

December 2018

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES & GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH



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## Achievements:

### Clinical and Translational Fungal Research—Working Group

Invasive fungal infections are an increasing threat for immunocompromised individuals and associated with devastating morbidity and mortality. Clinicians and Researchers at UCSD have come together and founded the multidisciplinary Clinical and Translational Fungal Research - Working Group (CTFR-WG). The CTFR is dedicated to advancing the understanding, diagnostics and management of invasive fungal infections. In 2018, the working group completed two studies on point-of-care diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis, and on impact of combination antifungal therapy on survival in rare mold infections, and was very active in disseminating their research findings in a total of 8 Pub Med listed publications.

\*For more information, please contact Drs. [Martin Hoenigl](#) and [Jeffrey Jenks](#).

### HIV Prevention Campaign



“UC San Diego is offering free combined testing for HIV and five sexually transmitted diseases at a newly remodeled clinic at University Ave. and Park Blvd.

The AntiViral Research Center is especially trying to reach out to young gay men under 24. Researchers say this group is the most at risk for getting infected. And while HIV rates are down nationally, infection rates are up among certain groups, like gay Hispanic males.

"Anyone can come here to get tested, but the goal is to test at risk and high-risk individuals, particularly gay and bisexual Hispanic individuals. It is in that population that we're seeing an increasing number of infection both nationally and in San Diego," said Dr. Susan Little from UC San Diego Health."

Read more about this [HERE](#).

\*Photo credit: PRIYA SRIDHAR\*

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## **Welcome to the Family!**



Meredith Lococo, our Infectious Diseases Fellowship Coordinator, had her baby this week! Margaret Elle Lococo was born on December 17th—Mom and baby are in great health. Margaret and her big sister June are ready for the holidays! Welcome to the family!

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## **ID/GPH In the News:**

### **[Intricacies in law surrounding overdose death prosecutions compiled in new playbook for defense attorneys](#)**

“The rise in these cases is spurred on by the real need in communities looking for decisive action to address the crisis,” said Leo Beletsky, a professor of law and health sciences at Northeastern in Boston, as well as an adjunct professor at University of California San Diego.

### **[UC San Diego AntiViral Research Center Launches New HIV Prevention Campaign](#)**

UC San Diego is offering free combined testing for HIV and five sexually transmitted diseases at a newly remodeled clinic at University Ave. and Park Blvd...

### **[Substance use does not lower adherence to PrEP in MSM](#)**

Study findings showed that substance use does not affect adherence to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, among men who have sex with men or transgender women.

### **[UCSD Epidemiologist Named to TIME’s 50 Most Influential People in Health Care](#)**

TIME magazine named, Steffanie Strathdee, PhD, associate dean of global health sciences at University of California San Diego School of Medicine, one of the 50 Most Influential People in Health Care for 2018...

### **[Charging ‘Dealers’ with Homicide: Explained](#)**

The disparate impact of drug-induced homicide laws on people of color is a reminder that despite the newfound compassion, American drug policy still punishes people with substance use disorder.

### **[Indiana HIV outbreak among drug users may have been avoidable](#)**

A year-long HIV outbreak among intravenous (IV) drug users in Indiana might have been avoided if the state’s top medical and political leaders had acted sooner on early warnings...

### **[HIV+ volunteers are bequeathing their organs to a new project](#)**

Much of the medical research conducted on HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, looks at patients’ blood. This is no surprise. Blood is both easy to collect and easy to preserve...

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If you have any updates or requests for future newsletters, please send an email to **Mayra V Miller** at [mvmiller@ucsd.edu](mailto:mvmiller@ucsd.edu). Thank you!