

# MMG 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Friday, November 8, 2019

Onstead Auditorium

6767 Bertner Avenue, Mitchell BSRB

10:00 am -10:20 am

## **Welcome**

**Theresa M. Koehler, Ph.D.**

Professor & Chair, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
McGovern Medical School

10:20 am – 12.00 pm

## Session 1

**“Functional genomics and signal transduction in multicellular fungi”**

**Katherine Borkovich, Ph.D.**

Professor & Chair, Microbiology & Plant Pathology  
University of California, Riverside

**“EASy evolution: Metabolic alteration for biotechnology”**

**Ellen Neidle, Ph.D. (S. Kaplan)**

Professor, Microbiology  
University of Georgia

**“Studying phage inhibition of bacterial cell division and shape at a small college”**

**Daniel Haeusser, Ph.D. (Margolin)**

Assistant Professor, Biology  
Canisius College

**“C. difficile and Carbon Utilization Phenotypes in Emerging Clinical and Environmental Ribotypes”**

**Heather Danhof, Ph.D. (Lorenz)**

Postdoctoral Associate, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Baylor College of Medicine

**“Teaching at an Urban College”**

**M. Gabriela Bowden, Ph.D. (H. Kaplan)**

Associate Professor, Natural Sciences  
University of Houston - Downtown

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm

Group Photo

12:10 pm – 1:20 pm

Lunch and Lab Posters

1:20 pm – 3:00 pm

## Session 2

**“Dynamics of Peptidoglycan Cell Wall Synthesis in the Superbug *Streptococcus pneumoniae*”**

**Malcolm Winkler, Ph.D.**

Professor, Biology  
Indiana University Bloomington

***“Development of scientific programs, initiatives, and funding opportunities at the NIH”***

**Alicia Dombroski, Ph.D.**

Director, Extramural Activities  
National Institute of Dental and Cranial Research

***“The Matrix Reloaded 3.0: Heterogeneity in pathogenic E. coli biofilms controls architecture and protection from antibiotics”***

**Maria Hadjifrangiskou, Ph.D. (Koehler)**

Assistant Professor, Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

***“The electron transport chain regulates yeast starvation survival”***

**Patrick Gibney, Ph.D. (Morano)**

Assistant Professor, Food Science  
Cornell University

***“Induction of an effector-triggered immune response by mitis group streptococci”***

**Ransome van der Hoeven, Ph.D. (Garsin)**

Assistant Professor, Diagnostic & Biomedical Sciences  
UTHealth School of Dentistry

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 3

***“I never met a genome I didn't like”***

**George Weinstock, Ph.D.**

Professor, Evnin Family Chair, Director, Microbial Genomics  
The Jackson Laboratory

***“Understanding the Link between Doctoral Student Admissions and Outcomes”***

**Marenda Wilson-Pham, Ph.D. (van Hoof)**

Associate Dean and Assistant Professor  
Rush University Graduate College

***“The University of Texas Microbiology & Molecular Genetics and my research career”***

**Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D. (Norris)**

Professor, Center for Infectious Disease Research  
Tsinghua University, China

***“Influence of medical devices on host susceptibility to staphylococci”***

**Jennifer Walker, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, MMG, Internal Medicine and SPH  
UTHealth

4:50 pm - 6:15 pm

Lab Tours

Microbiology and  
Molecular Genetics

6:15 pm

Mixer  
Memorial Hermann Hospital Conference Center  
Ground Floor, Hermann Pavilion

7:00 pm

Dinner and Keynote Address  
***"In the beginning..."***  
**Samuel Kaplan, Ph.D.**  
Chair Emeritus, MMG