

## WILKINSON LABORATORY ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM

Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 214 Moulton Hall, Illinois State University

8:00-8:10 Dr. Craig Gatto, Director, School of Biological Sciences  
Welcome

8:10-8:15 Dr. Brian J. Wilkinson, Research Professor of Microbiology  
Greetings

### Theme 1. The Staphylococcal Cell Surface, Host Interactions and Staphylococcal Biology

8:15-8:30 Brian F. King, MS 1981, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Sciences, Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
Director of Neuroradiology and Spinal Intervention  
Resolution Advanced Imaging Center and Surgical Center, Santa Monica, CA  
“From North Central Illinois farm boy to radiologist to the stars”

8:30-8:45 Suranjana Sen, PhD 2016  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Loyola University  
“Impact of host environment on *S. aureus* fatty acid composition”

### Theme 2. Staphylococcal Stress Biology

8:45-9:00 David W. Smiley, MS 1981  
Certified Financial Planner, Durango, CO.  
“From the corn fields of Illinois to the mountains of Durango, Colorado: How I spent 27 years in Biotech and transitioned to financial planning”

9:00-9:15 James E. Graham, MS 1988, PhD  
Associate Professor of Microbiology, University of Louisville  
“The importance of staying slightly underemployed”

9:15-9:30 David E. Townsend, PhD 1992  
Director of Research and Development and Operations, Idexx Laboratories, Portland, ME  
“Going over to the ‘dark side’. From Brian’s lab to Corporate America”

9:30-9:45 Anisa Kaenjok, PhD 1993  
Faculty Member, University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
“From *S. aureus* to HSV and life along the way”

9:45-10:00 Sarah Scybert, MS 2003  
Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care, Regional Sales Director IL, IA, MO, KS, AZ.  
Bloomington, IL  
“The gift of advocacy”

### Theme 3. *Listeria monocytogenes* Psychrotolerance

10-10:15 Elizabeth Cannon, MS 1999  
Retired from the EPA, Scientist and Enforcement Officer  
“So many polluters, so little time”

10:15-10:30 Michelle Edgcomb, MS 2000  
Faculty, Bradley University  
“From *Listeria* to literacy: How the Morse-Wilkinson collaboration sparked scientific curiosity across the generations”

10:30-10:45 Reef Morse, Collaborator  
Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, Illinois State University  
“Exciting middle and high school students about science – how the SMART center does it”

10:45-11:00 Siqing Liu, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Molecular Biologist, NCAUR, USDA, Peoria  
“From low temperature growth to butanol tolerance”

11:00-11-15 Dustin Carnahan, MS 2003  
Food Scientist, Bentonville, AR  
“From product development to product safety: Adventures in the food industry”

11:15-11:30 Lance Bigelow, MS 2004  
Abbvie, Scientist-Protein Crystallization  
“Successful determination of natural product target ZmbA using crystallization salvage pathways”

11:30-11:45 Mudcharee Julotok, PhD 2008  
Research Scientist, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand  
“Text to translation: Therapeutic protein production in a developing country”

11:45-12:00 Keith King, MS 2011  
Instructor, Illinois Valley Community College  
“Getting lost on the way to pharmacy school”

12:00-2:00  
Lunch off campus

#### Theme 4. Staphylococcal Antibiotic Action and Resistance

2:00-2:15 M. Walid Qoronfleh, MS 1984, PhD  
Director of Healthcare research and Policy, Qatar Foundation, Qatar  
“She blinded me with science: sex, lies and videotape – the journey”

2:15-2:30 John E. Gustafson, MS 1990, PhD  
Chair, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Oklahoma State University  
“Re-engaging the research efforts of a past Wilkinson laboratory: still enjoying my time there”

2:30-2:45 Richard F. Pfeltz, PhD 1999  
Staff Scientist, Microbiology Research and development, Becton Dickinson, Baltimore, MD  
“Selling out to the Fortune 500”

2:45-3:00 Jen Schmidt, PhD 2002

Associate Professor and Chair, Biology Department, St. Vincent University

“Bacterial are SO cool: warping the minds of the next generation”

3:00-3:15 Vineet Singh, Postdoctoral Fellow 2002

Professor of Microbiology, A.T. Still School of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, MO

“TRAP, CRAP and then what?”

3:15-3:30 Arun Muthaiyan, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2006

Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico, Gallup

“The journey from ISU on Route 66”

3:30-3:45 Atul Singh, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2010

Corporate regulatory Affairs Director, JemPak GK, Toronto, Canada

“From bacterial complexity to human simplicity”

3:45-4:00 Yang Song, PhD 2012

Bioinformatics Analyst II, Institute of Genome Science, University of Maryland Medical School

“From microbiology maven to math/big data maven”

4:00-4:30 Brian J. Wilkinson

“The summing up”