

The **Texas Branch ASM Fall 2026 meeting** organized by the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG) Department of UTHealth Houston will be hosted at the BioScience Research Collaborative by Rice University on **October 15-17th**!

This year's meeting is especially meaningful as we celebrate **85 years** of the Texas ASM Branch. Founded in 1941, the Branch has played an important role in advancing microbiology across Texas and supporting generations of scientists and educators. We will also honor **Dr. Millicent ("Mimi") Goldschmidt** on the occasion of her **100th birthday**, recognizing her extraordinary scientific career, dedicated service to ASM, and lasting impact on the Texas microbiology community.

Meeting Highlights:

- **Inspiring Keynote Presentations** – Discover the frontiers of systems and synthetic biology with [Dr. Jeffrey Tabor](#) (Rice University) in the Opening Keynote on Thursday, and learn about the complex biology of foodborne infections and the pathogenesis of listeriosis in the ASM Distinguished Lecture on Friday, presented by [Dr. Sarah D'Orazio](#) (University of Kentucky College of Medicine).

- **Outstanding Science** – Discover exciting research through presentations by students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty spanning the breadth of the microbial sciences on Friday and Saturday morning. Featured faculty talks:

Dr. Navonil Banerjee, UTHealth Houston

Dr. Lauren Fuess, Texas State University

Dr. Anne-Marie Krachler, UTHealth Houston

Dr. William Miller, Houston Methodist

Dr. Brent Simpson, Texas A&M University

Dr. Jing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center

- **Behind the Editor's Desk – Saturday Morning Faculty Workshop** – Plan to stay through Saturday for a practical discussion designed for research-active faculty and established scientists about the realities of scientific publishing and editorial work. Journal editors and publishing professionals will discuss challenging editorial decisions, how scientists can get involved in editorial work, and how to balance editorial responsibilities with a busy research career. Panelists include:

Dr. Michael Lerman, Senior Managing Editor, ASM Journals

Dr. Cesar Arias, Houston Methodist, Editor-in-Chief, *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*

Dr. Danielle Garsin, UTHealth Houston, Section Editor for Microbial Genetics – Bacteria and Archaea, *PLOS Genetics*

Dr. Michael Lorenz, UTHealth Houston, Section Editor for Mycology, *PLOS Pathogens*

Dr. Sarah D'Orazio, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Founding Editor, *mSphere*

Dr. Jeffrey Tabor, Rice University, Editor, *ACS Synthetic Biology*

- **Career Development & ASM Opportunities for Junior Scientists – Saturday Morning** – Trainees and early-career scientists are invited to a practical and interactive session focused on career development, leadership, and building connections within the microbiology community. The session will explore career paths and professional development opportunities, highlight ways for trainees to get involved in ASM leadership, and provide an opportunity for ASM student chapters to exchange experiences, ideas, and strategies for building active local communities.

- **Networking & Community** – Connect with colleagues, establish new collaborations, and engage with microbiologists advancing research, education, and medicine across Texas.

Whether you are presenting your work, exploring new scientific ideas, or reconnecting with colleagues, the 2026 Texas ASM Branch Meeting promises an engaging and memorable experience. We look forward to welcoming you to Houston! Registration and abstract submission are now open!

Key links and dates:

Registration is open now at: <https://formsmarts.com/form/2ggg>

Early registration will end on **September 24th**. Registration costs will go up starting September 25th.

Abstract submission is open now at: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/83394/submitter>

Abstract submission deadline is **September 15th**.

Oral / poster assignments will be announced on **September 22nd**.

Housing link: <https://txasm.org/registration/>

We are hoping to see you there!