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## The Division of Infectious Disease and International Medicine's Quest for Preeminence in Research is Well Underway with the Recent Recruitment of Several Prominent Researchers

Preeminent virologist Christian Brechot, MD, PhD, joined the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine part-time in October 2018 as senior associate dean for research in global affairs, associate vice president for international partnerships and innovation, and a professor in the Division of Infectious Disease and International Medicine.

Dr. Brechot is also executive director of the Tampa-based Romark Laboratories Institute for Medical Research. Since 2017, he has served as president of the Global Virus Network, a coalition of the world's foremost medical virologists. To read full USF Health article [click here](#).



Liwang Cui, PhD joins the Division as Cohen Professor in Malaria Research. Dr. Cui received his BS from Shenang Agricultural University, his PhD from Loidova Agricultural University (Former USSR) and his PhD from University of Kentucky. He finished his training at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

He brings ~\$14.5m in NIH funding including an International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR) that is funded by the NIH. He will focus his research on the molecular basis of drug resistance in malaria.

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Jun Miao, MD, PhD joined the ID Division research team in October 2018. Dr. Miao was educated in the PR China at the prestigious Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an China where he received his MD and PhD in Molecular

Microbiology.

He was the first in successfully cloning *P. falciparum* and examined its gene regulation. his research is along the China Myanmar border where resistant forms of Malaria are a significant cause of death and have a devastating effect on the economy.



Michael White, PhD transferred to the ID Division from the Department of Global Health in the College of Public Health in November 2018. He was previously the head of the NIH study section on pathogenic eukaryotes. Dr. White's

research focuses on genetics and genomics of pathogens, especially toxoplasma and their mechanisms of gene expression.

He brings ~\$7m in NIH RO1 grants to the Division. He is currently the Director of the Human Pathogen Research Program in the Morsani College of Medicine.



Elena Suvorova, PhD transferred to the ID Division from the Department of Global Health in the College of Public Health in November 2018. Dr. Suvorova's experience includes research on the essential functions of eukaryotic cells, including mechanisms controlling growth and intracellular trafficking in yeast, mammalian cells and apicomplexan parasites.

She currently specializes in molecular parasitology, primarily working with apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, and important human pathogen that causes lifelong infection in millions of people.

### OCTOBER 2018

#### ID Faculty and Fellows Have Record Number of Research Posters and Presentations Accepted for 2018 IDSA IDWeek!

The Infectious Disease Society of America's (IDSA) Annual ID Week was held from October 2-7, 2018 in San Francisco, CA. This year marks a record number of USF ID research projects that were accepted for presentation at this prestigious meeting. A total of 14 research projects were completed this year as a result of collaborations among faculty and fellows. As a result, 9 projects were accepted for presentation at the conference. Congratulations to the ID faculty and fellows who attended the meeting to present their scholarly work and support the USF Infectious Diseases!



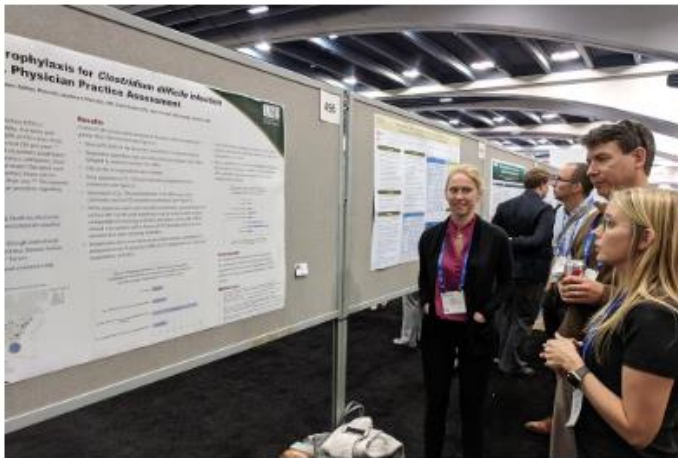
USF ID Faculty and Fellows (past and present) enjoyed dinner together at IDWeek



Fellowship Program Director, Beata Casanas, DO, current Fellow, Shylah Moore, MD and ID Faculty, Richard Oehler, MD



ID Fellow, Natan Kraitman, MD, and ID Faculty, Sadaf Aslam, MD, Richard Oehler, MD and Beata Casanas, DO



(from left to right) Kristen Zeitler, PharmD, Richard Oehler, MD, and Mindy Sampson, MD (fellow)



Dr. Charurut Somboonwit, Dr. Beata Casanas, and Dr. Jamie Morano were recently recognized for their commitment and dedication to the patient care at the Florida Department of Health-Hillsborough. ID physicians provide HIV, TB and STD care at the Specialty Care Center at the health department.

JUNE 2018



CONGRATULATIONS to our 2018 Fellowship Graduates!

(Pictured from L to R) Misbahuddin Syed, MD., Adam Pettigrew, MD., Louise Gutierrez, MD., Muhammad Chughtai, MD., Beata Casanas, DO, Program Director, Garabet Akoghianian, MD., Antehneh Addisu, MD.

Dr. Casanas and Dr. Toney presented the JAHVA ID Section Outstanding Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) Award to fellow Dr. Syed



(Pictured L to R) Dr. Beata Casanas, Dr. John Toney and Dr. Misbahuddin Syed.

Graduating fellow, Dr. Adam Pettigrew is presented with the JAHVH ID Section Outstanding ID Fellow Award.



(Pictured from L to R) Richard Oehler, MD., Adam Pettigrew, MD., Sandra Gompf, MD., Beata Casanas, MD., John Toney, MD.

Graduating ID fellow Dr. Anteneh Addisu is presented with the Annual Jeffrey P. Nadler Award for Excellence in Research



(Pictured from L to R) Dr. Sadaf Aslam, Dr. Jamie Morano and Dr. Beata Casanas.

ID Fellows Attend the IDSA-NIAID Research Careers Meeting



(Pictured L to R) Kami Kim, MD., Mindy Sampson, DO., Anteneh Addisu, MD

On June 6-8, 2018, USF ID fellows Drs. Mindy Sampson and Anteneh Addisu attended the Eighth Annual IDSA-NIAID Research Careers Meeting (<https://www.idresearchcareers.org>). The meeting was kicked off by a keynote talk by NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr. Kami Kim served as Chair of the IDSA working group that organized the meeting, which features talks from prominent ID researchers, career advising panel discussions, and a tour of the NIH Clinical Research Center.

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## APRIL 2018



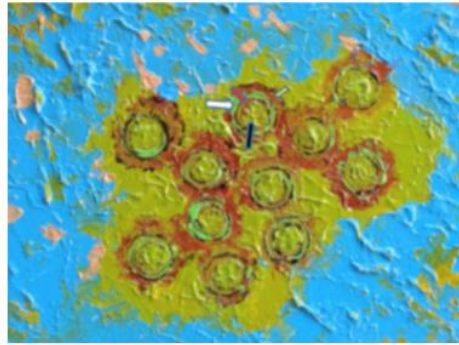
The Division welcomes Dr. Li-Min Ting to our ID Research Team. Dr. Ting received her PhD at the University of Rochester in Microbiology and Immunology. She completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco, and was a principal associate working with USF ID faculty, Dr. Kami Kim in the field of parasitology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine before arriving USF. Her research interests are in understanding the pathogenesis of toxoplasmosis and malaria. She joins the Division of Infectious Disease and International Medicine as an Assistant Professor.

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## MARCH 2018



Dr. Ana Velez is an accomplished artist and University of South Florida Associate Professor and Infectious Diseases physician who has practiced at Moffitt Cancer Center among immunocompromised patients since 2006. Although she paints in many different styles, among her favorite subjects are the microorganisms she confronts everyday as a health care provider. With her art, she conveys the complexity and beauty present in even some of the most fearsome pathogens. Her paintings mix bright colors and subtle shades to capture the simple yet elegant nature of fungi, bacteria, and viruses.



Pictured is: Chikungunya

To see more of Dr. Velez's creations [click here](#)

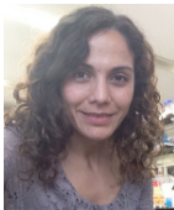
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## FEBRUARY 2018



The Division welcomes researcher, [Dr. Kami Kim, MD](#). Dr. Kim comes to us from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where she ran a basic science and clinical research program in pathogenesis of toxoplasmosis and malaria and attended on the Infectious Diseases consultation service. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons and completed her Internal Medicine residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. She trained in Infectious Diseases at UCSF and then completed a molecular parasitology fellowship at Stanford University. Dr. Kim also holds a joint faculty appointment with the College of Public Health.

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We also welcome [Dr. Iset Vera](#) as an Instructor of Research. Dr. Vera graduated from UCLA in 2004 with a BS in Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics. Dr. Vera earned her PhD degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine where she worked with Dr. Kami Kim focusing her studies on the parasite that causes malaria, *Plasmodium* spp. To further develop her research in the liver stages of malaria, she joined the laboratory of Dr. Maria Mota (Lisbon, Portugal) as a postdoctoral fellow, studying the host response to malaria infection. Her long-term research interests are the study of parasitic infectious diseases and global health.

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Infectious Disease faculty member, [Dr. Aliyah Baluch](#), is featured in Moffitt Cancer Center's inaugural issue of "Woman in Oncology at Moffitt". The magazine will feature extraordinary women who overcome huge obstacles and successfully manage demanding careers, along with day-to-day family responsibilities and community involvement.

Click [here](#) to read her interview.

