

# Jill C. Roberts

Assistant Professor  
University of South Florida  
College of Public Health  
Department of Global Health  
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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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**Indiana University**, Bloomington, Indiana  
Bachelor of Science in Microbiology; May 1996

**University of South Florida**, Tampa, Florida  
Master of Public Health; May 1998  
Department: Environmental and Occupational Health  
Concentration: Tropical Public Health/Communicable Diseases

**University of Texas**, Houston, Texas  
Master of Science; August 2003  
Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Concentration: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

**University of South Florida**, Tampa, Florida  
Graduate Certificate; May 2004  
Department: Global Health  
Concentration: Hospital Infection Control

**University of South Florida**, Tampa, Florida  
Doctor of Philosophy; May 2006  
Department: Global Health  
Concentration: Communicable Diseases

**University of South Florida**, Tampa, Florida  
Postdoctoral Researcher; May 2006-April 2012  
Center for Biological Defense  
Research focus: Rapid Detection and Characterization of Biothreat Agents.

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## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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Certified in Public Health (CPH), National Board of Public Health Examiners; November 2015  
Certified Food Safety Manager, National Registry of Food Safety Professionals; August 2013

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**Assistant Professor**, Tenure Earning Pathway  
University of South Florida, College of Public Health  
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health  
2012 – Present

**Assistant Professor**, Tenure Earning Pathway  
University of South Florida Polytechnic, College of Human and Social Sciences  
Division of Social Sciences  
2011-2012

**Adjunct Faculty**  
Hillsborough Community College, Plant City Campus  
Allied Health  
2005-2011

**Adjunct Faculty**  
University of South Florida, College of Public Health  
Department of Global Health  
2006, 2009-2010

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## CONSULTING

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2007-2012 Surge Team Member, Tampa Bay Biowatch – Laboratory surveillance for biotreatments agents.

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2004 University of South Florida, Sam Bell Research Grant  
2005 Elected Delta Omega National Public Health Association  
2006 University of South Florida, Nominated Outstanding Dissertation Award  
2006 Hillsborough Community College – Nominated Outstanding Adjunct Faculty

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- Member American Society for Microbiology
- Member American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- Elected to Delta Omega Tau Honor Society
- Member American Public Health Association
- Member Florida Public Health Association
- Member Florida Association for Food Protection
- Member International Association for Food Protection
- Member Food Protection Partnerships of Florida

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Dissertation

**Roberts, JC.** Characterization of Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* by Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis, Multilocus Sequence Typing, and Staphylococcal Protein A Sequencing: Establishing a Strain Typing Database. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of South Florida. Tampa, Florida May 2006.

### Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

**Roberts, JC;** Singh, KV; Okhuysen, P; Murray, BE. (2004) Molecular epidemiology of the *fsr* locus and of gelatinase production among different subsets of *Enterococcus faecalis* isolates. *J. Clin. Micro.* 42(5):2317-2320.

**Roberts, JC;** Krueger, RL; Peak, KK; Veguilla, W; Cannons, AC; Amuso, PT; Cattani, J. (2006) Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Epidemic Clone USA300 in Isolates from Florida and Washington. *J. Clin Micro.* 44(1):225-6.

**Roberts, JC;** Cannons, AC; Amuso, PT; Cattani, J. (2006) Virtual Digest Identification of Secondary Enzymes for Use in Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis of *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J. Microbiol. Methods.* Aug.66(2):362-8.

**Roberts JC,** Gulino SP, Peak KK, Luna VA, Sanderson R (2008). Fatal necrotizing pneumonia due to a Pantone-Valentine leukocidin positive community-associated methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* and Influenza co-infection: a case report. *Ann Clin Microbiol Antimicrob.* 2008 Feb 19;7(1):5.

Veguilla, W; Peak, KK; Luna, VA; **Roberts, JC;** Davis, CR; Cannons, AC; Amuso, P; Cattani, J. (2009) Two-year study evaluating the potential loss of methicillin resistance in a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* culture collection. *J. Clin. Micro.* 46(10);3494-7.

Tatavarthy, A., Peak, K, Veguilla, W., Cutting, T., Harwood, V., **Roberts, J.,** Amuso, P., Cattani, J., Cannons, A. (2009) An Accelerated Method for Isolation of *Salmonella enteric*

Serotype Typhimurium from Artificially Contaminated Foods, Using a Short Preenrichment, Immunomagnetic Separation, and Xylose-Lysine-Desoxycholate Agar (6IX Method). *J. Food Protection* 72(3):583-590.

**Jill Roberts**, Lyudmila Trenochnikova, Lylah Seaton, Ami Patel, Colton Faza, Jacqueline Whitaker, Christen Mayer and Azliyati Azizan. (2013) Bacterial growth in media mimicking the high salt and alkalinity of extreme kazakhstan environments results in production of antimicrobial compounds in soil actinomycetes isolated from these extremophile locations. *J. Pharmaceutical Technology and Drug Research* 2(1).

**Jill Roberts** (2013) Community-associated Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Epidemic Clone USA100; more than a nosocomial pathogen. *SpringerPlus* 2:133.

Ronan K. Carroll, Whittney N. Burda, **Jill C. Roberts**, Kealy K. Peak, Andrew C. Cannons, Lindsey N. Shaw. (2013) Draft Genome Sequence of Strain CBD-635, a Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* USA100 Isolate. *GenomeA* V.1 (4)1.

**Jill C. Roberts** (2014) Classification of Epidemic Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* by Anatomical Site of Isolation. Biomed Research International. Vol. 2014 pages 1-6.

Wendy M. Swallow and **Jill C. Roberts** (2016) An Evidence-based Project Demonstrating Increased School Immunization Compliance Following a School Nurse Initiated Vaccine Compliance Strategy. *J. of School Nursing* Vol.32(6):385-389.

**Jill C. Roberts** (2017) Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Food Handler Immunization. *Food Protection Trends* (Accepted).

### **Peer-Reviewed Abstracts and Posters**

2005 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, June 4 – June 9<sup>th</sup> Atlanta, Georgia. Molecular Typing and Surveillance of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates Using Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis and Multilocus Sequence Typing. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup> K. K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2005 American Society for Microbiology, Southeastern Branch Annual Meeting, Clearwater, Florida, October 27-29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Molecular Typing and Surveillance of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates Using Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis and Multilocus Sequence Typing. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup> K. K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2006 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> Orlando, Florida. Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis, Multilocus Sequence Typing, and Staphylococcal

Protein A Gene Sequencing to Characterize Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2006 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> Orlando, Florida. Evaluation of MRSA Strains for Loss of *mecA* during Cryostorage in TSB with 10% Glycerol and in the Microbank(tm) Bacterial Preservation System. K. K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, V. A. Luna<sup>1</sup>, **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>;  
<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2006 – Delta Omega National Public Health Honor Society 2006 Poster Competition. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Use Of Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis To Determine The Prevalence Of Epidemic Clones Among Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Isolates. **J. Roberts**, R.L. Krueger, K.K. Peak, W. Veguilla, A. Cannons, P. Amuso, J. Cattani

First Coast Infectious Disease/Clinical Microbiology Symposium. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL Jan 26-27, 2007. Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis, Multilocus Sequence Typing, and Staphylococcal Protein A Gene Sequencing to Characterize Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. **J. Roberts**, A. Cannons, P. Amuso, J. Cattani

2007 American Society for Microbiology, General Meeting, May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> Toronto, ON, Canada. Sequence-Based Characterization of Community-acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolates is Often Unsuccessful Due to Limited Genetic Diversity Among the Strains. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2007 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> Toronto, ON, Canada. Progress Report on a Two Year Study of MRSA Strains for Loss of *mecA* during Cryostorage in TSB with 10% Glycerol and in the Microbank TM Bead-based Bacterial Preservation System. W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, K. K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, V. A. Luna<sup>1</sup>, **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>;  
<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2007 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> Toronto, ON, Canada. Rapid Identification of Hospital and Community Acquired MRSA Using Biophotometry. Y.M. Serebrennikova<sup>1</sup>, D.E. Huffman<sup>1</sup>, J.M. Smith<sup>1</sup>, **J. Roberts**<sup>2,3</sup>, L.H. Garcia-Rubio<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Claro Scientific, St. Petersburg, FL, <sup>2</sup>University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>3</sup>Center for Biological Defense, Tampa, FL.

2008 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, Boston, MA. Multilocus Sequence Typing for Characterization of *Salmonella* Strains Using a Unique

Combination of Housekeeping and Virulence Genes. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup>, A. Tatavarthy<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2008 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, Boston, MA. Accelerated Isolation of *Salmonella enterica* Serotype Typhimurium from Artificially Contaminated Foods, Using a Short Pre-Enrichment, Immunomagnetic Separation and Xylose Media (6IX method). A. Tatavarthy<sup>1</sup>, K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, T. Cutting<sup>1</sup>, W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, **Roberts, JC**<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>, P. T. Amuso<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Cattani<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, <sup>2</sup>Bureau of Laboratories, Florida Department of Health, Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL.

2009 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 17<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>, Philadelphia, PA. Characterization of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Epidemic Clone USA100 Isolates Identified Among Strains Collected for Community-associated *Staphylococcus* Studies. **J. C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup> K. K. Peak<sup>1</sup>, W. Veguilla, Jr<sup>1</sup>, A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2010 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>, San Diego, CA. Molecular Characterization of USA300 and USA400 Methicillin-Sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*. **J.C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup> and A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2011 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>, New Orleans, LA. Molecular Typing and Virulence Gene Analysis of USA100 Community-Associated *Staphylococcus aureus*. **J.C. Roberts**<sup>1</sup> and A. C. Cannons<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2013 American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>, Denver, CO. Antagonistic Activities of Extremophile Kazakhstan Extracts against Drug-Resistant Hospital-Associated Pathogens. M. Baksh, L. Trenzchnikova, S. Albert<sup>1</sup>, L. Seaton, A. Patel, C.Faza<sup>1</sup>, J. Whitaker, C. Mayer, **J. Roberts**, Y. Pathak, S. Zhou, L.Calcul, A. Azizan.

### **Research Presentations (not previously listed)**

2004 American Society for Microbiology, Southeastern Branch Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, Alabama, October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

2004 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Clearwater, Florida

2004 American Society for Microbiology, Southeastern Branch Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, Alabama, October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

2005 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Clearwater, Florida Using Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis to Track Epidemic Community-acquired *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolates.

2006 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Clearwater, Florida. Molecular Typing Methods – Dissertation Presentation.

2008 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Clearwater, Florida. Multilocus Sequence Typing for Characterization of *Salmonella* Strains Using a Unique Combination of Housekeeping and Virulence Genes.

2009 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Tampa, Florida. *Staphylococcus aureus* SCCmec Typing using the Bioplex.

2011 Annual Biodefense Researchers Consortium Meeting, Tampa, Florida. Molecular typing launching a *Staphylococcus aureus* database and an Assistant professor.

### **Invited Speaker**

Bay Area Infection Control Practitioners Meeting. St. Joseph Hospital, Tampa Florida, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. “Update on the Status of *S. aureus* Community-associated Infections in Florida.

Spring Lecture Series, Division of Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology, University of South Florida. February 1, 2008. “Characterization of Community-acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* by Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis, Multilocus Sequence Typing, and Staphylococcal Protein A Sequencing: Establishing a Strain Typing Database.”

2009 Biothreat Agent Workshop – Chapel Hill, NC. May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. “University of South Florida, Center for Biological Defense, Research and Training Capabilities.

2011 Tampa Fire Department – Tampa Florida, First Responders. Capacities of the University of South Florida’s Center for Biological Defense, laboratory update.

Toxicology Student Association – University of South Florida. 2015. “Your Food is Full of Toxins!?”

Toxicology Student Association – University of South Florida. 2016 “GMOs”

ERIC Seminar – University of South Florida. 2016. “Genetically Modified Organisms”.

WUSF – Television/Talk of the Town - Panel Discussion 2016. Genetically Modified Organisms.

### **Invited Chapter Reviews**

Infectious Diseases Affecting the Gastrointestinal Tract in Microbiology a Systems Approach by Majorie Kelly Cowan. McGraw Hill NY, New York 2012.

Infectious Diseases Affecting the Genitourinary Tract in Microbiology a Systems Approach by Majorie Kelly Cowan. McGraw Hill NY, New York 2012.

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## **FUNDED GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

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Principle Investigator: Metagenetic Analysis of Bacterial Communities Found on the Surface of Florida Produce of Major Economic Significance. USF College of Public Health Funded project. Funded: \$21,000, 2015-Present.

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Graduate Teaching History**

PHC 6515     Food Safety  
                 Offered Annually; Fall 2015 – Present

PHC 6520     Foodborne Diseases  
                 Offered Spring 2016

### **Undergraduate Teaching History**

HSC 4573     Foundations of Food Safety  
                 Offered Every Semester; 1998-2000, 2006-present

HUN 4932     Introduction to Food Safety  
                 Offered Every Semester; 2011-2013

BSC 1020     Biology of Humans  
                 Offered Every Semester; 2011-2014

MCB 1000     Microbiology  
                 Offered Every Semester; 2005-2011

MCB 1000L   Microbiology Laboratory  
                 Offered Every Semester; 2005-2011



HSC 4031 Emerging Infectious Diseases  
Offered Annually; 2009-2010

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## **STUDENT COMMITTEES AND MENTORSHIP**

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### **Doctoral Committee Member**

Shabnam Mehra, PhD candidate (committee member) 2015 - Present  
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health,  
USF Topic: *Asthma and air pollution*

Jeffrey Sumter, DrPH candidate (major professor) 2015 – present

Robert England, DrPH candidate (major professor) 2015 – present

Laike-Gebrel Abeba, PhD candidate (committee member) 2015 – present

Lindsay Blume, PhD candidate in Chemistry (committee member) 2016 – present

Mike Williams, PhD candidate in Chemistry (committee member) 2016 – present

Shabnam Mehra, PhD candidate (committee member) 2015 - present

### **Thesis Committee Member**

Kathleen Flickinger, MS candidate (committee member, co-PI), Graduated 2014  
Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology. Topic: *Infection and Cancer*.

### **MPH Special Project Advisor**

Aquila Sanders, Public Health Practice, Graduated 2015  
Topic: *Foodborne Illness and the Exposure to Foodborne Pathogens in Brevard County Public Schools*.

Ruchi Pancholy, Public Health Practice, Graduated 2015  
Topic: *Is South Brunswick Township New Jersey's Basic Food Safety Training Program Effective?*

Seemakumari Soni, Public Health Practice, in progress.  
Topic: *Public Health Practice: A Step Towards Improving Hand Hygiene Practice Among Health Care Professionals*.

### **Other Advising**

Prit Patel – Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Topic: *Handbook for Healthy Eating for Vegetarians/Vegans*. Graduated 2015

Kristina Harand – Teaching Assistant, Foundations of Food Safety – Fall 2015

Kristina Harand – Graduate Assistant, Laboratory – Spring 2016

Andrea Bernat – Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Topic: *Perceptions of Food Scientists*. In progress.