



APHL 2026

where laboratory science and public health meet

May 4–7, 2026 | Baltimore, MD



Baltimore

Conference Highlights

www.aphl.org/AC

Conference Highlights

May 4–7, 2026 | Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Convention Center

The APHL Annual Conference, an in-person event for the public health laboratory community, brings together more than 1,000 leaders, scientists, influencers and partners to share issues, trends and best practices driving laboratory science and public health today.

Session topics explore public health laboratory issues, trends and technologies relative to emerging infectious diseases, environmental health, emergency preparedness, quality systems and safety, informatics, food safety, newborn screening, global health, workforce and more.

Attendees in Baltimore will enjoy live sessions and roundtables, networking opportunities, receptions, events such as the Dr. Katherine Kelley Distinguished Lecture and the Annual Awards Ceremony, and 200+ scientific posters and 70+ exhibitors as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of APHL!

Attendee Benefits

- 40+ sessions
- 70+ exhibitors
- 200+ scientific posters
- Networking opportunities
- Receptions and events
- P.A.C.E.® and CPH CEUs
- Prize raffle and other special giveaways
- Seeing friends and colleagues
- All the fun of Baltimore!

Sessions and events will take place in Baltimore; select sessions will be recorded and available for on-demand access after the conference.

Katherine Kelley Distinguished Lecture

Monday, May 4, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein is Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of the Practice of American Health in Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he also serves as Vice Dean for Public Health Practice and Community Engagement and as Director of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. A pediatrician by training, he is a former health commissioner of Baltimore, Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Public Administration.



featuring
Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

Vice Dean for Public Health Practice and
Community Engagement

Registration

Advanced registration through APHL is required. Visit www.aphl.org/AC. For questions contact conferences@aphl.org.

APHL Member:	\$750
Non-member:	\$895
Student:	\$200
Fellow:	\$550

A student is someone who pays for their registration themselves without reimbursement. A fellow receives a stipend to pay for their registration.



Tour the Maryland Public Health Laboratory

- Attendee tour 1: Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Attendee tour 2: Thursday, May 7, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

You must sign up for the tour at the same time as you register for the conference. Participation is limited.

Public Health Laboratory Fellows and Interns in Attendance

We are excited to welcome 200 Public Health Laboratory Fellows and Interns to APHL 2026. These early career scientists and students, currently placed within public health laboratories across the country, will participate in person in Baltimore. These first-time attendees will take in sessions dedicated to the Career Pathways in Public Health Laboratory Science program and will participate in Annual Conference sessions and exhibits.

Continuing Education Credits

APHL is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences through the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) P.A.C.E.® program. Attendees have the opportunity to earn contact hours by attending in person, and/or viewing online, all available sessions, both live and recorded.

APHL is an approved provider of Certified in Public Health (CPH) Recertification Credits through the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE). Attendees have the opportunity to earn contact hours by attending in person, and/or viewing online, all available sessions, both live and recorded.

Meeting Location and Hotels

APHL has secured group blocks at hotels in close proximity to the Baltimore Convention Center. Please secure your reservation early as these blocks may fill up quickly. NOTE: These are the only official APHL hotels for the conference. Please be diligent in ignoring any contact from third parties asking you to make hotel reservations — these are typically scams and they damage APHL's ability to plan, fulfill and manage our event's hotel blocks.

Hyatt Regency Baltimore

300 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 528-1234

[\\$250 group rate](#) / Cutoff date: April 1, 2026

[Prevailing Government Per Diem Rate](#) /
Cutoff date: April 1, 2026

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore

550 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 234-0550

[\\$245 group rate](#) / Cutoff date: April 3, 2026

[Prevailing Government Per Diem Rate](#) /
Cutoff date: April 3, 2026

Additional limited per diem available:

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards

110 South Eutaw Street | Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 962-0202

[Prevailing Government Per Diem Rate](#) |
Cutoff date: April 3, 2026

Further hotel and reservation details are available at www.aphl.org/AC.



Agenda

All times are Eastern (EDT)

Sunday, May 3

7:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration

Monday, May 4

7:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Pre-Conference Workshops:

- From Point A to Point B: Mastering Courier Logistics
- From A to E: Viral Hepatitis Testing and Elimination
- Next Generation Sequencing in the Adolescent Years
- Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Laboratories—From Fundamentals to Future Frontiers

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Lab Directors' Brunch (Invitation Only)

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm: **Innovate! Session 1** (Topic to be announced)

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm **Innovate! Session 2** (Topic to be announced)

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm **Innovate! Session 3** (Topic to be announced)

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm **Welcome to Baltimore Opening Session**

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Dr. Katherine Kelley Distinguished Lecture:**
Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Rapid Poster Presentations**

3:30 pm – 6:30 pm Exhibit Hall and Posters Open

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

- Contamination Chronicles 3.0
- Microplastics are Big Problems: Considerations for Bringing on Testing for Microplastics
- The Power of Advocacy: Shaping the Future of Public Health Funding Domestically and Globally
- Amerithrax Attacks: 25 Years of Reflection and Beyond

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm **Welcome Reception**

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 am – 5:30 pm Registration

8:00 am – 8:30 am **Concurrent Innovate! Sessions #4–7**
(Topics to be announced)

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Plenary Session: Celebrating 75 Years of the Emergence and Importance of Environmental Laboratory Testing**

10:00 am – 10:30 am **Rapid Poster Presentations**

10:00 am – 6:30 pm Exhibit Hall and Posters Open

10:45 am – 11:45 am **Plenary Session: Riding the Hype Curve:**
AI Integration in Public Health Laboratories

11:45 am – 1:30 pm Lunch in the Exhibit Hall: Visit Exhibits and Posters

11:45 am – 12:15 pm **Innovate! Session 8** (Topic to be announced)

This schedule is subject to change and offered for planning purposes only. The Preliminary Program, due out in March 2026, will have more details.

Schedule Summary

APHL 2026 begins with several preconference workshops at 8:00 am, Monday, May 4, followed by Innovate! Sessions and the **Opening Session** at 1:45 pm.

Posters will be displayed from Monday afternoon, May 4 to 3:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6.

Exhibit Hall Hours

May 4: 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

May 5: 10:00 am – 6:30 pm

May 6: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Meeting Rooms

The exhibit hall and all the sessions, posters and food and beverage events will take place in the Baltimore Convention Center.



www.aphl.org/AC

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm
 12:45 pm – 1:15 pm
 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Innovate! Session 9 (Topic to be announced)
Innovate! Session 10 (Topic to be announced)

AIMS: Member Listening Session

Concurrent Sessions

- Choose Your Adventure: Navigating Career Pathways in Public Health Laboratories
- Got Raw Milk? Navigating Challenges In Raw Dairy Product Regulation
- Driving Infectious Emergency Response Through Disease and Resource Demand Forecasting
- From Data to Decisions: Advancing Newborn Screening Through Integrated Case Management and Follow-up

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Plenary Session: Beyond the Microscope: Henrietta Lacks — The Immortal Cells and Their Human Story

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

- When Systems Fail: Actionable Continuity Plans for Laboratory Informatics Operations
- Leading the Way: How Effective Leadership Shapes Biorisk Management
- Education from Afar: Impacts and Lessons Learned From Establishing a Radiochemistry Graduate Certificate Program
- From Shadows to Signals: Metagenomics and the New Age of Public Health Surveillance

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Networking and Poster Reception in Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration

7:30 am – 8:00 am

Innovate! Sessions 11 and 12 (Topics to be announced)

8:15 am – 9:45 am

APHL Awards Breakfast

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Exhibit Hall and Posters Open

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Roundtable Discussions

- Readiness for Special Pathogens and Select Agents: Practical Tools, Lessons, and Challenges
- Think Like a Regulator: Using the QSE Crosswalk to Stay Ahead
- What's Next for NBS programs and the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel Without Federal Oversight or a Centralized Evidence Review Process?
- Let's Start to Manage Up by Leading from All Positions in a Public Health Laboratory
- Applying the "More with Less" Mindset to the NGS Laboratory

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Optional Tour: Maryland Public Health Laboratory

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

- Building Human Biomonitoring Programs for Empowerment and Impact
- Building Sustainable Informatics Teams: Strategies for Recruitment, Retention and Resilience
- Exposure Files: Solving Biosafety Mysteries!
- Lessons of an Unexpected Crisis: A State and Federal Panel Discusses Infant Botulism Linked to Powdered Infant Formula



12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch in the Exhibit Hall: Visit Exhibits and Posters
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Innovate! Session 13 (Topic to be announced)
12:45 pm – 1:15 pm	Innovate! Session 14 (Topic to be announced)
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Innovate! Session 15 (Topic to be announced)
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Plenary Session: Stretching Every Dollar: Smart Strategies to Overcome Funding Gaps
3:10 pm – 3:25 pm	Exhibit Hall Raffle and Prizes!
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions • Navigating CIDT False Positives: A Tale of Two Laboratories • From Dashboards to Decisions: Practical Tools to Retain and Strengthen the Public Health Laboratory Workforce • Weird Science: Solving Public Health Puzzles • The State of Wastewater Surveillance Science: Where We Are and What the Future Holds
4:45 pm – 5:45 pm	APHL Member Assembly

Thursday, May 7

7:00 am – 12:00 pm	Registration
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Roundtable Discussions • Discovering Your Lab's Unique Value • From Bow Ties to Hoodies: Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges of Expanding Point of Care STI Testing in Public Health • Digital by Design: Smarter Quality Systems for Public Health Laboratories • Workforce Wisdom: Leveraging Tools for Impact • Safety Talk: What's Working (and What's Not) in Biosafety
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Sessions • Prevalence of <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> in Infant Formula and Innovative Mitigation Strategies • Off to the Races: Transforming LDTs into the Next Generation of Diagnostics • You've Got A Friend in Me! The Impact of Outreach to First Responders • Drugs, Data, Demographics: Combating Nonfatal Overdoses with a National Overdose Biosurveillance System
10:15 am – 11:15 am	The Great Debate: Emerging Chemical Contaminants vs. Emerging Pathogens – What's the Bigger Public Health Threat?
11:15 am – 11:45 am	Closing Session
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Optional Tour: Maryland Public Health Laboratory



Exhibitors (as of Dec 18, 2025)

Contact information for these exhibitors can be found on the [conference website](#).

Abbott Laboratories
American Public Health Association
BioFire Defense
bioMeriuex, Inc.
Bio-Rad Laboratories
Bruker Scientific LLC
Ceres Nanosciences, Inc.
Clear Labs, Inc.
Clinisys
CURIS System
Diasorin
Fort Worth Diagnostics
GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation
Gold Standard Diagnostics
GT Molecular
Hamilton Company
HDR
Hologic
iConnect
Illumina, Inc.
InductiveHealth Informatics, Inc.
INTEGRA Biosciences
J Michael Consulting
OpenELIS
Oxford Nanopore Technologies
PacBio
Primary.Health
Promega Corporation
QIAGEN
Quantabio
Redbud Labs, Inc.
Revvity
Roche Diagnostics
Ruvos LLC
SCIEX
Standard BioTools
STARLIMS
Streck
Tecan Genomics
Theiagen Consulting LLC
Thermo Fisher Scientific
University of South Florida
World BioHazTec
Z-Spec, Inc.