What is a Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

• A laboratory that provides clinical microbiology services:
  – Bacteriology
  – Mycobacteriology
  – Mycology
  – Parasitology
  – Virology
  – Infectious Disease Serology
  – Antimicrobial susceptibility testing
  – Molecular microbiology

• Includes technologists, technicians, laboratory aides and doctoral-level director(s)
Why Become a Clinical Microbiology Director

• Best “job” in the world!
• Diversity in daily tasks
  – Consultation
  – Education
  – Research and development
• Meaningful application of analytical and problem solving skills
  – Make a difference in patient care
  – Part of a highly functional and integrated team
• Fertile research environment with both solo and/or collaborative opportunities
What do Clinical Microbiology Directors Do?

• Clinical responsibilities:
  – Consult with clinicians about specimen collection/utilization for diagnosis of infectious disease
  – Oversee isolation/identification of pathogens and potential pathogens from clinical samples
  – Involved in the determination of antimicrobial susceptibility and appropriate antimicrobial usage
  – Collaborates with partners in the healthcare system, public health, and/or industry to improve the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases

• Also involved in education, research, and the profession of clinical microbiology!
CPEP Training Programs

• Prepare **doctoral scientists and physicians** for leadership roles in medical microbiology
• 2 year program
• Currently 15 programs in USA *(5-15 new post doc positions/year)*
• Most common way to get to ABMM certified
• High demand for positions!
States with CPEP Programs
How do I get into a CPEP program?

• Enthusiasm! Demonstrate genuine interest in the field
• Learn about the profession
  – Contact a local clinical microbiologist
    • Visit the lab
    • Attend rounds/conferences
  – Visit the ASM clinical microbiology portal (clinmicro.asm.org)
    • Read about what’s new in the profession
    • Contact a member of the Clinical Microbiology Mentoring Committee