

SWACM NEWSLETTER

Providing Quality Continuing Education for Clinical Microbiologists



Southwestern Association of Clinical Microbiology
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Letter from the President

By: Chris Fuller

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It's truly a privilege to serve as your president this year. I have enjoyed serving as an Area and State Director for more than 20 years and participating in planning 4 annual meetings including the one last year in St. Louis. It is an honor to work with the world's leading microbiology thought leaders and watch them share their expertise and insights with my fellow clinical microbiologists from our six state area and beyond.

Isn't it amazing how microbiology testing has changed over the years? From inoculating thousands of test tubes individually with an inoculating needle, (this is the era when I started in micro), to miniaturized API strips, automated systems and now to Mass Spec with MalDI-TOF. Molecular testing abounds. ID's and susceptibility results are now available in a few hours instead of days.

Thanks to new genetic testing our favorite bugs names continue to evolve. Who knew a couple of years ago *Clostridium difficile*'s genus is now *Clostridioides* and *Enterobacter aerogenes* genus is now *Klebsiella*? The lab of the future we dreamt about is now here. Could we ever have imagined reading gram stains on a beach a 1000 miles from our lab? We can now with Total Lab Automation!

SWACM's mission to provide accessible, affordable, quality education and training to the clinical microbiologist is even more important today than when it was founded in 1981. With a shortage of technologists, a much broader selection of tests and complex technologies, CLSI, CAP and government regulatory changes, where else can you learn best practices to improve quality results and testing efficiency in such a focused clinical microbiology environment? The number of times I've heard attendees say "I'm going to implement this change in my lab as soon as I return from this meeting" is countless. Ultimately, patient outcomes will be improved.

Please visit our website, www.swacm.org, for frequent updates on regional workshops, PowerPoint Presentations from past annual meetings, employment opportunities, and the latest news. We are excited to announce you will see our presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other relevant platforms thanks to our new Social Media Manager. Check us out! If you'd like a regional workshop in your area, please reach out to the area and state directors on the Board of Directors list from your state on our website. They'll be happy to work with you on a meeting.

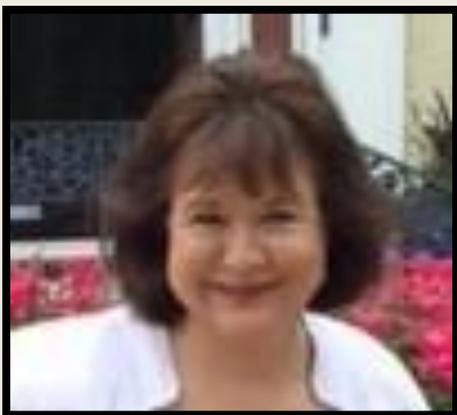
Our San Antonio planning committee has developed added an Agar Art Contest! This new contest requires setting up a colorful design on media and taking a photo of it to submit by email. The Agar Art submissions will be set up next to our poster and case studies submissions, where each winner receives a cash prize. The deadline is August 27. More details about both are on the website.

We want to thank you for your participation and the continued commitment and support our corporate sponsors and exhibitors have provided over the years. Their involvement and yours is essential for the continued success of our meetings. I look forward to seeing you on the River Walk next September 5th through the 8th!

Yours truly,

Chris Fuller

SWACM 2018 President

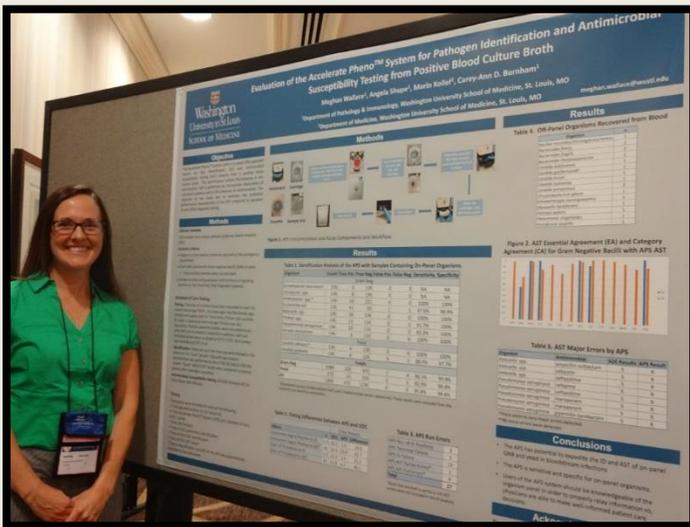


2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Morgan Pence

2016 Steve Hansen Winning Poster



Meghan Wallace from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis was the recipient of the Poster Award. The poster was titled, “Evaluation of the Accelerate Pheno System for Pathogen Identification and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing of Positive Blood Cultures.”

2017 RON SILBERMAN VENDOR APPRECIATION AWARD



The Ron Silberman Vendor Award is presented annually to a vendor exhibiting at the annual meeting who has contributed substantially to the success of the organization and the annual meetings through grants, volunteerism and/or event sponsorship. This year's Ron Silberman Award was awarded to GenMark Dx.

2017 Travel Award Recipients



Kayla McMichael:
Christopher Elliott:
Johna Lawrence:

Children's Mercy Kansas City
Research Medical Center, Kansas City, MO
Mercy Hospital, Joplin, MO

SWACM Board of Directors 2017-2018

Officers	Name	Work#	E Mail
President	Christine Fuller	573-268-8107	fullerchristiney@gmail.com
Administrative Director	Jan Howard	214-345-4256	janhoward@texashealth.org
Recording Secretary (18)	Carolyn Clayton	214-345-6362	carolynclayton@texashealth.org
President Elect	Morgan Pence	682-885-7294	morgan.pence@cookchildrens.org
Past President	Joslyn Pribble	214-947-3593	joslynpribble@mhd.com
State Directors			
Arkansas (20)	Cheryl Fletcher	501-526-6125	cdfletcher7777@gmail.com
Kansas (18)	Dawn Lumpkin	816-276-4073	dawn.lumpkin@hcamidwest.com
Louisiana (20)	Lynda Britton	318-518-1864	lbritt1@lsuhsc.edu
Missouri (19)	LaNae Druen	816-932-2136	ldruen@saint-lukes.org
Oklahoma (19)	Denise Robison	405-271-2454	denise.robison@OUmedicine.com
Texas (18)	Rhonda Fossett	817-568-3343	rhonda.Fossett@ahss.org
Area Directors			
Arkansas Area (18)	Paula Reaves	479-877-0407	p_reaves@msn.com
North Kansas (18)	Mary Ann Henthorne	785-505-6177	mary.henthorne@lmh.org
South Kansas (19)	Sarah Nickel	316-978-5888	sarah.nickel@wichita.edu
North Louisiana (19)	Kristin Butler	318-813-2912	kbutl1@lsuhsc.edu
South Louisiana (19)	Amanda Smith	337-912-8979	asmith2thepathlab.com
West Missouri (18)	Deana Gialde	816-691-1372	deana.gialde@nkch.org
East Missouri (19)	Cari Orth	314-852-4100 x53140	cari.orth@va.gov
East Oklahoma (19)	Jennifer Linden Jameson	918-286-5344	jennifer.jameson@ctca-hope.com
West Oklahoma (18)	Maryann Brandt	405-307-1133	mbrandt@nrh-ok.com
North Texas (19)	Joslyn Pribble	214-947-3593	joslynpribble@mhd.com
East Texas (17)	James DeBaun	254-743-0802	james.debaun@va.gov
South Texas (19)	Julia Robbins	512-465-1671	jarobbins@austinregionalclinic.com
West Texas (18)	Troy McCorquodale	325-670-2830	tmccorquodale@hendrickhealth.org
Committee Chairs			
Awards	Rachael Liesman	913-588-1753	riesman@kumc.edu
Continuing Education	Connie Bates	214-345-4257	conniebates@texashealth.org
Exhibits	Rhonda Fossett	817-568-3343	rhonda.fossett@ahss.org
Finance	Denise Robison	405-271-2454	denise.robison@OUmedicine.com
Historian	Cari Orth	314-852-4100 x53140	cari.orth@va.gov
Nominations	Joslyn Pribble	214-947-3593	joslynpribble@mhd.com
Regional Workshops	Laura Knoll	214-345-6398	lauraknoll@texashealth.org
Publications	Connie Bates	214-345-4257	conniebates@texashealth.org
Web Master	Jan Howard	214-345-4256	janhoward@texashealth.org
2018 Annual Meeting San Antonio, Texas			
Meeting Chair	Laura Knoll	214-345-6398	lauraknoll@texashealth.org
Exhibits	Rhonda Fossett	817-568-3343	rhonda.fossett@ahss.org
Registration	Jan Howard	214-345-4256	janhoward@texashealth.org
Funding/Grants	Morgan Pence	682-885-7294	morgan.pence@cookchildrens.org

SWACM Membership by Region– 2017

Arkansas	7
East Oklahoma	3
West Oklahoma	45
North Kansas	62
South Kansas	24
North Louisiana	10
South Louisiana	6
East Missouri	61
West Missouri	48
North Texas	79
South Texas	37
East Texas	64
West Texas	5
Out of State	40
Sustaining Members	0
Total Members	491

DON'T FORGET...



**SWACM ANNUAL MEETING
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

SEPTEMBER 5 – 8, 2018

Meeting Chair	Laura Knoll	214-345-6398	lauraknoll@texashealth.org
Exhibits	Rhonda Fossett	817-568-3343	rhonda.fossett@ahss.org
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