

Highlights of the 2023 Annual Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting was held on June 2, 2023 at a new location, the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. There was enthusiastic support for continuing with this venue for future spring meetings due to the convenient midtown Manhattan location, comfortable accommodations and delicious food. It certainly far exceeded the Hotel Pennsylvania experience! This was our first post-COVID spring symposium and we are delighted to report that approximately 250 people attended. After a warm welcome by the President, Dr. Gregory Berry, the *Distinguished Achievements in Clinical Microbiology Award* was presented to Dr. Stephen Jenkins. The award was granted largely for his contributions to the NYC Clinical Microbiology Community and to our branch as former President of our society and active contributor to our programs. Equally important, he was acknowledged for his stellar professional career.

Throughout the day, world-renowned speakers delivered dynamic talks on relevant and enlightening topics. We downloaded these presentations to our website for member viewing. Dr. Jenkins kicked off the morning session with his engaging discussion “*Antimicrobial Resistance: Not a New York State of Mind*”, followed by Dr. Demetre Daskalakis “*Mpox and the Synemic: An Update*”, and Dr Elitza Theel with “*Labs We Ordered & then Regretted: Managing Serologic Test Utilization*”.

The afternoon program was preceded by a delicious buffet luncheon and the Branch’s traditional **Annual Awards Presentation** where we pay tribute to our corporate sponsors who have so generously supported our amazing educational programs over the years. We thank our **Platinum Members**: Becton Dickinson, bioMérieux, Cepheid and GenMark Roche Molecular and our **Gold Members**: Abbott Molecular, Beckman Coulter-MicroScan, Hologic Inc., Selux Dx and Vela Dx. During lunch, we enjoyed another much-anticipated NYC ASM tradition- the annual **Trivia Contest** where attendees got the chance to win one of the superb contest prizes. Special thanks to Doreen Georgopoulos and Dr. Anna Plourde for their wonderful job of organizing the trivia contest. The stimulating afternoon session began with a presentation by Dr Shawn Lockhart, “*Emerging Fungi: Not the Last of Us. The fungi that really SHOULD scare us*” and concluded with our traditional, challenging case presentations delivered by the President-elect, Dr Caitlin Otto, and by Dr Elliott Rank.

Throughout the day, we had incredible opportunities to network with exhibitors, faculty, friends & colleagues. We thank all of you who attended and we look forward to seeing you at next year’s Spring Meeting at the same location on **Friday, May 31, 2023**. Mark your calendars!

Program Chairs: Dr. Phyllis Della-Latta and Dr. Maria Aguerro-Rosenfeld