

Joy Sturtevant is an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology at LSUHSC-SOM, New Orleans. Her scientific interest has always been initial interactions between pathogen and host. Current research interests focus on *Candida albicans* ability to survive and adapt to new environmental challenges, particularly the host and how these adaptations affect the host's response. Joy has always had an avid interest in the international mycological community which began when she was a postdoctoral associate with Dr. Latgé at Institute Pasteur. She also worked in laboratories in Scotland and Sweden. She has been a regular participant at several international meetings including the FEBS courses on Human Fungal Pathogens, ISHAM, ASM, and the British Society of Medical Mycology Meetings. Joy has made a strong commitment to maintain strong relationships with international colleagues. She would like to use the venue of ISHAM to encourage increased communication and sharing of expertise between laboratories on different continents/ in different countries and use this venue to foster collaborations. Joy also has a strong commitment to education. In addition to creating a new curriculum and courses for PhD students, she participates and organizes outreach programs in local schools, particularly in underserved areas. The purpose of these programs have been several fold: educate students about professional science fields; reinforce that these career paths are possible; open their eyes to science in general and how science relates to their 'chosen' future and most importantly encourage students to question.