



64th Annual Meeting | **October 25–29, 2015**

PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA USA

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 64th Annual Meeting
October 25-29, 2015, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
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World's Largest Gathering of Tropical Medicine Experts to Present Latest Data on Malaria, Ebola, Dengue, Chikungunya, Tick-borne Infections and More

Late-Breaker Sessions Added: Cuban research officials to update US colleagues on scientific advances coming from island nation; Mock-up of an on-site Ebola field hospital to provide health care worker experience

The 64th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the largest gathering of its kind, will launch in Philadelphia with the Honorable Rajiv Shah, MD, former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). During his tenure at USAID from January 2010 to February 2015, Shah led the US Government's response to some of the world's most challenging global health crises, including the Haiti earthquake and subsequent cholera outbreak and the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

TropMed, as the annual ASTMH meeting is colloquially known, brings together leading experts from around the world who are battling familiar and resurgent threats like malaria, dengue fever, chikungunya, Ebola, Chagas disease, tick-borne diseases, and parasitic worms that each year sicken or kill hundreds of millions of people.

- WHAT: The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 64th Annual Meeting
- WHEN: October 25 – 29, 2015 (Sunday through Thursday)
- WHERE: Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
- KEYNOTE: The Honorable Rajiv Shah, MD, MSc, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development, 2010-2015
- RSVP: For more information and to register for press credentials, please contact: Bridget DeSimone at +1 301 280 5735 or bdesimone@burness.com
- ONLINE: <http://www.astmh.org/Home.htm>
On Twitter @astmh #TropMed15

Selected Highlights of the ASTMH 2015 Annual Meeting Include:

Extending the “The Cuban Thaw” to Scientific Collaboration: Both Cuba and the U.S. have histories of expertise and achievements in the health sciences, often working closely together before the Cold War but separately since. Recent events have brought renewed optimism that the two nations, long estranged but only 90 miles apart, can continue to grow and work together on many fronts, especially in the areas of science and global health. ASTMH and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) play their own part in the “Cuban Thaw” by providing a forum at the Annual Meeting for Cuban researchers from several agencies to share the many scientific advances coming from Cuba. The Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also will discuss what the future might bring if the two countries can rekindle their history of cooperation in tropical medicine research.

Exploring the Mysteries of Chikungunya’s Invasion of the Americas: Chikungunya has alarmed infectious disease experts both with its sudden and unexpected emergence on the Caribbean in 2013 and its rapid spread throughout the Americas. Scientists will discuss the latest data to emerge from intensive efforts to understand how the constant transit of travelers through the popular tourist destinations where the virus is now common could affect the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. The concern is that chikungunya, which causes high fevers and severe joint pain, could be much more common than many believe. And there is no vaccine to prevent chikungunya and no drug to treat it.

Fighting Drug Resistant Malaria, With a Possible Assist from Ebola: Malaria resistance to the life-saving drug artemisinin continues to spread in Southeast Asia on a path that could take it to the malaria hot spots of Africa—and rapidly reverse decades of progress. Scientists will present new research probing whether malaria drugs used alongside artemisinin may also be cracking, and how the fight against drug resistant malaria in Myanmar is bringing together government officials and opposition groups that have been fighting them for decades. Researchers will also present evidence from a mass drug treatment campaign undertaken in Sierra Leone at the height of the Ebola epidemic to knock out malaria infections that were interfering with the Ebola fight. The results could help inform controversial proposals to employ a mass drug treatment strategy in Southeast Asia in an effort to create a malaria-free firewall that could prevent further spread of resistant infections. **Related:** Scientists may have new data from an intriguing new round of studies exploring whether treating large populations indiscriminately with a cheap, well-known drug could reduce the burden of multiple tropical diseases, including malaria, simultaneously.

Ebola, One Year Later: One year after Ebola captured the headlines and prompted Louisiana to ban researchers who had recently worked in West Africa from attending the ASTMH Annual Meeting, the disease is down but not out. Researchers will explore new evidence of a potentially successful Ebola vaccine; hear new insights into what caused the largest cluster of Ebola infections among health care workers; discuss the ethics of conducting clinical trials in the midst of an epidemic; and get a first person account of what it was like to get infected with Ebola, and survive. Explore a replica of an Ebola field hospital and suit up in protective gear to experience what health workers wear and do when treating Ebola patients.

Eager for a Break Against “Breakbone” Fever: The painful mosquito-borne disease dengue fever—often called “breakbone fever” due to the extreme joint pain many victims suffer—is lacking both a vaccine and a knock-out drug. But it continues to spread both globally and in the continental United States. The ASTMH meeting will feature a full-court press against dengue, including new evidence of whether people with no signs of the disease are still transmitting infections; the latest evidence on innovative approaches to develop drugs and vaccines against dengue; and lessons learned from treating dengue patients in Texas and Arizona.

Climate Change Carrying Tropical Diseases to the North: Climate change, particularly when it involves rising temperatures, could accelerate the northward march of a number of tropical diseases. A symposium at the Annual Meeting will feature the latest findings from scientists who are combining climate forecasts with public health insights to assess, for example, the risk of dengue moving into the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. A related symposium will feature new insights from the world’s leading experts tracking the spread of chikungunya in the Americas. A disease once mainly confined to Africa, chikungunya emerged unexpectedly in 2013 on the Caribbean island of St. Martin and appears to be

gaining a foothold in Florida. Chikungunya resembles dengue with its tendency to cause fever, malaise and severe—sometimes chronic—joint pain.

Resurging Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: While Lyme disease typically tops discussion of tick-borne infections, another tick-borne disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, has been on rise in the Americas since the 1990s. While it responds well to drug treatment, left untreated Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can cause organ failure and death. Researchers will discuss the latest evidence of rising fatality rates in Brazil and the results of recent disease control efforts undertaken in the American Southwest. Scientists will also hear the latest research probing other types of tick-borne spotted fevers that may be different than the Rocky Mountain variety.

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The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health. We accomplish this through generating and sharing scientific evidence, informing health policies and practices, fostering career development, recognizing excellence, and advocating for investment in tropical medicine/global health research. For more information, visit astmh.org