

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information for the opportunity to attend the 2011 American Society for Clinical Pathology meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was selected to present a poster presentation titled, “SME Carbapenemases – An Emerging Threat?” The poster session was an amazing opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities within the microbiology community.

The highlight of the meeting was attending the evening session with keynote speaker Bill Clinton, who is currently heading and working with the William J. Clinton Foundation to address challenges in health care internationally. The Clinton Health Access Initiative is helping to turn the tide on the HIV/AIDS pandemic by working with governments and other partners to increase the availability of high-quality AIDS care and treatment for people in need, lower the cost of essential tests and treatments, and strengthen health systems in the developing world. Additionally, the Clinton Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a partnership between the Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association, is dedicated to ending the increase in childhood obesity and helping all kids and their families lead healthy, active lives. This session highlighted the opportunity that we, as pathologists, have to affect the world in a positive manner. It inspired me to think outside of my institution and residency program and reinforced the importance of collaboration as it relates to improving health care in the United States and globally.

I truly appreciate being able to attend this meeting. I returned not only with a greater understanding of the challenges we face as pathologists, but also the challenges we face as a health care collaborative. I would not have been able to attend this conference without the travel grant from ICPI.

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