



American Society for Virology

Dear ASV Members,

2021 has been an amazing year for virology, with the rollout of vaccines to limit SARS-CoV-2 infection and disease, and yet despite very effective vaccines, the pandemic persists! My most sincere wish for each of you is that you, your families and colleagues have remained safe!

Despite the pandemic, our first completely virtual ASV 2021 conference was a great success—hitting a record 1789 registrations. Forcing our conference onto a virtual format taught us many lessons. The record number of registrations reflects the global demand for ASV content, and we are committed that future conferences (that will hopefully take place in person) will have a significant portion available online for a separate “virtual only” registration fee. We are designing ASV 2022 on that model.

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to highlight the importance of ASV. Our members have donated incredible time and energy to driving the response to the pandemic— from virus and vaccine education to training future virologists/clinicians/epidemiologists and from forging new discoveries in SARS-CoV-2 infection and disease to generating the next generation of vaccines and therapeutics. Our [Vaccine Town Halls](#) have been a remarkable success with over 90 Vaccine Town Halls to date. If you are not familiar with them, these are free, open Zoom meetings hosted by two ASV member virologists. Participants can ask questions and get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccines. I am so appreciative of our members participating in the Town Halls. There continues to be a need for vaccine education, with emerging variants and the recommendation for booster vaccination, and vaccination of younger children on the horizon. Please contact [Dr. Dan Engel](#) if you have not yet participated and are interested in doing so.

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has certainly brought to light the threat of public health and virology mis/disinformation in a pandemic! At the Fall 2021 Council meeting, we voted to form the ASV Global Outreach Committee. The idea behind this committee is that an important thing ASV can do for its membership is to increase connectivity and networking between virology societies globally and increase public education and literacy about viruses and infectious diseases. A more informed public will be less susceptible to dis/misinformation. I am delighted to announce that Stacey Schultz-Cherry, an ASV past-president, has agreed to lead this initiative. While things have yet to come into full form, we have forged a relationship for increased advocacy and advocacy training with the American Society for Microbiology (e.g., expanding virology-focused Hill Days), and we are working to establish contacts with virology societies in South America and beyond. In a related project, Dave Kushner is working with the Education Committee co-chairs, Lauren O’Donnell and Melissa Maginnis, to develop curriculum guidelines for teaching virology at all levels, particularly as part of larger biology or microbiology courses where virology is not a primary focus nor the primary expertise of an instructor. These guidelines will serve to strengthen education around virology at all levels by creating accessible tools for teachers/instructors.

ASV is looking for leadership! Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for election to the ASV leadership team that will begin in 2022. We are currently seeking nominations for President-Elect (3-yr term), Councilor for Veterinary Virology (3-yr term), Councilor for Medical Virology (3-yr term), and Councilor for Virology Trainees (2-yr term). Please send any nominations to [Craig Cameron](#) by November 5, 2021. Nominees must be an ASV member. The subject line of the email should state "Nomination for

ASV February 1, 2022 Election." Your email should list the name of the candidate, the role they are being nominated for, and if possible, an indication of their previous service to ASV.

The planning of the in-person [ASV 2022](#) conference is well underway! Paul Friesen, Ann Palmenberg, and Kristen Bernard are working very hard to put together an exciting venue in Madison, Wisconsin to welcome ASV members back together in person for the 41st Annual Meeting July 16-20, 2022. We have a great [lineup](#) of plenary speakers for ASV 2022, including a keynote by Christine Kreuder Johnson, a Professor of Epidemiology and Ecosystem Health at the University of California, Davis, Director of EpiCenter for Disease Dynamics, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Johnson will speak on ecosystem health and transdisciplinary approaches to the prevention of virus emergence and pandemics. In addition to the conference, there will be four ASV Satellites; three are organized by Councilors Anne Moscona (Councilor for Medical Virology, "Enveloped viral pathogenesis revealed through structure"), Adam Luring (Councilor for Evolution and Ecology Virology, "Shaking the trees: Sequence-based inference in virus ecology and evolution"), and Svetlana Folimonova (Councilor for Plant Virology, "What are frontiers in Plant Virology after 40 years of ASV?"). The fourth satellite is being organized by ASV members Mandy Muller and Jessica Tucker, on "RNA decay in infection." I am grateful to Dave Bloom, Program Committee Chair, for his efforts in organizing the ASV 2022 program, including six State-of-the-Art speakers.

The keynote, plenary sessions, state-of-the-art lectures and all four satellites will be available online during and one month after the conference for those who register for the virtual component of ASV 2022. Making this content available online serves to increase accessibility of the ASV annual conference to an audience that is unable to travel. ASV is committed to cultivating its global connection, which was strengthened by the virtual 2021 conference. This is an important resource in expanding the reach of ASV. We are also grateful for our donors and sponsors that are vital to a successful conference. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or have a corporate contact with interest in contributing to ASV, please contact [me](#) or the ASV Office (ASV@asv.org).

Of note, ASV Council voted to require proof of vaccination for in-person attendance at ASV 2022 in Madison. Other safety measures will also be implemented (sanitizer, avoid shaking hands and hugging, etc.); these will be described on the meeting website. Registration for ASV 2022, as well as abstract submission, will go live in December. The abstract submission deadline has been extended this year to March 1, 2022. If you need an early decision to apply for a travel visa, please ensure you select this option when submitting your abstract. You can find more information on the program, travel, abstract submission, and travel and registration awards online at asv.org/asv2022. Please note the following important deadlines:

December 2021: Registration and Abstract Submission go live.

February 1, 2022: Global Scholar Travel Award deadline

March 1, 2022: Abstract submission deadline

March 3, 2022: Travel Award deadline (Student, Postdoctoral, and Teacher awards)

There are many benefits to ASV membership, especially reduced registration for the annual conference. [Renew](#) your membership now. Membership is required for trainees to apply for travel awards.

I would also like to bring your attention to other related virology conferences that will be occurring between now and ASV 2022. Please visit [here](#) for links and information on each. ASV is also affiliated with virology-focused scientific journals, for information, please visit [here](#). Our newest affiliation is with [Zoonoses](#), an open access journal that promotes national/international collaborations to increase public awareness of the health risks of zoonoses. Finally, do not forget about ASV's Virology Jobs site—I personally find this the best resource for recruiting high-quality postdocs and technicians.

ASV is proud to continue its support of Black in Microbiology, which is in part led by our Councilors for Virology Trainees, Kishana Taylor and Chelsey Spriggs. This week-long event, as well as #BlackInVirology, spotlights the presence, research, and accomplishments of Black microbiologists. This is an important initiative to increase diversity and awareness in virology. ASV also continues to support the work of This Week in Virology (TWiV) podcast, led by Vincent Racaniello, to communicate current events and findings in virology to a broad audience. ASV will also continue its more than 20 years of support of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), a committee that directs the taxonomic classification and nomenclature for viruses using single, universal taxonomic scheme for all viruses.

In closing, I hope to see many of you in Madison, Wisconsin for ASV 2022! It is guaranteed to be exciting, as it brings many of us back together for the first time in a long time. Best wishes for a safe holiday season and looking forward to 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felicia A. Goodrum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "G".

Felicia Goodrum
President