



# Texas Branch

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

## Program

**2019 Spring Meeting**

**March 28 – 30, 2019**

**T Bar M Resort and  
Conference Center**

**2549 Highway 46 West, New Braunfels, Texas**



## Branch Officers:

### President

#### Lee Hughes

Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas  
1155 Union Circle #305220  
Denton, TX 76208  
Phone: 940-565-4137  
[lhughes@unt.edu](mailto:lhughes@unt.edu)

### President Elect

#### Madhusudan Choudhary

Department of Biological Sciences  
Sam Houston State University  
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2116  
Phone: 936-294-4850  
[mchoudhary@shsu.edu](mailto:mchoudhary@shsu.edu)

### Past President

#### Ali Azghani

Department of Biology  
University of Texas at Tyler  
3900 University Blvd.  
Tyler, Tx 75799  
Phone: 903.566.7332  
[aazghani@uttyler.edu](mailto:aazghani@uttyler.edu)

### Treasurer

#### Gregory Frederick

Department of Biology and Kinesiology  
LeTourneau University  
2100 S. Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, TX 75602  
Phone: 903-233-3354  
[GregFrederick@LeTU.edu](mailto:GregFrederick@LeTU.edu)

### Councilor

#### Bob McLean

Department of Biology  
Texas State University  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
Phone: 512-245-3365  
[McLean@txstate.edu](mailto:McLean@txstate.edu)

### Secretary

#### M. Gabriela Bowden

Department of Natural Sciences, College  
of Science and Technology  
University of Houston Downtown,  
One Main  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 2225313,  
[bowdenm@uhd.edu](mailto:bowdenm@uhd.edu)

## Meeting Sponsors

**Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (MID) Graduate Program**  
**MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**  
Part of McGovern Medical School and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center  
at Houston, <https://gsbs.uth.edu/microbiology-and-infectious-diseases/index.htm>

**Department of Biology**  
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX  
<https://www.bio.txstate.edu/Graduate-Program>

## Spring 2019 Goldschmidt Lecturer

### Dr. Floyd Wormley, Jr. PhD

Dr. Wormley received his B.S. degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Louisiana State University Health Science Center also in New Orleans, LA. He then conducted his post-doctoral studies in Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC prior to joining the faculty in the Department of Biology at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in 2005. Dr. Wormley's research laboratory utilizes the human fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans* as a model organism to study host-fungal interactions for the purpose of developing novel immune therapies and/or vaccines to treat and/or prevent invasive fungal infections. He currently is a standing member of the Vaccines Against Microbial Diseases (VMD) NIH study section, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Sciences at UTSA, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).



## 2018-19 Eugene and Millicent Goldschmidt Graduate Student Award Recipients:

**Kara Schoenemann**, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
**Rachel Weisend**, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

# Texas Branch ASM Spring Meeting 2019

## Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

- 4:00-6:00 PM Registration
- 6:00-7:00 PM Dinner
- 7:15-7:30 PM Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Lee Hughes, PhD  
University of North Texas
- 7:30-8:30 PM “May the force be with you: Mechanosensing and virulence regulation in enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* O157”  
Anne-Marie Krachler, PhD  
Associate Professor  
McGovern Medical School, UT-Houston
- 8:45-10:00 PM Business Meeting

## Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00-8:00 AM Registration
- 7:00-7:45 AM Breakfast
- 8:00-8:30 AM "Creating biomonitoring devices with microbes - from Protein engineering to genetic circuit development"  
Clement Chen, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
The University of Texas at Tyler
- 8:30-9:00 AM “Autophagy and *Rickettsia* Infection in Macrophages”  
Jeremy Bechelli, PhD  
Sam Houston State University
- 9:00-10:15 AM Undergraduate Student Oral Presentations  
(in competition for Orville Wyss award)
- 10:15-10:30 AM Coffee Break
- 10:30-12:15 PM Graduate Student Oral Presentations  
(in competition for Charlie Gauntt award)

12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15-1:45 PM	Break and poster set up
2:00-3:00 PM	<p>Panel Discussion: Current Topics in Infectious Disease</p> <p>Daniel A. Gold, PhD Assistant Professor, St. Edward's University</p> <p>Jolene R. Ramsey, PhD Postdoctoral Researcher, Texas A&amp;M University</p> <p>Allie C. Smith, PhD, M(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University</p>
3:00-3:30 PM	Coffee Break
3:30-5:30 PM	Student Poster Presentations and Judging
5:30-7:00 PM	Free Time
7:00-8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00-9:00 PM	<p>Goldschmidt Lecture Introduction Madhusudan Choudhary, PhD Sam Houston State University</p> <p>“Induction of Protective Immunity Against Pulmonary Cryptococcosis – An AIDS-Defining Disease” Floyd L. Wormley Jr., PhD Professor and Associate Dean for Research And Graduate Studies The University of Texas at San Antonio</p>
9:00-9:30 PM	Awards Presentation
9:30 PM	Reception Sponsored by the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (MID) Graduate Program MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

7:00-7:45 AM

Breakfast (Check out of rooms before 11 am)

8:30-10:00 AM

Concurrent Sessions A: Careers Panel

Organizer: Bob McLean, PhD, Texas State University

Biotechnology and being a scientific entrepreneur

Micaela Vargas

Lecturer Texas State University

Founder/CEO, VidaBio, LLC

Serving your country; microbiology career with the military

Ezra Mendez

Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio

Concurrent Session B: Roundtable Discussion: Sharing Resources for Teaching,  
Students, and Microbiology

Organizer: Todd Primm, PhD, Sam Houston State University

Meeting Adjourned,  
See y'all at the fall meeting!