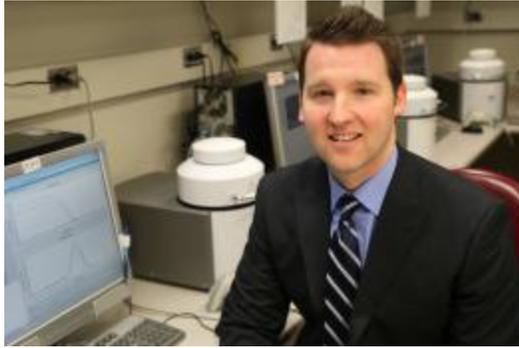


## Young Investigator Award:



**Dr. Matt Binnicker**

Matthew J. Binnicker, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He serves as the Director of Clinical Virology at Mayo Clinic in the Division of Clinical Microbiology, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology. Dr. Binnicker received his doctorate in Microbiology from the University of Iowa, where he studied the interaction of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* with male urethral epithelium. His work demonstrated that the gonococcus alters the expression of host cell genes and proteins that regulate programmed cell death, and by doing so, delays apoptosis in urethral epithelium.

Following his graduate training, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship training program in Clinical Microbiology at Mayo Clinic. Subsequently, he served as the Director of the Infectious Diseases Serology laboratory at Mayo Clinic and now directs the Clinical Virology lab. Dr. Binnicker's research focuses on the development of new molecular techniques for the diagnosis of viral infections. His lab is currently evaluating the use of Next Generation Sequencing for the detection and identification of drug resistance mutations in herpes simplex virus and cytomegalovirus.

In addition to his role as a laboratory director, Dr. Binnicker serves as the Associate Director for the Post-Doctoral training program in Clinical Microbiology and Public Health at Mayo Clinic. In 2014, he assumed the responsibility of Co-Chair for the annual Molecular Diagnostics Workshop held prior to the Clinical Virology Symposium, and Dr. Binnicker also Co-Chairs the Molecular Diagnostics Teleconference series sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and Roche Diagnostics.

Dr. Binnicker is a member of the American Society for Microbiology and the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology. He serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Clinical Microbiology and has been an invited member of *ad hoc* study sections for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Binnicker has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications, review articles or book chapters.