



Joint Fall Meeting
CAFPA/ASM Washington, D.C. Branch

October 23, 2026

Howard University



Start	End	Description
9:00 am	9:45 am	Check-In
10:00 am	10:05 am	<i>Opening remarks & Announcements</i> Bob Ferguson <i>CAFPA president</i>
Morning Session – Dealing with Cyclospora		
10:05 am	10:45 am	Dr. Conrad Choiniere Director, Office of Microbiological Food Safety, FDA Human Foods Program 10:35 am – 10:45 am – Questions for the speaker
10:45 am	11:00 am	Coffee and Tea break
11:00 am	11:45 am	Dr. Kalmia “Kali” Kniel University of Delaware, Department of Animal and Food Sciences 11:35 am – 11:45 am – Questions for the speaker
11:45 am	12:30 pm	Dr. Manan Sharma President, International Association for Food Protection, Former Research Microbiologist @ USDA, Senior Director, Produce and Food Safety at The Acheson Group 12:20 pm – 12:30 pm – Questions for the speaker
12:30 pm	1:30 pm	Lunch and “Meet the Speaker”
1:30 pm	1:35 pm	Group photo
1:35 pm	1:40 pm	Michael Lerman – ASM Journals
Afternoon Session – Lightning talks and Early career talks		
1:40 pm	2:35 pm	Lightning talks and Early career talks 1:40 pm – 1:55 pm – Pia Sen - Viruses Drive Microbial Evolution in Antarctic Desert Soils 1:55 pm – 2:10 pm – Jiarong Guo - Mobile Genetic Elements Shape Microbial Diversity and Functions in Thawing Permafrost Soils 2:10 pm – 2:15 pm – Lucy Peterson - Resilience in Space: Exploring the Impacts of Spaceflight on Biofilms Through Open-Access Data 2:15 pm – 2:20 pm – Cassidy Alspaugh - Characterizing the Regulation of Phosphate Homeostasis by Inositol Pyrophosphates 2:20 pm – 2:25 pm – Shyama Malika Malwalage - AI-Driven Computational Docking Predicts Procaine Hydrochloride Interactions with the Nucleotide-Binding Site of Cyanobacterial ATP Synthase 2:25 pm – 2:35 pm– Questions for speakers
2:35 pm	2:45 pm	Break

2:45 pm	3:45	Lightning talks and Early career talks 2:45 pm – 2:50 pm - Kennedy Ross - Dose-Dependent Effects of Procaine Hydrochloride on Growth and Pigment Production in a Model Cyanobacterium 2:50 pm – 2:55 pm - Hemayet Ullah - Rapid Detection of Active Coronavirus Infection by Lateral Flow Test Strips: A New Approach to Distinguish Replicating Viruses from Non-Replicating Viruses 2:55 pm – 3:00 pm - Amaya Calloway - Oligonucleotide Targeting of the Indispensable 5'-PolyU Tract in the Coronavirus Antigenome as a Variant-Proof Antiviral Strategy: Proof-of-Concept Against Mouse Coronavirus 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – Bernadette A. Hritz - Characterizing <i>Aeromonas caviae</i>-specific Type II Secretion System Protein, exeD, and the Understudied Type II Secretion System of Human-derived <i>A. caviae</i> 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm - Imaan Muhammad - Hepatitis C Virus Remodels Lipid Droplets to Promote Mitochondrial Fatty Acid Accumulation and Metabolic Activation 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm – Questions for speakers
3:45 pm	4:00 pm	Closing remarks Dr. Karl Thompson <i>ASM President</i>