

NEWSLETTER

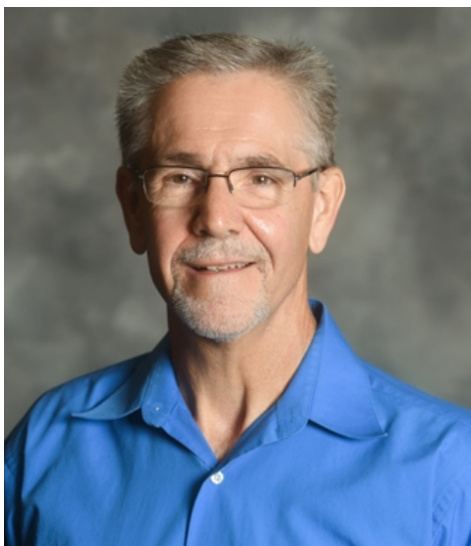
Edited by Kelly Weinersmith | Layout by Joanna Cielocha



The President's Corner

By Reginald Blaylock

Welcome to the Fall 2023 ASP Newsletter. First, I want to thank you for the honor of serving as President of the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP). Second, I want to thank our Past President, Tami Cook, outgoing Council members, Sam Loker and Steve Nadler, outgoing student representative, Sarah Goodnight, and the outgoing Nominating Committee for their service. I also would like to acknowledge the current and incoming officers and Council members for their dedication to the Society. A special thanks goes to all who answered my call to serve on the various committees. All of you make my job as President easier. The continued strength of ASP depends on the willingness of members to share in its governance. I encourage all of you to get involved and help us keep ASP strong.



Kirsten Jensen and the Local Organizing Committee along with our Scientific Program Officers created a memorable meeting in Kansas City, the monstrous storm that caused roof leaks and elevator failures notwithstanding. The program contained over 130 presentations, 60 of which were entries into the Best Student Presentation competition. Pre-conference workshops provided professional development opportunities in media relations and generating genomic data. President Cook's Symposium and Presidential Address reminded us of the importance of undergraduate institutions and research in ASP. Charles Criscione's Ward Medal Lecture inspired us to think about the shoulders on which we stand. And, of course, the Palletes & Parasites Contest and the auction provided outlets for our artistic abilities.

In 2024, ASP will celebrate its 100th anniversary in Denver, CO (13-16 June). Valerie McKenzie is heading the Local Organizing Committee and working with our Scientific Program Officers to plan a meeting fitting for the occasion. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

Traditional scientific societies, ASP included, face significant headwinds. Some of the issues are certainly related to our emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic, but the world continues to change. There simply are a lot of meeting and publishing options out there, and evolving electronic capabilities have changed the way we communicate. ASP and Journal of Parasitology (JP) leadership have positioned ASP and the Journal well, but we need to understand our members' changing needs and expectations and be proactive and nimble to continue providing value to the parasitology community as we enter our second century. In this vein, I have tasked Sara Brant, the President-elect and Chair of the Priorities and Planning Committee, with coordinating the development of a Strategic Plan. My hope is that we can identify some key issues facing ASP and JP and develop plans for potential solutions that can serve as a guidance document for the Society's and the Journal's growth and evolution over the coming years. At the behest of Rich Clopton, Editor of JP, and the consent of Council, I also have asked Janine Cairra to chair a committee to begin preparing for the selection of the next Editor. Rich will

Table of Contents

President's Corner..... 1-2
 Student Rep's Corner..... 2
 ASP 2023 Resolutions..... 3
 Contributions: Don Duszynski..... 4
 Celebrating our Members..... 5
 Regional Society News & Updates..... 5-7
 Sponsored Memberships..... 8
 Keep in Touch with the ASP..... 8



Be sure to check out the [The Journal of Parasitology](#) website for new papers, and information on how to submit your manuscript. With the continuous publication model, manuscripts go online as soon as formatting is complete.

ASP members do not pay page charges for publishing in the JP. Open Access rates are \$800 for members, and \$1100 for non-members.

If you'd like to review for the Journal and have not already signed up to be a reviewer, please consider signing up [here](#).

President's Corner cont'd

continue his excellent leadership for the near term.

Over the coming year, I hope that many of you will have the opportunity to opine on the future of the Society and the Journal. The officers intend to visit some regional affiliates to experience the diversity of ASP and listen to your hopes and dreams for the Society. Please reach out to colleagues serving on ASP Committees and Council to share your views and concerns. ASP is full of talented and engaged people. Together, we can ensure that the American Society of Parasitologists will be around for another 100 years.

Student Rep's Corner

By Haley Dutton

Student Representative to ASP Council 2023-2024

Hello ASP members!

My name is Haley Dutton, and I am the 2022-23 ASP Student Representative to ASP Council. I am originally from southeast Nebraska and currently a PhD student in the School of Fisheries and laboratory manager of the Southeastern Cooperative Fish Parasite and Disease Laboratory (SCFPDL) at Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama). I am a taxonomist and enjoy looking for parasites, describing them, and studying their life cycles.



Please consider attending your regional society meeting as well as the annual meeting of the ASP. I have been part of the society since my undergraduate research program with Dr. Mike Barger at Peru State College. I have fond memories of attending my first regional meeting at SWAP in 2012 and feeling overwhelmed at my first ASP meeting in New Orleans in 2014. I have attended every SSP meeting since 2018 and every ASP meeting since 2019. These societies are important for students and their careers. Working hard on a project, seeing it through, and then communicating it to colleagues is a rewarding and inspiring experience. Getting feedback from, meeting with, and getting to know seasoned parasitologists also is invaluable. These socie-

ties are part of the foundation for teaching new students and having them learn how to present their findings as well as getting to see friends and colleagues and thinking about fun new ideas or debate old ones. So, I hope to see you all at the upcoming meetings!

The ASP Student Representative to ASP Council should be an active and familiar member of our society. The previous 2 student representatives had never attended an ASP meeting. I think that it should be required that anyone being nominated for this Council position must have attended at least 1 ASP meeting before being elected. I understand we are all busy, we all have job duties and projects that come first, but I encourage you all to participate when asked to be nominated, and to attend and present at your regional/national meetings, and to publish in the Journal of Parasitology. I have learned these relationships follow you and can help your career in presently unforeseen ways.

The student symposium this year will focus on the diversity of non-academic job titles that one can apply for as a parasitologist. As parasitologists, we are capable of applying for a diversity of positions that may not seem directly related to the study of parasites. This will give a platform for you to talk with individuals and say "I want your job. How do I get it?". Please plan on attending the ASP Student Symposium in Denver at the 2024 ASP meeting!

Thank you for electing me as student rep for 2023-24. I look forward to seeing you all at 99th ASP meeting in Denver – 100 (or nearly 100!) years of ASP!



Resolutions from the 98th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists

By Jimmy Bernot, Ben Hanelt, Susan Perkins, and Megan Wise de Valdez

Stage directions from their brilliant performance are in brackets.

And whereas Program Officers Maria Castillo and Judith Humphries assembled an impressive number of 137 abstracts into a 4 day program fueled by pounds of pretzels at The Kansas City Intercontinental hotel where the hotel was chic with only an occasional leak – but we were feeling fine because they did comp our wine.

And whereas the local organizing committee made of Kirsten Jensen, Joanna Cielocha, Kaylee Herzog, Rich Clopton, Deb Clopton, and Ann Adams ensured that the rooms and the venue were comfortable and brought new flare and identities to each of our name badges no matter which way they flipped. They elevated our conference with fancy signage, a program cheat sheet, and those new-fangled QR codes.

And whereas the successful addition of the workshops allowed attendees to learn how to write a press release and sequence a parasite genome in their hotel room.

And whereas while many attendees never left the hotel, they still managed to experience severe weather, including tsunamis on the rooftop, frostbite in Salon III, and gale force winds on the escalators.

And whereas the only person who felt the power outage was Julián when stuck in the elevator.

And whereas the Hotel bar's back patio provided a perfect gathering spot for good conversation despite chairs that had us looking at the stars rather than each other.

And whereas the moderators did a fabulous job keeping us all on schedule even when it meant invading personal space at the podium to effectively communicate that your time was up. [Approach the speaker stage right, and the speaker should say "oh sorry didn't see you there"]

And whereas a pinched nerve kept fooling the moderators that Matt Bolek had infinite questions for all speakers, but he did. [ALL POSE]

And whereas students experience a vortex of advice and direction from learned elders holding court at tables.

And whereas students could showcase their own prowess in parasitological trivia: A team of three Canadians won [Side comment, "yeah, because all the

answers were "eh"].]

And whereas the Student Auction raised a record-breaking \$12,000+ due to generous donations including Clopton's Triptych, a museum phallic, Porcupine roadkill, many paintings by Bill, oh, and Jimmy had to wear the sweaty hookworm costume.

And whereas by executive order there were four, not three, speakers in the President's Symposium who had us thinking about research involving undergrads and the value of the teacher-scholar model.

And whereas our president, Tami Cook's grace and humility trumped her nervousness as she used her time to praise the accomplishments of others and reminded us that our small society is fueled with Big Science done by undergraduates who are mentored by faculty at institutions that put them first.

And whereas our society is bolstered by the younger generation, we never knew some would be wearing diapers and princess dresses.

And whereas the participants and members of the American Society of Parasitologists came once again well prepared and full of enthusiasm to deliver fascinating information on:

Parasites of camel breed; infected flies and how they feed

Crickets and their mating calls; Eimerian sutures of sporocyst walls

Mushroom juice as a cure for 'Toxo'; my faith in Clopton as the next Picasso

Hairworms changing host condition; predicting factors of brainworm transmission

Tapeworm co-evolutionary history; how Scott Gardner's talk ends-a mystery!

Turtle acanth abnormalities; snail behavior and their personalities

Parasites picked up while diving and dabbling; worms that turn croaking to babbling

Fish of lakes in New York state; cestode worms in rays and skate

A hookworm strain referred to as "Bean"; YOUR parasite museum vouchers--yet to be seen

Systematics of the flea; studying parasites with noted glee
And whereas we all be rocky mountain high celebrating the 100th Birthday and 99th meeting of ASP in Denver Colorado!

Let it be resolved that the 98th annual meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists was a rooftop leaking, BBQ seeking, last-minute tweeking, Taxonomy critiquing, AV-tech weeping, on-time speaking, salon door creaking, parasite geeking, resounding success!

People in ASP can change your life forever. I have such a story.

By Donald Duszynski

I was an undergraduate at Wisconsin State University in River Falls (WSU-RF) where I majored in Biology, Mathematics, and Secondary Education with a minor in Physical Education. WSU-RF was on the Quarter System and, approaching Winter Quarter, 1965-66, I needed only one four-hour class to complete the student credit hour requirements for my B.S. in Biology. Since WSU-RF was a small liberal arts school (<3,000 students), with only six Biology professors, the number of classes offered each quarter was necessarily limited; that particular Winter Quarter there was only one Biology class I hadn't already taken—Introduction to Parasitology. Disgusting. I did not want to take that class, but in looking at the Spring Quarter class offerings, all of which I had taken, there was no other option. Put a clothespin on your nose and get it over with, I said to myself.

About halfway through that 10-week quarter, the unexpected happened. The Professor who taught parasitology was Dr. Robert L. Calentine, a parasitologist who had been a student of Dr. Martin J. Ulmer at Iowa State University. Dr. Calentine did research on caryophyllaeid cestodes in three nearby rivers that had abundant populations of cyprinid and catostomid fishes, and equally as important, aquatic oligochaetes, the intermediate hosts for these cestodes (see Bob's In Memoriam, 2007, *Journal of Parasitology* 93.4:787). Dr. Calentine didn't smile much, which led some to consider him gruff, but he was a "let's get down to business" kind of person and a good lecturer. The text he used for our class was Chandler and Read's classic *Introduction to Parasitology* (10th ed). I still have my heavily underlined copy. There was something about Calentine's straight-forward manner of lecturing, Chandler and Read's book, and the prevailing atmosphere that we were there to really learn parasitology, that captivated my complete attention.

Dr. Calentine worked long hours in his small laboratory, well after his teaching responsibilities were over each day, and if you wanted to learn parasitology, he expected you to show up in the lab at night. He may be the one who first taught me the difference between a college and a university: "In a university, the lights are on at night!" Dr. Calentine deviated as regularly as he could from the "norms" of mid-western college professors at the time. He seldom, if ever, wore a white shirt and tie to class, and he hosted a kegger

at his home, with wife Marilyn and their three kids, after every major exam.

One night while I was dissecting some vertebrate (a turtle, a carp-sucker, a road-kill cat) in the lab, Dr. Calentine approached and asked me this question: "Duszynski, where are you going to graduate school?" Out of the blue. No warning. I was caught off guard. I had no concept of what he was talking about. My response to his question was something like this: "Uh, Dr. Calentine, I don't know anything about graduate school. I don't even know what it is. After graduation I'm going back to Illinois to coach football and teach math and biology in high school." After an awkward silence, he repeated himself, "Duszynski, tell me the names of the schools you are applying to for graduate school." He then gave me a homework assignment for the next day. "Go to the library (no computers back then), search through Peterson's Guide, and pick out about 10 universities with graduate programs in parasitology and we'll discuss them tomorrow." Yes, Dr. Calentine.

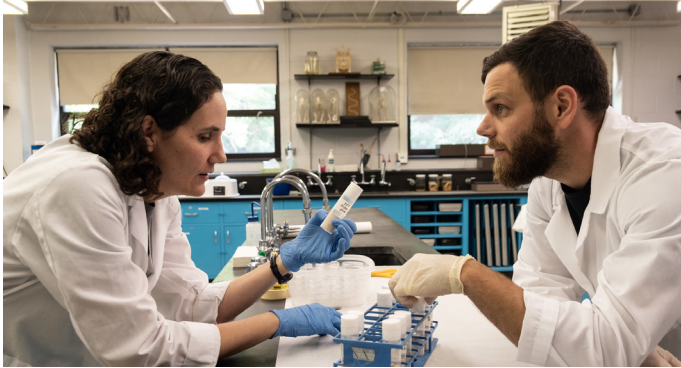
Cutting to the quick, as Bob would have preferred, we discussed my list of schools, deleted some (Harvard), and he asked me to write a letter of introduction for my graduate application(s) (which he then read and rewrote in its entirety). He helped me complete and send off all of my application materials. By the end of Spring Quarter, 1966, the results were in. I had received mostly rejections. But there were two positive responses. A TA offer from Dr. Martin J. Ulmer at Iowa State and a "tentative" TA offer from Dr. Wilford Olsen, at Colorado State University (CSU). After answering a series of follow-up questions from Dr. Olsen, the tentative offer became a real one. For a young man of Polish ancestry (all four grandparents immigrated to Chicago from Poland), who had never been west of the Mississippi River, there was no choice but to go West! While at CSU I met two other parasitologists, Dr. John E. Ubelaker and Dr. William C. Marquardt, who helped lead me down other forks in the road to my future that I may never have taken. But that is another story. Oh, I have never entertained one thought about teaching high school or coaching football since June, 1996.

Editor's Note: We love receiving submissions like this from ASP Members! Please reach out to Kelly Weinersmith (Weinersmith@Rice.edu) with submissions for the Newsletter. We're happy to receive news about awards our members have received, stories about teaching, stories about research, stories about parasitologists who have impacted your life, etc. Also, we would be thrilled to share any parasite-related artwork y'all have made. Hope to hear from you soon!

Celebrating Our Members

Congratulations to Anne Vardo-Zalik!

Congrats to Anne Vardo-Zalik (Penn State York), who won the 2023 Game Changer Award, which “acknowledges a woman who has made an impact in her STEAM field with an emphasis on inspiring others in our community.” She certainly inspires us!



Congratulations to authors **Scott Gardner, Judy Diamond, Gabor Rácz, and illustrator Brenda Lee** on their publication of *Parasites: The Inside Story*.

“Parasites contains excellent illustrations, sound scholarship, and fine writing.”—Dwight Douglas Bowman, Cornell University.

Look at the essential roles that parasites play in Earth's ecosystems



Regional Society News

Southwestern Association of Parasitologists (SWAP)

Update by Joanna Cielocha

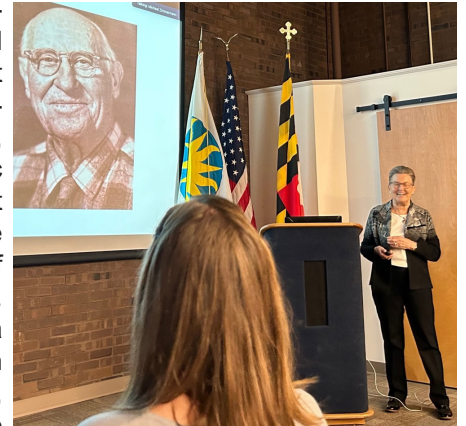
SWAP is holding their 56th annual meeting April 11-13 at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. We also have a new website, courtesy of webmaster Kirsten Jensen. Bookmark it for future updates. <https://aspmeetings.wixsite.com/swap>

Happenings at the Helminthological Society of Washington

By Kelly Weinersmith

The Helminthological Society of Washington (HelmSoc) held our 729th meeting on April 28 - 19, 2023. The meeting was hybrid, being held virtually over Zoom and in person at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD.

On Friday evening, we enjoyed two talks. The first talk was by Dr. Judith Sondheimer, a retired pediatric gastroenterologist who is also the granddaughter of Dr. Claude Barlow. Dr. Barlow was a missionary surgeon and parasitologist, and during the



course of his career he employed self-infection to better understand the parasites he was studying. Dr. Sondheimer gave a modern look back at the implications of Dr. Barlow's self-infections for science, as well as for his own health and the well-being of his family. Dr. Sondheimer was kind enough to write up her presentation for *Comparative Parasitology*, and where is available [here](#). The second talk was “Aquatic Parasites as Invasive Species” by Dr. Amy Fowler, who fascinated us with mysterious snails and tales of parasitic castrators.

We reconvened the following morning, and pondered the question of whether or not AI is prepared to replace the job of HelmSoc President. As the President's most important task is saying something funny at the beginning of our annual meetings, I asked ChatGPT to “Give me 10 jokes about helminths.” Here is what we got:

1. Why don't helminths ever get lost? They have a gut instinct for direction.
2. How did the tapeworm get a job as a motivational speaker? He had the ability to worm his way into people's hearts.
3. What did the hookworm say to the roundworm? “Long time no see!”
4. Why did the pinworm get a job as a receptionist? She loved answering the phone and saying “worm welcome”.
5. How did the helminths celebrate the holidays? With a worm party!
6. What do you call a group of helminths that like to

Regional Societies, cont'd.

sing? The Wormtones.

7. Why was the nematode sent to detention? He wouldn't stop squirming in his seat.

8. What do you get when you cross a tapeworm with a comedian? A funny gut feeling.

9. Why don't helminths ever make plans for the future? They prefer to take things one worm at a time.

10. How does a flatworm like to travel? By wormhole.

I think my job as President is safe for now, but at the rate AI is moving I may be replaced by next year. We'll see.

We enjoyed 18 wonderful talks on topics such as meta-zoans in starlings, the biogeography of the North American turtle leech, the impacts of avian malaria on northern cardinals, and range expansion of *Ixodes scapularis* and increasing rates of human babesiosis. The award for Best Graduate Presentation went to Indea Rodgers for her talk "Evaluation of *Trypanosoma brucei* parasite death kinetics and cell cycle phenotypes during anti-trypanosomatid drug treatments". The Judith Humphrey Shaw Award for best undergraduate presentation went to Evan Morgan and Natalie Harper for their talk "Is the grass always greener on the other side: interactions between disease spread and nutrient supply in tall fescue". Finally, the Stirewalt-Lincecome Award for best overall presentation went to Andrea Langeland for her talk "What hooks the hookworm? Understanding the molecular determinants of host specificity". Congratulations to our student winners!

Congratulations as well to the 2023 recipients of the HelmSoc Student Research Grants! This year we were pleased to be able to give out one Underrepresented Minorities Research Grant and three Bernard Fried Student Research Grants. Bios and project summaries for our recipients are below. We look forward to offering these grants again in 2024!

Many thanks to Mike Zimmermann and Katrina Lohan for organizing such a fun Spring Meeting! We hope to see many of you on November 18, 2023, when we celebrate Dr. Florian Reyda's incredible contributions to Comparative Parasitology and HelmSoc! Congratulations to Florian on receiving HelmSoc's Anniversary Award!

Recipient of the HelmSoc Underrepresented Minorities Research Grant

Olivia Pares

Bio: Olivia Layla Pares is a PhD student at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, where she focuses on disease ecology in economically significant species such as the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*. Originally from Puerto Rico, Olivia earned her bachelor's degree in biology at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazon in Santurce, PR. Seeking to expand her academic and career opportunities, she moved to Maryland.



Before embarking on her graduate studies, Olivia worked as an analytical chemist at Flavor and Fragrance Specialties. She later joined the Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Science program, where she met her mentor, Dr. Eric Schott. Dr. Schott's lab was researching the prevalence of a pathogenic virus, *Callinectes sapidus reovirus* 1 (CsRV1), that infects blue crabs across their geographic range. Olivia's initial contribution to the lab involved connecting with Puerto Rican fishers who targeted blue crabs. This led her to study the crabs' life history in the tropics, addressing a knowledge gap in the species.

Currently, Olivia is investigating CsRV1's host range, its infectivity to other *Callinectes* spp., and potential reservoir hosts, to better understand its impact on the blue crab population and how marine disease ecology in wild blue crabs responds to climatic shifts.

Project Summary: This research investigates the disease ecology of *Callinectes sapidus reovirus* 1 (CsRV1) in the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) population, a commercially and ecologically important species, in response to climate-driven range expansions and changing community structures. By experimentally infecting other *Callinectes* spp. and potential reservoir hosts, the study aims to uncover the virus host range and explore the underlying factors contributing to the lower prevalence of CsRV1 in tropical and subtropical regions, ultimately enhancing our understanding of marine disease ecology in wild blue crabs as they respond to climatic shifts.

Regional Societies, cont'd.

Recipients of the Bernard Fried Student Research Grant

Daya Hall-Stratton

Bio: I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Maine, where I learned that I have a passion for freshwater ecology. More recently I have been working on my PhD at George Mason University, where I have honed in on the world of parasites in the aquatic environment. I am especially interested in how parasites interact with non-native host species and how genetics play a role in those interactions.



Project summary: In the Eastern United States the non-native Japanese mystery snail (*Heterogen japonica*) has been found to host *Aspidogaster conchicola*, a trematode species that also infects native snails, but can be found nearly worldwide. In order to better understand this host-parasite relationship, snail hosts will be collected along the Eastern United States to gather data on the parasite's distribution, as well as for population genetics for both hosts and parasite.

Katerina Sawickij

Bio: I am a first year Master's student at State University of New York at Oneonta. I graduated with my B.S. in marine biology from Nova Southeastern University and grew up in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania.



Project Summary: I am studying parasites of freshwater fishes in the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee. I will be comparing my results to a classical study done by Bangham 1940 on freshwater fishes in South Florida.

Zoe Von Holten

Bio: Zoe Von Holten is a third-year undergraduate student at Middle Georgia State University (MGA) pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology. She participates in research with the labs of Dr. Tyler Achatz (MGA) and Dr. Vasyi Tkach (University of North Dakota) with a focus on the diversity and systematics of digenean trematodes. Initially, she worked on a project concerning diversity in the family Diplostomidae with worms collected from New World kingfishers. This project yielded one publication with descriptions of three new species and a new genus. Her research with diplostomids continues. After graduating, she plans to pursue a PhD in biology, specifically in the field of parasitology.



Project Summary: Trematodes of the genus *Uvulifer* have been reported from almost every continent. However, most of the study around them has been limited to the Americas. This project focuses on adult *Uvulifer* specimens from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Worms in this genus are known to cause black spot disease of fishes. DNA sequences generated from the adult specimens will enable future molecular identifications of their larval stages. It is expected that at least one new species will be uncovered and described, and insights will be gained into the geographical origins, host specificity, and host-switching events of *Uvulifer*.

Sponsored Memberships

The American Society of Parasitologists has an ongoing effort to further increase our diversity and become even more inclusive by recruiting colleagues, domestic and foreign, who for various reasons can not join ASP. Some cannot afford even the modest Associate Membership or online student dues. Others have political issues in foreign countries. We have instituted the Sponsor Membership category to help these colleagues become members. Members can also gift a membership to one of their students or a domestic colleague. A member can be a sponsor for any of the membership categories shown on the ASP Membership link which is on the ASP Home page. The most common category for foreign sponsorship is the Associate Membership. All sponsorships are tax deductible.

The current economic situation and restrictions have made it difficult for many members. But we hope you see the value of becoming a sponsor and will consider supporting a colleague if you can. These memberships have proven to be mutually beneficial. The person being sponsored has the full benefits of ASP membership. The sponsor has a new colleague who may have interesting and valuable experiences and expertise to share. These connections can lead to future collaborations. In addition, the sponsor has helped make ASP an even richer resource for parasitology. For this, both ASP and a new colleague will thank you.

If you desire to establish a Sponsored Membership, you may do so by contacting ASP's membership administration office by phone (785-865-9405) or email (asp@allenpress.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Keep in Touch

[Twitter @amsocparasit](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[ASP's blog](#) for more

[Field Notes, Member Spotlights, and ASP News](#)

Join our [ASP Listserv](#)

[Journal of Parasitology YouTube](#) page

(with video interviews with prominent members)

