



# AACC MIAACC Newsletter

November 2012 Edition

This newsletter is a publication of the Michigan Section of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry for the use of its members. To submit content, please send to raykarcher@sbcglobal.net

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## Chair's Corner

**Don Giacherio**

Greetings to all Michigan section members as we enter the fall season. We just had a successful and highly educational symposium at the University Club in East Lansing covering the "Medical, Analytical and Legal Aspects of the Synthetic Cannabinoids". Thanks again to Kevin Cavanagh and David Thorne for making the arrangements with the University Club and for selecting the dinner menu. Also, thanks to all the Michigan Section members who attended the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members to the section. Seetharam Chittiprol, PhD is now the Technical Director of Chemistry and Point of Care at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. Steven Truscott, PhD has joined the Chemistry Section at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. On behalf of the section, I extend a warm welcome to both Ram and Steven.

On the other side of the membership ledger, we are saddened that Vivek Kumar, the secretary of the section has resigned his position and taken another clinical chemist job in Texas. This reunites his family so for that we should all be happy for Vivek. On the semi-retirement front, Dr Tom Annesley at the University of Michigan Hospital will be dropping his clinical lab duties and moving to Emeritus Professor status on January 1, 2013. Tom will remain on as Deputy Editor of the journal Clinical Chemistry and will still be active in our section. Congratulations to Tom.

Please join us on Wednesday November 7 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia for our fall dinner meeting and symposium. We will start at 5:00 PM and have 6 educational case presentations of 20 minutes each that will try to highlight some of the interesting things we deal with daily in the lab. That will be followed by a buffet dinner from the culinary school kitchens at Schoolcraft. The registration form is in this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Don

## Legislative Liaison Report

**Ray Karcher**

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On September 19th, the US House of Representatives passed H.R.6118, the "Taking Essential Steps for Testing Act of 2012," which would address a longstanding issue regarding the referral of proficiency testing (PT) specimens under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA'88). Currently, a laboratory that sends a PT specimen to another laboratory-even by mistake-loses its CLIA certificate for two years. In addition, the laboratory director is banned from directing a clinical

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laboratory for two years as well. H.R.6118 gives CMS the flexibility to impose lesser sanctions, if warranted. AACC supports this measure. Senate backers of the legislation are hoping to get it passed in the Upper Chamber in the next few weeks with the final bill being sent to the President before November. (Excerpted from the AACC Government Affairs Digest, Vol. 14, Issue 3)

In the Michigan Legislature, House Bill 5338, Controlled substances; schedules; certain procedures for scheduling controlled substances; would revise and provide criteria for determining whether a substance constitutes an imitation controlled substance.

### House of Delegates Report

**Veronica Luzzi**

Below is a highlight of the minutes from the House of Delegates meeting in July, 2012 held in Los Angeles, California.

**Report on the "Virtual" Local Section (Chair, Dr. Paul Janetto)**

"Virtual" Local Section pilots were conducted by the Chicago and Southern California Local Sections earlier this year. AACC is investigating purchasing software which would enable Local Sections to record their meetings for posting on the AACC website or to broadcast their meetings "live" to multiple locations. Whether or not access to the meeting will be restricted to only AACC members has not been decided yet. Viewers of the 'virtual section' meetings in Southern California and Chicago reported that the ability to broadcast these meetings was of moderate to extreme value.

**AACC Strategic Planning Process Briefing (Executive Vice-president, Ms. Lana Vukovljak)**

The process that AACC is using to develop new strategic goals for the association was described. A consultant is guiding the Board of Directors and staff through exercises that examine the association's environment, future scenarios, and resulting high-impact strategies. In addition to these exercises, a member survey had been conducted to gain feedback on top-rated trends in laboratory medicine. High-impact strategies are listed below:

• Advocacy • Educating consumers • Expanding AACC outreach • Advancing the practice and profession of clinical chemistry • Training the new generation of laboratorians

**New Membership Dues Increase Process for Approval on the Ballot (Treasurer, Dr. Robert Dufour)**

The Finance Committee recommended that AACC have annual membership dues increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This would mean predictable, moderate increases for members. The Board of Directors would only use the CPI-linked automatic dues increase as a guideline and would not likely raise dues when the economy is in a recession. CPI indicators will be evaluated as part of the process by which the annual dues rate is set.

**Proposed Revised Bylaws for Approval by the Membership (Chair, Dr. Paul Janetto)**

The Board of Directors appointed a Bylaws Task Force to review and revise the AACC Bylaws to ensure that they reflected AACC's current practices and the best practices of association governance. The AACC Bylaws had not been revised in more than 25 years.

The major proposed changes are:

1. Definition of Emeritus Member
2. Composition of the Nominating Committee
3. House of Delegates Responsibilities



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Delegates were assured that current Emeritus Members would be “grandfathered.” The new definition of an Emeritus Member would go into effect if the Bylaws are approved by the membership.

House of Delegates Election (Chair, Dr. Paul Janetto)

The delegates cast their votes. The candidates are listed below:

House Chair-Elect - Vote for One

Veronica Luzzi, PhD

Stephen Master, MD, PhD

At-large Members, House Steering Committee - Vote for One

Bonny Van, PhD

Sihe Wang, PhD

Results were delivered by mail late August and the elected officials were Dr. Stephen Master, MD, PhD; and Dr. Bonny Van, PhD.

### Local Interest

**Ray Karcher**

Seetharam Chittiprol, PhD, who comes from a fellowship at the University of Washington, has joined the chemistry department at Sparrow Hospital. He has just passed the ABCC board exam in clinical chemistry and will be Technical Director for Chemistry and Point of Care testing. Congratulations to Seetharam on becoming an ABCC Diplomate. Jennifer Thebo will become Technical Director for Toxicology and Special Chemistry. They will be transitioning into these positions over the next few months. Good luck to Seetharam and Jennifer in their new positions.

Steven Truscott, PhD joined the Chemistry department at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, in early September to fill the position vacated by Vivek Kumar, PhD, when he left. Steve comes from a fellowship at the University of Louisville and will assume responsibility for the Special Chemistry, Stat Laboratory and Ancillary Testing group at Beaumont. We also want to wish him well in his new position. Good luck to Vivek in his new position as well.

Congratulations to John Wilson, PhD, on being selected for the Michigan Section Distinguished Service award for 2012. John has been a regular supporter of the section as a presenter at section meetings and discussed the LC/MS measurement of synthetic cannabinoids at the most recent meeting in East Lansing. He has also served as chairman of the section, program chair and editor of the newsletter.



# Michigan Section AACC

## November Dinner Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, November 7, 2012

**Location:** Vis-Ta-tech Center Room W 210 B  
Schoolcraft College  
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI (between 6 and 7 Mile Rd)  
Map at <http://mapq.st/Rciwik>

**Registration Fee:** \$ 20.00    **Students** \$10.00    **Advance Registration by Nov 1 Appreciated**

**Registrant's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment by check** \_\_\_\_\_ **At the door** \_\_\_\_\_    **Checks payable to Michigan section AACC**

**Program:** Interesting cases in Clinical Chemistry

**4:30 - 5:00 PM**            **Registration / Social ½ hour**

**5:00 - 7:00 PM**            **Six case presentations, 20 minutes each**

**7:10 - 8:00 PM**            **Dinner**

**8:00 - 8:15 PM**            **Section Business meeting**

**Mail or email registration to:**

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