

First and most importantly, we hope that all of you are well and successfully managing your lives during this pandemic. Secondly, thank you for being patient with us as we navigated through details for continuing to host the annual meeting of the Oral Immunology/Microbiology Research Group (OIMRG), aka the [Mark Wilson Conference](#) (MWC). We are excited to announce that the MWC will be held in a **virtual format** on **February 10 & 11, 2021!** This is not simply a Zoom-like meeting but will utilize a professionally designed format which will allow extensive interactions among the attendees. For example, it will allow each attendee to view the presentations, ask questions/add comments in real time, communicate freely with fellow attendees, “sit” at a specific seat in the “room” and allow us to hold a highly interactive and versatile “mixer” in lieu of the banquet.

The conference will continue to focus on the **pathogenic strategies** and **molecular interactions** of oral microbiota, the **host response to oral bacteria** and **translational oral medicine**. The conference will bring together experts from a wide array of academic and corporate research groups to explore the newest discoveries in oral infectious diseases including the systemic diseases for which the oral microflora play a role.

Our [Invited Speakers](#), Lauren Bakaletz and Hyun “Michel” Koo are both prominent researchers. Dr. Bakaletz is a College of Medicine Distinguished Professor and the Director of the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis at The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at The Ohio State University. She will speak on DNABII protein-targeted therapeutic and prevention approaches for biofilm diseases. Dr. Koo is a Professor of Orthodontics and Director of the Center for Innovation and Precision Dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania who will speak on the form and function of oral biofilms in relation to spatial design.

We will also be featuring you! As always, the conference will also include presentations by members of the OIMRG and subsequent opportunities for in-depth discussion of the topics presented by our attendees.

Sincerely,

Ann Progulske-Fox

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