

NACMID 2026 Full Lecture Descriptions

Monday- September 21, 2026

Workshop A (8am-12n)

Morphology, Microscopy, and Moulds: A Practical Guide to Identification

Lars Westblade, PhD, D(ABMM)

New York- Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Full Description: Microscopy remains the gold standard for the identification of moulds and is an essential skill for practicing medical mycologists. This workshop is intended for all individuals who are interested in the phenotypic (macroscopic and microscopic) identification of medically important moulds. Attendees will be immersed in interactive material brimming with illustrations, photographic images, and “news you can use”. (Intermediate level)

Workshop B (8am-12n)

The Circle of Life for a Lab Test, Implementation to Retirement and Everything in Between

Isabella Martin, MD D(ABMM)

Nicole Loeven, PhD, D(ABMM)

Dartmouth Health

Full Description: Are you bringing a new microbiology test into your laboratory? Or struggling to maintain quality on existing tests? Perhaps thinking about retiring one of your tests? This dynamic workshop will cover the entire life cycle of test implementation within the microbiology laboratory, from the verification/validation process, to QC, proficiency testing and competency to knowing when it's time to let a test go. (Basic Level)

Workshop C (2:30p-5:00p)

“AST Me Anything!” Addressing YOUR Questions on AST

Romney Humphries, PhD, D(ABMM)

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Full Description: This program will address commonly asked questions from bench technologists on antimicrobial susceptibility testing. (Intermediate level)

Workshop D (2:30p-5:00p)

A Practical Guide to Molecular Microbiology Assays in the Clinical Laboratory

David Peaper, MD, PhD, D(ABMM)

Yale New Haven, VA Connecticut Hospital

Full Description: This session will be a practical guide for the consideration and implementation of molecular microbiology methods in the clinical laboratory. A brief introduction to molecular methods will be provided, and factors such as panel selection, approaches to validation and verification of assays, and practical considerations such as workflow, TAT, and reimbursement will be introduced. Finally, a brief summary of emerging sequencing methods including metagenomics will be presented. (Intermediate level)

Keynote (6:00p-7:00p) – Sponsored by ARUP Laboratories

Metagenomic Next-Generation Sequencing for Infectious Diseases: A Clinical Reality Check

Kimberly Hanson, MD, MHS

ARUP, University of Utah

Full Description: Metagenomic next-generation sequencing (mNGS) has emerged as an important tool for the diagnosis of certain infectious diseases, offering the ability to detect a broad range of pathogens through unbiased sequencing directly from clinical specimens. Despite its promise, the clinical utility of mNGS remains highly context-dependent, with important considerations related to test performance, result interpretation, turnaround time, and cost. This keynote session will provide a pragmatic, evidence-based overview of mNGS in routine clinical practice. Through selected clinical scenarios, we will examine where mNGS may add value beyond conventional diagnostics and explain why careful diagnostic stewardship is essential to maximize benefit while minimizing misinterpretation and unnecessary use. (CMLE Continuing Ed not offered)

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Session 1A – Presented by deepull

Blood, Bugs, and Resistance: Direct from Blood Pathogen and AMR Detection

Kimberle Chapin, MD, D(ABMM), FCAP

deepull

Full Description: Blood culture has been the standard of care for bloodstream infection detection for decades — but its limitations in sensitivity and turnaround time carry real clinical costs for patients with severe infections that may lead to sepsis. Molecular diagnostics have made the limitations of blood culture impossible to ignore. This presentation will contrast the diagnostic gaps of blood culture with deepull's approach, including detection of total microbial DNA providing increased sensitivity and the sample to result analyzer. In addition, preliminary clinical and analytical data will be presented. An interactive key stakeholder graphic will address potential benefits for physicians, the laboratory, antimicrobial stewardship, and quality metrics. (CMLE Continuing Ed not offered)

Session 1B – Presented by Hologic

Trust More than Your Gut: Panther Fusion GI Assays

Melissa Maxwell-Stropes, PhD

Hologic

Full Description: Join Dr. Melissa Maxwell-Stropes for a scientific session exploring Hologic's GI testing on the Panther Fusion® system, where speed, sensitivity, and customizable testing options come together to transform clinical decision-making. Because in today's diagnostic landscape, you need more than intuition. Trust more than your gut. (CMLE Continuing Ed not offered)

Session 2A – Presented by DiaSorin

Evaluation of the Analytical and Clinical Performance of the LIAISON MeMed BV Assay at a Tertiary Cancer Center

Melvilí Cintrón, PhD, D(ABMM)

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Full Description: This session will present the outcome of clinical performance of the DiaSorin LIAISON MeMed BV Assay at a major tertiary cancer center in New York City, as well as discuss its utility. (CMLE Continuing Ed not offered)

Session 2B – Presented by Bruker

Advancing Clinical Microbiology: Bruker's Latest Diagnostic Innovations

Kenneth Oliveira

Bruker Scientific, LLC

Full Description: This presentation provides an overview of Bruker's latest product updates across clinical microbiology. Attendees will learn how recent advancements in the MALDI Biotyper® CA System—including enhanced software, expanded reference libraries, and workflow innovations—continue to support rapid, accurate microbial identification and improved laboratory efficiency. The session will also highlight updates to the IR Biotyper platform for strain typing and outbreak analysis, offering additional insights for infection prevention and control. In parallel, Bruker continues to advance an integrated approach to bloodstream infection diagnostics. Together, these innovations reflect Bruker's commitment to delivering high-performance, clinically relevant solutions that enhance diagnostic confidence and support modern microbiology laboratories. (CMLE Continuing Ed not offered)

Session 3A

Medically Important Yeasts

Lars Westblade, PhD, D(ABMM)

New York- Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Full Description: Yeast infections cause significant morbidity and mortality. Through clinical cases, the presenter will describe infections caused by yeast, explain diagnostic methods for identifying yeast, and discuss important yeast antifungal susceptibility characteristics. (Intermediate level)

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Session 3B

What Your Reference Lab Wants You to Know

Kileen Shier, PhD, MBA, D(ABMM)

Full Description: Hospital and Physician office laboratories send specimens to reference laboratories routinely, but do they truly understand how reference laboratories operate? The aim of this session is to familiarize microbiologists and infectious disease physicians with the operations, as well as strengths and weaknesses of reference laboratories. The exemplary stories shared in this presentation will illustrate how laboratorians can better collaborate with their reference laboratory to improve patient care. (Basic level)

Session 3C

When Time Counts- Addressing Diagnostic Gaps with Rapid Diagnostics to Improve Patient Care

Greg Berry, PhD, D(ABMM)

New-York Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Full Description: Advances in diagnostic microbiology continue to transform the detection and management of infectious diseases, particularly in areas where timely diagnosis and treatment are critical to patient outcomes. This presentation will explore two emerging areas of clinical microbiology: diagnostic approaches for disseminated herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection and rapid antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) for bloodstream infections.

The first section will review the virology and clinical spectrum of HSV disease, with a focus on disseminated infection, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition that often presents with nonspecific clinical findings. Current diagnostic challenges, unmet clinical needs, and limitations of existing testing strategies will be discussed. The development and validation of a laboratory-developed molecular assay designed to improve the diagnosis of disseminated HSV infection will be presented, highlighting considerations for assay implementation and clinical utilization.

The second section will provide an overview of rapid AST technologies and their role in optimizing antimicrobial therapy and antimicrobial stewardship efforts. Current limitations and diagnostic gaps in rapid susceptibility testing will be examined, followed by an evaluation of a novel direct-from-blood rapid AST system. Performance characteristics, workflow considerations, and the potential impact on clinical decision-making and patient care will be reviewed. Through these topics, participants will gain insight into the development, validation, and clinical application of innovative diagnostic approaches that address important unmet needs in infectious disease diagnosis and management. (Intermediate level)

Session 4A

Vector-Borne Disease Diagnostics in New England: Current and Future

Kyle Rodino, PhD, D(ABMM)

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Full Description: New England is home to the most vector-borne diseases of any region in the United States. These diverse group of pathogens largely cause non-specific febrile syndromes, making diagnostic tests integral to accurate detection and identification. In this session, the major vector-borne pathogens will be reviewed, including outlining of best practice testing based on disease timeline and patient factors. Finally, new diagnostic options for the diagnosis of vector-borne pathogens will be discussed, given a look into the future. (Basic Level)

Session 4B

Beyond the Usual Suspects: Novel and Emerging Viruses in a Changing World

Ryan Relich, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)^{CM} SM^{CM}

Mayo Clinic

Full Description: This presentation explores the ecological, environmental, and societal forces – such as climate change, land use, globalization, and human behavior – that drive viral emergence in an increasingly interconnected world. It highlights key examples of recent novel and emerging viruses, examining what their detection and response have revealed about preparedness, communication, and scientific agility. Participants will assess persistent gaps in surveillance, diagnostics, and research capacity that allow many viruses to remain neglected or poorly understood.

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The session concludes by reflecting on what emerging viral threats mean for clinical practice, public health policy, and the prioritization of future research efforts. (Basic Level)

Session 4C

Antibiotic Pearls and Pitfalls: Bugs, Drugs, and Stewardship

Cheston Cunha, MD, FACP, FIDSA, FSHEA

Rhode Island Hospital and Miriam Hospital, Brown University

Full Description: This session is designed to provide an basic overview of antibiotic stewardship and selected antimicrobials. It is meant to provide insight into the importance of using antimicrobial appropriately and to highlight some of the pearls and pitfalls of using certain antibiotics. (Basic Level)

Session 5A

A Decade of Clinical NGS in the Mycobacteriology Lab: Test Development to Clinical and Public Health Impact

Kimberlee Musser, PhD

Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health

Full Description: This talk will summarize a decade of clinical Mycobacterium tuberculosis whole genome sequencing (WGS) as well as introduce newer targeted next generation sequencing (NGS)² for M. tuberculosis and nontuberculous mycobacteria. A summary of development, validation and implementation will be presented along with a review of all results to date, new projects and high impact cases. (Intermediate Level)

Session 5B

Medical Device Recalls: A Practical Approach and Call for Help

David Peaper, MD, PhD, D(ABMM)

Yale New Haven, VA Connecticut

Full Description: All laboratories will be confronted with device recalls at some point. This presentation will outline a framework for addressing product recalls within existing quality structures including regulatory implications. Additionally, we will discuss specific examples of product recalls identifying potential questions and approaches to address quality and patient care issues. Finally, we will outline potential improvements in vendor support that could facilitate the laboratory response to recalls. (Intermediate Level)

Session 5C

Stop Changing Things: How to Navigate Challenging CLSI Updates

Kevin Alby, PhD, D(ABMM)

Brown University Health

Full Description: This presentation will discuss how different CLSI changes impact testing and reporting in the clinical laboratory. It will provide an understanding of how and why certain changes are made as well as provide strategies for implementation. (Intermediate Level)

Session 6

Reasons Behind the Requests: Patient Cases with Specific ABX Needs

Sara Geffert, MD, MS, D(ABMM), M(ASCP), Brown University Health

Marisa Nielson, PhD, D(ABMM), Boston Medical Center, Boston University

Rebecca O'Toole, PharmD, Brown University Health

Full Description: This case-based presentation reveals the clinical reasoning behind seemingly unusual microbiology lab requests. Through real patient scenarios, it highlights diagnostic stewardship, antimicrobial decision-making, and interdisciplinary teamwork that drive these essential communications. Understanding the full patient story provides laboratory staff with vital insight into the reasoning driving each request. (Intermediate Level)