



NEWS & VIEWS

VOL. VIII, NO. 2 • DECEMBER 2000

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

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9th NACB Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines

The ninth topic in the discussion series on NACB's Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (formerly Standards of Laboratory Practice) will be **"Recommendations for the Use of Laboratory Tests to Support the Impaired and Overdosed Patient from the Emergency Department."** This will be addressed in open forum in July at the 2001 AACC Annual Meeting in Chicago. The Committee is chaired by **Alan Wu, PhD**, Hartford Hospital, CT. The committee members include:

Laboratory Toxicologists:

Larry A. Broussard, PhD, Louisiana State University, LA
Tai C. Kwong, PhD, University of Rochester, NY
Thomas P. Moyer, PhD, Mayo Clinic, MN
Shirley L. Welch, PhD, Kaiser Permanente, OR

Medical Toxicologists/Emergency Physicians:

Robert S. Hoffman, MD, Bellevue Hospital Center, NY
Charles McKay, MD, Hartford Hospital, CT
Edward M. Otten, MD, University of Cincinnati, OH
Paul Wax, MD, University of Rochester, NY

A first draft of the guidelines is now available for open commentary on the NACB webpage (<http://www.nacb.org>). Please email any comments directly to the committee chairman (awu@harthosp.org). The recommendations are divided into four major parts.

In Session I, "Recommendations for Drugs Testing to Support Emergency Department Toxicology," a two-tiered strategy is presented for managing emergency patients with suspected drug impairment. A list of recommended stat analytes and reporting turnaround times is provided along with a discussion of the need for a broad-spectrum comprehensive drug screen panel.

In Session II, "Recommendations on Analytical Assays and Reporting Issues for Drugs of Abuse Testing," the specifications and clinical needs for new

drugs-of-abuse testing analytes are described. Administrative issues such as chain-of-custody documentation, language for reporting screening results, need for confirmation analysis, and recommendations for retention of positive specimens are covered.

In Session III, "Recommendations for the Testing of Ethyl Alcohol and Other Volatiles," is broken up into two parts. Part A covers the recommendations made by a Task Force of the AACC TDM-Toxicology Division on "Breath Alcohol Analysis." Part B discusses "Recommendations for the Testing of Ethyl Alcohol and Other Volatiles."

Finally, in Session IV, "Recommendations on Laboratory Assays for Substance Abuse and Exposure," the topics addressed include gases, rodenticides, heavy metals, pesticides, and inhalants.

During the AACC forum, committee members will present the recommendations, after which there will be extensive panel discussion between presenters and participants. We will attempt to determine the degree of acceptance of these guidelines. Class I recommendations are those for which there is evidence and/or general agreement; Class II recommendations are those for which there is conflicting evidence and/or a divergence of opinion about their usefulness/efficacy, but for which the weight of evidence/opinion is in their favor; Class III recommendations are those for which there is evidence and/or general agreement regarding the lack of usefulness/efficacy of a given procedure (12).

We are also scheduling sessions with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the American College of Medical Toxicology. When completed, a final set of guidelines will be submitted for publication.

Contributed by Alan Wu, PhD, FACB



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The policy of the NACB is that only the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and treasurer may make official statements on behalf of the NACB. This limitation does not apply to the conduct of routine business transactions. All views expressed in the newsletter are solely those of the contributors, authors, or editors and not necessarily those of the NACB.

Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPG) Program on Diabetes at 2000 AACC Meeting in San Francisco.

The draft of the Diabetes guidelines was presented as an Edutrak at the AACC meeting in San Francisco. The one day program, on July 25, 2000, focused on the analytes currently used in the diagnosis and management of patients with diabetes mellitus. In addition, newer analytes and technologies that may have clinical value in the future were considered. The speakers were:

Dr. David Sacks – *Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Jay McDonald – *University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. David Goldstein – *University of Missouri*

Dr. Noel MacLaren – *Cornell University*

Dr. Marian Parrott – *American Diabetes Association*

Dr. David Bruns – *University of Virginia Medical Center*

Dr. Sacks spoke about the role of glucose measurement in diabetes, and included a discussion of self-monitoring. Dr. McDonald then addressed non- and minimally-invasive glucose analysis. The afternoon session commenced with a presentation by Dr. Goldstein on the monitoring of patients with diabetes, with the main focus on glycated hemoglobin. Dr. Kor Miedema gave a very brief IFCC perspective on glycated hemoglobin. Dr. MacLaren described the role of immunologic and genetic testing in diabetes. Dr. Parrott focused on potentially important analytes such as amylin and leptin. The program ended with a presentation by Dr. Bruns on micro-albuminuria. Each presentation consisted of a 15-20 minute summary of the proposed guidelines and the evidence used to establish these guidelines. Each presentation was followed by a discussion in which the audience participated. Many pertinent and useful suggestions were made by audience members from all over the world. In addition, many comments and suggestions were submitted in writing following the AACC meeting.

The guidelines are undergoing revision in response to the numerous suggestions. The guidelines will be presented in a paper to be submitted for publication and in a monograph that is anticipated to be available by Summer 2001.

Contributed by David Sacks, MD, FACP

President's Corner

“Together we define our discipline, and we define the standards by which we practice that discipline.”

Fellow members of the Academy, as we approach the end of the calendar year, our Board is preparing to initiate activities for 2001. Our Academy is a work in progress, and we continue to look forward to many challenging opportunities. In 2000, we successfully increased the ranks of our Fellows by almost 80 new members, bringing our total membership to over 450 Fellows. Although this is the highest it has been in some time, I believe that at present a "perfectly reasonable size" for our organization is approximately 800 Fellows, so we are still short of this desired goal.

In the months ahead, our Academy will need to deliberate on some very important issues regarding our overall Plan. It has been over 3 years now since we developed our Strategic Plan, and although we have acted on many of the plan's initiatives, we now need to review our goals and objectives and perhaps even our overall direction. In view of the rapidly changing dynamics of our discipline and its practice, several issues come to mind: How should we focus our activities to have the greatest impact on both our profession and our Fellows? What kinds of programs should we sponsor, develop, or combine with those of other organizations? Should we focus on educational projects exclusively for our Fellows or for a broader audience? To what extent should our Academy participate in policy-making forums? Should our main emphasis be the science or practice of our profession? These are just a few of the issues we will be discussing in future BOD deliberations. As these are brought to the forefront, the leadership will provide ways both to obtain and to contribute information about these questions; please participate. The agenda for the upcoming November conference call of the BOD will include discussions of topic areas for future LMPGs, alternative venues for developing these guidelines, and new approaches for their financing and distribution. We will also address the

budget for the coming year and the strengthening our financial position, as this was one of the three major goals set two years ago.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you next summer at our annual reunion luncheon during the AACC Chicago meeting. Meanwhile, stay in touch with me, our other Officers and with the BOD members!

Best regards,



Roland Valdes, Jr.
President



Message from Past President

Dear Fellows,

I will be retiring at the end of this year and would like to thank the Academy for all the opportunities it has provided for me and our discipline. The Academy is in good health and growing nicely. I encourage those who want to be active in its leadership and projects to come forward - do not be bashful or reticent. The Academy needs many active participants in order to meet its mission. I truly believe in the Academy and hope to assist in some ways after I retire.

Myron Warshaw, PhD, FACB

Thyroid Monograph to be Revised

The NACB monograph on Thyroid, one of our most widely cited Guidelines (formerly called SOLP's), is in the process of being revised. **Dr. Carole Spencer**, who was heavily involved in the thyroid consensus conference, and **Dr. Larry Demers** are coordinating the current revision. This occurred because the European Thyroid society was interested in expanding the coverage of the monograph to include other areas, and in updating it to reflect changes that have occurred since the monograph was published. Carole hopes to have the draft of the revisions ready to post on the NACB web site at <http://www.nacb.org> by the time you receive this newsletter. We invite all members to review the current draft version, when available on our web site, and make suggestions to Carole or Larry. This will give NACB worldwide visibility and credibility in this area.

Contributed by Robert Dufour, MD, FACB



Treasurer's Report

As we go to press with this newsletter, our financial condition is good, and we are entering the 4th quarter of the year within our projected 2000 budget. While the recent conference on electronic medical records was an unqualified scientific success, it will not generate significant profits. Although not all of the bills and contributions are in yet, it appears that we will break even or perhaps generate a few thousand dollars profit from the conference. Given that this is our biggest financial event of the year, the outcome will likely influence our final 2000 financial performance.

The budgetary process for 2001 is well under way, although I am still awaiting some estimates on both projected revenues and expenses. There have been several positive financial developments. First, Charles Hawker was successful in recruiting Abbott Diagnostics as a permanent sponsor for NACB's Grannis Award. Congratulations to Charles on his success! Second, revenue from monograph sales is significantly higher. This is due to the Board of Directors' decision to raise the monograph price from

Treasurer's Report Cont.

\$5 to \$20 and, interestingly, to the fact that the price increase has not decreased the number of monographs sold. Finally, a very successful membership drive this year has increased revenues from dues significantly. It should be noted that the positive financial impact of this will not be limited to the year 2000, but will follow through to 2001 (since dues are paid every year).

Contributed by Mike Lehrer, PhD, FACB

Publication Committee Report for October, 2000

During the past 18 months of its most recent reincarnation, the Publications Committee has considered a number of logistical questions regarding Academy publications and communications. We are making progress in several areas:

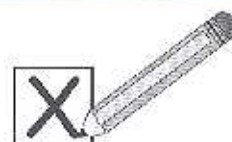
- Development of editing guidelines for future LMPGs
- Establishment of a defined format for all future LMPGs
- Development and maintenance of the Academy website

I expect the development activities above to be completed in the next 6 months. Already finalized are the details of a new price list for LMPGs. We have also established a liaison between the Publications Committee and the Board of Editors of *Clinical Laboratory News*; Jim Miller will serve in this capacity for the next two years.

The current committee is comprised of six members: Bob Elser (Chair), John Sherwin, Myron Warshaw, Nils Person, Jim Miller, Jerry Yeo, and Don Parker. Bob and Myron will be leaving the committee because of retirement, and John and Don will be rotating off the committee. If there are any Academy members who would like to be considered for membership on the committee, please contact Bob Elser at relser@wellspan.org or 717-851-2549.

Contributed by Bob Elser, PhD, FACB

Call for Nominations



2000 Alvin Dubin Award



D. Robert Dufour, MD, FACB, received the Alvin Dubin Award for distinguished contributions to the discipline of clinical biochemistry at the San Francisco 2000 Annual Meeting. (l-r, Dr Fu, Dr Dufour, Dr Valdes).

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the NACB annual awards to be presented at the 2001 meeting in Chicago. As in past years, three awards will be presented in recognition of those who made and continue to make outstanding contributions to the field of clinical biochemistry. The committee is asking for your help in identifying candidates who are worthy of recognition. Previous award winners are listed on the NACB website <http://www.nacb.org>. The awards and selection criteria are as follows:

The Professor Alvin Dubin Award (sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics). For distinguished contributions to the discipline and practice of clinical biochemistry. This award is named in honor of the late Academy member who contributed significantly to the development of NACB. The award recognizes a current or past member of the Academy who has made noteworthy advances enhancing the mission and stature of NACB.

National Academy Distinguished Scientist Award (sponsor still being secured at press time). For outstanding research advances in the field of clinical biochemistry. This award is given to an individual who has made significant contribution to the knowledge of biochemistry of disease or to discoveries of fundamental importance in the use of clinical chemistry techniques, instrumentation, or in the application of the principles of clinical biochemistry.

Nominations are now being solicited for NACB's two annual awards listed above. Nominations are due by **January 1, 2001**. Please submit your nominations to the Awards Chair:

Paul C. Fu, Ph.D., FACB
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Box 12, Harbor UCLA Medical Center
1000 W. Carson Street
Torrance, CA 90509
Telephone: 310-222-2248
Fax: 310-783-0350

George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication. This award consists of a plaque and a \$1000 cash award. All current and past students in undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral clinical chemistry training programs who were enrolled from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000 will be considered candidates for this award. The student must have published a paper indexed in Index Medicus during this same time period. Names of students from ComACC-accredited programs may be submitted by the program director. Names of students from non-ComACC-accredited programs may be submitted by their mentors. ComACC will make nominations to the NACB Awards Committee based on a review of published papers. The NACB Awards Committee will select the awardee based on the most outstanding published scientific paper. Forward names of students to ComACC President **Dr. Alan Wu at awu@harthosp.org by December 5, 2000** for consideration for the Grannis Award.

Distinguished Scientist Award



Eleftherios P. Diamandis, MD, PhD, FACB received the Distinguished Scientist Award at San Francisco 2000 Annual Meeting. (l-r, Dr Valdes, Dr Diamandis, Dr Fu)

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

Membership and Governance Committee

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate and welcome these new Fellows to the Academy. Those admitted as fellows are entitled to use the designation "Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Biochemistry" and the initials "FACB" as appropriate for professional activities.

The new Fellows are:

Hassan Mohammed El-Said Azzazy, PhD.
Lawrence Wade Bond, PhD.
Peter Ping-Jen Chou, PhD.
Robert Hutton Christenson, PhD.
George Babiru Kudolo, PhD.
Chul Lee, PhD.
Lokinendi V. Rao, PhD.
Niama Diop Sall, M.D.
Andre Aime Valcour, PhD.

Following is a summary of our membership for the year 2000:

Honorary Fellows	8
Emeritus Fellows	80
Associate Fellows	6
Fellows	366
TOTAL	460

Contributed by Anthony O. Okorodudu, PhD., FACB

NACB Election Results 2000

A total of 219 ballots were returned. The following officers were elected:

President-Elect:

K. Michael Parker, PhD (2001-2002)

Secretary:

David Koch, PhD (2001-2003)

Nominating Committee:

K. Owen Ash, PhD (2001-2002)

Stephen Kahn, PhD (2001-2002)

Myron Warshaw, PhD (2001-2002)

Board of Directors:

John Sherwin, PhD (2001-2003)

James Nichols, PhD (2001-2003)

Note: Some members did not vote for the full number of candidates for each office. There were eight Bylaws changes recommended by the Board. These were voted in groups of four, and all changes were approved.

Contributed by Barbara M. Goldsmith, PhD., FACB



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