

# HONORABLE RECOGNITION

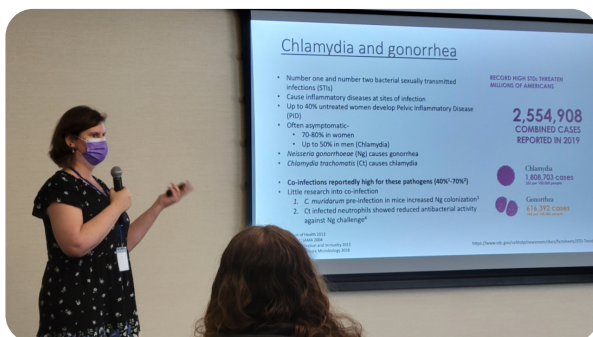
## LOUISE BALL RECEIVES WILLIAM SAFRANECK AWARD



Louise Ball received the ***William Safraneck Award for Best Presentation*** at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Florida branch of the American Society for Microbiology. The meeting was held in St. Augustine, FL, from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27. The title of her talk was "Neisseria gonorrhoeae drives Chlamydia trachomatis into an aberrant state during in vitro co-infection."

**The Maurelli lab** in the EPI studies the sexually transmitted bacterium and causative agent of Chlamydia, Chlamydia trachomatis. When Ball joined the lab to pursue a PhD, she suggested combining her prior experience with Neisseria gonorrhoeae – the sexually transmitted bacterium responsive for gonorrhea – to study co-infection.

Ball's passion for microbiology started in high school, but she started to focused on pathogenesis specifically during her undergraduate degree. After she graduated she worked at multiple universities across the country and studied a variety of bacterial pathogens of both humans and animals before starting graduate school at UF. She is passionate about bacteria and how they cause disease. The William Safraneck award is dedicated **to Dr. William Safraneck's memory**. He was an assistant professor at the University of Central Florida, renowned for being an inspirational, passionate scientist. Ball feels very proud to receive an award in his name.



***"Find something you're passionate about and you'll make the world a better place. There's nothing you can't do. Never give up." ~Dr. Safraneck***