Have you ever taken an antibiotic to treat a bacterial infection?

If so, thank a clinical microbiologist for guiding the clinician to select the best antibiotic.

ASM values clinical microbiologists this Medical Laboratory Professionals Week and every week! To find out more about the profession of clinical microbiology, visit asm.org/clinmicrocareers
How do Clinical Microbiologists Fight the Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance?

Clinical microbiologists are vital to preventing the spread of antibiotic resistance! They help identify the best agent to fight those infections that warrant antibiotic therapy.

Antimicrobial resistance results in infections that can’t be treated by drugs that used to be effective. Some genes that make microbes resistant can be passed onto other microbes and they can become resistant too.

The very serious threat of drug-resistant infections

- Over 23,000 people die in the U.S. from a drug-resistant infection annually.
- Over 2 million people in the U.S. experience a drug-resistant infection annually.
- Improper drug use helps spread resistance. It’s important to use your antibiotics only under prescription and as your doctor instructs!

Clinical Microbiologists fight antibiotic resistance!

Thank clinical microbiologists for:

- Identifying the bacteria that causes your infection
- Testing the bacteria to see which antibiotics might be used to treat your infection
- Understanding the science behind your infection to help optimize your treatment and minimize the possibility of increasing drug resistance.

Antibiotic disk diffusion assays determine which agents are effective against bacteria. Antibiotics represented by the disks without circles are ineffective!

Antibiotic dilution assays determine the minimal concentration of drug needed to stop the growth of the bacteria. Clear wells have enough drug to inhibit bacterial growth.