



## Note from the President

Jack Ross, MD, FACP, FIDSA, FSHEA

Members of the Connecticut Infectious Disease Society, and colleagues in the Infectious Disease community in Connecticut: Today, I am providing an update of society activities as your current President for 2019-2021.

The 37th CIDS annual conference took place on May 9, 2019 at the New Haven Lawn Club in New Haven, CT. We had excellent participation by ID providers across the spectrum of roles and geographic distribution in Connecticut as well as by the Department of Public Health. Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, the Deputy Commissioner for Disease Control in NYC, provided an enlightening and lively presentation on "Getting to Zero," a goal many of us could not have foreseen in 1981. His focus on the unifying themes of community, science, and politics (bureaucracy) will apply beyond HIV, and to issues facing ID providers longitudinally. Panel updates on tickborne and tropical diseases "coming soon to your practices" were reviewed by Drs. Peter Krause and Joseph Vinetz. We were reminded of new bugs, new drugs, and new diagnostics in antimicrobial stewardship by Drs. Joseph Kuti, PharmD, and Dr. Ann Fisher MD. Dr. Matthew Cartter's team provided telling updates on tuberculosis, Legionella, multidrug resistant bacteria, and Candida auris in Connecticut. Dr. Micheal Kozal provided an overview of new HIV therapeutics, and Dr. Maricar Malinis spoke to immunocompromised hosts in this new era of the expanding immunomodulator armamentarium.

An important role of society members is attracting students, residents and young investigators to our specialty. This commitment is reflected by the Young Investigator, Andriole, Thornton, and Friedland awards presented annually after the poster sessions at the meeting. This year's posters did not disappoint, with the winners noted elsewhere in your newsletter. Thank you to all who worked with students, residents and fellows, or took time to submit a poster of your own. The poster hall allowed leisurely interactions with industry sponsors, and undivided time to reconnect with colleagues from across the state, away from the often daily unexpected chaos!

On your behalf, I would like to thank several people for their service to you and welcome a new member of the Board of Directors. Lydia Aoun-Barakat MD completed her two-year term as your president, successfully improving the educational content of our website ([www.ctidsociety.org](http://www.ctidsociety.org)), fostered HIV training, and furthered HIV testing in Connecticut. Dr. Nicholas Bennett served on the Board of Directors, and acted as our legislative liaison-spokesperson, but has stepped down. We are recruiting a pediatric ID specialist to replace him. Dr. Charisse Mandimika, Infectious Disease Fellow at Yale University, has completed her two-year term, providing valuable input for the conference content with a fresh set of eyes. Kudos to Denise Tyrrell from the Connecticut State Medical Society – she works tirelessly for your society and is the glue for the annual conference. Our new member on the CIDS Executive Board is Dr. Sabina Zawadzka, Infectious Diseases Fellow at UConn; her presence will be very impactful I suspect.

Thank you to David Banach, Nick Bennett, Kevin Dieckhaus, Mike Simms, and many other members for providing guidance to their facilities, the press, and the legislature concerning the proposed law removing religious/personal exemptions to vaccination. Thank you to all for your ongoing work on COVID, demonstrating the value of ID specialists to the patients of Connecticut and to healthcare systems during pandemics.

Our 38th annual CIDS conference has been postponed from May until September 24, 2020. The Keynote lecture will address One World and Emerging Pandemics COVID-19. Based on your input and feedback, other topics will be "what's hot in HIV," antimicrobial stewardship update, genomics and impact on infectious diseases, and the value of the ID provider to the C Suite in the era of quality, bundled payments, and dwindling match results. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

If you have material or pictures about cutting edge programs, outreach efforts, or global endeavors that you would like to share with the CIDS membership or Connecticut ID community, please contact [CIDS@csms.org](mailto:CIDS@csms.org) or forward directly to Dr. Margaret Fikrig. Lastly, please encourage students, residents, and colleagues to join CIDS.

Jack



## BECOME A MEMBER

### Contact Us:

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### Website:

[www.CTIDSociety.org](http://www.CTIDSociety.org)

### NEW DATE – PLEASE NOTE:

**The 38th Annual Conference of the Connecticut Infectious Disease Society**

**Thursday, September 24, 2020**

**Courtyard Marriott Waterbury  
63 Grand St, Waterbury, CT**

## CIDS Board of Directors

Our Executive Board embraces Infectious Diseases specialists from around the state and represents a wide range of expertise.

### President

Jack Ross, MD  
Chief, Infectious Disease/Allergy  
Hartford Hospital

### Treasurer

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Margaret Fikrig, MD  
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Kevin Dieckhaus, MD, Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, UCONN Health  
Marjorie Golden, MD, Infectious Disease, Yale University School of Medicine  
Sabina Zawadzka, DO, ID Fellow, UConn School of Medicine

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## 2019 POSTER PRESENTATION WINNERS



Left to Right: Young Investigator Award – Krithika Srinivasan, MD, for Point Prevalence and Characteristics of In-House Antimicrobial Use in Nursing Homes, New Haven and Hartford Counties, CT 2017; Thornton Award for Clinical Research – Dana Pepe, MD, MPH, for Collaborative Investigation and Control of a Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) outbreak in an Acute Care Hospital; Andriole Award for Basic Research – Savannah Russ for Missed Opportunities for HPV Vaccination Among Vaccine-Eligible Women with High-Grade Cervical Lesions; Friedland Award for International Research – Onyema Ogbuagu, MD for Alarming High Rate of HIV Infection Identified by Testing and Prevention Opportunities: Observations from the Largest HIV Screening Program in Liberia (accepting the award was Lydia Barakat, MD with Gerald Friedland, MD)



**For the latest information, resources, and guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus)**

## CIDS Supports HB 5044 An Act Concerning Immunizations

HB 5044 will increase immunization rates in Connecticut by eliminating the religious exemption to vaccines for children attending school. Children in grades pre-K through 12 who currently have a religious exemption would be grandfathered in, and under certain circumstances the bill allows for certain health care providers to make medical judgments on conditions outside of CDC-specific medical exemptions.

At right, David Banach, MD, MPH, Vice President, represented the CT Infectious Disease Society and testified in Support of HB 5044 AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS. To read the testimony, [please click here](#).



**We invite you to send us "field notes" or photos highlighting your exceptional work locally or globally to include in our next newsletter edition.**

▶▶▶ **NEW DATE** ◀◀◀

**38th Annual Conference – Thursday, September 24, 2020**

**Courtyard Marriott, Waterbury**

**Register today at [www.ctidsociety.org](http://www.ctidsociety.org)**

## Become a Member of CIDS

We encourage you to become a member of CIDS. Being a member will provide you several advantages, including but not limited to: voting privileges, continuing medical education and state and federal advocacy. Our ability to host the annual conference relies on your generous support through your annual membership fee, so please join or renew soon.

**CIDS Membership Fee:** \$75

Please do not hesitate to contact us for feedback, questions, or comments at [cids@csms.org](mailto:cids@csms.org) – we like to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Fikrig, MD  
CIDS Newsletter Editor

Jack Ross, MD  
CIDS President

## Our Mission

CIDS is a local state organization that represents physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals in the discipline of Infectious Disease. The CIDS mission is to enhance the care of the CT community, promote knowledge and clinical expertise, advocate for scientific sound human public policy, and advance collaboration with other services and professional colleagues.