

SCASM's Janet Hindler Professional Development GRANT SCASM Annual Meeting October 22-23, 2021

If you have been working as a clinical laboratory scientist (CLS) or public health microbiologist for less than 2 years and would like to attend the 2021 Southern CA American Society for Microbiology (SCASM) Annual Meeting, **you** may be eligible for a scholarship that covers full registration, plus one-night (Friday, October 22, 2021) accommodations at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine. During the meeting, you will interact with a pre-assigned mentor, visit industry-sponsored exhibits featuring the latest technological advances, have the opportunity to network with other new and "seasoned" microbiologists and learn more about the profession of microbiology.

Please visit www.scasm.org to find out more about SCASM, join as a member, and review the content of our 2021 program.

Rise of the Microbes: Facing the Future Together

It's simple to apply – send the following to susan.m.vergara@kp.org as soon as possible, but no later than **Thursday, September 30, 2021**.

1. Your name, address, telephone number, email address, and **SCASM membership number**. *You must be a SCASM member to be eligible.*
2. Educational background (post high school) and years of graduation.
3. Employer and employment dates as a CLS or public health microbiologist (must confirm that you are a "new" clinical laboratory scientist or public health microbiologist).
4. A brief summary (~100 words) explaining why you should be given a scholarship to attend the meeting.
5. Confirmation that if selected as a scholarship awardee, **you will attend Friday and Saturday AM and PM Sessions**, October 22-23, 2021. *Prior to submitting your application, make sure that time off (Friday and Saturday) will be approved by your employer.*
6. Confirmation that if selected as a scholarship awardee, **you will provide a brief summary (~100 words) of your experiences to SCASM by November 19, 2021**.



Successful applicants will be notified of their scholarship award by email on **October 5, 2021** and will be provided with instructions for registering for the meeting. If you have any questions, please email them to susan.m.vergara@kp.org.

Testimonials from our Previous Scholarship Awardees:

- "The highlight of the meeting was seeing microbiologist from different fields and backgrounds come together to share valuable skills, learn from each other, and have fun in the process". – **Shayra D. Sanchez**, *LA County Public Health Laboratory*
- "The vendor booths were nice because I was able to discuss with them about current testing techniques that we use here at the public health laboratory to learn more about how it works." – **Karen Nguyen**, *Orange County Public Health Laboratory*
- "The mentoring aspect of this meeting was very valuable to me. I enjoyed the opportunity I had to discuss the different career opportunities for CLS in microbiology with my mentor." – **Karina Hernandez**, *Adventist Health White Memorial*
- "The most enriching part of the experience was the time spent listening to the talks from the various experts, ranging from pharmacists to physicians." – **Janeen Mughrabi**, *Loma Linda University Medical Center*
- "To meet, learn, and network with educators, practitioners, and scientific professionals, who share a vested interest in improving the quality of healthcare and who are in pursuit of solutions to address complex problems faced in the field of clinical microbiology, was a worthwhile experience that I hope to carry forward as a CLS." – **Michelle Hoang**, *LAC+USC Medical Center*
- "SCASM was a great experience for me. I was able to learn more about different careers in microbiology that were not just public health based." – **Anthony Aziz**, *San Diego County Public Health Laboratory*
- "It was indeed an eye-opening opportunity to see how much more my career as a microbiologist can grow." – **Dennis Garcia**, *LAC+USC Medical Center*

Please share this with your "new technologist" colleagues!