



April 16-17, 2021 PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Marshall Bloom

A recognized expert on the pathogenesis of tick-borne flaviviruses, persistent infections and parvoviruses, Marshall E. Bloom, M.D., serves as chief of the biology of vector-borne viruses section in the Laboratory of Virology and is the associate director for scientific management at Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) in Hamilton, MT. RML is a part of the Division of Intramural Research of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health.

The author of numerous scientific articles and book chapters, Dr. Bloom is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), American Society of Microbiology (ASM), the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), and the American Society for Virology. He has served on organizing committees and advisory boards for a number of major scientific conferences, including multiple terms on annual ASM Biothreats Conferences.

As associate director, Dr. Bloom played a major role in design, construction and staffing of the RML Integrated Research Facility, which houses NIAID's first Biosafety Level 4 research program. He is considered an authority on biosafety, biocontainment and management of high containment laboratory research programs.

Since the early 2000's, Dr. Bloom has studied the biology of tick-borne flaviviruses in mammalian and arthropod systems, making considerable contributions in the areas of viral pathogenesis, viral persistence, ultrastructure, gene expression and the interactions between virus, arthropod host and mammalian hosts.

Dr. Bloom has been a spokesperson for the RML COVID-19 research program and has a significant role in the institutional response. He has served as an advisor to local and state health departments on this topic. In fall 2020, Dr. Bloom was inducted into the Montana Bioscience Hall of Fame.

He is supported by the Intramural Research Program of NIAID/NIH.

Tara Burke

Tara Burke, PhD, joined the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) staff in 2014 and currently serves as AMP's Senior Director of Public Policy & Advocacy. Her areas of expertise focus on the regulatory and reimbursement issues affecting molecular pathology. She has a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics from The University of Virginia and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH. Her training and research in molecular genetics showed her the hope and promise that genetics can bring to improving human health, and she is proud to be able to work towards the realization of this goal.

Cara Bushmaker

Cara has been an active member of ASCLS since she stumbled into the profession of Clinical Laboratory Science as a student. She's held various positions on the board ever since including President, MLN editor, and Social media admin most recently. She works with all facets of patient care as a Technical Supervisor at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital where she's been since 2010. She's had a passion for the laboratory profession which has taken her to HS career fairs, junior high classrooms, ASCLS-MT and national meetings, various Montana board positions, planning meetings and most recently as a resource for laboratory testing during the pandemic for our CAH hospital, our local newspaper, and our city council.

Cody Custis

Cody L. Custis is the former Senior Data Analyst at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital and current Senior Statistical Analyst at STATinMED Research. He has done consulting work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in data analysis and Geographic Information Systems. Cody received his Master of Science degree from Montana State University in Statistics. His unrealistic goal for 2021 is to traverse the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Lindsey Davenport-Landry

Lindsey Davenport-Landry is an Iowa Native who attended the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and graduated with her BS in CLS. She obtained her MS from Rutgers and is currently working on her DCLS also through Rutgers.

Lindsey is the Chief Medical Technologist at the Iowa City VA Health Care System and oversees a high complexity clinical laboratory and HLA laboratory.

She has been an active member in ASCLS for 15 years serving as state president, state secretary, region treasurer, national chairs for Leadership Academy, Product Development Committee, vice chair for the DCLS oversight board, on membership and founded the Off the Bench Pod-Cast with fellow Leadership Academy graduate Sam.

Lindsey keeps very busy with laboratory activities, but her most rewarding focus is her twin boys George and Michael and spending time with family and friends

Alyssa Johnson

Alyssa Johnson RN, MSN, CEN, TCRN works as the Trauma System Manager for the State of Montana, EMS & Trauma Systems Section of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. She received her BSN from Montana State University and has a MSN in Leadership in Healthcare Systems from Regis University. She is board certified as an emergency nurse and trauma certified and has been licensed as an EMT in both Montana and Alaska. In her current role she oversees the continued development of the trauma system for Montana, performs trauma facility designation reviews for Level II-V trauma centers, supervises the trauma registry, MT Violent Death Reporting System and the Statewide Injury Prevention Program. She currently serves as the chair for the National Trauma Manager Council.

Rebecca Mann

Rebecca Mann, LCSW of Mountain Crest Counseling, PC is a therapist in a private practice in Hamilton, MT. She has worked in the social work field for over 20 years, 10 of which she has provided direct therapy. She received her bachelors of social work at the University of Montana and her graduate degree of social work from Portland State University. She was born and raised in Montana, enjoyed some time exploring and living in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska before returning home to Big Sky country. Her practice provides individual and family counseling to adolescents and adults. She has experience working with a myriad of diagnosis and symptoms as well as perinatal mood disorders, self-harm and suicidal ideation, trauma, domestic violence, LGBTQ+.

Rick Panning

Rick Panning, MBA, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}, recently semi-retired from a career where he has been in laboratory leadership positions for 36 years, including most recently as Senior Administrative Director of Laboratory Services for HealthPartners and Park Nicollet in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (leadership for eight hospital laboratories, clinic laboratories for two large medical groups, and a central laboratory). Previously, he served as Vice President of Business Development at Fairview Health Services (supporting laboratory, imaging, pharmacy, and rehab services) and Vice President for Laboratory Services at Allina Hospitals and Clinics, an integrated health system with 10 hospitals and 70 clinic laboratories in Minnesota. For 12 years, he was President of Laboratories for Fairview Health Services in Minneapolis and also served as Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross blood services in the North Central region. Currently working part-time as a Senior Healthcare Consultant for ARUP.

Rick has been very active in the laboratory profession, especially within the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), where he has served as a State President, Regional Director, and President of the National Society. Currently, Rick is a member of the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee, a member of the Constituent Society Task Force, and Past Chair of the Coordinating Council for the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW). Rick received his BS in clinical laboratory science from Mankato State University and his MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Elissa Passiment

Elissa Passiment is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Rutgers University School of Health Professions, Executive Vice President Emeritus of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and a clinical laboratory consultant. She is a clinical laboratory scientist with over twenty years experience in clinical laboratories as staff, educator and manager and 28 years in hospital consulting, health policy and association management.

She was President of ASCLS in 1988-89. Ms. Passiment uses her science background and experience to analyze health care policies and systems. She has served on the congressionally mandated Negotiated Rulemaking Committee convened to standardize and simplify reimbursement for laboratory services; presented testimony to Institute of Medicine studies, and represented ASCLS at meetings with the FDA, CMS, and CDC. She served as a member and the Chair of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) which oversees CLIA from 2007 - 2011. She is also on the Editorial Board of Lab Tests Online and on TRUU-Lab, a consensus effort to address problems with laboratory test names

Dr. Gordon Riha

Dr. Gordon Riha did his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He then attended Medical School at Baylor College of Medicine in Huston, Texas. He did his internship

and residency at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon proceeded by his fellowship in critical care, also at OHSU in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Riha joined Billings Clinic in 2014, he works in the general surgery department and is board certified in general surgery and surgical critical care. Dr. Riha is the assistant trauma medical director providing surgical ICU coverage and is the current chair of the blood utilization committee.

Rodney E. Rohde

Rodney Rohde, PhD, MS, SM(ASCP)^{CM}, SV^{CM}, MB^{CM}, FACSc, is Associate Director for the Texas State University Translational Health Research Center, serves as the Program Chair for the CLS Program at Texas State and a clinical assistant professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He is very active in ASCLS, and very active on social media, promoting the medical laboratory profession. He is the Chair of the TACLS Marketing Committee. Rodney enjoys teaching and mentoring students toward productive and exciting careers in clinical laboratories.

Dr. Kelli Schneider

Kelli Schneider, MD, is a pathologist with Yellowstone Pathology in Billings, MT. She specializes in hematopathology.

Robyn Temple Smolkin

Robyn Temple-Smolkin, PhD is the Director of Clinical and Scientific Affairs at the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP). Robyn has earned a Ph.D. in Molecular & Cellular Biology from State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, NY and a M.B.A. from Regis University in Denver, CO., along with multiple clinical certifications to include board-certification as a High Complexity Laboratory Director in Molecular Diagnostics. After fellowship in transplant immunogenetics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Robyn relocated to Helena, MT and worked as a Clinical Molecular Diagnostics Specialist in Shodair Children's Hospital's Medical Genetics Department. She went on to cofound and serve as Director of Laboratory Operations for Big Sky Diagnostic Labs, a CAP-accredited independent molecular pathology laboratory focused on women's health and infectious disease. Robyn has since relocated east, joining the AMP team in 2014 with primary development and oversight responsibilities for AMP's clinical practice related activities, to include clinical practice guideline development and organizational collaborations. Robyn also has connections to ASCLS-Montana, having previously served as an officer.

