



## ASTMH Committee on Global Health (ACGH)

Official Subgroup of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

# ACGH Newsletter

March 2026 | Volume 11, Issue 1



Attendees of the 2025 ASTMH Annual Meeting at the ACGH Booth manned by Regional Representative Willy Lescano



The ASTMH Annual Meeting opening plenary session featured Native American dancing, drumming, and culture

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# ACGH Annual Business Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, the ASTMH Committee on Global Health (ACGH) held its Annual Business Meeting at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Canada. The meeting served as a pivotal moment to reflect on the year's accomplishments and to usher in new leadership with a vision for the future.

The session began with the President's Report for 2025, delivered by outgoing President Dr. Jennifer Downs. The report highlighted a year of significant activity and growth for ACGH, which now boasts 864 members from 71 countries. Key achievements included:



Incoming President Dr. Salihu  
and  
Outgoing President Dr. Downs

- **Financial Stewardship:** The committee maintained a solid financial position with restricted net assets of \$85,713, funding crucial initiatives such as research awards (\$2,000 each) and travel awards (\$950 value each to cover travel + registration to the Annual Meeting).
- **Strategic Execution:** Progress was made on the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, focusing on core pillars like Trailblazing, Information Sharing, Advocacy, and Member Support.
- **Enhanced Global Reach:** A major development was the establishment of a new Regional Representative structure, with leaders appointed across six global regions (Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific) to ensure deeper regional engagement.
- **Member-Centric Initiatives:** ACGH launched several regional webinars on topics like health system resilience and antimicrobial resistance, a WhatsApp community with nearly 500 members and regional subgroups, and targeted training sessions in response to member surveys, such as a grant-writing webinar and an interviewing practice session.
- **Annual Meeting Presence:** ACGH hosted well-attended symposia on Arctic climate change and advancing mRNA technologies in the Global South, alongside networking and career development events.

Following the President's Report, a ceremonial handover of the Presidency took place. Dr. Downs passed the leadership to the incoming President, Dr. Daniel Salihu. In his welcoming remarks and vision for the next year, Dr. Salihu expressed his honor and excitement to assume the role. He framed his presidency around the theme of "Consolidation of Gains and Forging Resilient Partnerships for an Equitable Future". He outlined a robust agenda built on four strategic pillars in line with the four key goals and objectives of the ACGH:

## ACGH Annual Business Meeting Summary

- Deepen and Decolonize Partnerships: Through a "Partnerships in Focus" initiative, including a listening tour with LMIC partners and a formal mentorship program.
- Champion the Next Generation: By increasing travel awards, hosting career development webinars, and creating tools for inclusive peer review.
- Bridge Evidence and Action: By forming a rapid-response policy group, organizing policy dialogues with major global health agencies, and hosting high-level symposia on topics like climate-resilient health systems and digital health.
- Enhance Communication and Engagement: By revitalizing digital presence, launching an ACGH blog, and holding quarterly town halls.

Dr. Salihu concluded by calling on the collective energy and collaboration of all ACGH members to achieve this vision, emphasizing that the work of the committee is more vital than ever in the face of global health challenges.

The formal meeting was then adjourned, making way for a reception where members networked and celebrated the 2025 award winners and the newly elected executive leadership, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose as ACGH looked ahead to a dynamic and impactful 2026.

### MEET THE ACGH PRESIDENT



**Daniel SD Salihu**  
**MD, MPH, PMP, PhD, FRSPH**

**ACGH President**  
**2025-26**



Dr. Daniel Salihu is a health systems strengthening professional and global health leader with over two decades of experience supporting governments, academia, and industry at global, regional, national, sub-national, and community levels. His work with international NGOs and United Nations agencies (WHO and UNICEF) spans more than 45 countries across West and Central, as well as East and Southern Africa.

He specializes in global health and nutrition project management, monitoring and evaluation, research and learning (MEL), disease surveillance and epidemiology, and health information and digital health systems. He is a globally certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a background in Computer Science. He holds an MD, Master's, and PhD in Public Health, as well as a postgraduate diploma in Data Science and Business Analytics from the McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin, USA.

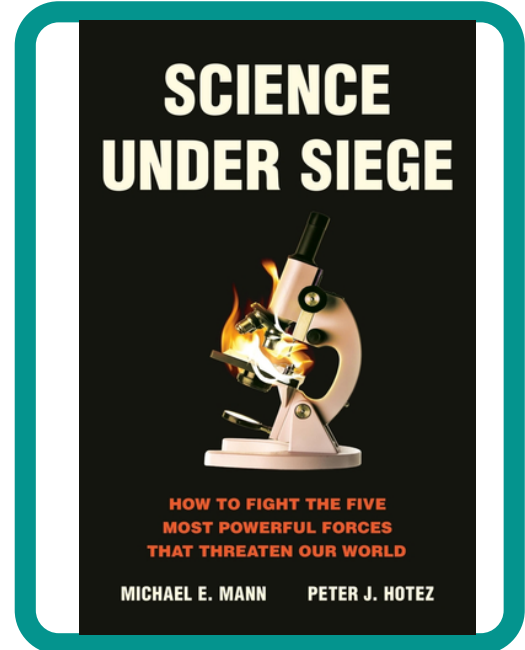
Dr. Salihu is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health (FRSPH), UK, and currently serves as the UNICEF Regional Digital Health Lead for East and Southern Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Thank You to our Donors

### Thank you to Peter Hotez for donating the ACGH Booth prize!

Our sincere gratitude goes to **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH**, of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine for contributing an autographed copy of his latest book as the ACGH booth prize.

Congratulations to **Melanie Etti** of the University of Oxford, who won the drawing for *Science Under Siege: How to Fight the Five Most Powerful Forces that Threaten Our World*, by Peter Hotez and Michael E. Mann.



We extend our sincere appreciation to our donors for their generous support of ACGH between 1 July and 31 December 2025. Your contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission to help sustain our programs, initiatives, and impact during this period. We are deeply grateful to:

**Paul Jordan Castro**  
**Latasha Allen**  
**Paula Carballo Jimenez**  
**Elizabeth Collins**

Please consider making a donation when **you** renew your ACGH membership.

**Thank you!**

# Photos from the 2025 ASTMH Annual Meeting



ASTMH Annual Meeting at Toronto Convention Centre



ACGH member and Regional Representative Muhammad Asaduzzaman



The ACGH Symposia were well attended



ASTMH Annual Meeting attendees



European Regional Representative Muhammad Asaduzzaman and outgoing President Jennifer Downs



Incoming Secretary/Treasurer Hunter Smith and winners of the ACGH Booth prize drawings

# Photos from the 2025 ASTMH Annual Meeting



Outgoing President Jennifer Downs and Communications, Advocacy & Policy Subcommittee member Elizabeth Collins



Eric Yin, ACGH Travel Award winner presents his research



Muhammad Asaduzzaman lectures during the ACGH Symposium on Arctic Climate Change



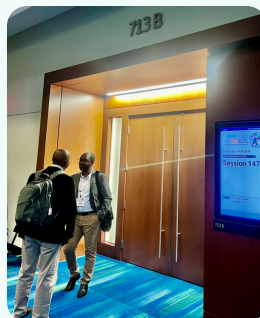
Attendees at the poster session



Senior members Willy Lescano, Elizabeth Collins, and Miguel Reina Ortiz mentor younger members during mock interviews for the ACGH Interviewing Practice for Global Health Careers session



ASTMH members ask questions after the ACGH Symposium



Former President Yazoumé Yé chats after the ACGH reception



Symposium guest lecturer Mercy Guech

# Photos from the 2025 ASTMH Annual Meeting



Travel Award winners Eric Yin, Nina Tang, and Manuela Carrasquilla, and other presenters receive ACGH water bottles from incoming President Daniel Salihu and outgoing President Jennifer Downs



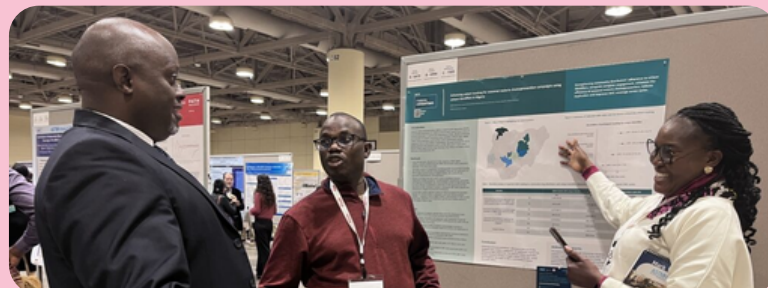
Dr. Desiree LaBeaud speaks about the ASTMH Green Task Force; Muhammad Asaduzzaman and James Colborn also speak at the ACGH Climate Change Symposium



Muhammad Asaduzzaman speaks at the ACGH Climate Change Symposium while speaker Desiree LaBeaud looks on



Travel Award winners Nina Tang and Manuela Carrasquilla, and other presenters speak while outgoing President Jennifer Downs, incoming President Daniel Salihu, and Councilor Maggie Silio listen



Interactive poster presentation

# Photos from the 2025 ASTMH Annual Meeting



ACGH members interact during the Networking and Lightening Presentations event



Elizabeth Collins, incoming President Daniel Salihu, outgoing President Jennifer Downs, and Americas Regional Representative Willy Lescano welcome all to the ACGH Booth



New ACGH Councilor Quique Bassat is named an ASTMH Distinguished International Fellow



The Fever Feud game show debuts at #TropMed25



ACGH Symposium speakers



Native Americans entertained and educated during the opening plenary session



ACGH Regional Representative Muhammad Asaduzzaman is now a member of the ASTMH Board

# ACGH AWARD RECIPIENTS



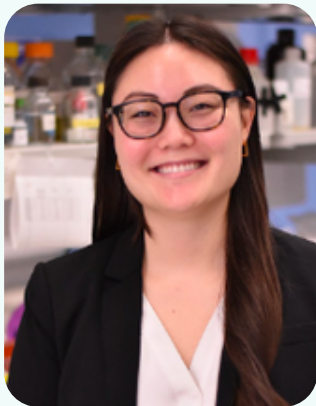
## TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS

### Manuela Carrasquilla

**Immunity and within-host clonal dynamics shape asymptomatic dry-season *Plasmodium falciparum* reservoir**

Manuela is a postdoc from Colombia who is currently working at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology (Germany). She studies host and parasite correlates of asymptomatic malaria during the dry season in Mali. She focuses on advancing global health, integrating genomic surveillance into sustained malaria control strategies and prioritizing capacity building in malaria-endemic regions.

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### Nina Tang

**Paradoxical effects of *Ascaris*-induced pyloric metaplasia: reducing *Ascaris* reinfection but creating *Helicobacter pylori* opportunity**

Nina is a third-year MD-PhD student at Baylor College of Medicine who has studied antibiotic resistance, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases during her training.

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### Eric Yin

**Modeling the impact of low-cost ventilation interventions on nosocomial respiratory infection risk in Liberian hospitals**

Eric is working towards his Master's degree in Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Stanford University, with a primary focus on the prevention of infectious diseases.



# ACGH AWARD RECIPIENTS



## RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

### **Feyisara Kehinde**

#### **Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Influencing the Incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in Two Hotspot Regions in Nigeria**

Feyisara is a Consultant Chest Physician at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital who will investigate knowledge, attitudes, and practice associated with transmission of TB, as well as assessing indoor CO<sub>2</sub> and PM2.5 levels in households and in shared indoor spaces to understand environmental conditions associated with intracommunity TB transmission.



### **Bukola Omena-Okpove**

#### **Characterization of Pathogens and Resistance Genes in Biodigester Effluent from Rural Nepal**

Bukola is a Master's of Environmental Sciences student at the University of Maryland who has a PhD in Environmental Microbiology. She will investigate the presence and diversity of antimicrobial resistance genes and zoonotic pathogens in effluent from small-scale biodigesters that are used in subsistence farming households to fertilize crops.

### **Mary Funmilayo Oni**

#### **Health Literacy and Adherence to Prenatal Medication Regimens among Pregnant Women at a Metropolitan State Hospital**

Oni is a Doctor of Pharmacy student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her project is a cross-sectional study that addresses critical maternal health gaps by examining how health literacy influences prenatal medication adherence in underserved Nigerian populations.



**MEET THE ACGH LEADERSHIP  
FOR 2025- 2026**

**Past-President**



**Jennifer Downs**

**President**



**Daniel Salihu**

**President-Elect**



**Achama Eluwa**

**Secretary/Treasurer**



**Hunter Smith**

**Councilor**



**Shabina Ariff**

**Councilor**



**Margarita Silio**

**Councilor**



**Quique Bassat**

**Councilor**



**Grace Murilla**

**Councilor for Trainees**



**Kathleen Condon**

## Announcements: Recent Highlights & Upcoming Opportunities

**ACGH Webinar was presented on March 19**

### **Climate Change and Health in Latin American and the Caribbean**

**Low and middle income regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean suffer a disproportionate burden of the impacts of climate change. The Lancet Countdown reports provide the evidence base needed for a comprehensive, coordinated response.**

#### **Speakers**

##### **Dr. Heather Harewood**

Lecturer in Public Health & Epidemiology and Head of Public Health Group, The Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Barbados, W.I.

##### **Stella M. Hartinger, PhD, MPH**

Director, The Lancet Countdown Latin America for Climate Change and Health, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru

##### **Georgiana Gordon-Strachan PhD, MPH**

Director, The Lancet Countdown Small Island Developing States for Climate Change and Health, University of West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica


#### **Chair**

##### **Andres G. Lescano, PhD, MHS**

Associate Professor, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru

**This webinar was recorded and is available to ASTMH members on [GoTropMed](#).**

#### **Apply for an ASTMH Travel Award by April 1**

Apply for a Travel Award to cover expenses to attend the 2026 ASTMH Annual Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland USA (adjacent to Washington, DC). To successfully apply by the April 1 deadline, start by reviewing the criteria and application guidelines. [CLICK HERE](#) 

#### **Apply for an ACGH Travel Award by April 6**

You can win a \$750 ACGH Travel Award plus free registration (\$950 total value) for the 2026 ASTMH Annual Meeting.

Have you completed an application yet? [CLICK HERE](#) 

**Good luck!**



Photo: ACGH President-Elect Achama Eluwa

## **ACGH Communications, Advocacy & Policy (CAP) Subcommittee Newsletter Team**

- Mary Funmilayo Oni, Pharm.D – CAP Chair
- Elizabeth Collins, MD, MPH, DTM – Sr. Newsletter Editor
- David Oluwatimilehin Adetula, BSc., BDS, – Newsletter Editor
- Maggie Silio, MD – ACGH Executive Committee Liaison
- Hidenori Takahashi, PhD – Regional Representative, Western Pacific
- Adamu Addissie, MD, PhD, MPH – CAP Past-Chair
- Jolly Thomas – Member