

U.S. MYCOPLASMA WORKGROUP MEETING

July 20 – 22

Research and Education Building
University of North Texas Health Science Center
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX

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The Scientific Program was developed from the topics sent in by the participants. **Duncan Krause** volunteered to put together the program, and Jerry Simecka simply made a couple of suggestions in an attempt to garner some of the credit himself.

INFORMATION

Meeting site

Research and Education building at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. UNTHSC is about 1.5 miles from the hotel.

Room number: RES 100, Everett Hall

There will be AV equipment and computer provided. In addition, we may have flip charts on easels to facilitate discussions.

I am looking into getting wireless access. Not sure this will work out yet.

There is a small café and a small shop on campus, where coffee and snacks can be purchased. We will direct you how to get there, if needed. We may also have coffee in the room.

Hotel

Residence Inn Fort Worth Cultural District

2500 Museum Way
Fort Worth, Texas 76107 USA
1-817-885-8250

Shuttle

The hotel has a shuttle that will take you anywhere within about 6-7 mile radius. We will arrange for it to bring you to the meeting on Thursday and Friday morning. It will leave about 7:45 am.

Airport

DFW airport is about a 26 miles from the hotel. You can take a taxi or use the Airport Shuttle Service.

If you want to use the airport shuttle service, you may want to call them [(800) BLUE VAN (800-258-3826)]. From what I can tell, the shuttle will be about \$30 one way.

On Friday, we can help you arrange for a taxi or shuttle to take you from UNTHSC or the hotel back to the airport.

FOOD

Wed July 20

6:45pm Hotel Shuttle to restaurant

7:00 pm Opening night dinner

Pappasitos restaurant (Mexican)

- Fajitas (added grilled vegetables), cheese enchiladas, rice, beans, chips and salsa (buffet style), includes tea, soft drinks
- \$22.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity
- Other drinks (margaritas, beer, etc) will be additional cost.

Thursday July 21

Breakfast

On your own, the hotel has breakfast included.

Lunch

Milano's Italian Restaurant (walking distance...in the heat). Good food and inexpensive. If this does not interest you, there are several other options.

Dinner

On your own, but we can discuss in the morning the possibility of making reservations for groups of people to go out together. There are a lot of good restaurants.

Friday July 22

Breakfast

On your own, the hotel has breakfast included.

Lunch

Meeting should be over. Depending on when your flights leave, we can suggest restaurants for lunch.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Prescott Atkinson, University of Alabama in Birmingham

Mitch Balish, Miami University, Ohio

Joel Baseman, University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio

Dan Brown, University of Florida at Gainesville

Mary Brown, University of Florida at Gainesville

Kevin Dybvig, University of Alabama in Birmingham

T. R. Kannan, University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio

Duncan Krause, University of Georgia

Meghan May, Townson University, Maryland

Chris Minion, Iowa State University

Hong Mu, University of Utah

Jerry Simecka, University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth

Pat Totten, University of Washington

Rose Viscardi, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Ken Waites, University of Alabama in Birmingham

GOALS OF MEETING

- Updates of ongoing projects about mycoplasma and diseases with U.S. scientist
- Discuss possible collaborative projects and ideas to help obtain/maintain research funding
- Discuss concerns of grant reviewers about mycoplasma grants
- Begin development of regular meetings to discuss research on mycoplasma biology and diseases being performed in laboratories in U.S..

The need for development of regular meetings:

There is concern that with increasing centralization of the program of ASM General Meeting, the opportunities of hearing presentations by mycoplasma researchers has diminished. In addition, presentations by students and postdocs are not part of the main program. Thus, there is a concern that the ASM General Meeting is not meeting the needs to ensure networking and interaction between mycoplasma researchers, particularly in the U.S.

It appears that the IOM meeting will most often be in Europe and Asia. This limits the opportunity for scientific meetings on mycoplasmas for US researchers, particularly as funding is getting tight, and travel to those meetings are expensive.

With NIH, NSF and USDA funding for research continue to get more difficult, there is a need for more interactions between mycoplasma researchers and perhaps development of collaborative or interdisciplinary projects to strengthen the chances of funding.

There have been two possibilities for meetings proposed:

- 1) Have a mycoplasma meeting as part of an ASM branch meeting.
- 2) Similar to this meeting, have the meeting hosted by someone at his or her university. This could be rotated to different universities.

There are strengths and weaknesses with both of these possibilities, which we can discuss. The goal is to decide on whether to establish a regular meeting of US mycoplasma researchers, and if so, what approach do we want to take, at least initially.

The other question is whether a separate meeting with members of this workgroup to discuss grant ideas and other issues would be worth continuing.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Overview: Talks should not be data-heavy but focused rather on describing major ideas, conclusions and future directions, and as appropriate, possible collaborative projects and/or areas of weaknesses (e.g. as identified in a grant review). This is not your typical scientific meeting, but a forum to consider ways to ensure that mycoplasma research continues and opportunities to work with one another in that regard.

Thursday July 21

8:00-8:20 am	Welcome
8:20-10:00	Mycoplasma Genomics and Cell Biology (15 min + 5 min each)
Duncan Krause	Terminal organelle functional maturation
Mitch Balish	Gliding in <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> and <i>Mycoplasma penetrans</i>
Meghan May	Mycoplasma evolution and disease emergence
Kevin Dybvig	<i>M. pneumoniae</i> genome strain comparison
Chris Minion	<i>M. hyopneumoniae</i> genomics
10:00-10:30	Discussion
10:30-10:50	Coffee break
10:50-11:50	Virulence Factors and Host-Pathogen Interactions I (15 min + 5 min each)
Dan Brown	Glycosidases in host-mycoplasma interactions
Kevin Dybvig	<i>M. pneumoniae</i> and <i>M. pulmonis</i> polysaccharides and biofilms
Chris Minion	P97 and P102 adherence
Lunch	
1:20-3:00	Virulence Factors and Host-Pathogen Interactions II (15 min + 5 min each)
Joel Baseman	<i>M. pneumoniae</i> virulence factors
Joel Baseman	<i>M. genitalium</i> - host interactions
Pat Totten	<i>M. genitalium</i> - host interactions

Mary Brown	Invertebrate and animal models
Rose Viscardi	Intrauterine model for <i>U. urealyticum</i>
3:00-3:30	Discussion
3:30-3:50	Break
3:50-4:50	Mycoplasmas and Host Immune Response (15 min + 5 min each)
Jerry Simecka	Regulation of inflammatory and immune response in mycoplasma infection
Prescott Atkinson	Host suppression of the immune response by mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas
Hong Mu	<i>M. arthritidis</i> infection: suppression of lethal toxicity and cross-talk between immune receptor molecules
4:50-6:00	Discussion (including initial discussion of future mycoplasma meetings)

Friday July 22

9:00 – 10:00	Diagnostics, Antimicrobials, Vaccines (15 min + 5 min each)
Pat Totten	<i>Ureaplasma urealyticum</i> and NGU
Meghan May	Rates, prevalence, and diagnosis of human mycoplasmosis
Duncan Krause	New mycoplasma detection/identification platform
10:00-12:00	Discussion (Areas of high interest)
	During previous discussion sessions, we will list potential areas or ideas for further discussion. For example:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) High priority areas for mycoplasma research 2) Potential collaborative projects 3) Future meetings 4) Etc.