Program
2021 Spring Virtual Meeting
March 25 – 26, 2021
## Current Branch Officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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## Immediate Past Presidents

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<th>Institution</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
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Spring 2021 Goldschmidt Lecturer

Karl Klose, Ph.D.
Director, South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases
Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Professor

Dr. Klose received his B.A. degrees in Biochemistry and German Literature from the University of California, San Diego and his Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of California, Berkeley. He then performed postdoctoral studies in microbial pathogenesis at Harvard Medical School, prior to being hired as an assistant professor in the department of Microbiology at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA) in 1997. Dr. Klose moved to UTSA in 2004, and is the founder of the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. Dr. Klose’s research focuses on understanding how bacteria cause disease in humans, in order to develop effective vaccines and therapeutics. His laboratory studies Vibrio cholerae, which causes cholera, and Francisella tularensis, which causes tularemia, as well as several other human bacterial pathogens. He is an author on more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, and has received funding from numerous sources, including NIH, DoD, SAAF, and Thrasher Fund. He has mentored many Ph.D., Masters, and undergraduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows, and international visiting students from India, Spain, Austria, Germany, and Chile.

2020-21 Eugene and Millicent Goldschmidt Graduate Student Award Recipients:

Lauren Howe-Kerr; Rice University, PhD candidate
Megan Mullis; Texas A&M Corpus Christi, PhD candidate
Sarah Owen; Sam Houston State University
Texas Branch ASM Spring Meeting 2021

Thursday, March 25th

7:00-7:15 PM  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Madhusudan Choudhary, PhD
Sam Houston State University

7:15-8:15 PM  “Where do the insect gut microbiota come from? Patterns and implications of environmental symbiont acquisition in stinkbugs and butterflies”
Alison Ravenscraft, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Texas at Arlington

8:30-9:30 PM  Business Meeting

Friday, March 26th

9:00-09:45 AM  Undergraduate Student Oral Presentations
(in competition for Orville Wyss award)
Chair: Daniel Gold, PhD, St. Edward’s University

9:45-10:30 AM  Graduate Student Oral Presentations (15 min talks including questions)
(in competition for Charlie Gauntt award)
Chair: Daniel Gold, PhD, St. Edward’s University

10:30-10:45 AM  BREAK

10:45 AM-12:15 PM  2020 Goldschmidt Awardees
Chair: Daniel Gold, PhD, St. Edward’s University

“Dynamics of viruses infecting key coral symbionts across a reef-wide thermal stress event”
Lauren Howe-Kerr
Rice University

“Activation of Caspase-Mediated Apoptosis in Human Endothelial Cells Infected with Colorado Tick Fever Virus”
Sarah Owen
Sam Houston State University

“Culturing the unculturable: high-throughput sorting using fluorescent activated cell sorting and genomic characterization of novel bacterial strains”
Megan Mullis
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
12:15-1:00 PM
LUNCH BREAK

1:00-2:00 PM
Concurrent Sessions: Careers Panel and Education Session

**Careers Panel**
*Chair: Jolene Ramsey, PhD, Texas A&M*

Joseph Hanson, PhD  
Science Writer  
YouTube Creator

Jason H. Yang, PhD  
Assistant Professor and Chancellor Scholar  
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School  
Co-Chair, COVID Research Alliance

**Education Session**
*Chair: Joni Ylostalo, PhD, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*

"GERMS: Generating Engaged & Responsive Microbiology Students"  
Jennifer Huddleston, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Diana Flanagan, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Abilene Christian University

“Moving Beyond Content Knowledge: Strategies for Creating a Multicultural Based Microbiology Curriculum”  
Stacy Vasquez, PhD  
Professor of Biology  
Dallas College, Mountain View Campus

“Using Metacognitive Approaches to Advance Students' Research Competencies in Laboratory Contexts”  
Jeffrey Olimpo, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology  
Director, Biology Education Research Group  
University of Texas at El Paso
2:00-3:30 PM  Faculty Session  
*Chair: Claire Edwards, PhD, St. Edward’s University*

“SARS-CoV-2 in Student Athletes: The Conflict of Asymptomatic Cases”
Emily Bailey, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

“Medical Device Infections: How Host-Device Interactions Influence Susceptibility to Staphylococci”
Jennifer Walker, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and Department of Internal Medicine, McGovern Medical School  
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences, School of Public Health

“Super symbionts: Individual and population-level variation in stickleback immunity is shaped by symbiotic relationships”
Lauren Fuess, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology  
Texas State University

3:30-5:00 PM  Student Poster Presentations and Judging

3:30-4:10 PM  Session 1
4:20-5:00 PM  Session 2

5:00-7:00 PM  DINNER BREAK

7:00-8:00 PM  Goldschmidt Lecture  
*“Deadly diarrhea: Swimming with Vibrio cholerae”*
Karl Klose, PhD  
Director, South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Professor

Madhusudan Choudhary, PhD  
Sam Houston State University

8:00-8:30 PM  Awards Presentation
8:30-8:45 PM  Closing Remarks