



**Texas**  **Branch**

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

**Program**  
**2023 Spring Meeting**  
**March 24 – 25, 2023**  
**Abilene Christian University**  
**Abilene, Texas**



## Current Branch Officers:

### President

**Kelli Palmer, Ph.D.**

Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Dallas, TX 75080  
Phone: 972-883-6014  
[kelli.palmer@utdallas.edu](mailto:kelli.palmer@utdallas.edu)

### Treasurer

**Patricia Baynham, Ph.D.**

Department of Biology  
St. Edward's University  
Austin, TX 78704  
Phone: 512-233-1675  
[patricib@stedwards.edu](mailto:patricib@stedwards.edu)

### President Elect

**Gregory Frederick, Ph.D.**

Department of Molecular Cell Biology  
AUC School of Medicine  
Sint Maarten  
+1 721-545-2298  
[GFrederick@aucmed.edu](mailto:GFrederick@aucmed.edu)

### Councilor

**Heidi Kaplan, Ph.D.**

Department of Microbiology and  
Molecular Genetics  
McGovern Medical School  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at Houston  
Houston, TX 77030  
Phone: 713-500-5448  
[Heidi.B.Kaplan@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Heidi.B.Kaplan@uth.tmc.edu)

### Secretary

**William Cody, Ph.D.**

Department of Biology  
University of Dallas  
Irving, TX 75062  
Phone: 972-721-5192  
[wcody@udallas.edu](mailto:wcody@udallas.edu)

## Immediate Past Presidents

**Madhusudan Choudhary, Ph.D.**

Department of Biological Sciences  
Sam Houston State University  
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2116  
Phone: 936-294-4850  
[mchoudhary@shsu.edu](mailto:mchoudhary@shsu.edu)

**Ali Azghani, Ph.D.**

Department of Biology  
University of Texas at Tyler  
Tyler, TX 75799  
Phone: 903-566-7332  
[AAzghani@uttyler.edu](mailto:AAzghani@uttyler.edu)

**Lee Hughes, Ph.D.**

Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas  
Denton, TX 76208  
Phone: 940-565-4137  
[lhughes@unt.edu](mailto:lhughes@unt.edu)

# Opening Keynote

## **Robert Orchard II, Ph.D.**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Nancy Cain and Jeffrey A. Marcus Scholar in  
Medical Research, in Honor of Dr. Bill S. Vowell  
Assistant Professor, Departments of Immunology  
and Microbiology



Dr. Orchard received his B.S. in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and was an Undergraduate Research Scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Ryland Young characterizing novel bacteriophages. He then earned his Ph.D. in the Molecular Microbiology Program at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the laboratory of Dr. Neal Alto.

As a graduate student Rob investigated the spatial and temporal dynamics of secreted bacterial effector proteins and uncovered a sophisticated level of regulation in pathogenic signaling circuits.

After graduate school, Rob began a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Herbert “Skip” Virgin at Washington University School of Medicine. There he leveraged CRISPR/Cas9 genome-wide screens to uncover host factors that regulate viral infection. In particular, Rob discovered and characterized the first norovirus protein receptor, CD300lf.

In the summer of 2018, Rob came back to UTSW and joined the Department of Immunology as an Assistant Professor. Rob is the recipient of the Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award, a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the National Institute of Health, and is an Endowed Scholar in Medical Science.

While Rob is not in the lab, he enjoys hitting the tennis court, baking new breads, and playing with his kids.

## Spring 2023 Goldschmidt Lecturer

### Chiung- Yu Hung, Ph.D.

The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Principal Investigator, Coccidioidomycosis  
Collaborative Research Center  
South Texas Center of Emerging Infectious Diseases  
Associate Professor, Department of Molecular  
Microbiology and Immunology



Chiung-Yu Hung, Ph.D. completed her B.S. in Biology at the National Taiwan Normal University, and then her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. Her lab at the University of Texas at San Antonio focuses on host-fungus interactions and anti-microbial immunity and is a leading expert in *Coccidioides*, which causes Coccidioidomycosis, also known as valley fever. She has filed six patents, all related to *Coccidioides*, including antigens, associated strains and copies for vaccine use in human and veterinary animals against coccidioidomycosis. Hung is a co-director of the Vaccine Development Center at San Antonio and an executive committee member of the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Through a \$6.8 million grant from the NIH in 2022, Hung established the Coccidioidomycosis Collaborative Research Center (SA-CCRC) that develops therapeutics and vaccines against valley fever.

## **Goldschmidt Graduate Student Awardee Alumna**

**Hannah Adams, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Biology  
Collin College



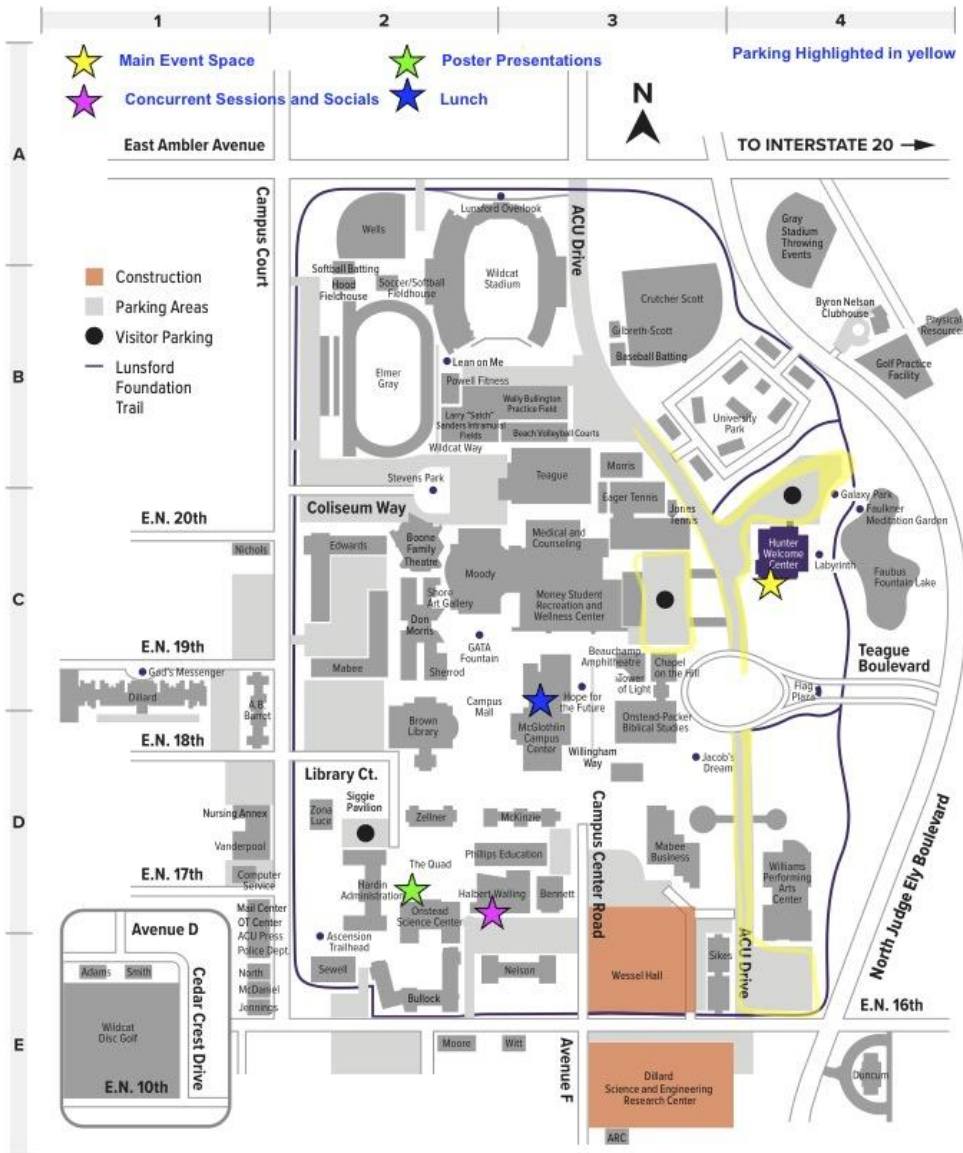
## **2022 Peggy Cotter Awardee Speaker**

**Claire Edwards, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
St. Edward's University





# Campus Map and Visitor Information



Information and Services	
Hunter Welcome Center (HWC)	C4
McGlothlin Campus Center (MCG)	C3
The Campus Store, Wildcat Central, World Famous Bean	
Medical and Counseling Care Center	C3
Police Department (B04)	E1
University Mail and Copy Center (B14)	D1
<b>Athletics and Recreation</b>	
Anthony Field at Wildcat Stadium (WLD)	A3
Beach Volleyball Courts	B3
Bonneau Family Indoor Batting Facility (BON)	B4
Byron Nelson Clubhouse	B3
Coach Don W. Hood Fieldhouse	B2
Crutcher Scott Field (CSF)	B3
Eager Tennis Pavilion (EAG)	C3
Elmer Gray Stadium (ELG)	B2
Gilbreth-Scott Teamroom (GST)	B3
Gray Stadium Throwing Events	A4
Jones Tennis Building (JTB)	C3
Larry "Satch" Sanders Intramural Fields (SIF)	B2
Money Student Recreation and Wellness Center (MRW)	C2
Moody Coliseum and Anthony Arena (COL)	C2
Powell Fitness Center (PFC)	B2
Soccer and Softball Field House (SSF)	B2
Softball Batting Building (HEF)	B2
Teague Center (TEC)	B3
Wally Bullington Practice Field	B3
Wells Field (WEL)	A2
Wildcat Disc Golf Course	E1
<b>Auditoriums, Chapels and Event Venues</b>	
Beauchamp Amphitheatre (AMP)	C3
Chapel on the Hill	C3
Boone Family Theatre (THR)	C2
Moody Coliseum (COL)	C2
Teague Center (TEC)	B3
<b>Academic and Administration</b>	
ACU Museum, Jennings House (JEN)	E1
ACU Press / Leafwood Publishers (B05-6)	E1
Advanced Research Center (ARC)	E3
Brown Library (LIB)	D2
Learning Commons, AT&T Learning Studio, Adams Center for Teaching and Learning, Packer Forum	
Computer Service Center (B10)	D1
Dillard Science and Engineering Research Center (DEC)	E3
Don H. Morris Center (DMC)	E2
Duncum Center (DUN)	C4
Engineering and Physics Laboratories at Bennett Gymnasium (BEN)	D3
Halbert-Walling Research Center (HAL)	D3
Hardin Administration Building (ADM)	D2
Mabee Business Building (MBB)	D3
McDaniel House (DAN)	E1
Moore House, eHub (MRE)	E2
Nichols House (NIC)	C1
North House (NRT)	E1
Occupational Therapy Learning Center (B07-9)	D1
Onstead-Packer Biblical Studies Building (BSB)	D3
Onstead Science Center (OSC)	D2
Phillips Education Building (EDB)	D3
Physical Resources Building (PRB)	A4
School of Nursing Annex (B13)	D1
Sewell Theatre (SWL)	E2
Sherrod Building (SHB)	C2
Shore Art Gallery (SHO)	C2
Williams Performing Arts Center (WPA)	D4
Witt House (WIT)	E3
Vanderpool Building (VAN B12)	D1
Zeliner Hall (ZEL)	D2
Zona Luce Building / School of Nursing (ZON)	D2
<b>Residence Halls</b>	
A.B. Barret Hall (BRT)	C2
A.B. Morris Hall (MOR)	B3
Adams Hall (ADH)	E1
Bullock Hall (BKH)	E2
Dillard Hall (DLH)	C1
Edwards Hall (EDW)	C2
Mabee Hall (MAB)	C2
McKinzie Hall (MCK)	D3
Nelson Hall (NEL)	E3
Sikes Hall (SIK)	E3
Smith Hall (SMH)	E1
University Park Apartments (UPA)	B4
Wessel Hall (WLL)	E3
<b>Outdoor Areas and Campus Art</b>	
Campus Mall	C2
Faubus Fountain Lake	C4
Faulkner Meditation Garden	C4
Flag Plaza	C4
GATA Park	C4
GATA Fountain	C2
God's Messenger Sculpture	C1
Hope for the Future Sculpture	C3
Jacob's Dream Sculpture Site	D3
Labyrinth, Rich Welcome Plaza	C4
Lean on Me Sculpture	B2
Lunford Overlook	A3
Omega Point Sculpture	D2
Siggle Pavilion	D2
Stevens Park	B2
The Ascension Trailhead	D2
The Quad	D2
Tower of Light	C3
Wildcat Way	B2
Willingham Way	C3

## Allen Ridge Shopping Center

- Cork & Pig Tavern
- Fuzzy's Taco
- Phoenix Pho
- Summer Moon Coffee
- The Biscuit Bar
- Twisted-Root Burger
- Directly North of ACU



## Fun Things to Do in Abilene

- Abilene Zoo
- Frontier Texas
- 2 Profs Gourmet Ice Cream
- Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau

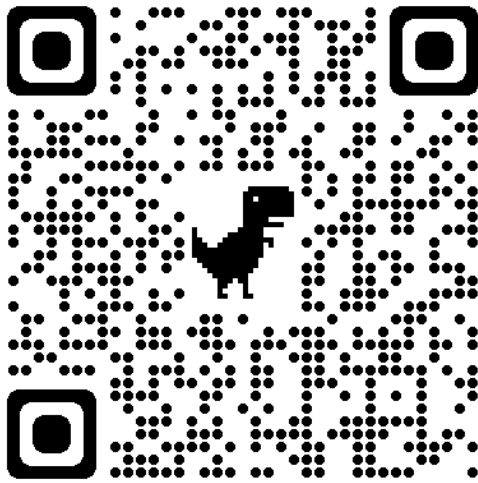


## Wifi Network Information:

Network Name: Texas ASM

Passphrase: TXASM23

QR Code (or [Link](#)) for information about the agar art contest on Friday evening:



## Meeting Sponsors



**ACU Biology**

## Special Acknowledgements

ASM Young Ambassador and Career Session Chair: Jessica O'Berry, UTSA  
Judging Chair: Heidi Kaplan, UTHealth McGovern Medical School  
Education Session Chair: Davida Smyth, Texas A&M San Antonio  
Agar Art Contest Organizer: Jennifer Huddleston, ACU  
Abstract Book: Jennifer Spinler, BCM  
Meeting Organizers: Dustin Edwards, Tarleton State University  
Jennifer Huddleston, ACU  
Jennifer Hennigan, ACU



## Texas Branch ASM Spring Meeting 2023

### Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

- 4:00 PM-6:00 PM *Hunter Welcome Center*  
Registration
- 6:00 PM-7:00 PM Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 PM -7:15 PM Welcome and Opening Remarks  
*Jennifer Hennigan and Dustin Edwards*
- 7:15 PM -8:15 PM Opening Keynote  
*Robert Orchard, Ph.D.*  
*The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*
- “A CRISPR view of Norovirus Biology”
- 8:30 PM-9:30 PM *Halbert-Walling Research Center*  
Agar Art Contest, *Room 148*  
Social and Games, *Lobby*
- 8:30 PM-9:30 PM *Hunter Welcome Center*  
Texas ASM Business Meeting

### Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 AM *Hunter Welcome Center*  
Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 AM -10:00 AM *Hunter Welcome Center*  
Undergraduate Student Oral Presentations  
(in competition for Orville Wyss award)
- 10:00 AM-10:20 AM BREAK
- 10:20 AM- 11:35 AM Graduate Student Oral Presentations  
(in competition for Charlie Gauntt award)
- 11:35 AM -1:00 PM *The World Famous Bean*  
Lunch
- 1:00 PM -2:00 PM *Halbert-Walling Research Center*  
Concurrent Sessions: Career Session  
and Education Session

<i>Career Presentation Room 101</i>	Texas Department of State Health Services <i>Esther Lee, M.S.</i>
<i>Careers Panel Room 101</i>	<i>Chair: Jessica O'Berry, UTSA</i> Claire Ely, B.S., UT Southwestern Esther Lee, M.S., Texas DSHS Robert Orchard, Ph.D., UT Southwestern Archna Basina, Ph.D., WCJC
<i>Education Session Room 205</i>	<i>Chair: Davida Smyth, Ph.D.</i> <i>Texas A&amp;M, San Antonio</i>
2:00 PM- 2:30 PM	<i>Halbert-Walling Research Center, Room 101</i> <i>Statewide Networking/ Discussion Session</i> <i>Chair: Jessica O'Berry, UTSA</i>
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	<i>Halbert-Walling Research Center, Room 101</i> Goldschmidt Graduate Student Award Alumna Presentation <i>Hannah Adams, Ph.D.</i> <i>Collin College</i>  "Breaking into the field of education: tips from someone still figuring it out"
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	<i>Halbert-Walling Research Center, Room 101</i> Peggy Cotter Awardee Session <i>Claire Edwards, Ph.D.</i> <i>St. Edward's University</i>  "Fermentation of Pectin-Rich Biomass by <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> 09-448 for Bioethanol Production"
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	BREAK
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Onstead Science Center, Lobby</i> Student Poster Presentations and Judging
6:00 PM- 6:30 PM	BREAK
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<i>Hunter Welcome Center</i> Dinner

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Goldschmidt Lecture  
*Chiung-Yu Hung, Ph.D.*  
*The University of Texas at San Antonio*  
“Developing Human Vaccines and Repurposing Drugs  
for Managing Coccidioidomycosis, a Respiratory  
Fungal Infection”

8:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Awards Presentation  
Closing Remarks and Announcements

9:00 PM

*Halbert-Walling Research Center, Room 101*  
Micro movie night

**See you at the 2023 Fall Meeting!**