



# NEWS & VIEWS

VOL. IX, NO. 1 • JUNE 2001

*Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

2	UPDATED THYROID GUIDELINES
3	PRESIDENT'S CORNER
4	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY
5	TREASURER'S REPORT/NACB ANNIVERSARIES
6	MEMBERSHIP REPORT/REPORT FROM (ESAC)
7	EVENTS AT 2001 AACC ANNUAL MEETING/NOMINATIONS
8	AWARDS

## NACB PRESENTS TWO-DAY EduTRAK: LMPG ON CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

ALAN H.B. WU, PH.D., FACB  
CHARLES D. HAWKER, PH.D., FACB

At this summer's AACC meeting in Chicago, the proposed NACB Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPG), "**Recommendations for the Use of Laboratory Tests to Support the Impaired and Overdosed Patient from the Emergency Department,**" will be presented and discussed as a two day EduTrak session. Alan H. B. Wu, Ph.D., FACB, is Chair of the Scientific Committee and of this program. The final monograph containing the consensus LMPG recommendations is expected to be published in 2002.

This ninth in the series of NACB's LMPGs (formerly called Standards of Laboratory Practice) will be discussed in open forum on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 2:45 – 5:00 p.m. each day. The Guidelines Committee, chaired by Dr. Wu, consists of five laboratory toxicologists and four emergency department physicians/clinical toxicologists. A draft of the guidelines is available for review and comment on the NACB home page (<http://www.nacb.org>). Please email any comments directly to the committee chairman ([awu@harthosp.org](mailto:awu@harthosp.org)). The recommendations are divided into four major parts, which are discussed in the four EduTrak sessions.

**Session I** (Wednesday morning) will focus on the "Recommendations for Drugs Testing to Support Emergency Department Toxicology." A two-tiered strategy will be presented for emergency department patients who present with a suspicion of drug impairment. A list of recommended analytes and reporting turnaround

times will be provided along with a discussion of the need for a broad-spectrum comprehensive drug screen panel. Key questions will include, "Is a one hour turnaround time for stat results appropriate? Should we discard marijuana (THC) analysis from the stat panel? What is the role of emergency testing for lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), phencyclidine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA) and date rape drugs? Should we have directed menus based on presenting signs and symptoms (e.g., toxidromes)? Should we screen all patients with drug ingestions for acetaminophen?"

**Session II** (Wednesday afternoon) will review the "Recommendations on Analytical Assays and Reporting Issues for Drugs of Abuse Testing." The specifications and clinical needs for new drugs-of-abuse testing analytes will be described. Administrative issues such as chain-of-custody documentation, the language for reporting screening results, the need for confirmation analysis, and the recommendation for the retention of positive specimens will be covered. Issues will include "Are the current immunoassays for benzodiazepines, opiates, and amphetamines adequate for today's needs? If not, how can we improve them? Are the current cutoff concentrations for drug testing appropriate? Is GC/MS confirmation required for all presumptive positives?"

**Session III** (Thursday morning) will focus on the "Recommendations for the Testing of Ethyl Alcohol and Other Volatiles" and will be broken up into two parts. Part A will cover the recommendations made by a Task Force of the AACC TDM-Toxicology Division on "Breath Alcohol Analysis." Part B will address "Recommendations for the Testing of Ethyl Alcohol and Other Volatiles." Questions will include "Should clinical laboratories encourage breath alcohol testing of potentially intoxicated ED patients and under what circumstances? What are the advantages of breath

*Continued on page 10*



**PRESIDENT**

Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., FACB  
ARUP Laboratories  
500 Chipeta Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
Tel: (801) 584-5261  
Email: hawkercd@aruplab.com

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

K. Michael Parker, Ph.D., FACB  
Department of Pathology  
University of Oklahoma  
College of Medicine  
Biomedical Sciences Bldg. (Room 451)  
PO Box 26901  
Oklahoma City, OK 73109  
Tel: (415) 271-3571  
Email: michael-parker@ouhsc.edu

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Roland Valdes, Jr., Ph.D., FACB  
University of Louisville  
School of Medicine  
Department of Pathology  
Louisville, KY 40292  
Tel: (502) 852-1772  
Email: rvaldes@louisville.edu

**SECRETARY**

David D. Koch, Ph.D., FACB  
Department of Safety Assessment  
Mail Code WP45-221  
Merck Research Laboratories  
West Point, PA 19486  
Tel: (215) 652-0061  
Email: david\_koch@merck.com

**TREASURER**

Michael Lehrer, Ph.D., FACB  
10 Sarah Drive  
Dix Hills, NY 11746  
Tel: (631) 586-9537  
Email: ML9@aol.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

K-T Jerry Yeo, Ph.D., FACB  
Department of Pathology  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
One Medical Center Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756  
Tel: (603) 650-8515  
Email: jyeo@dartmouth.edu

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.

## NACB PRESENTS UPDATED THYROID GUIDELINES

CAROLE A. SPENCER, Ph.D., FACB  
CHARLES D. HAWKER, Ph.D., FACB

At this summer's AACC meeting in Chicago, the proposed updated NACB Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPG), "**Laboratory Support for the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Thyroid Disease,**" will be presented and discussed as a special evening session. D. Robert Dufour, M.D., FACB, Chair of the NACB's Education and Scientific Affairs Committee, will chair this session on Tuesday, July 31, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton Hotel. The co-editors of the NACB effort to update the thyroid guidelines, Carole A. Spencer, Ph.D., FACB and Laurence M. Demers, Ph.D., FACB, will present the draft updated guidelines and will lead the public discussion. Dr. Spencer is the President Elect of the American Thyroid Association, and Dr. Demers is a Past President of both NACB and AACC; both were also members of the original NACB thyroid guidelines committee in 1995.

The first thyroid monograph was originally published by the NACB in 1996 as "Standards of Laboratory Practice" (SOLP). Approximately 50,000 copies were distributed world wide, making it NACB's most successful guidelines to date. The effort to update the thyroid guidelines was begun by the NACB last year. A first draft of the proposed update was presented in October 2000 at an international thyroid conference in Kyoto, Japan and was well received. In addition to commenting on the draft guidelines, four international thyroid associations have all agreed to cosponsor this effort by the NACB. They are the American Thyroid Association (ATA), the Asia and Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA), the European Thyroid Association (ETA), and the Latin America Thyroid Society (LATS).

A draft of the guidelines has been available for review and comment on the NACB home page (<http://www.nacb.org>) since November 2000. In addition, the American Thyroid Association has placed a hot link to the draft LMPG guidelines ([www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org)). All interested parties are invited to email any comments directly to Dr. Spencer ([cs pencer@hsc.usc.edu](mailto:cs pencer@hsc.usc.edu)).

The draft updated thyroid guidelines were presented and discussed in a similar session at the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society last month in Denver. In addition, there is a tentative plan to present these guidelines at the annual meetings of the European Thyroid Association and American Thyroid Association in Warsaw in August 2001 and Washington in September 2001, respectively, and possibly at other meetings. The NACB expects to publish the final monograph containing the consensus LMPG recommendations in 2002.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am honored to be able to write this first column as President of NACB, not only because the stature of the Academy is perhaps the greatest in its history, but also because 2001 happens to be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding. More about our plans for celebrating this event appear below, but I wish to begin this report by thanking my immediate predecessor, **Roland Valdes, Ph.D. FACB**, for his leadership and counsel. As I begin my term of office, it is gratifying to see how much progress was made during Roland's two years as President, and how these accomplishments have laid a foundation for the continued growth of the Academy. Many of the objectives of NACB's strategic plan, developed in 1998 under Roland's leadership, have been implemented and are now bearing fruit. It has made my job much easier. I also appreciate the wisdom and support of Roland's predecessor, Myron Warshaw. These leaders have set a high standard—but they have also provided me with a good road map, and I look forward to the challenge.



I am pleased that several key committee chairs are continuing on, which is facilitating a smoother transition for me. Paul Fu and the Awards Committee he chairs have completed their selection process in record time (see elsewhere in the Newsletter for these announcements). This will enable us to realize a dream held for several years – of having the NACB's award winners announced at the AACC Opening Session on Sunday night along with all of the AACC award winners. After a huge year for new members last year, the Membership and Governance Committee under Anthony Okorodudu is once again poised to consider a record number of applicants resulting from a campaign begun this spring. Our Fund Raising Task Force under Ed Sasse has reorganized its information base and approach and is charging ahead on its critical objective of obtaining the support necessary to publish and distribute our guidelines.

Bob Dufour, Chair of the Education and Scientific Affairs Committee, continues to oversee the Academy's most important mission, that of developing Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines. Four projects are currently active, two of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. The LMPG on diabetes, presented at the 2000 AACC meeting, is in the process of final drafting under the leadership of David Sacks. An LMPG on emergency toxicology will be featured as an EduTrak at this summer's AACC meeting in Chicago. Also being presented in a

special evening session (with food, if that will help get your attention) is the draft update to our highly successful thyroid guidelines, originally published in 1996. Both draft LMPGs can be found on our Home Page (which is updated every month by our Home Page editor, Jim Miller). Your input and comments on these is sought, as well as your attendance and support at the presentations this summer. Finally, the topic for the 2002 LMPG and EduTrak at AACC has been chosen – Maternal and Fetal Health Risk Assessment – along with an outstanding committee chaired by John Sherwin.

In March 2001, the Officers and Board of Directors held a weekend meeting. Cold, snowy weather kept us inside working hard on the Academy's programs and objectives, and much was accomplished. For the first time, we used a definitive process to establish our priorities for all of our activities and programs. While no current programs are targeted for elimination, the process was extremely worthwhile and showed us which programs are valued the most by your leadership. Should the Academy's available resources (people, time, and money) become limited in the future, we now have a guide as to where our emphasis should be placed. We also instituted a task to review and update our Strategic Plan, as needed, over the next year. And we reviewed our progress on our joint relations with AACC. A task force chaired by Tom Annesley will continue an effort started last year to find better ways in which NACB can serve AACC as its academy.

This brings me to the celebration of the 1976 founding of the Academy and our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A special logo to recognize this has been designed and appears in this newsletter. It will also appear on the Academy's stationery for this year and in various media used at the Annual Meeting this summer. Past President Myron Warshaw has agreed to take the lead, with help from a few others, in writing a history of NACB for publication in the CLN dailies that are distributed at the Annual Meeting. Other articles about our LMPGs will also appear in these papers. We are inviting all living Past Presidents of the Academy, as well as all Past Presidents of AACC, to our Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting on August 1 to be honored and recognized. Although the time available for this luncheon and meeting is extremely short due to the need to schedule it between our morning and afternoon EduTrak sessions, it will be very exciting, and I'm sure you will want to attend.

I look forward to greeting all of you at our activities this summer and hope that many of you will become involved in some of our programs.

Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., FACB  
*President*

## **NACB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

DAVE KOCH, PH.D. NACB SECRETARY

The NACB Board of Directors met in Chicago from March 16-18, 2001. The long agenda meant that President Charles Hawker had us working nearly all weekend. Here are highlights from the Board Meeting:

### **1. Current happenings**

The Board agreed that it is an exciting time for the Academy for several reasons (some of which are featured elsewhere in this Newsletter in more detail):

- ❖ The Academy, both internally—with respect to our structure and strategic planning—and externally—with respect to our stature among professionals in the field, is stronger than ever.
- ❖ This year, we will reach the significant milestone of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will be commemorated in several ways, most notably with activities at the AACC Annual Meeting this summer (July 29-August 2).
- ❖ For the first time, the NACB award winners will be announced at the AACC Annual Meeting Opening Plenary Session (Sunday evening, July 29).
- ❖ The draft update of the Thyroid Laboratory Medicine Practice Guideline will be presented at four major scientific meetings (see elsewhere in newsletter).

### **2. Continued future growth and impact of the Academy and its efforts**

These issues were addressed throughout the meeting, whether the topic was fundraising, financial planning, LMPG topics, or venues for LMPG meetings and other educational programs. Fundraising successfully, making wise use of our finances, developing wide consensus on important laboratory medicine topics, and disseminating the information as effectively as possible are all key to our existence. We discussed each of these activities in some detail, with attention to achieving the greatest effect possible with the resources available.

### **3. Prioritization of NACB programs and activities**

The Board identified 33 programs and activities that the NACB currently conducts or supports. These programs were prioritized in a Board exercise. The results will provide guidance in the future as to what we should emphasize and where our resources should be expended.

### **4. Long Range Planning**

Perhaps the committee most directly involved with these overall Academy issues is the Long Range Planning Committee, headed by Past-President Roland Valdes. Roland gave a status report, and the Committee presented a two-year plan.

### **5. Liaison to AACC**

Development of close ties between the Academy and the AACC is still relatively recent, and the relationship continues to evolve. The Board agreed that the Academy should aim to serve in ways that are most beneficial to the Association as well as to the profession at large.



*Although there was snow outside in Chicago, there was warmth and cooperation inside our conference hotel as the NACB Board of Directors met to review the Academy's programs and priorities. (L-R) Seated: Tom Annesley, Mary Burritt, Bob Murray, Ed Sasse. Standing: Charlie Hawker, Jim Nichols, John Sherwin, Mike Lehrer, Roland Valdes, David Koch. Missing: Mike Parker*





## TREASURER'S REPORT

MICHAEL LEHRER, PH.D., FACB

NACB ended 2000 in good financial shape. Our balance sheet was strong, with more than **\$160,000 in assets** at the close of the year. A summary of our balance sheet and of our profit and loss for 2000 is shown below.

### NACB SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/ Savings	136,269.14
Other Current Assets	24,432.99
Total Current Assets	160,702.13
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>160,702.13</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	160,702.13
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>160,702.13</b>

### NACB PROFIT AND LOSS JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2000

ORDINARY INCOME/ EXPENSE	
Income	
Dues. Membership	19,487.72
Educational Program	57,100.00
Income, Prudential	4,181.43
Interest, Roslyn	196.46
Miscellaneous Income	220.00
Reimbursed Expenses	1,340.00
SOLP Monograph Sales	8,477.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>91,002.61</b>
Expense	
Administrative	24,385.16
Award Support	4,570.07
Bank Service Charges	143.85
Contributions	100.00
Educational Programs	33,678.41
Equipment Rental	27.69
Governance	8,759.31

Postage & Delivery	85.98
Professional Affiliations	5,086.74
Program Expense	5.21
Publications	18,946.84
Supplies	40.00
Telephone	6.02
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>95,835.28</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-4,832.67</b>

Fiscally, 2000 was a challenging year. We started with a projected deficit of \$18,500, but closed the year with a much smaller deficit of less than \$5,000. This is a significant accomplishment and is due to the Board's diligence and cost-consciousness. It is especially noteworthy because the projected budget assumed a 10% gain on NACB's investments, but we actually had a 10% return due to both the rise in interest rates and the stock market's poor performance. Despite the difficult environment, the Board, under the leadership of Roland Valdes, took a pro-active approach and decided to invest in NACB's future. Money was spent on a very successful membership drive that increased NACB membership by over 20%. Our scientific program on Electronic Medical Records was also a success on all scores, financial included.

As we start 2001, our finances are strong, our investments are performing better, and our budget is in the black.



## NACB ANNIVERSARIES

DAVID E. BRUNS, MD, FACB

In commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NACB, it is also pleasant for me to recall that 2001 marks the first anniversary of the alliance between NACB and *Clinical Chemistry*. In 2000, NACB selected *Clin Chem* as the Official Journal of the Academy, and AACC's Board of Directors endorsed that arrangement. It is a good marriage.

The path to this point was long, with energy barriers of various sorts. Over the years, NACB discussed or tried other approaches to having a journal. These included starting a new journal and forming alliances with existing regional or specialty journals. The new

Continued next page

Continued from page 5

arrangement brings together the Academy and the leading journal in the field. It is a “natural.”

We do well to recognize that energy barriers to this arrangement were overcome by the efforts of NACB members who have strong feelings about the welfare of the Academy and its members. I know first-hand the energy and efforts of Past-President Roland Valdes. We are all in his debt for this and his many other initiatives that have strengthened our Academy. NACB members may not be as aware of the work on the part of AACC members to bring this agreement to fruition. I note particularly the persistence and diligence of Steve Kahn.

As Editor of *Clinical Chemistry* and a long-time Fellow of the Academy, I take pride in seeing the NACB's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo in the Journal's 46<sup>th</sup> volume. The Academy is, as usual, well represented on the Journal's Editorial Board (listed on the masthead). I look forward to the continuation of relations between the Academy and the Journal, relations established long ago informally and now entering year 2 of their formal recognition.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

ANTHONY O. OKORODUDU, PH.D., FACB

As of May 7, 2001, NACB had 390 Fellows, 7 Associate Fellows, 74 Emeritus Fellows, and 8 Honorary Fellows, for a total of 479 members. In late March, 236 letters of invitation were sent to Diplomates of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry who were not yet members of the Academy, and 677 letters of invitation were sent to M.D. members of AACC who also were not members of the Academy. All of these letters were co-signed by our President, Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., FACB and by Larry J. Kricka, D.Phil., FACB, President of AACC, and emphasized the role of NACB as the Academy of AACC. As of this report, 40 applications from these promotions had been approved and another 12 are being processed. Another 10 new applications, not part of these promotions, were also approved. All of these new Fellows will be recognized at our annual Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting on August 1 in Chicago.

## **REPORT FROM EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (ESAC)**

BOB DUFOUR, MD, FACB

There are several updates to report on ESAC activities since the last newsletter. The hepatitis guidelines have been published, and all members should have received their copy. The diabetes guidelines, still in the process of refinement by David Sacks and his group, have already undergone a preliminary review by the American Diabetes Association, and will be discussed at the ADA meeting in Philadelphia next month. The hope is that the final version of the guidelines will be completed by late in the year, with publication of the guidelines being endorsed both by the NACB and the ADA. The Toxicology and the revised Thyroid guidelines will be presented at the 2001 AACC Annual Meeting in Chicago; more information on these two guidelines is available elsewhere in this newsletter. Our project for 2002 is on Maternal – Fetal Health Risk Assessment, chaired by John Sherwin and assisted by Carol Lee, Ed Ashwood, Gillian Lockitch, and Sharon Geaghan. At present, this will represent a joint effort between the NACB and the Maternal-Fetal Division of the AACC, with the hope of attracting a clinical organization as co-sponsor. The guidelines will be presented in a two-day program at the 2002 AACC Annual Meeting in Orlando. The first day will focus on Reference Values in Pregnancy, Definitions of Risk, Preconception Risk Factors, Gestational Diabetes, and First and Second Trimester Risk Assessment. Day two will focus on Third Trimester Risk Assessment (such as fetal lung maturity and detection of premature labor), Perinatal Care, and Evaluation of the Newborn for Metabolic Errors. The program is comprehensive and touches on many important issues. The committee hopes to have an initial draft of the guidelines available on our web site no later than early 2002. Finally, ESAC has been looking into other future topics. Suggestions include revisions of the guidelines on nutritional assessment and cardiac markers, DNA based testing, and cardiac risk assessment. More details on these should be available by the fall newsletter.

## **NACB EVENTS AT THE 2001 AACC ANNUAL MEETING**

*Come help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will be noted during several of the events below and especially at our Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting.*

**Monday, July 30 1:30–3:00 p.m., Chicago Hilton**, Meeting of NACB Board of Directors and Committee Chairs.

**Tuesday, July 31 6:30–9:00 p.m., Chicago Hilton**, Presentation of Revised LMPG: Laboratory Support for the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Thyroid Disease – RSVP to [Education@aacc.org](mailto:Education@aacc.org) or 202-659-8370.

**Wednesday, August 1, 10:30-12:00 noon & 2:45-5:00 p.m., McCormick Place**, Proposed LMPG: Recommendations for the Use of Laboratory Tests to Support the Impaired and Overdosed Patient from the Emergency Department, Parts I and II.

**Wednesday, August 1, 12:30 – 2:15 p.m., Chicago Hilton**, NACB Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting – Luncheon cost \$20.00 – must be preregistered (deadline is June 18, 2001).

**Thursday, August 2, 10:30-12:00 noon & 2:45-5:00 p.m., McCormick Place**, Proposed LMPG: Recommendations for the Use of Laboratory Tests to Support the Impaired and Overdosed Patient from the Emergency Department, Parts III and IV.

**Tuesday – Thursday, July 31 – August 2**, NACB Exhibit Booth, during exhibit hours.

## **NACB FELLOWS NOMINATED**

By AACC

Thirteen of the 14 nominees for the AACC's Officers, Board of Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2002 are Fellows of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry. This is a distinct and significant event and serves to underscore the increasing prominence of NACB as the Academy of AACC. Leading this very prestigious slate for the election to be held later this year are Susan Evans, Ph.D., FACB and Roland Valdes, Jr., Ph.D., FACB, nominees for President Elect. The candidates for Secretary are Robert H. Christenson, Ph.D., FACB and Shirley L. Welch, Ph.D., FACB. The nominees for the AACC Board of Directors are Thomas M. Annesley, Ph.D., FACB, Barbara M. Goldsmith, Ph.D., FACB, James H. Nichols, Ph.D., FACB, and Robert H. Williams, Ph.D., FACB. Rounding out the AACC ballot are the candidates for the Nominating Committee which include John Rex Astles, Ph.D., FACB, Daniel H. Farkas, Ph.D., FACB, Catherine A. Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., FACB, Ellis Jacobs, Ph.D., FACB, and Donald R. Parker, Ph.D., FACB. Good luck to all of these distinguished nominees.

## **NACB 2001 NOMINEES**

The Nomination Committee, chaired by Nader Rifai, Ph.D., FACB, is pleased to announce the following candidates for the 2001 Elections. Ballots were mailed in May, and the results of the election will be announced at the Annual meeting in August.

Board of Directors (vote for 2):

Robert Christenson  
Susan Evans  
Ann Gronowski  
Jerry Yeo

Nominting Committee (vote for 3):

Robert Elser  
Ingo Kampa  
Frank Sedor  
Steven Soldin  
Roland Valdes  
Nannepaga Zachariah

**ALAN WU, PH.D., FACB, DABCC**  
**PROFESSOR ALVIN DUBIN 2001 AWARD**

(For distinguished contributions to the discipline and practice of Clinical Biochemistry)

*Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics*

**Alan H.B. Wu, Ph.D., FACB, DABCC** is currently Director of Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratories and Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Connecticut, Farmington, and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Pathobiology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. The toxicology laboratory is certified by Health and Human Services and by the College of American Pathologists for forensic urine drug testing. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry and biology at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, and a Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical chemistry at Hartford Hospital under the direction of Drs. George N. Bowers, Jr. and Robert B. McComb.



Dr. Wu is active in both the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB), and serves on numerous committees. He is currently President of the Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry (COMACC). He also co-directs the COMACC-accredited clinical chemistry postdoctoral training program at Hartford Hospital. In addition, he supervises several graduate students from the University of Connecticut and lectures to Hartford Hospital medical technology students.

Dr. Wu's research interests have focused on biochemical markers for cardiovascular disease, and on drugs-of-abuse testing in analytical toxicology. He has over 300 papers, abstracts, and book chapters, and has written 4 books. Since 1998, he has been co-editor-in-chief for *Clinica Chimica Acta*.

In 1982, Dr. Wu was the first recipient of the AACC Endowment Fund for Research, and in 1986, he received the AACC National Young Investigator Award. In 1991, he received the NACB George Grannis Award and was named the AACC, Texas Section, Outstanding Clinical Chemist. He has also received the AACC Outstanding Speaker Award on 7 occasions. Dr. Wu is married and has three children.

---

**GEORGE M. YOUSEF, M.B.B.Ch., M.Sc.**  
**GEORGE GRANNIS 2001 AWARD**

(For excellence in research and scientific publication by a young investigator)

*Sponsored by NACB*



**George M. Yousef, M.B.B.Ch., M.Sc.**, is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto and works with Dr Eleftherios Diamandis in the Clinical Biochemistry Division of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. Dr. Yousef received his M.B.B.Ch. Degree in 1987 from Zagazig University, Egypt, and his M.Sc. in Clinical Biochemistry in 1994 from Menoufiya University, Egypt.

Dr. Yousef was the recipient of the 1999 Annual Prize for scientific achievement from the International Society for Enzymology. In 2000, he received the American Association of Clinical Chemistry Van Slyke research grant and also the Mitchell Award for Cancer Research.

Dr. Yousef's research focus is the study of the kallikrein gene family and their role as cancer biomarkers. In the past 3 years, he has identified 7 new members of the human kallikrein gene family and has established the first detailed map of the kallikrein gene locus. Dr. Yousef has published over 25 papers, many of them in leading journals including the *Journal of Biological Chemistry and Cancer Research*. He has also published three review articles on the human kallikrein gene family.

Dr. Yousef is an associate member of both the American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR). He is married and has two children.

---

**ROLAND VALDES, JR., PH.D., FACB, DABCC**  
**NACB DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST 2001 AWARD**

(For outstanding research advances in the field of clinical biochemistry)

*Sponsored by Bayer Diagnostics*



**Roland Valdes, Jr, Ph.D., FACB, DABCC**, is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He is a Vice-Chairman for the Department of Pathology and also serves as Director of Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology for the University of Louisville Hospital. Dr. Valdes received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics from the University of Virginia where he also completed postdoctoral training in Biochemistry and in Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology. Prior to his move to Louisville, Dr. Valdes was on faculty at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and a Fellow of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (he is now the immediate Past-President of the Academy.) Dr. Valdes has published over 190 papers, book chapters, and abstracts. In addition to his clinical service, he maintains an active basic research laboratory funded with federal grants from both NIH and NSF and from private organizations such as the American Heart Association and the diagnostic industry. Dr. Valdes' scientific interests have focused on the discovery and characterization of endogenous mammalian cardenolides, especially with respect to their interaction with the sodium pump; more recently, he has been involved in the transitioning of the science of pharmacogenetics (PG) into clinical laboratory applications. He serves on the Editorial Boards of several scientific journals including *Clinical Chemistry*, *Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences*, *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring*, *Journal of Clinical Ligand Assays*, and *Clinica Chimica Acta*. He has also served on the governing Board of Directors of several major professional organizations including the AACC and CLAS (also as President). Dr. Valdes was the recipient of a Distinguished Scientist Award in 1994 given by the Clinical Ligand Assay Society for his work on fundamental contributions to the development of ligand-based immunoassays. He also recently received the Katchman Award in 1999 from the OVS-AACC Section, as well as the 1999 Outstanding Scholarship nomination from the University of Louisville School of Medicine for the University President's Award for distinguished scholarship and creative activity.

**OBITUARY: DR. SAMUEL R. NATELSON (1909-2001)**

Samuel R. Natelson, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB, passed away on March 31 in Knoxville, Tennessee at the age of 92. Dr. Natelson was a founder of both the AACC and the NACB and served on the NACB Board of Directors from 1976 to 1979. In 1965, he was presented with the AACC's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry. Dr. Natelson published numerous scientific articles, several books, and held 49 patents. He was proudest of his work in developing the instrumentation, methodology and theory in the care of premature infants that laid the laboratory foundation for modern neonatology. After his retirement at age 70 from Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Dr. Natelson was an adjunct Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and continued to publish innovative scientific papers until age 86. Dr. Natelson was born February 28, 1909 in New York City and obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry from New York University in 1931. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel D. Natelson, and is survived by four children, one brother, two sisters, and seven grandchildren. Memorials may be offered to the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901.

## Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

Continued from page 1

alcohol testing? Although not required by CLIA '88, should the lab be involved with the administration of a breath alcohol program? Do we need to provide stat assays for methanol and ethylene glycol? What is the role of the serum osmolality in volatiles testing?"

**Session IV** (Thursday afternoon) will review the "Recommendations on Laboratory Assays for Substance Abuse and Exposure." Included in this section will be gases, rodenticides, heavy metals, pesticides, anti-coagulants, and inhalants. Among the items to be discussed are "What is the role of the lab for monitoring cyanide exposure or inhalants abuse? How do we interpret results for pseudocholinesterase assays? What is the role of lead testing and other heavy metals in the ED? Should we be conducting broad-spectrum trace metals screening for healthy populations?"

During these AACC EduTrak sessions, committee members will present the recommendations after which there will be an extensive panel discussion between presenters and participants. We will attempt to determine the degree of acceptance of these guidelines and then classify them as follows. 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 or efficacy, but where the weight of evidence/opinion is in their favor. Class III recommendations are those for which there is evidence and/or general agreement that a procedure is not useful or effective.

Other members of the Scientific Committee in addition to Dr. Wu are: Larry A. Broussard, Ph.D., FACB, Robert S. Hoffman, M.D., FACMT, Tai C. Kwong, Ph.D., FACB, Charles McKay, M.D., FACMT, Thomas P. Moyer, Ph.D., Edward M. Otten, M.D., FACMT, Shirley L. Welch, Ph.D., FACB, and Paul Wax, M.D., FACMT. This NACB LMPG Committee is also scheduling workshop sessions at the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in New Orleans LA, and at the American College of Medical Toxicology in Montreal Canada. When completed, a final set of guidelines will be submitted for publication. The target journal has not been determined as of yet. As with the others in the LMPG series, a complete NACB monograph will be published after the journal article.



## NEWS & VIEWS

K-T Jerry Yeo, Ph.D., F.A.C.B.  
Department of Pathology  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
One Medical Center Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756

---

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #2  
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

---