



July 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the ARLG Network's quarterly newsletter!

Thank you for supporting our mission to prioritize, design, and execute clinical research that will impact the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Read more for important ARLG updates, including:

- Program news
- Clinical site spotlights: Corewell Health and Henry Ford Health
- Member spotlight: Kerryl Greenwood-Quaintance, EdD, MS
- Mentee spotlight: David Roach, MD, MBA
- Events
- Study milestones
- New publications

News

ARLG Renames Its ESI Seed Grants in Honor of Dr. Barbara E. Murray



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The ARLG is honoring the contributions of Barbara E. Murray, MD by renaming its [Early Stage Investigator \(ESI\) Seed Grants](#) in her name—the **Barbara E. Murray ARLG Early Stage Investigator Award**. Dr. Murray, Professor of

Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at McGovern Medical School (UTHealth Houston), passed away on April 11, 2024. As an internationally recognized expert on *Staphylococcus aureus*, antibiotic resistance, enterococci and enterococcal infections, and bacterial pathogenesis, Dr. Murray's contributions to her field of research and to the mission of the ARLG are immeasurable.

Dr. Murray was a long-time member of the American Society for Microbiology, an elected fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, an editor of *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, a member of the Programme Committee of the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and served as president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). Dr. Murray's accomplishments include receiving the IDSA Alexander Fleming Award for lifetime achievements and a 10-year MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health.

Barbara Murray was a founding member of the ARLG Mentoring Committee since July 2013 and continued to be an active member until her passing. Dr. Murray made significant contributions to the ARLG Mentoring Program throughout the many years she served. She also served as a member of the ARLG Gram Positive Committee from 2018 until her passing. The ARLG deeply values Dr. Murray's dedication to reducing the public health threat of antibacterial resistance and believes her commitment will be carried on through the work of researchers who receive the Barbara E. Murray ARLG ESI Award.

Congratulations, Sarah Doernberg!

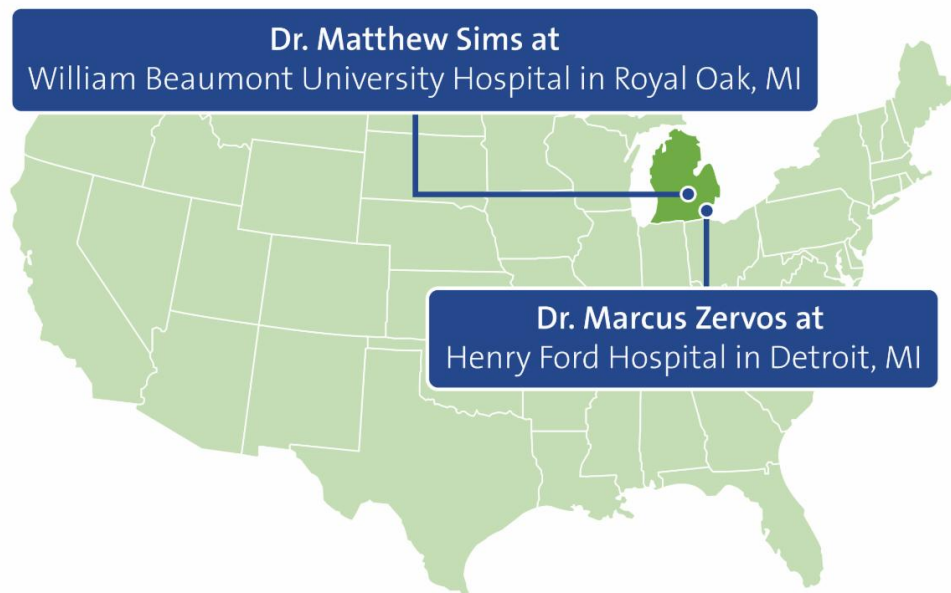


Dr. Sarah Doernberg, MD, MAS, Associate Director of the ARLG Laboratory Center, was named a Master Clinician in the Department of Medicine at University of California, San Francisco! The distinction of Master Clinician honors UCSF faculty who excel in clinical care based on the strength of their

professional expertise and compassionate dedication to patients. ARLG commends Dr. Doernberg on this remarkable achievement!

New Website and Newsletter Piece – Spotlight on Clinical Sites

ARLG is excited to announce the addition of a new piece to its website and newsletter – **Spotlight on Clinical Sites!** Beginning with this newsletter, the ARLG will be highlighting the contributions of clinical sites who are dedicated to ARLG’s mission of combating antibacterial resistance and improving patient care. Join us in learning more about sites on the front lines of researching antibacterial resistance, starting with Corewell Health and Henry Ford Health in Michigan.



Clinical Site Spotlight

Corewell Health and Dr. Matthew Sims, MD, PhD



Corewell Health Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Team

Left to right: Nikolina Sulikowski, RN; Lisa Falls, RN; Susan Highers, RN; Kim Powell, RC II; Dr. Matthew Sims; Dr. Carmen Demarco; Chantal Lang, RA II; Alemu Fite, PhD; Loni

Matthew Sims, MD, PhD leads the **Corewell Health Infectious Disease** clinical trial team at **William Beaumont University Hospital**. Dr. Sims and his team have worked on many previous ARLG studies combatting antibiotic resistance (AR), including prevention studies like EVADE and treatment studies like DOTS. They also will be contributing to diagnostic studies like Pneumonia Direct Pilot and MASTERMIND-RING. The Corewell team spans laboratory staff, study coordinators, research nurses, and investigators who are tackling AR from every direction!

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Clinical Site Spotlight

Henry Ford Health and Dr. Marcus Zervos, MD, MACP, FIDSA



Henry Ford Health Clinical Research Team

Back Row, Left: Sherae Hereford, Nurse Manager Research; Mariia Numi, Research Study Coordinator; Khaled Alkawri, Research Study Coordinator; Katrina Williams, Research Nurse Leader; Michael Garcia, Research Nurse

Middle Row, Left: Shruti Tirumala, Research Study Coordinator; Hiedy Razoky, Director of Research Operations; Sindhuja Koneru, Research Study Coordinator

Front Row, Left: Dr. Marcus Zervos, Infectious Disease Senior Staff; Dr. Erica Herc, Director Residency Training Program; Dr. Geehan Suleyman, System Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, and Antimicrobial Stewardship

Dr. Marcus Zervos, MD, MACP, FIDSA and his clinical research team at **Henry Ford Hospital** focus on patient care and research related to infectious diseases (ID), antimicrobial resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus*, and enterococcus. The Center of Emerging and Infectious Diseases at Henry Ford Health proudly has 14 physicians and 6 advanced practice providers serving as principal investigators (PIs) or sub-investigators on ID studies with the support of 40 research staff members, including study coordinators, research nurses,

and social workers.

Dr. Zervos' site has participated in numerous ARLG studies, including PROVIDE, Pneumonia Direct Pilot, OPTIMIZE-GNI, DOTS, SHREC, and CRACKLE. Partnering with the ARLG on shared goals of preventing, diagnosing, and treating infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria gives hope to their patients and clinical research team.

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Member Spotlight

ARLG Laboratory Center Program Manager Kerryl Greenwood-Quaintance, EdD, MS



Kerryl Greenwood-Quaintance, EdD, MS
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic

Kerryl Greenwood-Quaintance, EdD, MS became the ARLG's Laboratory Center Program Manager in 2020. Since that time, she has set up and developed the ARLG physical biorepository at Mayo Clinic Rochester. This biorepository uses Mayo Clinic's state-of-the-art Biospecimen Accessioning and Processing (BAP) Core facility. Dr. Greenwood-Quaintance has contributed to numerous ARLG studies including SHREC, FAST, and PHAGE. Her dedication to the work of the ARLG and its Laboratory Center is second to none!

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Mentee Spotlight



David Roach, MD, MBA

Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Infectious Disease Attending Physician, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Post-doc, Bhattacharyya Lab, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

With mentorship from the ARLG, **Dr. David Roach, MD, MBA** developed a CRISPR-based assay called BADLOCK to rapidly identify bacterial species and resistance genes directly from blood cultures. Dr. Roach focused on developing BADLOCK with the goal of obtaining actionable results in under two hours from the time of positive cultures, helping doctors make faster, more informed treatment decisions. Dr. Roach's work on BADLOCK led him to receive a national award for innovation from the Infectious Disease Society of America.

ARLG mentors have supported Dr. Roach by offering their advice on grant proposals, sharing information about funding opportunities, and helping him think more strategically about the next steps of his career. Additionally, ARLG support has given him opportunities to present his work nationally and to pursue a Master's in Epidemiology at Harvard. By designing BADLOCK, a **rapid, low-cost diagnostic** that can be deployed broadly, Dr. Roach's research supports ARLG's commitment to addressing antimicrobial resistance in global healthcare environments.

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ESCMID Global 2025 – April 11–15 in Vienna, Austria

The ARLG Network had a strong presence this year at The Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID Global 2025), held April 11-15, 2025 in Vienna, Austria. ARLG members presented, spoke, and chaired events at this internationally renowned event in the field of infection. Check out a [list of ARLG contributors!](#)

Study Milestones

SHORT NAME	ACRONYM ORIGIN	STATUS
DOTS	D albavancin as an O ption for T reatment of S. aureus Bacteremia	Manuscript Submitted
ESCAPED	E merging <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and C urrent A ntimicrobial P atterns in E mergency D epartments	Enrollment Complete
FAST	F ast A ntibiotic S usceptibility T esting for gram-negative bacteremia	Enrollment Complete
IMPROVE-LRTI	I ntegrated M etagenomic P ROfiling to a d V anc E L R T I diagnosis and stewardship in lung transplant	Data Analysis
Innovations QoL (1st Study)	N/A	Manuscript Submitted
MASTERMIND-RING	M ASTER protocol for evaluating M ultiple I nfection D iagnostics- R es I stant <i>Neisseria Gonorrhoeae</i>	Enrolling
OPTIMIZE-GNI	O PTIMIZ I tion of Beta-lactam Dosing in Critically-III Patients with Suspected or Documented Antimicrobial Resistant G ram N egative Infections with C ystatin C	Enrolling

Visit the ARLG Studies page below for more milestones and updates!

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New Publications

Blackmon S, Avendano EE, Balaji S, Argaw SA, Morin RA, Nirmala N, Doron S, Nadimpalli ML. Neighborhood-level Income and MRSA Infection Risk in the USA: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *BMC Public Health*. 2025 Mar 20;25(1):1074. doi:[10.1186/s12889-025-22275-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-22275-5)

Blackmon S, Avendano EE, Nirmala N, et al. Socioeconomic status and the risk for colonisation or infection with priority bacterial pathogens: a global evidence map. *Lancet Microbe*. 2025;6(4):100993. doi:[10.1016/j.lanmic.2024.100993](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanmic.2024.100993)

Evans SR, Pennello G, Zhang S, et al. Intention-to-diagnose and distinct research foci in diagnostic accuracy studies. *Lancet Infect Dis*. Published online March 27, 2025. doi:[10.1016/S1473-3099\(25\)00070-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(25)00070-2)

Hareza DA, Bergman Y, Jacobs E, Lu J, Hanson ND, Conzemius R, Cosgrove SE, Harris AD, Simner PJ, Tamma PD. Molecular Epidemiology of β -lactamases in Ceftriaxone-resistant Enterobacterales Bloodstream Infections in the Mid-Atlantic United States. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2025 Mar 5;69(3):e0125824. doi:[10.1128/aac.01258-24](https://doi.org/10.1128/aac.01258-24)

Jiang J, Long T, Porter AR, et al. Carbapenem-Resistant, Virulence Plasmid-Harboring *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, United States. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2025;31(4):761-771. doi:[10.3201/eid3104.241396](https://doi.org/10.3201/eid3104.241396)

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