GenomeTrakr Meeting 2026

November 3–4, 2026 | College Park, Maryland

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

8:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration & Coffee	Crossland Ballroom Lobby
Moderator: **Tina Pfefer,** FDA		Crossland Ballroom Lobby
9:30 am – 9:45 am	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** **Eric Brown**, Office Director, Office of Applied Microbiology and Technology, FDA Human Foods Program	
9:45 am – 11:00 am	**GenomeTrakr Partner Panel** • **FDA ODP** – Christina Chrysogelos • **FDA GenomeTrakr** – Ruth Timme • **FDA Vet-LIRN** – Olgica Ceric • **FDA NARMS** – Patrick McDermott • **CDC PulseNet** – Lavin Joseph and Peyton Smith • **USDA FSIS** – Glenn Tillman • **State Contributor** – **Caitlin Costello**, New Hampshire Public Health Laboratory • **NOAA** – Ava Ellet • **NCBI** – William Klimke • **NAHLN** – Laura Alt **Partner Panel – Q&A Session**	
11:00 am – 11:20 am	Break (Coffee and Tea provided)	Crossland Ballroom Lobby
Moderator: **Ruth Timme**, FDA		Crossland Ballroom
11:20 am – 12:10 pm	**LFFM WGS Throughput Track and Project Updates** **Program Overview: Christina Chrysogelos**, FDA ODP **State Project Updates:** **Reed Robinson**, NYS Wadsworth Center **Stephan Schmitz-Esser**, South Dakota State University **Renmao Tian**, Illinois Tech University	

12:10 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch (provided)	Top of the 7's Ballroom
Moderator: **Brian Sauders**, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets		Crossland Ballroom
1:15 pm – 1:35 pm	**NARMS Program Overview: How WGS is Used in Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring** **Heather Tate**, FDA	
1:35 pm – 1:55 pm	**Advancing Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance: Whole Genome Sequencing and the LociQ Platform** **Lucas Harrison**, FDA	
1:55 pm – 2:15 pm	**Cross-Agency Collaboration: NARMS and EPA Partnership on AMR in the Environment** **Andrea Ottesen**, FDA	
2:15 pm – 2:35 pm	**View from the States: State Public Health Laboratory Perspectives on AMR Surveillance** **Xunde Li and Yanhong Liu**, University of California – Davis **Nkuchia M'ikanatha**, Pennsylvania Department of Health	
2:35 pm – 2:55 pm	**AMR in the Context of Foodborne Outbreaks: Surveillance Insights and Response** **Margaret Kirchner and Tyann Blessington**, FDA CORE	
2:55 pm – 3:15 pm	**The Future of Culture-Independent AMR Detection** **Peyton Smith**, CDC	
3:15 pm – 3:35 pm	Break (Coffee and Tea provided)	Crossland Ballroom Lobby
Moderator: **Aalok Mehta**, APHL		Crossland Ballroom
3:35 pm – 4:05 pm	**The Cost of Whole Genome Sequencing** • **GenomeTrakr: Foodborne Pathogen Surveillance and Economic Return on Investment** **Tim Harvey**, FDA • **Cost Analysis for Salmonella Sequencing** **Dave Boxrud**, CDC	
4:05 pm – 4:25 pm	**Industry Flash Talks** • Qiagen • ClearLabs	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	**Networking Reception**	Top of the 7's Ballroom

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration & Coffee	Crossland Ballroom Lobby
Moderator: **Tyann Blessington**, FDA CORE		Crossland Ballroom
9:00 am – 11:00 am	**Advancing Genomic Methods and Tools: WGS, Metagenomics, and Surveillance**	
9:00 am – 9:15 am	**Implementing the i100: Validation, Study and Progress Update** **Lauren Turner**, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services	
9:15 am – 9:30 am	**Single-Laboratory Validation of Oxford Nanopore Sequencing for Foodborne Pathogen Surveillance** **Narjol Gonzalez-Escalona**, FDA	
9:30 am – 9:45 am	**Rapid Salmonella Colony Identification and Genome Characterization Using Oxford Nanopore Technology: a 15-hour Protocol for Enhanced Outbreak Response.** **Ellie Meeks**, FDA	
9:45 am – 10:00 am	**NCBI Pathogen Detection Updates on Oxford Nanopore Sequence** **Arjun Prasad**, NCBI	
10:00 am – 10:20 am	**Multipurpose Metagenomics in Food: Arthropod Identification, Authentication, and Pathogen Surveillance** **Monica Pava-Ripoll**, FDA	
10:20 am – 10:40 am	**MAGGIC — A Metagenome Assembled Genome Tool for Precision Metagenomics** **Padmini Ramachandran**, FDA	
10:40 am – 11:00 am	**Validation of Genomic Taxonomy Tools** **Noah Greenman**, FDA	
11:00 am – 11:20 am	Break (Coffee and Tea provided)	Crossland Ballroom Lobby
Moderator: **Robyn Randolph**, APHL		Crossland Ballroom
11:20 am – 12:00 pm	**Advancing Genomic Methods and Tools: WGS, Metagenomics, and Surveillance (cont'd)**	
11:20 am – 11:40 am	**Applications of AI in Genomics Surveillance** **Jamie Pettengill**, FDA	
11:40 am – 12:00 pm	**NCBI — Tools Beyond the Browser** **William Klimke**, NCBI	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (provided)	Top of the 7's Ballroom

Moderator: **Karen Jinneman**, FDA — Crossland Ballroom

1:00 pm – 2:10 pm

Laboratory Innovation in Response to Pathogen Challenges

- **FDA CORE — Outbreak Response and Laboratory Challenges**
  Adiam Tesfai and Tyann Blessington, FDA

Clostridium Botulinum

- **BoNTax: a Curated Genome-based Framework for Taxonomic Classification and Characterization of *Clostridium botulinum* Group I and *Clostridium sporogenes***
  Jayanthia Gangiredla, FDA
- **New PCR-based Testing Protocols to Detect *Clostridium botulinum* in Powdered Infant Formula**
  Catharine Carlin, IEH Laboratories

Cyclospora Cayetanensis

- **Source Tracking *Cyclospora cayetanensis*: A Targeted Amplicon Sequencing Approach**
  Susan Leonard, FDA
- ***Cyclospora* Genotyping at CDC: Implementation and Lessons Learned from Summer 2026**
  Anna Peterson, CDC

2:10 pm – 2:20 pm — Break — Crossland Ballroom Lobby

Moderator: **Robyn Randolph**, APHL — Crossland Ballroom

2:20 pm – 3:25 pm

Laboratory Innovation in Response to Pathogen Challenges (cont'd)

Cyclospora Cayetanensis (cont'd)

- **Maryland's Outbreak Preparedness, Part 1: Enhanced *Cyclospora* Testing and Data Exchange**
  Sinisa Urban, Maryland Department of Health Laboratories Administration

Cronobacter sakazakii

- **Maryland's Outbreak Preparedness, Part 2: *Cronobacter* Prevalence and Genomic Diversity in U.S. Infant Foods**
  Sinisa Urban, Maryland Department of Health Laboratories Administration
- **A Novel Targeted Amplicon Sequencing Application for Rapid Genotyping of *Cronobacter* Strains from Food Samples**
  Gopal Gopinath, FDA
- **Core Genome and Whole Genome Multilocus Sequence Typing of *Cronobacter* Isolates**
  Lavin Joseph, CDC

Viruses

- **ViroTrakr: A Genomic Platform for Detection, Identification and Outbreak Investigation of Foodborne Viral Pathogens**
  Zhihui Yang, FDA

3:25 pm – 3:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Ruth Timme, FDA