



# PATHOGENS WITHOUT BORDERS



A One Health Approach to Emerging Threats,  
Environmental Change, and Modern Diagnostics

## Spring 2026 Meeting

May 1-2, 2026

@ Ohlone College Newark Center

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*Their support helps bring you this meeting!*

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Online registration available at: <https://ncasmbranch.org>

**Northern California Branch of the American Society for Microbiology  
Spring Meeting Conference May 1-2, 2026  
Ohlone Newark Center, 39399 Cherry St. Newark, CA 94560**

**Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Continental Breakfast and Check in at Registration 7:30-8:30 AM**

**Session 1: Clinical**

**8:30am – Tracking Hantavirus in California:  
Surveillance, Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health**

*Janet Manson, PhD. APHL CDC Fellow*

**9:20am – Can We Reverse the Rise of Antibiotic Resistance?**

*Sam Brown, PhD. Georgia Institute of Technology*

*\*\*ASM Distinguished Lecturer\*\**

**Session 2: Food Safety**

**8:30am – Plasma Activated Water: A Sanitizer for Fresh Produce**

*Joanna Rothwell, PhD UC Davis*

**9:20am – Tracking *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 in Dairy Cattle**

*Xiaohong Wei, PhD UC Davis*

**10:10 – 11:10: BREAK; Coffee/Tea, Vendors, Student Posters**

**11:10am – Tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing:  
Perspective from a Clinician**

*Kyla Sherwood, MD,MS. UC San Francisco TB Clinic*

**11:10am – Food Safety Panel**

*Tom Sidebottom, PhD Regulatory Science Consulting, LLC*

*Matt Tom, MS. MTCC LLC, and Zach Eisenberg, Anresco Labs*

**12:00pm: LUNCH Sponsored by Alchemy AI; Visit Vendor Booths and Research Posters**

**Session 3: Plenary**

**1:30pm – Measles, It is just a rash, isn't it?**

*Brandon Bonin, Dr. PH, MS, HCLD. Director, Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory*

**2:20pm – How Immunodeficiencies Affect Tuberculosis Pathogenesis**

*Bennett Penn, MD, PhD. UC Davis School of Medicine*

**3:10pm – *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Candida albicans* Inter-Kingdom Interactions**

*Danielle Garsin, PhD. University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston*

*\*\*Carlyn Halde Distinguished Speaker\*\**

**All Things Micro Mixer: Hors d'Oeuvres & NA Drinks 4-6 pm in the Exhibitor Lobby**

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**Saturday May 2<sup>st</sup>**

Continental Breakfast and Check in at Registration 7:30-8:30 AM

**Session 4: Clinical**

**8:30am – Update on Chagas Disease in California**

*Sphoorthy Rao, DrPH, HCLD(ABB)  
and Andy Yanez, BS, PHM, CDPH*

**9:20am – Syphilis Diagnostics**

*David Tomichek, BS, MT(ASCP), MBA, Bio-Rad Laboratories*

**Session 5: Microbiomes: Environmental Edition**

**8:30am – Cryptogram Microbiomes of Coyote Brush Plant**

*Abbey Schedler, BS. San Francisco State University*

**9:20am – Prebiotics & the Microbiome of Captive White Sturgeon**

*Jasper Leavitt, PhD Cal Poly Humboldt*

**10:10 – 11:10: BREAK; Coffee/Tea, Vendors, Student Posters**

**11:10am – New World Screwworm Coming Your Way?**

*Vit Kraushaar, MD, MPH. CDPH*

**11:10am –The SF Estuary Microbiome: Thousands of Genomes!**

*Lauren Lui, PhD Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

**12:00pm: LUNCH Sponsored by Alchemy AI; Visit Vendor Booths and Research Posters**

**Session 6: Plenary**

**1:30pm – Pathogen Adaptation in Chronic Versus Acute Infections**

*Sam Brown, PhD. Georgia Institute of Technology.*

*\*\*ASM Distinguished Lecturer\*\**

**2:20pm – Practical AI for Microscopy Image Analysis**

*Phillip Baek and Liam McBride. Alchemy AI, San Francisco, CA.*

**3:10PM – Pathogen Patrol: How Our Blood Supply Stays Safe**

*Emily Kelly, MD, MSc, University of CA, San Francisco*

**We Thank Our Speakers, Exhibitors, and Sponsors for Contributing to a Vibrant Meeting!**

## **General Information**

Registration includes all sessions, exhibits, and all food and beverage functions provided by NCASM for the duration of the registration period

### **Registration Fee**

NCASM member (non-student): \$75/one day; \$140/two days

Student: \$25/one day; \$50/two days

- Students must present valid student ID

Non-NCASM member: \$100/day; \$200/two days

### **Transportation & Parking**

The Ohlone College offers parking in Lot B and C.

### **Membership**

NCASM membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Membership is \$25.00 a year and student membership is \$5.00 a year. Membership in NCASM gives you a network within the microbiology community. As a member, you will receive notification of two general meetings each year, **free** CEUs at NCASM meetings, and information regarding regional meetings and events in your area.

### **Exhibits**

Take the opportunity to visit with the companies that provide products and services to your laboratory. Exhibits are open during all the breaks.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

To comply with ADA requirements, NCASM and the Ohlone College will make every effort to provide for the participant's comfort and convenience.

### **NCASM Poster Session**

NCASM will be hosting a poster session at this meeting. Microbiology—themed posters can be presented during this session. For further information, contact Margaret Lee at:

[posters@ncasm.org](mailto:posters@ncasm.org)

## **Continuing Education**

NCASM is an approved provider and accrediting agency (accreditation #0044) for California Laboratory Continuing Education. The NCASM Spring 2026 meeting qualifies attendees for 12 continuing education units (12 contact hours; for individuals attending both days of the meeting). CEU Certificates of Attendance will be available on-site at the end of each day.

### **Instructions for Receiving CEU**

1. Evaluation forms will be distributed to participants requesting CEUs in each session during the first 10 minutes only. One CEU evaluation form will be given for concurrent sessions, though attendees may record attendance at talks in either session. After the first 10 minutes, participants must pick up a CEU evaluation form at the registration desk. Participants who arrive after the first 10 minutes of a presentation are not eligible to receive CEU credit for that talk.
2. You may attend talks in either concurrent session, but you must record participation for each presentation on one evaluation form. Each talk is one (1) contact hour. You must submit the following to the CEU registration booth at the completion of your total attendance at the meeting:
  - a. A completed evaluation form from all the attended sessions
  - b. Your name tag to verify your paid attendanceYou will receive a CEU certificate after signing the roster at the CEU registration booth.
3. Only one (1) CEU certificate will be issued to each participant \*\*Certificates will not be mailed\*\*