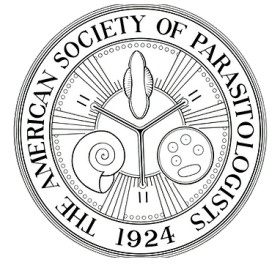


NEWSLETTER

Edited by Kelly Weinersmith | Layout by Joanna Cielocha



The President's Corner By Tamara Cook

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the President's Corner. This year has flown by so quickly and it's hard to believe that it's time to start thinking about the ASP annual meeting in Kansas City. The local organizing committee (led by Kirsten Jensen) and our Scientific Program Officers (Judith Humphries and Maria Castillo) are busy planning an exciting agenda. I look forward to seeing you there!

My primary goal as the ASP President is the completion of a long overdue update of the ASP Handbook for Officers, Committee Chairs and Representatives. This document is posted on the ASP website and has been my "go to" document when I had questions about my duties and responsibilities and the duties and responsibilities of the various committees. However, since the last revision of this document (2015!), there have been many Council approved changes to society operations. Thus, I quickly realized that if this document is to serve its intended function, it needed some serious attention. With the help of our always steadfast and dedicated Secretary-Treasurer Lee Couch, this task is nearly complete and will be ready for Council's input and approval at our annual meeting in Kansas City.

The ASP continues to be a vibrant, active society, and many of our committees have been very busy this spring semester. Here I provide a few highlights. The Awards Committee evaluated a strong field of candidates to select recipients of the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Ashton Cuckler New Investigator Award. Now that the abstract deadline has passed, the Student Awards committee is ramping up their work to select Marc Dresden Travel Grants recipients and are making plans for the Best Student Paper & Poster competitions at the upcoming meeting. The Lectureship Committee is working to select a recipient of the R. Barclay McGhee Lectureship. The Public Relations Committee, chaired by Joanna Cielocha, and our society Newsletter, edited by Kelly Weinersmith, continue to keep us connected and informed about all things parasitological, including the many accomplishments of our members. Christina Anaya once again organized a successful Parasite Week, and Joanna Cielocha recently participated in "Skype a Scientist" and gave an outstanding presentation to, and thoughtfully answered the questions of, students from grades 3-7. The Education Committee continues their outstanding efforts to curate an archive of Open Educational Resources for parasitology education and build an educational network for sharing resources among the ASP members. And, of course, *The Journal of Parasitology*, under the excellent leadership of Richard Clopton and his team of consulting/associate editors, continues to provide our members interesting and relevant scientific content.

Thanks to all of our members who so willingly volunteer their time and talents to serve on various committees and as members of *The Journal of Parasitology* Editorial Board. Although the results of our annual election have not yet been announced, I also want to thank our members who agreed to serve the ASP by standing for election. I'm sure you can appreciate that the ASP's vitality and ability to accomplish our mission is only possible when our members voluntarily



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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

contribute their time and expertise. So, when our incoming President, Reg Blaylock, and next year's nominating committee come knocking (emailing, or calling), please consider serving!

As always, if you have any recommendations for how the leadership can enhance the ASP experience, please share your thoughts with me or any of our council members. Stay well and may all of your parasitological endeavors succeed! Hope to see you in Kansas City!

Student Rep's Corner

By Sarah Goodnight

Student Representative to ASP Council 2022-2023

I think the readers of this Newsletter will agree that parasite life histories are as diverse and fascinating as their morphology and taxonomy. From the single-host yet extraordinary life cycle of the tongue-eating isopod *Cymothoa exigua*, to the quadruple- or even quintuple-host complex life cycles of *Pseudoterranova* marine nematodes, parasites offer us a wealth of profound evolutionary, phylogenetic, and taxonomic questions that are pursued by many ASP members. The intricate complexities of parasite life histories across ecosystems form the foundation of our field and provide us with virtually endless opportunities for inquiry as scientists. What are the evolutionary underpinnings of this incredible diversity? How do parasites across taxa differentially invade, persist, and adapt to their environments, and how did the life history traits necessary for their persistence develop across evolutionary history and geographic space? As biologists, we recognize how important our natural biodiversity is to the health of our global ecosystems—how does the biodiversity of parasites, especially in our rapidly changing world, play a role in our global biosphere?

These questions are some of the most compelling questions of parasitology. Thus, I am thrilled to announce that for our Student Symposium at the upcoming Annual Meeting, our theme will be “**Endless life cycles most beautiful: a celebration of the evolutionary and ecological diversity of parasite life histories**”. I am excited to welcome two amazing guest speakers for our Symposium: **Dr. Augustin Jiménez-Ruiz** from Southern Illinois University (SIU) and **Dr. Scott Gardner** from the Manter Laboratory of Parasitology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Dr. Jiménez-Ruiz and his lab at SIU construct phylogenies and histories of nematodes and their host associations, with additional attention to the expansion of parasite ranges and the human-mediated spread of wildlife pathogens, while Dr. Gardner studies phylogenetics, evolution, and biodiversity of parasites and parasite-host relationships using a combined approach of museum collections and academic research. We are incredibly excited to

hear their seminars in Kansas City this summer!

After our speakers' seminars, I will also be leading parasite-themed team trivia for the student attendees—so bring your trivia brains and be re-

ady to test your parasitological mettle! Additionally, we will be having a Lunch Vortex “speed-networking” session for students during the conference, where we will have the opportunity to network with career parasitologists and professionals in a low-stakes yet fast-paced setting. I highly encourage all students to attend!

I am eager to see you all at the meeting this summer, and I invite anyone to reach out to me with questions or comments in advance of the meeting. Don't forget to register by June 2nd for early bird pricing!

If you would like to explore the research of our two guest speakers before the meeting, please visit Dr. Jiménez-Ruiz's website here: <https://parasitology.siu.edu/> and Dr. Gardner's site here: <https://biosci.unl.edu/scott-gardner>. For additional information on the upcoming Annual Meeting, please visit the meeting website: <https://aspmeetings.wixsite.com/2023>. My contact information is listed below if you would like to reach me for comments or questions.

Email: sgoodnight2021@fau.edu

Website: goodnightecology.weebly.com



Register Now for ASP 2023

Regular registration for ASP 2023 ends June 2nd. Be sure to submit your registration before the deadline to lock-in the lowest rate. You can register for the meeting here: <https://parasitologists.allenpress.com/parasitologists/2023ANNUALMEETING.aspx>. Learn more about the meeting on page 5 of the newsletter or by exploring the meeting website (<https://aspmeetings.wixsite.com/2023>). See you in Kansas City, Missouri July 13–16th!



Member Spotlight



SaraBeth Boggan

Interview by Sarah Goodnight

In this ASP Member Spotlight, our ASP Student Rep interviews another ASP student member.

What drew you to parasitology in particular?

As many little kids who grew up loving animals, I was determined that I was going to be a veterinarian! When I was in high school, I was involved in FFA and participated in a contest focused on veterinary science knowledge and proficiencies. My favorite part of this contest, and where I performed best, was the parasite identification. I was our team's self-appointed "parasite person" and was pretty proud of it too. I think that was my parents' first clue that they were in for something a little different than most!



Tell us about an exciting project you've been working on.

We work pretty closely with a wildlife rehabilitator in our area and about a month ago they had a Great Horned Owl come in. When they did their initial intake exam they found some trematodes in its mouth, they removed them and sent them to us to be ID'd. After a LOT of reading and a lot of time in the lab we finally figured out that they were *Clinostomum* sp.

Any advice for new or prospective students starting out in science?

Figure out who it is you look up to in your science field and walk up to them. They started out the exact same as us, and more often than not they're willing to talk to you about it.

What's your favorite "big-picture idea" in parasitology, and why?

My personal favorite is the interconnection that parasites represent, specifically for me evaluating human

and wildlife interactions through parasites. My undergraduate training was in wildlife science where we focused a lot on management and human dimensions or the role of people in conservation. And now my graduate training is in One Health Science concentrating on the overlap of human, animal, and environmental health. I personally enjoy combining the two fields and working within this niche.

What species of parasite are you working with for your dissertation? Share some details about its life history and why you chose to study it.

I work with *Baylisascaris procyonis*. As I stated earlier, my undergraduate training was in wildlife science and going to wildlife conferences there was a shocking lack of research being presented on parasitic diseases, even though as wildlife managers we addressed them all the time! So I knew that was an issue. The other issue we face as wildlife managers is potential threats to our own health, hello zoonotic disease! I was sitting in a conference presentation about using prescribed fire as a potential tool for "deactivating" *B. procyonis* eggs when I began formulating what I wanted my graduate work to look like. It became really clear to me there were research opportunities combining wildlife management and *B. procyonis* research utilizing the One Health lens, how do we steward environmental and animal health to ensure human health as well?

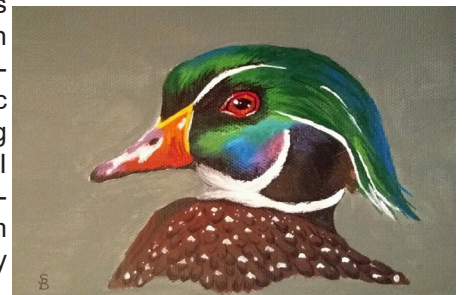
What's your favorite parasite and why is it the coolest?

Obviously I'm biased (my opinion not my science...) but I love *Baylisascaris procyonis*! Number 1, they are so cute, have you ever seen them? Number 2, the havoc they can create inside the human body is nuts! The crazier the infection symptoms, the more I love them (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* is a close second).



When not in the lab or the field, what do you like to do in your free time?

I love to create stuff! I'm big into painting and drawing and recently have gotten into sewing. My biggest projects lately have been drawing and designing my own fabric patterns and sewing silk scarves! Yes, I have some parasite pattern ones (I'm wearing one in my picture)!

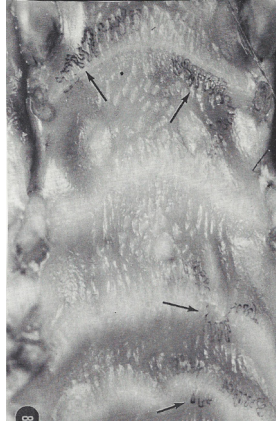


Field Note

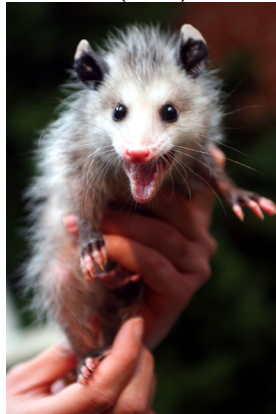
Looking a Gift Possum in the Mouth

By Mike Kinsella

In 1972 in *The Journal of Parasitology*, Pence and Little described a new species of nematode, *Anatrichosoma buccalis*, which lived in tunnels in the mucosa of the palate and tongue of opossums, *Didelphis virginiana*. The golden-brown eggs of the worms could be clearly seen as they were left behind in the tunnels, where they presumably were sluffed off with tissue change, swallowed and passed out in the feces.



At the time I read the article, I was on a postdoctoral fellowship at the Archbold Biological Station (ABS) in southern Florida. The very next day I was in the field with the resident trapper, Chet Winegarner, to check out any opossums he might catch. Now, if you grab a possum by the neck, he will invariably “gape” at you, showing a mouthful of sharp teeth. But it is just a threat since possums are not really that aggressive. Very convenient though if you want to get a look at the palate and there, staring us in the face in the very first animal, were obvious egg tracks!



Because of long term mammal studies, most possums at ABS were already ear-tagged and many were “trap-happy,” caught on multiple occasions. And since they conveniently carry their young in a pouch, it would be easy to check when they first became infected. We (mostly Chet) could monitor infections over time without the need to run messy fecals.

Prevalence in adults was extremely high- 70% in both males and females, although lesions were not apparent consistently in individuals over time- present in some months and absent in others. Turnover seemed to be quite rapid, with egg tracks disappearing in as little as 3 days. Young were first found infected at 5 months but by 8 months, prevalence approached that of adults.

This was a unique opportunity to follow a parasitic infection in the field without sacrificing any hosts. We could definitively say that no animals were harmed in the course of this study. In fact, they all seemed to be smiling!

[Pence, D.B., and M.D. Little. 1972. *Anatrichosoma buccalis* sp. n. \(Nematoda: Trichosomoididae\) from the buccal mucosa of the common opossum, *Didelphis marsupialis* L. *Journal of Parasitology* 58: 767–773.](#)

[Kinsella, J.M., and C.E. Winegarner. 1975. A field study of *Anatrichosoma* infections in the opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*. *Journal of Parasitology* 61:779-781.](#)

Check out [this recent article](#) featuring more of Dr. Kinsella's work from the *Montana Kaimin*.

Do you have a story you want to share for a field note or want to suggest a member for us to spotlight? Would you like to send in a summary of your regional society meeting? Then please send an email to: Weinersmith@Rice.edu.

ASP Education Committee

The goal of the ASP Education Committee is to improve teaching, promote investigation, and advance knowledge of parasitology. To serve this goal, the committee is developing a system for sharing course materials, including laboratory slides. To help identify resources that members would be willing to share, we have developed a submission form where materials can be submitted for others to use. These materials will be hosted on the ASP website (<https://www.amsocparasit.org/education>) for ASP members to use. Also found on the website, is a curated repository of freely-available open educational resources (OERs). OER resources provide students the opportunity to build comprehension of various concepts, in an active, engaging format through the completion of case studies, simulations, and data sets.

We would greatly appreciate it if members would:

1. Fill out this [submission form](#) if they have resources they would be willing to share and
2. Check out the [OER repository](#).

Please direct any questions or concerns to the education committee by emailing the committee chair, Jeffrey Bell (jeffrey.bell@und.edu). Direct links for both the OER materials and the submission form are linked above. Members of the ASP Education Committee will be available throughout the annual meeting to share and discuss educational resources with attendees.

Preparing for ASP 2023

The annual ASP meeting is being held July 13–16th at the InterContinental Kansas City near the Country Club Plaza. The Local Organizing Committee is busy putting together an exciting meeting. Below are some highlights of important things to remember as you plan to attend the meeting this summer. You can find more information and additional updates about the meeting on the meeting website (<https://aspmeetings.wixsite.com/2023>).



Registration: Register by **June 2, 2023** to lock-in the regular rate. Rates go up after this date.

Hotel Reservations: Make your reservations by **June 16th**. The negotiated room rate is \$164/night (plus taxes). Use **ASP** as the Group Code to get this special rate.

Student Rooms: A group of student rooms has been reserved to accommodate up to 4 students at the rate of \$164/night. Students should contact Sarah Goodnight, the student representative, if they need assistance with finding a roommate (sgoodnight2021@fau.edu).

Air & Transportation: Kansas City has a newly opened airport (Airport code: MCI). A variety of ground transportation options are available (see the meeting website for details).

Workshops: Two pre-meeting workshops will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 12th. Workshops are free. Simply add them to your registration. Space is limited, so be sure to register before they are filled.

Workshop 1 | 2:00-3:00 pm

Infecting the Media: A workshop on preparing a press release. Organized by the ASP Public Relations Committee.

Workshop 2 | 3:30-5:30 pm

A practical introduction to generating genomic data using the Oxford Nanopore MinION sequencing platform. Organized by Kaylee Herzog and Joseph Fauver.

Lunch Vortex: The Vortex returns! Join us for this networking opportunity over lunch on Friday, July 14th. Students, post-docs, and early career members are encouraged to attend to meet with career parasitologists and other STEM professionals. The Vortex is free to attend, but you must include it with your registration.

Contact Kirsten Jensen (jensen@ku.edu) or Joanna Cielocha (joanna.cielocha@rockhurst.edu) if you have any questions.

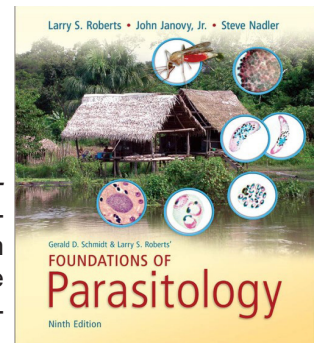
Sponsored Memberships

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.

Foundations of Parasitology



The Ninth Edition of *Foundations of Parasitology* is now freely available for download from the [ASP website](#). Thanks to the authors for making this invaluable resource available to all!

Skype-A-Parasitologist

In March, Joanna Cielocha was the featured speaker on Skype-A-Scientist. The event was live-streamed to over 60 classrooms across the country and can be found on their [YouTube station](#). The ASP sponsored the event by covering the cost of an American Sign Language Interpreter.

Regional Society News

Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists (AMCOP)

By Sarah Orlofske and Robert Jadin

The Midwestern Association of Parasitologists (MAP) will meet for the 74th annual meeting June 1-3, 2023. Dr. Sarah Orlofske and Dr. Robert Jadin are hosting the meeting at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Dr. Elliott Ziemann is the Presiding officer and Dr. Shelly Michalski is serving as Secretary/Treasurer. Planned activities for the meeting include a Symposium on Digitized Museum Collections presented by Dr. Jennifer Zaspel from the Milwaukee Public Museum and Dr. Julie Allen from the University of Nevada Reno.

We encourage faculty and students to submit abstracts for both oral and poster presentations. Students have the opportunity to be judged across different categories and receive monetary awards for best talk, best poster, and best undergraduate presentation. Awards come with the opportunity to claim additional funding for participation in another scientific meeting. Additional support for students comes from AMCOP Student Research grants. The Application is now available and due by Friday, May 19th, 2023. Fill out the form [here](#) or check out the website for more information! Winners are announced during the AMCOP Business meeting.

Planning for traditional AMCOP events including the Thursday evening welcome mixer and Friday evening banquet and keynote speaker is currently underway. We will also be having a silent auction to raise money for student grants and awards. New activities include the 1st Annual Parasite Art Contest and a T-shirt fundraiser with a new design. This year's AMCOP also represents an opportunity for participants to clean off their shelves and drawers by donating unneeded microscope slide specimens for education. Dr. Sarah Orlofske, on behalf of the ASP Education committee, is soliciting donations of slides to compile sets of demonstration slide boxes as educational loans for ASP members teaching parasitology courses and in need of these materials. Please help out the education committee by bringing any slides with you to the meeting. If you have any questions about slide donations, please email sorlofsk@uwsp.edu. For more information about any of the AMCOP events please check out the new AMCOP website for updates! <http://www.amcop.org/>

Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (SSP)

Update by Charles Faulkner

The SSP is having their annual meeting April 20-22 @ Lincoln Memorial Univ/ Cumberland Gap TN.

Happenings at the Helminthological Society of Washington

By Kelly Weinersmith

HelmSoc met for our annual Anniversary Award meeting (our 728th Meeting!) on November 19th, 2022 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC).

The Executive Committee met before the meeting began, and once other folks started to arrive we did some mixing and mingling. Then we all sat down to enjoy Elise McKean's (George Washington University) excellent talk, entitled "Evidence for linkage between mutated *bet-tubulin* gene and ivermectin resistance in *Ancylostoma caninum*." As has become custom, we wrapped up an *Ancylostoma caninum* talk with a lively discussion on how the heck you're actually supposed to pronounce this scientific name. No consensus was achieved. If you'd like to weigh in, please consider joining us for our Spring 2023 meeting on April 29th.

After enjoying Elise's talk, we spent an hour socializing and eating appetizers. Heated discussions could be heard across the hall about why more people don't have the good sense to measure worms, which personally gave me a warm fuzzy feeling knowing that I'm surrounded by the right kind of people.

Next up was the Business Meeting, where we announced that, thanks to a generous donation made by Dr. Bernard Fried and his wife Grace following Bernie's passing, we will be starting a new student research grant. The Bernard Fried Student Research Grant offers up to \$5,000 in funding each year in support of student research, travel, and publications. The recipients of the 2023 grants will be announced soon. We're honored that Bernie and Grace entrusted these funds to us, and proud to be able to support student-led parasitology research in Bernie's memory.

Last year we split the Secretary/Treasurer position into two, and this year we held a vote on who would fill these positions. We're extremely thankful to John Hawdon, who is stepping into the new position of Corresponding Secretary, and we continue to be immensely grateful to Ashleigh Smythe for remaining in the Treasurer position.

We wrapped up the Business Meeting with a report from the In Memoriam Committee, chaired by Sherman Hendrix and Ralph Eckerlin. Sherman shared memories of the incredible career and life of Robin Overstreet, who passed away in May 2022. We all shared a moment of silence in his memory.

After a break for a delicious Italian dinner, it was time



Regional Societies, cont'd.

for the Anniversary Award! This year's recipient was "Lieutenant Colonel (Virginia Military Institute)" / Dr. Ashleigh Smythe. Here is what the Anniversary Award Committee (Tamara Cook – Chair, Vince Connors, and Janine Caira) had to say about their choice for this year's awardee:

"The committee unanimously and enthusiastically recommends that Dr. Ashleigh Smythe be awarded the 2022 Helminthological Society of Washington's Anniversary Award. Dr. Smythe is a long time, active member of the society. Among her many contributions to the society, she has: served as the Secretary/Treasurer, managed the transition of HelmSoc membership management from Allen Press to Wild Apricot, and assisted the *Comparative Parasitology* editor in the transition of the *Comparative Parasitology* review process to Allen Press PeerTrack."

John Hawdon introduced Ashleigh, noting that she has been an integral part of the society for nearly two decades now. Ashleigh's talk, In and Out of Hosts: Smorgasbord of Parasitic and Free-living Worms, was both fascinating and hilarious. A highlight was hearing about an in-process description of a new species of *Latronema*, a cute and chubby marine free-living nematode with a beautiful stoma that moves by contracting. That's right, contracting! Nematodes aren't supposed to do that, right? But this one definitely seems to be doing it. Keep an eye out for Ashleigh's future papers to learn more.

We wrapped up the meeting by presenting a Life Membership award to Dr. David Chitwood. Dr. Nancy Pacheco McDonald also received a Life Membership award, but was not present to receive the award in person. Both Nancy and David have served HelmSoc by holding multiple Executive Committee positions, hosting meetings, and were prior Anniversary Award recipients.



Thanks so much to Ashleigh, David, and Nancy for your service to HelmSoc, and congrats on your awards! Also, many, many thanks to Michael Zimmermann and Katrina Lohan for organizing this fantastic event. We hope to see everyone on April 29th for our Spring meeting, which will also be held at SERC. More details about this meeting will be available on our website soon.



Southwestern Association of Parasitologists (SWAP)

Update by Joanna Cielocha

SWAP is holding their 55th annual meeting April 13-15 at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station.

Northern California Parasitologists

Update by Mike Moser

The Northern California Parasitologists will have its Spring Meeting on May 6 at the University of California, Davis. It will be a hybrid meeting hosted by Steve Nadler. We are pleased to have Dr. Geoffrey Attardo as our invited speaker. He is in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at UC Davis. The title of his presentation is "Defining the Post Mating Response in a Viviparous Disease Vector: A Systems-Based Analysis of Mating Induced Changes in Morphology, Biochemistry, and Gene Expression in the Tsetse Fly". Following the guest speaker's presentation we will have the student paper competition. In addition to the regular awards, we will present the First Place winner a 2024 student membership to the American Society of Parasitologists.

The advantage of a hybrid meeting is the ability to serve both the local community of parasitologists in person and colleagues unable to attend. The in person attendees will have the opportunity to hear interesting presentations and meet new colleagues and friends. In addition, this year there will be a large collection of free parasitology reference and textbooks and some frame photos. The ZOOM presentation will permit us to share our meeting with colleagues in the ASP regional societies, Mexico, Great Britain, Iran, Cameroon, etc. This, hopefully, will lead to more collaborations among parasitologists. The NCP is striving to become a more diverse and inclusive group. To this end we encourage our colleagues to share this ZOOM link with other parasitologists.

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(with video interviews with prominent members)

