



Diné  
College



AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
MICROBIOLOGY

# 65TH ANNUAL ASM'S ARIZONA AND SOUTHERN NEVADA BRANCH MEETING

APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

TUBA CITY (NAVAJO NATION), AZ &  
MOENKOPI (HOPI NATION), AZ  
HOSTED BY DINÉ COLLEGE



## Program

The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Arizona-Nevada Branch of the  
American Society for Microbiology



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What time is it in Arizona? Be aware of time change**

After March 8, 2026, 2:00 am, Day Light Saving Time will start in Tuba City (Navajo Nation) while all of Arizona, including Hopi Tribal lands will be on Mountain Standard Time (MST) — 1 hour behind from Navajo Nation Time. The conference venue is Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, which is on Hopi Land, when you are in Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites at 9:00 am, remember, across the road at Basha's Supermarket and at Diné College, Tuba City campus, it will be 10:00 am, which is Navajo Land.

### **What time meeting/ conference will start?**

The conference venue is Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, which is on Hopi Land, and observe MST or rest of Arizona time. Conference will start at **8:00 am MST** when you are in Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, which will be **9:00 am MDT** if you are on Navajo land or across the road at Basha's Supermarket or staying at Navajo Land Hotel. So please coordinate accordingly!

### **Where is the annual meeting taking place?**

We are excited to welcome everyone at the Tsotsvalki Banquet Hall at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites at the western gateway to Hopi Tribal lands. The hotel is located at the intersection of Junction 160 & 264, Tuba City, AZ 86045. If you require a room and would like to stay at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn, please call (928) 283-4500. Reservations using meeting Code have been closed at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn, but you can still reserve the rooms at regular rates. Additionally, rooms can also be booked at Navajo Land Hotel by calling (928) 283-4545. Remember time difference; Navajo Land Hotel is on Navajo Land and observe Day light saving time.

### **Is there parking onsite?**

Yes! There is parking on the right side of the entrance and a large parking area in the back. There is an electric vehicle charging station on the right side of the hotel.

### **What time should I arrive at the meeting?**

Check-in begins on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time.

### **What time does the program conclude? What if I have to leave early?**

The program concludes Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. MST. If you need to depart early, we ask that you try to coordinate it around one of our meals or built-in breaks.

### **What kind of health and safety precautions should I expect?**

We prioritize the well-being and comfort of our Community and Elders. We want everyone to feel safe and cared for during the meeting. We will have face masks available at the event for your convenience. We are mask-friendly – please wear a mask if you prefer. Self-monitor: if you are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and/or any other symptoms indicating you may be sick, please consider staying home and/or wearing a mask. We do not have a virtual attendance option at this time.

### **What if I have dietary restrictions?**

Moenkopi Legacy Inn will serve us during morning tea break and lunch on Saturday. We have shared your dietary restrictions that you noted on your registration with the annual meeting and event planning team at Moenkopi Legacy Inn.

**What should I wear? Anything I should bring?**

Please wear what makes you comfortable. As specific daily forecasts are not available this far in advance, overall, temperatures on April 11th rarely fall below 51°F or exceed 82°F for the high, and rarely fall below 28°F or exceed 51°F for the low. Please pack a refillable water bottle, a notebook and pen, or your laptop if you prefer.

**Will transportation be provided for the field trip visit?**

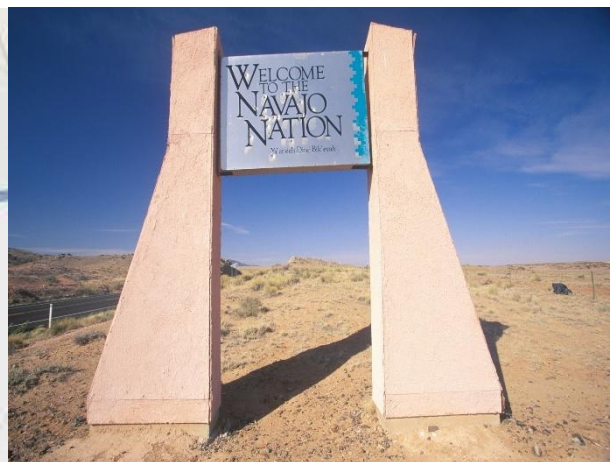
No.

**Is there childcare available?**

No.

**Who should I reach out to with any last-minute questions?**

For any final questions leading up to the event, please reach out to Joyceline Greymountain at [jswero@dinecollege.edu](mailto:jswero@dinecollege.edu); Priscilla Cooley at [pcooley@dinecollege.edu](mailto:pcooley@dinecollege.edu); Maya Begay at [maybegay@dinecollege.edu](mailto:maybegay@dinecollege.edu); Shazia Tabassum Hakim [stabassum@dinecollege.edu](mailto:stabassum@dinecollege.edu)



## Program in a Glimpse

| <b>8:00 am – 8:30 am: Registration main Lobby Area Moenkopi Legacy Inn</b>   |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Conference Opening   | <b>Time</b>  | <b>Venue:</b> Tsotsvalki Banquet Hall, Moenkopi Legacy Inn   |
|  | 8:30 am – 8:45 am  | <b>Invocation:</b> Mr. Lorenzo Max (Navajo Medicine Man & Traditional Healer)  |
|  | 8:45 am – 9:00 am  | <b>Opening Remarks:</b> Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim: President Elect- ASM’s Arizona, Southern Nevada Branch for the year 2025-2026, Professor & Interim Dean, STEM, Diné College |
|  | 9:00 am – 10:00 am   | <b>Keynote Address:</b> <u>Dr. Charles Gerba</u> , Professor, Water, Energy, sustainable Technology Center, University of Arizona  |
| Title  | Application of quantitative microbial risk assessment to setting microbial water quality standards and measuring the impact of hygiene interventions   |  |
| Abstract   | Quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) is a mathematical modeling approach used to estimate the risk of infection and illness when a population is exposed to microorganisms in the environment. Through QMRA, we can understand how much of an impact microorganism in the environment will have on the health of the population. It has been used by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization to set guidelines for drinking water treatment processes for the removal of pathogens. It has also been used to estimate risks from pathogens in food, water and air. Examples are given how QMRA can be used to estimate risk of infection from pathogens from ingestion, inhalation and contact with fomites in different scenarios and the impact of different interventions (i.e., disinfection of water, fomites). |  |
| <b>Morning Break: 10:00 am to 10:20 am Coffee/ Tea &amp; Refreshment</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Session One- Environmental Microbiology</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Session Chair: Dr. Boo Shan Tseng (ASM’s BOSC, Regional Planning Coordinator, Region 7)<br/>Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences, University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)</b> |  |  |
| Talk # 1   | 10:20 am –10:30 am   | A GGT Trinucleotide Core at CRISPR Array Boundaries Suggests a Non-Canonical Signal for CRISPR Transcription Initiation ( <b>Trey Gonzalez:</b> Maricopa Community College)    |
| Talk # 2   | 10:30 am –10:40 am   | Demographic Drivers of <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Transmission in Michigan White-Tailed Deer ( <b>Alyssa Gregory:</b> UA)  |
| Talk # 3   | 10:40 am – 10:50 am  | Functional Characterization of the OR-C Family Reveals Expanded Respiratory Diversity Within the Cytochrome bd Superfamily ( <b>Parker Ingram:</b> UNLV)                       |
| Talk # 4   | 10:50 am – 11:00 am  | Microbial dark matter in perennial hypersaline cold spring methane seeps ( <b>Haley Sapers:</b> NAU)   |
| Talk # 5   | 11:00 am – 11:10 am  | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> biofilms protect mild steel from corrosion under oxic conditions ( <b>Austin Dmitrieff Finneran:</b> UNLV)                                       |
| Talk # 6   | 11:10 am – 11:20 am  | Cell-Scale Biosignature Detection Using Micron-Scale Deep UV Raman Spectroscopy ( <b>Michael Strane:</b> NAU)  |
| Talk # 7   | 11:20 am – 11:30 am  | Jack of All Trades or Master of One; Comparing Microbiomes of Specialist and Generalist Vector Ectoparasites in Bat Hosts ( <b>Anna Kang:</b> NAU)                             |

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| Talk # 8   | 11:30 am – 11:40 am   | Bioinformatic and Geochemical Analysis of Phosphate-Solubilizing Microbes in a Mars-Analog Cold, Perennial Spring System at Gypsum Hill, Axel Heiberg Island ( <b>James Lockhart: NAU</b> )                    |
| Talk #9  | 11:40 am – 11:50 am   | Metatranscriptomics and <sup>13</sup> C-Quantitative Stable Isotope Probing Analysis in Acidic Soil Reveal That Acid Resistance Strategies Affect Bacterial Growth Rates ( <b>Hannah Butler Robbins: NAU</b> ) |
| Q & A  | 11:50 am – 12:00 noon | All presenters   |
| <b>Lunch: 12 noon to 12:45 pm</b>  |                       |  |
| <b>Poster session: 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm (All presenters should be presenting)</b>   |                       |  |
| <b>Session Two- Medical Microbiology</b>   |                       |  |
| <b>Session Chair: Dr. Holly Anne Martin, Secretary, ASM's Arizona and Southern Nevada Branch Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Department of Physical and Life Sciences, Nevada State University (NS)</b>   |                       |  |
| Talk # 10  | 1:30 pm – 1:40 pm     | Development of non-invasive diagnostics: Identification of putative volatile biomarkers of canine sino-nasal aspergillosis via machine-learning models ( <b>Jenna Diefenderfer: ASU</b> )                      |
| Talk # 11  | 1:40 pm – 1:50 pm     | Highly Multiplexed Proteome-Wide Serologic Profiling Enables Diagnostic Antigen Discovery for <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> and <i>Coccidioides</i> spp. ( <b>Evan Elko: NAU</b> )                          |
| Talk # 12  | 1:50 pm – 2:00 pm     | Development of broad-spectrum antifungals by targeting mevalonate diphosphate decarboxylase (MVD1) ( <b>Khaista Rahman: Diné College</b> )   |
| Talk # 13  | 2:00 pm – 2:10 pm     | The Synthesis of Neuromodulatory Molecules by A Gut Microbial Glutamate Decarboxylase ( <b>Pavani Dadi: ASU</b> )  |
| Talk # 14  | 2:10 pm – 2:20 pm     | Targeting Protein Kinases for TriTryp Diseases: A Repurposing Approach to Neglected Disease Drug Discovery ( <b>Syed Hamza Naqvi: Touro University</b> )   |
| Q & A  | 2:20 pm – 2:30 pm     | All presenters   |
| <b>Session Three- Microbial Genetics</b>   |                       |  |
| <b>Session Chair: Dr. Dawn Jung Sun Nice Gardiner, President ASM's Arizona- Southern Nevada Branch Senior Research Scientist, Pathogen &amp; Microbiome Institute (PMI), Northern Arizona University (NAU)</b> |                       |  |
| Talk # 15  | 2:40 pm – 2:50 pm     | Antibiotic Resistance as Regulatory Rewiring: RpoB Mutations Reshape Mfd-Dependent Pathways in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> ( <b>Jessica Grifaldo: UNLV</b> )  |
| Talk # 16  | 2:50 pm – 3:00 pm     | Autism Spectrum Disorder is Associated with Human codiversifying Microbiota in Adults ( <b>Emerson Taminang: ASU</b> )   |
| Talk # 17  | 3:00 pm – 3:10 pm     | First Detection of Frog Virus 3 and <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i> virus in Arizona Frog Populations ( <b>Kelsey Banister: NAU</b> )  |
| Talk #18   | 3:10 pm – 3:20 pm     | Protecting Arizona communities from <i>Rocky Mountain spotted fever</i> : Using DNA to track tick movements and acaricide resistance ( <b>Nathan Stone: NAU</b> )  |

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| Talk # 19   | 3: 20 pm – 3:30 pm | Uncovering the role of the novel co-component signal transduction system in <i>Shigella flexneri</i> . ( <b>Elizabeth Huezo</b> : UNLV)                                     |
| Talk # 20   | 3:30 pm – 3:40 pm  | CTP facilitates the formation of higher order VirB complexes needed for VirB-dependent transcriptional anti-silencing. ( <b>Monika Karney</b> : UNLV)                       |
| Talk # 21   | 3:40 pm – 3:50 pm  | Genome-Scale metabolic model for <i>Corynebacterium glutamicum</i> ATCC13032. ( <b>Nandini Kannoju</b> : ASU)   |
| Talk # 22   | 3:50 pm – 4:00 pm  | Capturing Transcriptional Heterogeneity of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Biofilms with Probe-based Single-Cell RNA Sequencing ( <b>Nasibeh Arabameri</b> : UNLV)            |
| Talk # 23   | 4:00 pm – 4:10 pm  | Convergent Evolution Toward Hypermotility in <i>Ralstonia</i> ( <b>Christina Guerrero</b> : UA)   |
| Talk # 24   | 4:10 pm – 4:20 pm  | Role of DnaJ in the activation of the envelope stress response pathway of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ( <b>Riley Shute</b> : UNLV)  |
| Talk # 25   | 4:20 pm – 4:30 pm  | Gut Microbiome Structure and SCFA Production Differentiate by Growth Trajectory but Not Static Height Status in Guatemalan Children ( <b>Hannah Glesener</b> : ASU)         |
| Q & A   | 4:30 pm – 4:40 pm  | All presenters  |
| <b>Session Four- Virology</b>   |                    |   |
| <b>Session Chair: Dr. Helen Wing, Treasurer, ASM’s Arizona and Southern Nevada Branch<br/>Professor, School of Life Sciences, The University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)</b> |                    |   |
| Talk # 26   | 4:40 pm – 4:50 pm  | RNA Granules Are Required for ZBP1-mediated Necroptosis in Vaccinia Virus-infected Cells ( <b>James Bonner</b> : ASU)   |
| Talk # 27   | 4:50 pm – 5:00 pm  | Identification of undiagnosed or unexpected viruses in diarrheal cases using metagenomic sequencing ( <b>My VT Phan</b> )   |
| Talk # 28   | 5:00 pm – 5:10 pm  | Viral growth dynamics and interactions between <i>West Nile virus</i> and <i>St. Louis Encephalitis virus</i> in mosquito cell co-infections ( <b>Brooke Schmidt</b> : NAU) |
| Talk # 29   | 5:10 pm – 5:20 pm  | ZBP1-Mediated Necroptosis in Stress Granules: A Critical Antiviral Defense Mechanism Against Poxvirus Infection ( <b>Megan McCaughan</b> : ASU)                             |
| Q & A   | 5:20 pm – 5:30 pm  | All presenters  |
| <b>Concluding Session</b>   |                    |   |
| Closing Remarks   | 5:30 pm – 5:35 pm  | Dr. Dawn Jung Sun Nice Gardiner: President ASM’s Arizona-Southern Nevada Branch for 2025-2026   |
| Awards  | 5:35 pm – 5:40 pm  | Helen Wing: Treasurer, ASM’s Arizona and Southern Nevada Branch   |
| 5:45 pm –6:15 pm  |                    | Adjourned with Navajo / Hopi Dance: Tuba City High School Traditional Dance Group   |

| Poster session: 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm (All presenters should be presenting) |                                |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Poster #  | Presenting Author              | Title  |
| <b>Category: Environmental Microbiology (1-25)</b>                        |                                |  |
| 1   | Nasrin Ebadianaghmiouni (UNLV) | Biochemical Characterization of a Novel Nitric Oxide Reductase (eNOR) from <i>Rhodothermus marinus</i>   |
| 2   | Caroline Scranton (UA)         | Detection of Pathogens and Virulence Genes in the Global Household Microbiome  |
| 3   | Genevieve Blumencwejg (NAU)    | Effects of Resource Availability on DNA Repair and Competence in a Soil Community - A Transcriptome Study  |
| 4   | Gabriele Schiro (ASU)          | Biogeography of Rodent Gut Microbiomes in the Madrean Sky Islands  |
| 5   | Elaine Torres-Lopez (NS)       | Investigating the Effects of Bacterial Contamination on Cosmetic Preservative Efficiency   |
| 6   | Katelyn Hopkins (UA)           | Tolerance to phosphorus acid in <i>Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum</i> GMI1000 is accompanied by modifications to cysteine biosynthesis                 |
| 7   | Shagun Kamboj (FCC)            | Variability in Antimicrobial Efficacy of Culturally Significant Indian Plants  |
| 8   | Kate Killebrew (NAU)           | Knock, Knock. Who's There? A Microbial Community Architecture and Biodiversity Study of the Distinct Lithologic Units at Barringer Crater.           |
| 9   | Tori Fulton (DC)               | Environmental Drivers of Waterborne Illness: The Role of Non-Potable Water in the Southwest  |
| 10  | Brad Tsosie (NAU)              | The Geochemical Buffet: Evaluating the Influence of Impact-Induced Mixing in Ejecta on Lithotrophic Microbial Diversity at Barringer Crater, Arizona |
| 11  | Marin Hanson (NAU)             | Microbial Diversity and Evenness Across the Moenkopi Subunits of Barringer Crater.   |
| 12  | Eli Resnick (NAU)              | How Different Rock Compositions Affect Endolithic Microbial Communities in Impact Craters and Implications for Detecting Biosignatures on Mars       |
| 13  | Bradley Braibish (NAU)         | Investigating Shocked Minerals in Barringer Crater   |
| 14  | David Willie (NTU)             | Uranium Tailing and Their Influence on Antimicrobial Resistance to Available Antibiotics   |
| 15  | Bridget Nichols (NAU)          | Laboratory-Grown Positive Controls for <i>White-Nose Syndrome</i> Detection  |
| 16  | Lauren Morgan (UNLV)           | Purification and spectrophotometric characterization of Seep-SRB2 multiheme cytochrome c ExtKL   |
| 17  | Giann-Luca Chavez (UNLV)       | Purification and spectrophotometric characterization of Seep-SRB1g multiheme cytochrome c Cyt c554   |
| 18  | Violette Soto (GCCAZ)          | Physiological and Molecular Responses to Acute and Prolonged Desiccation in Desert Adapted <i>Deinococcus</i> Species                                |
| 19  | Natalie Morris (UA)            | Fungal-bacterial interactions link the diet and gut microbiota of endangered red squirrels   |

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| 20  | Jake Drewes (ASU)          | Desert Doordash: Interspecies signaling metabolites spatially organize a mutualism in a soil microbiome   |
| 21  | Diizhonia Stanley (DC)     | Feline Paw Microbiota: How Indoor and Outdoor Environment Influence their Health  |
| 22  | Adriana Bustos (ASU)       | Evolutionary consequences of long-term insecticide selective pressure on <i>Culex quinquefasciatus holobiont</i>                                |
| 23  | Evan Russell (Maricopa CC) | A Novel Proteinase-Assisted Assay for the Rapid Detection of Twitching Motility in <i>Deinococcus</i>   |
| 24  | Janet Bodo (ASU)           | Exploring the role of the mosquito mycobiont in host insecticide detoxification using evidence from mycoremediation of pesticides               |
| 25  | Caitlin England (UA)       | Temperature effects on Antibiotic Zones in Hot Springs <i>Bacillus</i> Isolates   |
| <b>Category: Virology (26 – 29)</b>             |                            |   |
| 26  | Harrison Cayatineto (DC)   | miRNA-Mediated Disruption of Viral Capsid Function Using the <i>Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus</i> Nucleocapsid Model for <i>Hepatitis C Virus</i> |
| 27  | Sophia Wiley (Touro)       | Investigating Viral-Host Interactions: Effects of RK-33 and PRR851 on HPV-Specific Protein Expression   |
| 28  | Allyson Quigley (NAU)      | Understanding the Impacts of Temperature on the Growth Rates of Arizona <i>Frog Virus 3</i> strains in Cell Culture                             |
| 29  | Evan Landis (NAU)          | Investigating the genomic and phenotypic diversity of <i>Frog virus 3</i> within Arizona  |
| <b>Category: Medical Microbiology (30 – 47)</b> |                            |   |
| 30  | Maxwell Hinton (GCU)       | Superior in vitro inhibition of mycobacterium by green tea ( <i>Camellia sinensis</i> ) relative to chloramphenicol                             |
| 31  | Brad Haubrich (Touro)      | I Can't Amoebalieve my Eyes! CYP51 Inhibitors in Clinical Use for Acanthamoeba Keratitis  |
| 32  | Charleen Duong (ACOM-MWU)  | Cloning and Assessing the Role of <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> Effector Protein CstK  |
| 33  | Josh Boadu (GCU)           | Evaluation of antibacterial activity and biofilm inhibition against <i>Streptococcus mutans</i>   |
| 34  | Owen Swanson (GCU)         | Antimicrobial activity of polar and nonpolar extracts of <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> (toyon)   |
| 35  | Landon Gray (GCU)          | Molecular Insights into <i>Vauquelinia californica</i> -Induced Apoptosis in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer                                      |
| 36  | Jessica Neamtu (GCU)       | <i>Pinus halpensis</i> and its potential neuroimmune applications   |
| 37  | Jasmine Perez Ruelas (GCU) | Unlocking Natural Synergy: <i>Tamarindus indica</i> Extracts Surpass Antibiotics Against Clinically Significant Bacteria                        |
| 38  | Taylor Jeter (NAU)         | Analyzing the role of the N-terminal unstructured tail on MabA activity and interactions  |
| 39  | Dhruba Lal Sahu (NAU)      | Comparative Sensitivity of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Detection Using three Different Sources for DNA Extraction                              |
| 40  | Hannah Kunimoto (ASU)      | Evaluating Intestinal Inflammation and Barrier Dysfunction among Chronically Malnourished Children  |
| 41  | Nicole Dorn (ASU)          | Analysis of Pro-Inflammatory and Anti-Inflammatory VOCs Produced by the Gut Microbiome Using GCxGC-TOFMS  |

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| 42  | Amir Gill (NAU)             | Investigation of Phosphorylation-Dependent Regulation of MabA in the FAS-II Pathway of <i>Mycobacterium abscessus</i>  |
| 43  | Alexis Ramos(UA)            | Investigating the Impact of Antibiotics on Intestinal Epithelial Cell Proliferation and Susceptibility to <i>Salmonella enterica typhimurium</i> Infection                           |
| 44  | Connor Morgan (NAU)         | Interferon gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) enzyme-linked immunospot (ELISpot) as a new diagnostic assay for Valley fever  |
| 45  | Rebecca Witharm (UA)        | Cephalosporins disrupt mitochondrial dynamics and exacerbate <i>C. difficile</i> toxin-induced damage of intestinal epithelial cells   |
| 46  | Ella Van Wiel (UA)          | Exploring immune activation in the post-infectious IBS gut through antibody capture of gut microbiota.   |
| 47  | Maya Begay (DC)             | Environmental Regulation of <i>Candida albicans</i> Biofilm Formation and Its Role in Health and Disease   |
| <b>Category: Microbial Genetics (48 – 60)</b> |                             |  |
| 48  | Kylee Gibson (NS)           | Beyond DNA Repair: Defining the Global Regulatory Functions of Mfd in Bacterial Stress Adaptation  |
| 49  | Kyleigh Bachelor (ASU)      | Inter- and intra-colony variation in Reticulitermes protist symbiont communities   |
| 50  | Ivetka Noon (UA)            | Uncovering Adaptations in Arid-Environment Methyloprotophytes Using a Comparative Pangenome Approach   |
| 51  | Rayne Jacob (UNLV)          | Investigating the role of protein interactions and post-translational modifications in VirB-dependent virulence gene regulation in <i>Shigella flexneri</i>                          |
| 52  | Joely Corrales (NAU)        | Comparative metagenomic analysis of wine-grape rhizospheres vs Arizona native species.   |
| 53  | Utsav Khera (ASU)           | A Phylogenetic Reconstruction of Key Metabolic Enzymes of the Hydrogenosome  |
| 54  | Valerie Perez (UNLV)        | The fitness cost of rifampicin-resistant rpoB:H482Y mutation on RNA polymerase elongation and Mfd-mediated regulation in stationary phase <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>                   |
| 55  | Jonathan Hill (GCCAZ)       | Complete Hybrid Genome Sequence of <i>Deinococcus saharensis</i> HAN-23 <sup>T</sup> , a Rare Thermophilic Member of the Genus <i>Deinococcus</i>                                    |
| 56  | Heidi Stevens (NAU)         | Development of Highly Variable Genetic Markers to Investigate Movements of <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> Ticks in Arizona Populations  |
| 57  | Aishwarya Patel (ASU)       | The role of host-microbial codiversification in health and disease   |
| 58  | Karlene Piestewa (DC)       | Evaluating Raw Honey for Diabetic Wound Care among the Navajo & Hopi Communities   |
| 59  | Joyceline Greymountain (DC) | Exploring the Antimicrobial and Anti-Inflammatory Properties of Yucca ( <i>Yucca baileyi</i> ) Against Selected Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria and <i>Candida albicans</i> |
| 60  | Danielle Blumstein (ASU)    | Beyond distance-decay: The Mississippi River shapes gut microbiome communities in the <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i> species complex  |

### **Link to the Oral presentations:**

All oral presenters are requested to upload their slides by **5:00 pm April 09, 2026** in the google folder link sent separately via email. (To follow the timeline, it is requested to please prepare oral presentation for 8 minutes length; maximum 20 slides. Each session will have a Q and A session at the end where all presenters can respond to the audience questions regarding their work)

### **Link to the Poster presentations:**

All poster presenters are requested to upload their posters in pdf form by **5:00 pm April 10, 2026** in the google folder link sent separately via email. Poster guidelines have been sent earlier with the acceptance email.

### **Branch Business meeting will be online via zoom on May 26 at 1pm MST/ 2pm MDT**

Besides Branch Office Bearers, all branch members faculty, researchers and students are more than welcome to join on May 26

<https://dinecollege.zoom.us/j/96584383460>

### **Acknowledgement:**

Conference Organizer & Host: Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim (Branch President Elect 2025-26); ASM's AZ-SNV Branch office Bearers ( Dr. Dawn Jung Sun Nice Gardiner, Dr. Holly A. Martin, and Dr. Helen Wing); ASM's AZ-SNV Branch meeting Organizing Committee (Joyceline Greymountain, Maya Begay, Phyllis Begay, Priscilla Cooley, Alison Edison, Lorinette A Nuvayestewa, Lisa Scott, Walker Thronton & Cody Rapheal); Volunteers from Hakim's Lab (Karlene Piestewa, Vanessa Chicharello, Paige Tsoie, Molly Talker, Pattie Tuttle, Tori Fulton, Diizhonia Stanley, Romeo Yellowhair, and Ian Nez); School of STEM (DC); Office of the Provost, Diné College (DC); Marketing Department (DC); IT support (DC); all Moderators and Judges, Dr. Boo Shan Tseng, BOSCO, Regional Planning Coordinator, Region 7, Dr. Stephen Young, Chair- BOSCO, American Society for Microbiology (ASM); McGraw-Hill & Dr. Kelly Cowan for providing signed copies of "Microbiology Fundamentals: A Clinical Approach" for the awardees & all the participants, presenters, researchers and Microbiologists of Arizona and Southern Nevada.

**Our apologies to all those who wanted to attend and join, but due to space limitation could not join.  
Rest assured we missed you and we will invite you again!**

