASM Membership,

As I enter my second year as President, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Board, chapter administrator, and volunteers who helped to make amazing and wonderful improvements to our organization this past year. There is a new platform for our website (scasm.org) with updated information, recent pictures, as well as a calendar of events. Updates to membership lists and efforts to increase membership are most appreciated to keep our SCASM family growing. We had a phenomenal in-person Spring Symposium, and efforts to develop a virtual Molecular Workshop are on-going.

The theme for the 2023 SCASM Annual Meeting is “Microbes Unmasked”. Our planning committee has brought together a line-up of world class speakers to provide innovative continuing education lectures on topics ranging from sexually transmitted infections, multi-drug resistant organisms, tuberculosis, mycology, taxonomy, case studies, and much more. Be sure to visit student posters and wake up early to check out the corporate sponsored sessions. The President’s Reception will be poolside on Friday night where we will share some great food and dance the night away!

Thank you SCASM members and mentors for your continued participation and enthusiasm in our professional organization, and a big shout out to our sponsors for their incredible support. I would also like to recognize Janet Hindler for her tireless work, guidance, and support of SCASM. This meeting would not be possible without everyone’s contributions.

Wishing you a good meeting and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Nicole M. Green, PhD, D(ABMM)
President, Southern California American Society for Microbiology
Director, Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratories
FRIDAY OCT 27

7:00AM - 5:00PM  Registration
Location: Regency Foyer

7:00AM - 7:45AM  Continental Breakfast
Location: The Terrace
Sponsored by: COPAN

7:45AM - 8:45AM  Corporate Sponsored Sessions
Session F-1 | Course #23-075-01
1 Contact Hour

During these sessions, nationally known speakers will discuss some of the latest methods for diagnosis and management of infectious disease. Come early as this is a first-come 50 served in each session.

(1) Improve Turnaround Time, Decrease Operating Costs, and Give Time Back to Laboratory Staff with Microbiology Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)
Susan Sharp, PhD, D(ABMM), COPAN
Ginny Bell, COPAN
Location: Encinitas 1
Sponsored by: COPAN

(2) Metagenomic Next-Generation Sequencing for Diagnosis of Meningitis and Encephalitis
Steve Miller MD, PhD, Delve Bio
Location: Encinitas 2
Sponsored by: Delve Bio

(3) Mycoplasma genitalium
Tomet McMichael, PhD, Hologic
Location: Del Mar 1
Sponsored by: Hologic

(4) A Liquid Biopsy for Infectious Disease: The Power of Microbial Cell-Free DNA
Negar Ashouri, MD, Children’s Hospital Orange County
Location: Del Mar 2
Sponsored by: Karius

(5) Congenital CMV Infection, Diagnosis and Implementation of Sample to Answer Molecular Testing
Michelle Tabb, PhD, DiaSorin Molecular
Location: Cardiff
Sponsored by: Diasorin

9:00AM - 12:00PM  Friday Scientific Sessions
Session F-2 | Course #23-075-02
2 Contact Hours
Location: La Jolla Ballroom
Moderator: Margie Morgan, PhD, D(ABMM)
Cedars - Sinai Medical Center

9:00AM - 9:10AM  Opening Message
President: Nicole Green, PhD, D(ABMM)
Los Angeles County Public Health

9:10AM - 10:00AM  TB or Not TB? That is the Lecture
Miriam Braunstein, PhD
ASM Distinguished Lecturer
Colorado State University

10:00AM - 11:00AM  Exhibits Open
Location: Regency Ballroom
Break Sponsor: Beckman Coulter, MicroScan

11:00AM - 12:00PM  Efficient Strategies for Communicating MDRO to Our Stakeholders
Samia Naccache, PhD, D(ABMM)
Labcorp Seattle

12:00PM - 1:30PM  Exhibits Open & Lunch
Location: Regency Ballroom
Lunch Sponsor: bioMérieux

1:30PM - 5:00PM  Friday Scientific Sessions
Session F-3 | Course #23-075-03
3 Contact Hours
Location: La Jolla Ballroom
Moderator: Mitzi Gaston, CLS(ASCP)
St. Francis Medical Center

1:30PM - 2:30PM  What’s New in the Recent Clinical Microbiology Literature?
Cristina Costales, MD
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

2:30PM - 3:30PM  Addressing Workforce Challenges in the Microbiology Lab - A Leader’s POV
Lorraine Tamashiro, MS CLS MT(ASCP)
Consultant
Marc Bernaldez, EMHA, MBA, MLS(ASCP)P
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center
Maryann Lustestica, CLS MT(ASCP)
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Susan Vergara, CLS MT(ASCP)
Kaiser Permanente

3:30PM - 4:00PM  Exhibits Open
Location: Regency Ballroom
Break Sponsor: Cepheid and Delve Bio

4:00PM - 5:00PM  And the Question is? (Jeopardy)
Nicole Green, PhD, D(ABMM)
Los Angeles County Public Health
Shaun Yang, PhD, D(ABMM)
UCLA Health

MICROBES UNMASKED
PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
FRIDAY OCT 27 6PM–9PM POOLSIDE

Reception Sponsored by: Hologic
Reception Entertainment Sponsored by: COPAN
Reception Decor Sponsors: T2 Biosystems
SATURDAY OCT 28

7:00AM - 2:00PM  Registration
Location: Regency Foyer

7:00AM - 7:45AM  Continental Breakfast
Location: The Terrace
Sponsored by: Roche

7:45AM - 8:45AM  Corporate Sponsored Sessions
Session S-1 | Course #23-075-04
1 Contact Hour
During these sessions, nationally known speakers will discuss some of the latest methods for diagnosis and management of infectious disease. Come early as this is a first-come 50 served in each session.

1) The Impact of Delayed-Growth Resistance Phenotypes on Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing
Zachary Ruhe, PhD, Affinity Biosensors
Location: Encinitas 1
Sponsored by: Affinity Biosensors

2) Hot Knee: The Ins & Outs of Syndromic Testing for Septic Arthritis
Susan Butler-Wu, PhD, D(ABMM), Keck School of Medicine of USC
Location: Encinitas 2
Sponsored by: bioMérieux

3) Revealing Superbugs through Omni Channel, The Candida auris Example
Nicole Robinson, PhD
Location: Del Mar 1
Sponsored by: Roche

4) The Value of Automating TB Testing in Our Lab: QFT-TB Gold PLUS & DiaSorin Liaison XL
Ruel Del Rosario, MSHSA, MT(ASCP), Eisenhower Health
Location: Del Mar 2
Sponsored by: QIAGEN

5) The Vital Role of Blood Culture Quality and Actionable ID/AST Results in Sepsis Patient Outcomes
Jordan Cardinal, PharmD, BCPS, BD
Location: Cardiff
Sponsored by: BD

9:00AM - 12:00PM  Saturday Scientific Sessions
Session S-2 | Course #23-075-05
2 Contact Hours
Location: La Jolla Ballroom
Moderator: Zaffar Hussain, MS, MT(ASCP)
Kaiser Permanente

9:00AM - 10:00AM  Evolution of Emerging Diseases and the Next Pandemic
Stanley Maloy, PhD
San Diego State University

10:00AM - 11:00AM  Exhibits Open & Lunch
Location: Regency Ballroom
Break Sponsor: Medical Chemical Corporation

11:00AM - 12:00PM  The Fungus Among Us: Diagnosing Fungal Infections in 2023
Tanis Dingle, PhD, D(ABMM), FCCM
University of Calgary

12:00PM - 1:30PM  Exhibits Open & Lunch
Location: Regency Ballroom
Lunch Sponsor: QIAGEN

1:30PM - 5:00PM  Saturday Scientific Sessions
Session S-3 | Course #23-075-06
3 Contact Hours
Location: La Jolla Ballroom
Moderator: Lara Martins, SM(ASCP) CM HS
UC San Diego Health

1:30PM - 2:30PM  Its New Name is What? Understanding Bacterial Taxonomy
Susan Butler-Wu, PhD, D(ABMM)
Keck School of Medicine of USC

2:30PM - 2:45PM  Student Awards
Edith Porter, MD
California State University
Jannal Lopez, MLS(ASCP)
UCLA Health

2:45PM - 3:00PM  Afternoon Break
Location: Regency Ballroom
Break Sponsor: BD and Gold Standard Diagnostics

3:00PM - 4:00PM  Microbial Pathogens Below The Belt
Ina Park, MD, MS
UC San Francisco

4:00PM - 4:55PM  Microbial Mysteries: Clinical Cases
JR Caldera, PhD, MLS (ASCP)™
UCLA Health
Hannah Gray, PhD
UCLA Health
Lucas Osborn, PhD, MLS (ASCP)
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

4:55PM - 5:00PM  Closing Remarks
President: Nicole Green, PhD, D(ABMM)
Los Angeles County Public Health

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**Educator Sessions - Mini ASM Cue**

10:00AM - 12:00PM  EDUCATOR SESSIONS -MINI ASM CUE
Location: Cardiff
Moderators: Ana Barral, PhD, National University, and Shane Romey, PhD, College of the Canyons

10:00AM - 10:05AM  Welcome

10:05AM - 10:40AM  Developing Lab Modules That Incorporate Inquiry-Based Research and Vertical Integration Throughout the Curriculum
Susan Cohen, PhD
California State University Los Angeles

10:40AM - 11:15AM  Federal Funding Opportunities for Microbiology Educators
Ana Barral, PhD
National University, Costa Mesa

11:15AM - 11:55AM  Microbrew Session - Innovative and Engaging Microbiology Teaching Practices

11:55AM - 12:00PM  Closing Remarks
MIRIAM BRAUNSTEIN, PHD

ASM Distinguished Lecturer
Colorado State University

TB or Not TB? That is the Lecture
Friday October 27, 2023 / 9:10am – 10:00am

Dr. Miriam Braunstein is a Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University, where she carried out graduate research with Dr. James Broach on the Sir2 protein, histone deacetylation, and transcriptional silencing. After obtaining her Ph.D. degree, she was a Life Sciences Research Foundation (LSRF) Fellow studying Mycobacterium tuberculosis at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine with Dr. William Jacobs Jr. Dr. Braunstein’s laboratory studies the basic biology and pathogenic mechanisms of mycobacterial pathogens, including M. tuberculosis and nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM). Her research includes mechanistic studies of mycobacterial protein secretion pathways and of secreted effector proteins that promote mycobacterial survival in macrophages. Her laboratory also collaborates on translational projects to develop new treatments for tuberculosis and NTM disease, which include exploring the potential to use bacteriophage as a therapy. Prior to her current position at Colorado State University, Dr. Braunstein was a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Braunstein is an American Society of Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer, a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and the recipient of a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Award.
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2023

SAMIA NACCACHE, PHD, D(ABMM)
Labcorp Seattle

**Efficient Strategies for Communicating MDRO to Our Stakeholders**
Friday October 27, 2023 / 11:00am - 12:00pm

Based in Seattle, Dr. Samia Naccache is the Clinical Director for Microbiology and Molecular Microbiology for Labcorp’s West Division and a co-discipline director for Routine and Esoteric Microbiology. After earning her PhD from UCSD, she completed postdoctoral fellowships in Virology at The Scripps Research Institute, Laboratory Medicine at UCSF, and in Medical and Public Health Microbiology at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) and is also a board-certified medical technologist and California public health microbiologist.

CRISTINA COSTALES, MD
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

**What's New in the Recent Clinical Microbiology Literature?**
Friday October 27, 2023 / 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Dr. Costales completed residency in Clinical and Anatomic Pathology at the Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center. She studied fatal febrile illnesses with an NIH-Fogarty Global Health Research Fellowship in Tanzania, and then went on to complete an ACGME-fellowship in Medical Microbiology at Stanford Health Care, with an additional year as a Global Diagnostics Fellow and Pathology Instructor at Stanford. She is American Board of Pathology certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Medical Microbiology. She joined Children’s Hospital Los Angeles in 2022 as an Assistant Director of the Clinical Microbiology and Virology Laboratory.
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2023

MARC BERNALDEZ, EMHA, MBA, MLS(ASCP)
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center
More Work, Less Staff: What to Do Now? (co-speaker)
Friday October 27, 2023 / 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Marc Bernaldez is currently the Microbiology and Molecular Microbiology Manager at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, CA, that serves as the Core Microbiology laboratory for the Providence Los Angeles Service Area. In 2003, he received his Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of California, Riverside. In 2011, he completed his clinical training at Kaiser Permanente Regional Reference Laboratories in North Hollywood, California through California State University Dominguez Hills. In 2015, he also received his Masters in Business Administration from Capella University. Marc currently serves as the President for the California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology (CAMLT) and is a current Board member for the Southern California Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (SCASM).

MARYANN LUSTESTICA, CLS MT(ASCP)
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
More Work, Less Staff: What to Do Now? (co-speaker)
Friday October 27, 2023 / 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Maryann Lustestica, CLS is currently the Director of Laboratory Services at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. She was previously an Administrator for Strategy and Operations at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). She began her career at CHLA in the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory as a Clin Lab Scientist, and subsequently assumed leadership roles such as the Supervisor of the Molecular Microbiology Lab and Manager of the Clinical Microbiology and Molecular Microbiology Laboratories. She obtained her BS in Medical Technology from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.
LORRAINE TAMASHIRO, MS CLS MT(ASCP)

Consultant

More Work, Less Staff: What to Do Now? (co-speaker)

Friday October 27, 2023 / 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Lorraine Tamashiro has worked in healthcare for more than 35 years. She has experience in a variety of roles including administrative laboratory leadership at UC San Diego, UC Irvine, and UCLA Health Systems. During her tenure with the UC, she worked with the University of California Office of the President leading system-wide initiatives in support of UC Health goals. Additionally, Lorraine previously served as Laboratory Operations Manager at Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento. Most recently, she was a laboratory consultant for Alvarez and Marsal’s Healthcare Division. Now fully retired, Lorraine enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

SUSAN VERGARA, CLS MT(ASCP)

Kaiser Permanente

More Work, Less Staff: What to Do Now? (co-speaker)

Friday October 27, 2023 / 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Susan is a CLS at heart with more than 25 years of experience and has been responsible for administrative and clinical operations in Microbiology for Kaiser Permanente Regional Laboratory in Berkeley, CA. In the last 15 years, she has managed operations both in community hospitals and high-volume clinical laboratories and has recently transitioned to the role of a Quality Manager overseeing the quality program in Micro Specimen Processing, AFB, Mycology and Parasitology. Susan graduated with a degree in Microbiology from California State University, Los Angeles. She has been on the Board of Directors of the CLMA Greater Los Angeles Chapter for 6 years and served as their Education Committee Chair. A long-time resident of Los Angeles, Susan moved to the Bay Area with her family almost 10 years ago, but she maintains her SoCal connections and remains an active member of Southern CA American Society of Microbiology. In addition to her past activities as a Board Member, she currently holds the position as Treasurer and has provided oversight of the Janet Hindler Professional Development Grant since 2010.
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2023

NICOLE GREEN, PHD, D(ABMM)
Los Angeles County Public Health
And the Question is? (Jeopardy) (co-speaker)
Friday October 27, 2023 / 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Dr. Nicole Green is a board certified medical microbiologist, medical technologist, and public health microbiologist. She received her doctoral degree in Microbiology from the University of California, Davis and has been at a number of institutions including UC Davis, NIAID-NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Baylor College of Medicine, UC San Francisco General Hospital, and The Methodist Hospital Research Institute. She completed a LabAspire laboratory director training fellowship through the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health-Microbial Diseases Laboratory where she trained in public health and clinical microbiology. She is active on various committees for the Association of Public Health Laboratories, California Department of Public Health, and California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors. She is also passionate about teaching and is committed to workforce development and training for microbiologists, residents, and fellows. Dr. Green is the Laboratory Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the current President of Southern California ASM.

SHAUN YANG, PHD, D(ABMM)
UCLA Health
And the Question is? (Jeopardy) (co-speaker)
Friday October 27, 2023 / 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Dr. Yang is a molecular biologist and clinical microbiologist, with extensive experience in molecular diagnostics, microbial genomics, genomic epidemiology, antimicrobial resistance and clinical virology. He is also a pioneer in the clinical applications of Next-generation Sequencing (NGS) in infectious diseases. Dr. Yang developed and implemented numerous cutting-edge molecular microbiological tests, and authored or coauthored over 70 peer-reviewed papers and 2 book chapters. Dr. Yang currently is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine, and serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory.
STANLEY MALOY, PHD
San Diego State University

Evolution of Emerging Diseases and the Next Pandemic
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 9:00am - 10:00am

After his PhD in Molecular Biology & Biochemistry from UC Irvine, and postdoc in Genetics in Utah, Stanley moved to the University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign where he was a Professor of Microbiology for 18 years. He returned to California in 2002 and has served as Dean of the College of Sciences, and Associate Vice President for Innovation at SDSU. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Microbiology. Stanley has served many roles in the ASM, including President (2005–2006), and recently Chair of the Ethics Committee (2017–2023), Editor-in-Chief of Microcosm (2012–2023), and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education (2019–2026).

TANIS DINGLE, PHD, D(ABMM), FCCM
University of Calgary

The most reliable approaches to fungal diagnostics in 2023
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 11:00am - 12:00pm

Dr. Tanis Dingle is a clinical microbiologist at Alberta Precision Laboratories - Public Health Laboratory where she oversees antimicrobial resistance surveillance and the clinical mycology laboratory. Dr. Dingle currently holds a primary appointment as Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Dingle’s research interests include exploring novel strategies for assessing antimicrobial activity and detecting antimicrobial resistance in the clinical microbiology laboratory. Other areas of research focus are the development of diagnostic methods and algorithms to improve the prognosis of patients with invasive fungal infections and understanding the changing epidemiology of endemic mycoses.
SUSAN BUTLER-WU, PHD, D(ABMM)
Keck School of Medicine of USC
*Its new name is what? Understanding microbial taxonomy*
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Dr. Butler-Wu is the Director of Clinical Microbiology at Los Angeles General Medical Center and an Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC in Los Angeles, California, USA. Dr. Butler-Wu’s research focuses on rapid diagnostics for infectious diseases. Dr. Butler-Wu serves on several working groups of the CLSI and ASM and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology.

INA PARK, MD, MS
UC San Francisco
*Microbial Pathogens Below The Belt*
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Ina Park is a Professor in the Departments of Family and Community Medicine and the Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UCSF School of Medicine. She currently serves as the Principal Investigator at the California Prevention Training Center and Medical Consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Division of STD Prevention. Ina was a coauthor of the 2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines and is the author of the book *Strange Bedfellows: Adventures in the Science, History and Surprising Secrets of STDs*. Her writing has also appeared in The New York Times and Scientific American.
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023

JR CALDERA, PHD, MLS (ASCP)
UCLA Health

Microbial Mysteries: Clinical Cases (co-speaker)
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 4:00pm - 4:55pm

JR Caldera received his undergraduate degree in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry from CSULB. He then trained as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he worked for 4 years in the Microbiology Laboratory, after which, he pursued graduate research and completed his PhD in Biomedical and Translational Sciences at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. His doctoral dissertation focused on host immune interactions with the pathogen, Staphylococcus aureus, in the context of vaccine development. Currently, he is an ASM CPEP Fellow in Medical and Public Health Microbiology at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

HANNAH GRAY, PHD
UCLA Health

Microbial Mysteries: Clinical Cases (co-speaker)
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 4:00pm - 4:55pm

Hannah Gray earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees in Environmental Engineering at USC and received her PhD from the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Her doctoral work explored antibiotic resistance in environmental bacteria in wastewater and wastewater-impacted surface waters. She spent two years as an APHL Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) Fellow at the Washington State Public Health Laboratory. She is a Clinical and Public Health Microbiology CPEP Fellow at UCLA, continuing her effort to develop NGS assays for applying sequencing to clinical diagnostics.
LUCAS OSBORN, PHD, MLS (ASCP)
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

Microbial Mysteries: Clinical Cases (co-speaker)
Saturday October 28, 2023 / 4:00pm - 4:55pm

After completing his undergraduate studies in Biomedical Laboratory Science at Michigan State University, Dr. Osborn completed an internship in Medical Laboratory Science at Cleveland Clinic where he worked in both the blood bank and microbiology laboratories. Dr. Osborn went on to earn a PhD in Molecular Medicine from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. Here he studied bacterial polyphenol metabolism in models of cardiometabolic disease. He is currently a Clinical Microbiology Fellow at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.