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Novel Therapeutics Against Fungal Infections

Dr Nguyen is a tenured Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, and Co-Director of the Center for Healthcare Mycology and Fungal Genomics at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also Director of Transplant Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Management Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Her longstanding research interests are in epidemiology of fungal infections, antifungal drug resistance, fungal diagnostics, and molecular pathogenesis of *Candida* infections. Her laboratory has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health and other sources to investigate molecular genetics of fungi, and the pathogenesis of invasive infections by these pathogens. In these roles, she has established molecular detection of echinocandin resistance by screening for FKS mutations among *Candida* species. She has also established a molecular method to screen for azole resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* from clinical samples. Most recently, as PI of NIH-funded projects, her research group has shown, using MinION Nanopore whole genome sequencing, that bloodstream infections (BSIs) caused by *Candida* species are due to a population of genetic and phenotypic diverse clonal isolates that might differ in antifungal resistance determinants and virulence. These data refute the longstanding paradigm of single organism BSI and suggest a new population-based paradigm of candidemia.