

Going Viral: LSU ID NOLA Newsletter



LSU *Infectious Diseases*
New Orleans, Louisiana
Winter 2019



LSU Infectious Diseases Dinner at IDWeek 2019

LSU Faculty and Fellows met for dinner at Fig and Olive in Washington, DC on Wednesday 10/2/19. From Left: Ashaur Azhar, Joanne Maffei, Kamir Boodoo, Lauren Richey, Meredith Clement, Victoria Burke, Anne Hull, and Victoria's brother, Jeremy Burke

LSU ID—IDWeek 2019 Activities

Ashaur Azhar, 2nd Year Fellow—presented the poster: Does Monitoring Procalcitonin Levels in Septic Shock Patients Decrease the Use of Antibiotics and Predict Length of Hospital Stay?

Meredith Clement, Faculty—presented the poster: Awareness

(See IDWeek 2019, page 2)

IDWeek 2019 LSU ID Fellow's Perspective

The Second Year LSU ID Fellows attended IDWeek 2019 and were asked to write about their experience—here are their thoughts:

I was able to attend several interesting talks and there were many more that I could not attend because they were scheduled at the same time. It was a good platform for social networking and career/job hunting. The Fellows' Day had unique and interesting case presentations. It was also nice to see LSU, Tulane and Ochsner ID Faculty at the meeting. There were thousands of poster presentations. I presented a poster along with the UMC Antimicrobial Stewardship Program regarding the use of procalcitonin in septic/septic shock patients. I want to thank the LSU ID Section for sending me to this conference and for the great dinner that we all had together. This was my first time attending the IDWeek conference. It was a great experience. **Ashaur Azhar, Second Year LSU ID Fellow**

It was cool, crisp weather in a beautiful and energetic city that felt like a metropolis of the future. IDWeek 2019 was in full swing in Washington DC. I arrived not knowing quite what to expect, as this would be my first time at an academic conference. Yet, despite a vague idea that it would be teeming with ID physicians, I was not prepared for the magnitude of the event. The number and scope of the lectures were inspiring and at times overwhelming for a newbie. IDWeek 2019 served many purposes for me. It allowed me to bond with my current co-fellows and future colleagues in an environment outside the usual grind. It was a reminder that our specialty is more dynamic and varied than at first glance. Finally, it was a first step on a journey into academia. **Kamir Boodoo, Second Year LSU ID Fellow**

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Dr. Michael Hagensee—Invited Speaker in Bali, Indonesia

Dr. Michael Hagensee was an invited guest speaker at the WW8 – 8th World Workshop on Oral Infections in HIV Individuals on 9/13/19 – 9/14/19 in Bali, Indonesia. He proposed the question “What is the role of ART on oral immunity and the microbiome in well-controlled HIV positive patients with identified chronic inflammation?” which was selected as a focus of current and future research. He presented the background on the chronic inflammatory syndrome in well-controlled HIV positive individuals and how that may affect the oral microbiome and oral disease. In addition, he proposed that the oral cavity may also generate a chronic inflammatory response and interact with the gut microbiome. In particular, periodontal disease has been shown to lead to inflammation and has been associated with endocarditis in HIV negative individuals. Periodontitis is extremely common in those with HIV and may in some cases actually cause the inflammatory syndrome. This was an exciting proposal and may lead to additional focused research on the role of the oral cavity.



From Left: Paul Fidel, Julian Naglik, Michael Hagensee

In addition, Dr. Hagensee presented his own research examining the rates of HPV-16 and 32 over the past 20 years. HPV-16 is associated with most if not all HPV-related oral cancers. HPV-32 has been shown to be found in >50% of oral warts in HIV positive individuals in the New Orleans area. The results shows an increase in both HPV-16 and 32 oral infection rates in 2006 (15 - 16%) as compared to 2000 (4 - 8%) but this was reduced in 2015 (0.4 - 5.2%). This may be related to more people on anti-retroviral therapy and perhaps due to the medication used. What was truly surprising is that the rate of oral HPV-16 was dramatically low at 0.4% which may be related to the duration and adherence to ART.

On the lighter side, Bali is truly beautiful and the Balinese people are extremely friendly. The traditional dances are a must-see. The temples are amazing to visit and the sunsets outstanding. Dining on the beach is required, easy to arrange, and rather inexpensive! Also, meeting new colleagues and relaxing with others was paramount. Above, Dr. Hagensee shares a beverage with Dr. Paul Fidel, LSU School of Dentistry, and Dr. Julian Naglik from King's College in England. Dr. Fidel is a world expert on oral candidiasis and Dr. Naglik focuses on the immune mechanisms involved in the oral cavity. Dr. Hagensee did finish his trip with an amazing stop at the Great Barrier Reef – which has to be personally seen to be fully appreciated and enjoyed another beverage in the famous Opera House in Sydney, Australia.



IDWeek 2019 (Continued from Page 1)

of U=U Among Gay and Bisexual Men who have Sex with Men

Lauren Richey, Faculty—presented two posters: 1) Use of a Clinical Pharmacist to Reduce Inpatient ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) Errors (Co-Author DeMaurian Mitchner), and 2) Implementing a Smoking Cessation Intervention Among People Living with HIV (PLWH) (Co-Author Sadie Beckett).

Stephanie Taylor, Faculty—was a speaker during the symposium session “Drug Resistant Gonorrhea: The Future is Here.” The title of her presentation was: “Treatment of Gonococcal Infections: current practice and future prospects.” Dr. Taylor discussed current and novel treatment options for gonococcal infections. She also presented the findings of Phase 2 trials of zolifludacin and gepotidacine. Both antimicrobials show promise for the treatment of uncomplicated gonococcal infections. Both drugs have entered into Phase 3 trials. The LSU Sexual Health clinic was a site for both Phase 2 trials and is currently a Phase 3 trial site for both as well.

KUDOS to Members of the LSU Infectious Diseases Section:



Paula Seal

Participated in The 2019 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clinical Conference which was held in December in New Orleans. She was a panelist in the session “Treating HIV in 2019: Interactive Cases from the Clinic(ians) and Panel Discussion.” She also participated in the session “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Reaching the Unsuppressed and Out of Care Panel Discussion.”



(Top) Shu-Hua Wang '04, Professor of Medicine at The Ohio State University, was an invited speaker at the 30th Congress of Brazil Microbiology Society in Maceio, Brazil in October 2019. She spoke on “Global One Health: Improving diagnosis of tuberculosis in human and cattle.”

Shu-Hua and Dr. Scott Kurzer (spouse, Wisconsin Badger alum) visited a few sites while in Brazil:

(Bottom From Left)

Swimming with pink dolphins, Amazon, Brazil.. Amazon or Pink River dolphins are the largest species of river dolphins. The pink color is more prominent in adult males.

Iguazu Falls from the Argentina side:

Iguazu Falls are waterfalls of the Iguazu River on the borders of Argentina and Brazil. It is the largest waterfall system in the world. (Disney's show Soarin' Around the World at Epcot Center features 13 places including Iguazu Falls!)

Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer Monument. The Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ was created by French sculptor Paul Landowski. It is 98 feet high with an arm span of 28 feet wide.



Happy Holidays from the LSU ID Section



Above From Left: Joanne Maffei (selfie artist extraordinaire), Back Row: Ashaur Azhar, Mike Hagensee, Yussef Bennani, Julio Figueroa, John Nanfro, Kamir Boodoo; Middle Row: Lynn Besch, Meredith Clement; Front Row: Paula Seal, Taras Nebeluk, Victoria Burke

Upper Right: HOP LSU ID Stocking

Lower Right: Lola Nanfro, John Nanfro (sporting his very fashionable unicorn ugly Christmas sweater) and Evelyn Nanfro



María Rodríguez Contreras '14—sent us this update:

The organization I'm working for is looking for a new provider in Columbia, South Carolina. The name of the organization is CAN Community Health. It is 100 percent outpatient infectious diseases, mainly HIV care, but also PrEP, STDs, viral hepatitis treatment, and optionally primary care. I think it is a great place to work, decent salary, good benefits, meaningful work, no fuss with RVUs. If anyone is interested they can google the company. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year 2020, María Rodríguez Contreras '14

Send us your thoughts on the changing face of the HIV Epidemic. Let us know how you, your family and your practice are doing. Whatever you want to share. Next issue of Going Viral is the Spring issue—please send in articles by March 13, 2020 to be included.