

# 2025 MIDWEST AMD SYMPOSIUM

*Agenda*



**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21-22**

MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories

3350 N Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, Michigan

# 2025 MIDWEST AMD SYMPOSIUM

*Pulling back the curtain: Exploring the inner workings of genomics workflows in public health*



## SESSION ONE - SETTING THE STAGE

10/21/2025

8:00am

*Arrival & breakfast*

8:15am

Welcome & introductions

**Heather Blankenship, PhD**  
**Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH**  
**Macy Pell, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

8:45am

*Networking activity*

9:15am

Session 1 introduction

**Macy Pell, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

9:30am

Introduction to clinical laboratory regulations

**Marty Soehnlen, PhD, MPH, PHLD(ABB)**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

9:50am

Validating genomics workflows

**Logan Fink, MS**

*Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services*

10:30am

*Refreshment break*

10:45am

Panel discussion:  
*Exploring different takes on genomics validations*

**Heather Blankenship, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

**Logan Fink, MS**

*Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services*

**Jared Johnson, PhD, MSc**

*Washington State Public Health Laboratory*

12:15pm

*Lunch break*

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## SESSION TWO - BIOINFORMATICS BEHIND THE SCENES 10/21/2025

1:15pm	Session 2 introduction	<b>Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
1:30pm	Bioinformatics beyond the pipeline	<b>John Chodkowski, PhD</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
2:10pm	Building adaptable pipelines through modularization	<b>Karla Vasco, DVM, PhD, MSc</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
2:30pm	Refreshment break	
2:45pm	<u>Interactive activity:</u> Selecting bioinformatic tools for public health	<b>Jared Johnson, PhD, MSc</b> <i>Washington State Public Health Laboratory</i>
4:15pm	Wrap-up & conclusions	<b>Heather Blankenship, PhD</b> <b>Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH</b> <b>Macy Pell, PhD</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
4:30pm	Day 1 concludes	
5:30-7:30pm	Evening networking social (optional) <i>Horrocks Farm Market &amp; Beer Garden</i> 7420 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917	

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## SESSION THREE - AMD IN THE LIMELIGHT

10/22/2025

8:00am	Arrival & breakfast	
8:30am	Session 3 introduction	<b>Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
8:45am	<u>Interactive activity:</u> Interpreting genetic relatedness through different lenses	<b>Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH</b> <b>Azam Ali Sher, DVM, MPH, PhD</b> <b>Karla Vasco, DVM, PhD, MSc</b> <i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>
10:15am	Refreshment break	
10:30am	<u>Case study:</u> Hepatitis C virus	<b>Scott Pritchard, MPH</b> <i>Florida Department of Health</i>
11:00am	<u>Case study:</u> Healthcare associated infections	<b>Brendan Jamieson, BS, MPH</b> <i>Virginia Department of Health</i>
11:30am	<u>Case study:</u> H5N1 Influenza virus	<b>Alli Black, MS, PhD</b> <i>Washington State Department of Health</i>
12:00pm	Lunch break	

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## SESSION FOUR - THE SHOW MUST GO ON

10/22/2025

1:00pm

Session 4 introduction

**Macy Pell, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

1:15pm

Panel discussion:  
Diverse perspectives on  
structuring collaborative  
AMD programs

**Sara McNamara, MPH, MLS(ASCP), CIC**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

**Alli Black, MS, PhD**

*Washington State Department of Health*

**Karim George, BS, M(ASCP)CM**

*Kentucky Department for Public Health*

**Wolfgang Haas, MS, PhD**

*New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center*

2:30pm

*Refreshment break*

2:45pm

Group discussion:  
Identifying solutions to  
common AMD challenges

**Macy Pell, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

3:45pm

Conclusions &  
acknowledgements

**Heather Blankenship, PhD**

**Arianna Miles-Jay, PhD, MPH**

**Macy Pell, PhD**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

4:00pm

*Symposium concludes*