



Dear Colleagues,

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to serve as the president of MSGERC for 2024-2026. One would agree that this is an exciting moment for our illustrious society. As our organization commemorates its 10th anniversary, this is a pivotal crossroad to reflect on our past and celebrate the prior leaders who have contributed to making MSGERC what it is today.

MSGERC has experienced a “renaissance” in all mission areas of education, research, scholarship and patient advocacy, and I am convinced it is destined to soar even higher and become more influential than ever, in view of the continuous expansion of immunocompromised patients. In a National Health Interview Survey in USA (JAMA 2013), 3% of US adults self-reported that were immunosuppressed. Furthermore, new immunosuppressive and/or immunomodulating drugs have been constantly developed and their use expanded beyond the traditional areas of oncology, transplantation, and rheumatology, into fields like aging, metabolic disorders, and neurology. The avalanche of mega-data and genomic profiling, microbiome/mycobiome and personalized risk assessment, contributions of fungi to tumorigenesis, post viral induced impairments with fungal immunity (as the COVID19 epidemic taught us), and the revolution of biomaterial research all create great areas of research, education, and discussion in our field. This excitement is amplified by the introduction of several very promising new antifungals and great strides in fungal diagnostics and immunotherapeutic strategies, that seek to address major changes in the epidemiology of invasive fungal infections, including the ever-evolving antifungal resistance.

MSGERC is already considered a major, if not the premiere, think tank in translational and clinical mycology, advocacy and awareness, the latter been an impediment in assuring that fungal disease gets the appropriate attention by the funding agencies, media, and the public. In the next 2 of years, I will work feverishly to further increase the “buzz” about our society through efforts to increase our membership and thoughtful interactions with other relevant in scope societies in US and beyond, so our footprint as an organization reaches new heights. As our impact has risen beyond traditional clinical, epidemiological, and diagnostic trials, our evolution needs to continue and further accelerate. Central to this need is the infusion of new talent to the organization. Thus, I will work with zeal on creating new opportunities for mentorship and leadership for our members of the “Early Career MSGERC” committee and volunteering opportunities through task forces/interest groups, so the next generation of medical mycologists shapes the agenda and the future of our organization. There has never been a time more exciting to be a member of the MSGERC.

I provide a link of my president’s acceptance talk entitled “[The Future of MSGERC](#)” where I lay my thoughts about where we are as a society and things I hope to be able to work on. I am open to any suggestions by *all* members on how to improve *our* MSGERC and how to work together to flourish!

With gratitude,

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