



Esther Babady, Ph.D., D(ABMM)
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Esther Babady, Ph.D., D (ABMM) is the Director of the Microbiology Laboratory Service Clinical Operations, an associate attending in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and the Director of the CPEP accredited post-doctoral clinical microbiology fellowship program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer (MSKCC) in New York City.

She received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and completed a post-doctoral CPEP fellowship in Clinical Microbiology both at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN before joining MSKCC as an assistant attending and assistant director of the Microbiology Laboratory Service.

Her research interests include rapid diagnosis of infections in immunocompromised hosts and the development and evaluation of the clinical utility of molecular microbiology assays. She has published several manuscripts and book chapters on these topics in peer-reviewed journals. She serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology and the Journal of Molecular Diagnostics.

She is honored to receive this year's PASCV Young investigator award and is thankful to the many people who have contributed to her success over the years. Esther credits the Society of MSKCC for awarding her first independent grant to develop and evaluate diagnostic methods for respiratory viruses, thus setting her on her investigative journey. She is thankful for the support of her family and mentors and shares her award with the lab technicians, technologists and supervisors at MSKCC who have enthusiastically participated in her research and contributed to her articles and abstracts.

Nomination Letter

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to nominate Esther Babady for the 2017 PASCV Young Investigator Award. Esther received her Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and her Ph.D. from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. She stayed at the Mayo Clinic to complete a post-doctoral fellowship in medical microbiology in the Division of Clinical Microbiology within the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. From this training, she earned her certification from the American Board of Medical Microbiology. She is currently an Associate Member at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and is Associate Attending Microbiologist in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Memorial Hospital.

In her young career, Esther has demonstrated remarkable success in the activities that define an investigator. Namely, she has procured funding for and published her clinical virology research, which is focused in part on the development and utility of molecular tests in the diagnosis of viral infections of immunocompromised patients, with an emphasis on multiplex tests for syndromic diagnosis. She has received industry-sponsored contracts, totaling over \$600,000 for molecular respiratory virus and gastrointestinal virus detection tests and CMV quantification tests. She has published 45 manuscripts in prominent journals such as Clinical Infectious Diseases, Journal of Clinical Microbiology, and Open Forum Infectious Diseases. Her body of work in clinical virology consists of 12 papers and she is first or last author on 5 papers. Esther has also published 6 textbook chapters related to clinical virology.

Esther is not only a remarkably productive young investigator, she is also a promising young leader, as demonstrated by her engagement in volunteer leadership positions and activities. She has been an active participant on PASCV's Education Committee and in 2016 took on the position of co-chair of this productive committee. She has also volunteered her time in leadership positions for a variety of other organizations, notably for ASM (Chair and Chair-elect of Division-C Nominating Committee) and CLSI (contributor in the development of an important guideline document on verification and validation of multiplex nucleic acid assays).

In summary, people like Esther, who demonstrate academic productivity and dedication to the field of diagnostics through volunteer engagement in leadership, are the lifeblood of our field and ensure its future success. For the career she has crafted, for the promise she has shown this far, Esther is very deserving of PASCV's Young Investigator Award.

Best wishes,

Alexandra Valsamakis, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology
Director, Clinical Virology and Molecular Microbiology