



# AACC MIAACC Newsletter

## Winter 2013

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](mailto:raykarcher@sbcglobal.net)

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### Chair's Corner

**Gloria Sukes**

Happy New Year to everyone! The holidays are over and now it's back to business. I'm looking forward to putting together the roster of educational events for our local chapter this year. I'd like to thank Don Giacherio for Chairing the meetings last year and his assistance with transitioning the post. Special thanks also go to all of those who served in 2012 Committee positions. We are all so busy these days and it takes extra effort to keep our local organization active and offer these educational opportunities. I'd also like to thank all the new and returning officers for accepting the position and sharing your valuable time with the organization.

As I speak with lab managers, I hear of tight budgets and even tighter staffing, which makes the education opportunities the local chapter provides a great value. Where else can you get dinner and a lecture for a nominal fee? The meetings also are a wonderful opportunity to network, exchange information, or perhaps resolve a problem that has arisen.

AACC membership also allows access to all the features on the AACC.org website which is a wealth of educational opportunities. Not only is there full access and a search function for articles and abstracts but also discounts on webinars, and opportunities to participate in listserv on-line discussions. It's a great resource right at your fingertips.

I'm going to encourage you to reach out to co-workers and colleagues and suggest they join. You may have already received the email from AACC corporate that announced the Member-Get-A-Member Program. You will receive a \$100 AACC Gift Certificate for every 2 new members that you recruit for 2013 membership. If you are the first to recruit 10 members for a Full Membership, you will receive a free 2013 Annual Meeting Registration and \$500 in AACC Gift Certificates. What a great way to pay for a webinar or some books for your library.

Stay warm and I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting!

Gloria

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# Michigan Section Newsletter

## Michigan Section 2013 Officers

The following officers were elected to the Michigan Section AACC for 2013. When you see them, thank them for their service and consider running for office yourself. It's a great way to enjoy a sense of comradery, to network with colleagues and to contribute to the success of the section.

Chair	Gloria Sukes	Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics
Chair-Elect	Veronica Luzzi	Henry Ford Hospital
Past-Chair	Don Giacherio	University of Michigan
Secretary	Elizabeth Sykes	Beaumont Health System
Treasurer	Jennifer Thebo	Sparrow Health System
Membership Chair	Kevin Cavanagh	Michigan Department of Community Health
Delegate	Veronica Luzzi	Henry Ford Hospital
Nominations Chair	Steven Truscott	Beaumont Health System
Legislative Liaison	Raymond Karcher	Retired

## Program

**Don Giacherio**

The Michigan Section will hold its first meeting of 2013 on March 21 at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. The topics include Human Growth Hormone and IGF-1 and dinner will be included. Registration information can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Legislative Liaison Report

**Ray Karcher**

Effective Jan. 1, the House and Senate reached a deal that addresses one-half of the fiscal cliff-the anticipated tax hikes. The bill included a one-year "doc fix", preventing a 27% cut in physician payments from taking effect. No lab cuts appear to have been included in the bill. If Congress does not reach an agreement on spending cuts by Mar. 1, 2013, clinical laboratories and other health care providers will likely take a two percent cut in reimbursement. Clinical laboratories are also likely to be subject to payment reductions. Among the items that could be under consideration are:

- Establishment of a laboratory co-payment;
- Adoption of competitive bidding for laboratory services;
- A reduction in the fee schedule; or
- An extension of the 1.75% cut in the annual CPI update that is due to expire in 2015.

On November 14th, the Senate passed AACC-backed legislation, 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

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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 laboratory for two years as well. H.R.6118 gives CMS the flexibility to impose lesser sanctions, if warranted. The House of Representatives passed similar legislation on September 19th. The bill has been sent to President Obama who is expected to sign it into law.

PATH, an Endocrine Society led group promoting accurate hormone testing, is having a planning meeting in February to garner input from both laboratories and manufacturers about how to ensure the accuracy of hormone assays. This effort links with the CDC's Hormone Standardization Program. They "anticipate the meeting will be a frank and open dialogue among all stakeholder groups, exploring barriers and opportunities and resulting in a workable, efficient, and effective plan for PATH's future endeavors. The planning meeting will be facilitated by Cambridge Concord Associates (CCA)," Invited participants, including Quest and LabCorp, were contacted in early January for input to the agenda and to set priorities. An article by Bill Rosner, MD in the January, 2013 issue of Clinical Chemistry discusses this program. The PATH Steering Committee co-chairs are Bill Rosner, MD and Hubert Vesper, PhD.

### Local Interest

### Ray Karcher

Veronica Luzzi has been appointed to the Steering Committee of the AACC House of Delegates. Congratulations Veronica.

Henry Ford Hospital and Beaumont Health Systems are in the process of due diligence to examine the ramifications of a possible merger between the two health systems. It is expected that a final decision will be made sometime this Spring. Mark Kolins, MD, is leading the team for Beaumont charged with reviewing laboratory issues.

# Michigan Section AACC

## Winter 2013 Dinner Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013

**Location:** Weber's Inn

3050 Jackson Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

<http://www.webersinn.com/contact/driving-directions-to-webers>

**Registration Fee:** \$ 20.00    **Students** \$10.00    **Advance Registration by March 11**

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

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

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

### **Program: Growth Hormone and IGF-1**

**4:45 - 5:15 PM**                      **Registration / Social ½ hour**

**5:15 - 5:30 PM**                      **Business meeting: Introduction of officers.**

**5:30 - 6:00 PM**                      **Growth Hormone and IGF-1 as Performance**

**Enhancing Drugs**    **Speaker TBA**

**6:00 - 7:15 PM**                      **Growth Hormone: Biochemistry and Clinical Use**

**Ram Menon, M.D. University of Michigan**

**7:15 - 8:00 PM**                      **Buffet Dinner**

**Mail or email registration to:**

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