



WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL

**MICROBES
AND
SOCIAL EQUITY
VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**

June 14 – 18, 2021

13:00 ~ 16:30 EST

BEGIN WITH GRATITUDE

This meeting is sponsored by:



**the
Microbes
and
Social Equity
working group**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Institute of Medicine
Advancing Health and Wellbeing

M A I N E

EPSCoR



ADDITIONAL MSE INITIATIVES



the Microbes and Social Equity working group

- Professional development
- Curricula development
- Journal special collection
- Speaker series (past, spring 2021)
 - Recordings available online

Information and email updates: <https://sueishaqlab.org/microbes-and-social-equity-working-group/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MicrobesSocialEquity>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MicroSocEquity>

MEETING ORGANIZATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Planning committee:

Sue Ishaq, PhD, University of Maine

Emily Wissel, Emory University

Laura Grieneisen, PhD University of
Minnesota

Patricia G. Wolf, PhD, RDN, University of
Illinois at Chicago

Mike Friedman, PhD

Gwynne Mhuireach, PhD, University of Oregon

Anne Lichtenwalner, PhD, DVM, University of
Maine

Cecile Ferguson, UMaine Institute of Medicine

Section moderators:

Mike Friedman, PhD

Sue Ishaq, PhD, University of Maine

Laura Grieneisen, PhD, University of Minnesota

Gwynne Mhuireach, PhD, University of Oregon

Patricia G. Wolf, PhD, RDN, University of Illinois
at Chicago

Emily Wissel, Emory University

Session support:

Myra Arshad, Stonybrook College, UMaine

Rebecca French, UMaine

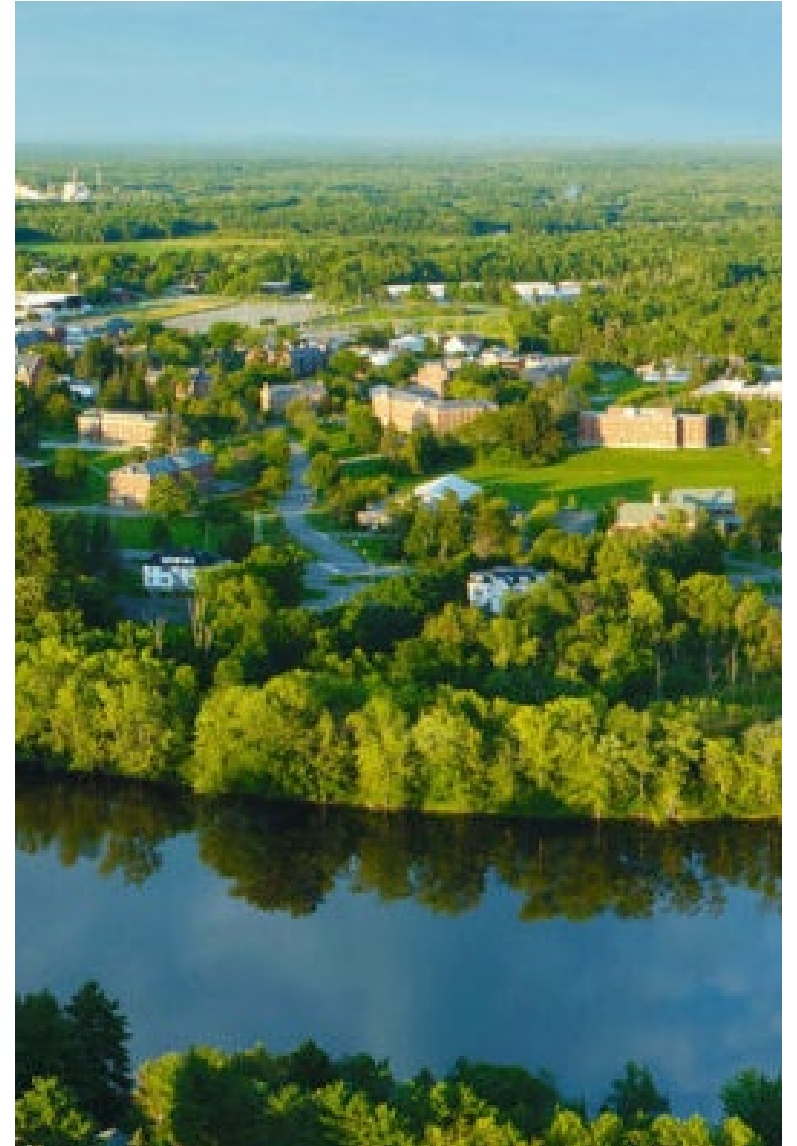
Sarah Hosler, UMaine

Joe Balkan, Tufts University, UMaine

Erin Eggleston, PhD, Middlebury College

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- The University of Maine recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, where issues of water and territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.
 - <https://umaine.edu/about/university-of-maine-land-acknowledgement/>



LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Labor Acknowledgement | We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their ascendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking of their people, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and their sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the tremors of that violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact that can still be felt and witnessed today.”

- Dr. Terah 'TJ' Stewart, Iowa State University

Used with encouragement: <https://diverseeducation.com/article/206161/>



WHAT DO MICROBES HAVE TO DO WITH SOCIAL EQUITY?

Microorganisms are critical to many aspects of biological life, including human health. The human body is a veritable universe for microorganisms: some pass through but once, some are frequent tourists, and some spend their entire existence in the confines of our body tissues.

The collective microbial community, our microbiome, can be impacted by the details of our lifestyle, including diet, hygiene, environmental interaction, health status, and more, but many of these lifestyle details are driven by social, economic, medical, or political constraints that restrict our available choices that may impact our health.

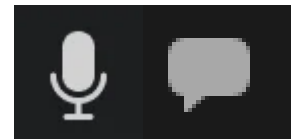
This meeting highlights recent investigations into beneficial and detrimental instances of microbial exposure, in the context of how social policy may mediate or deepen disparities between and within populations.

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS

- June 14: “Biopolitics and the human microbiota”
- June 15: “Nutrition and the gut microbiome”
- June 16: “Natural resources and access to environmental microbes”
- June 17: “Social and Environmental Stress”
- June 18: “Access to healthcare and the microbiome”
- Program details and free registration: tinyurl.com/mse-symposia

MEETING DYNAMICS

Time	Item
13:00 – 13:15 EST	Introduction to meeting, and topic and speakers
13:15 – 14:45 EST	Expert speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few minutes for questions after each talk
14:45 – 15:00 EST	Break
15:00 – 16:30 EST	Breakout room discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Featuring speakers, MSE members, and attendees• Chance to ask questions• Facilitate conversations and brainstorming• More info will be provided after the break



BREAKOUT ROOM TOPICS JUN 18

1. **“Integrate equity in health research - Ishaq”**

1. Sue Ishaq (MSE, lead)

2. **“Public breastfeeding support - Donovan”**

1. Dr. Sharon Donovan (speaker, lead)
2. Emily Wissel (MSE, co-lead, note taker)
3. Access to breastfeeding support at work/in public and how to implement that infrastructure

3. **“Race doesn’t equate microbiome- Daniel”**

1. Dr. Gaea Daniel (speaker, lead)
2. Patricia Wolf
3. Color of my skin does not predict bacteria in my vagina!!!



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