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
Temet McMichael, PhD, Hologic
Location: Del Mar 1
Sponsored by: Hologic

4. The Vital Role of Blood Culture Quality and Actionable ID/AST Results in Sepsis Patient Outcomes
Jordan Cardinal, PharmD, BCPS, BD
Location: Del Mar 2
Sponsored by: BD

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 Bernaandez, EMHA, MBA, MLS(ASCP)BH
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 sponsored by: 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

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

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)  
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  
Jannane 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