



NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2004

The Academy of AACC

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have now completed almost half of my term as your President, and it has been an eventful time for me. After a bout with a kidney stone, some false positive troponins that led to a lot of further testing, and some actual

Academy business, I am back to a more normal schedule.

Although you will probably see more of this elsewhere, I wanted you to know about the success of the Beckman Conference two weeks ago. Rob Christenson and his committee put on a fabulous program, and over 200 people attended. The NACB draft guidelines were presented, with great interaction from both laboratory and clinical professionals. I have attended most of the LMPG conferences (and SOLP ones before that), and this was the best interaction of clinical and laboratory staff I can recall. Everyone I spoke with felt that this was an approach we should consider for future LMPG conferences (and may have an opportunity to do again with the next Beckman conference).

I am also looking forward to an outstanding LMPG program at the 2004 AACC meeting, which (by the time you receive this) will be about a month away. Jim Nichols and his committee have done an outstanding job. Both this draft and the cardiac marker draft guidelines are now available for review on our web site – I invite all of you to review them and get your suggestions in to the committee chair.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, Tom Annesley has a report on the Distinguished Abstract Program. For the first time, NACB will recognize outstanding science in the Abstracts by presenting awards to 16 submitted papers. Tom and his committee did an outstanding job reviewing about 200 of the abstracts to identify our 16

award winners. A list of these will be in the AACC exhibit guide, and prominently featured at the NACB booth. Stop by to look at the posters of these award winners (some of whom are also NACB fellows).

The Board had a very productive meeting in April here in Washington DC (actually Alexandria). We spent a good portion of the meeting reviewing our Strategic Plan, and determining directions for the Academy. What became clear is that we need a clearer sense of our role as the Academy of AACC. One change you will see is in our “tag line,” which will now read “The Academy of AACC.” The Board came up with a number of suggestions of how we might function in this way, and these will be discussed in the meeting of the Presidents at the AACC annual meeting. I will keep you informed as we clarify this role and in changes to our strategic plan once it is finalized.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, there will be continued increased visibility for NACB at the meeting. This year, for the first time, NACB past-presidents will be recognized along with AACC past-presidents at the Opening Ceremony. NACB fellows will receive a sticker to put on their badge, allowing all to recognize NACB members. NACB is participating in a revitalization of the Student Award Competition, and Uttam Garg is representing NACB on the planning group. Stop by the booth to see what else is new at NACB.

I hope to see many of you next month in Los Angeles, both on the floor and at the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday. We hope to standardize the day of the luncheon on Wednesdays for future meetings, but this is not “cast in concrete” at this time. Have a safe summer and I will write to you again in the fall.

D. ROBERT DUFOUR, M.D., FACB
President

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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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The spring meeting of the NACB Board was held April 23-25 in Alexandria, VA with President Bob Dufour presiding. After hearing a brief overview of the history of Alexandria and welcome, the group got down to business so that we could cover as much as possible of an ambitious agenda.

Treasurer Bob White began by noting that the financial records have been transferred to Quickbook after which he high-lighted several items from his written report: for 2003, there was a loss of \$7288.89 primarily due to less corporate sponsorship than anticipated and budgeted. We are currently within budget for 2004, however he cautioned that major expenses come mid-year to fall. As part of his **Finance Committee Report, B** White reviewed the findings of the CPA preliminary report in detail. It was decided that such a review would become routine.

A review of the activities of the **Education and Scientific Affairs Committee** found considerable activity with three draft guidelines in various stages of web posting and review. First, the final draft of the Maternal-Fetal guidelines was posted in early April for review. Similarly, the draft guidelines for the Cardiac Marker LMPG were noted to be ready for placement and subsequent presentation at the Beckman Conference (May). And it was noted that several of the Point-of-Care Testing draft guidelines were available for review with the remainder due by June. The LMPGs were the subject of later

continued next page

discussions of the Strategic Plan (see below). Also, the **Fund Raising Task Force** report raised several issues relating to the LMPGs with the one of greatest concern being the variability of the LMPG chairs in assisting the FRTF in identifying support sources. After some discussion, a sub-committee was designated to develop a better process.

The group was pleased to hear that the first **Distinguished Abstracts Awards** would be bestowed at the Annual Meeting and plans were made to recognize the recipients through several avenues. In response to a request by ComACC, the Academy will co-sponsor the **Student Poster Contest**.

The three major items of activity involved reviews of the By-laws, the BOD Manual, and the Strategic Plan. Two items from the **By-laws review** are important to note: first, it was determined that the by-laws allow for electronic balloting for elections. Second, Article 5 was amended to retain and list fewer standing committees (Finance, Executive,

ESAC). This allows other committees to be designated as necessary and when consistent with the vision and mission of the Academy.

We then turned our attention to the **BOD Manual**, updating and correcting a number of policies. The board decided to formalize the committee review policy and move the evaluation process to August. On review of the "Official Statements Policy", it was decided to exempt the preliminary LMPG draft guidelines during the public review period; however, final guidelines will fall within this policy and must be approved by the President, or designee, prior to release. It was also approved to permit the selling of the academy's mailing list for use by another professional organization for a specified, one-time use.

As would be expected the discussion of the **Strategic Plan** were quite lengthy and will continue at future meetings. With respect to the Clinical Practice Initiative, it was agreed the LMPGs represent the primary focus of this area. The Board recognized the time of commitment required to successfully complete these activities and discussed several options to facilitate future LMPG activities. The BOD agreed that the Academy should become a leader in developing systematic reviews and partner with clinical organizations and AHRQ to facilitate the review process. To support the Research arm of the Strategic Plan, three new strategies were identified to accompany the support of the Grannis and Distinguished Scientist awards: pursuing funding to support outcomes related research; further developing the Distinguished Abstracts Program, and expanding support of the student poster competition.

CATHERINE A. HAMMETT-STABLER, PH.D., FACB
Report from the NACB Board of Directors Meeting

CARDIAC BIOMARKERS

The LMPG for Cardiac Biomarkers of Acute Coronary Syndromes and Heart Failure continues to move along well. The Draft LMPG is available on the website, and all comments and suggestions are encouraged and gratefully received. These draft guidelines were recently presented as the topic of the '04 Arnold O. Beckman Conference, which was held in Cambridge, MA on May 21st & 22nd. The conference served as an excellent forum for interaction between clinicians, laboratorians, industry, regulatory folks and other interested individuals. NACB members that are involved in LMPG activities may wish to consider proposing future Beckman Conference topics, as this allows a focused venue for discussion, and is clearly in the spirit of what Dr. Beckman had in mind when he endowed the conference.

ROBERT H. CHRISTENSON, PH.D., DABCC, FACB



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY DISTINGUISHED ABSTRACTS PROGRAM

The NACB Distinguished Abstracts program is designed to promote the scholarship of discovery and recognize those who are preparing the best abstracts describing exceptional studies. These abstracts were chosen from the nearly 650 abstracts accepted for presentation at the 2004 AACC Annual Meeting.

A rigorous selection process is used that incorporates a primary review by AACC members, followed by a second review performed by a group of NACB Fellows. Only those abstracts that meet strict criteria during both reviews are designated as Distinguished Abstracts.

For 2004, the following sixteen abstracts have been selected to receive this honor:

Tuesday, July 27, 10:00 a.m. A-79

Larry H. Bernstein, MD

The ACC/ESC Recommendation for 99th Percentile of the Reference Normal Overestimates the Risk of an Acute Clinical Event

Tuesday, July 27, 10:00 a.m. A-82

David A. Morrow, MD, MPH

Admission BNP and Prognosis in Patients with ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction: An ENTIRE-TIMI 23 Sub-study

Tuesday, July 27, 10:00 a.m. A-110

Yusheng Zhu, PhD

A Novel Antibody Screening Technique Using Protein Analysis by SELDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry

Tuesday, July 27, 2:00 p.m. B-81

Michael V. Miles, PharmD

Coenzyme Q10 Associations with Metabolic Syndrome

Tuesday, July 27, 2:00 p.m. B-113

Giampaolo Merlini, MD

Circulating Free Light Chain Concentration Correlates with Degree of Cardiac Dysfunction in AL Amyloidosis.

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-34

Steven D. Reid, PhD

Serum Free Light Chains are a More Sensitive Marker of Serological Remission in Multiple Myeloma Patients

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-38

Ibrahim Mansoor, MD

Urinary NMP-22 Plus Cytology: Diagnostic Synergy for Detecting Urothelial Carcinoma.

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-46

Dr. Shin-ichiro Watanabe

A Sensitive and Specific Chemiluminescent Enzyme Immunoassay for Cerebrospinal Fluid Placental Alkaline Phosphatase in Patients with Intracranial Germinomas

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-47

Margo J. Hall, PhD

A Comparison of CA242 with Ten Other Tumor Antigens for the Serodiagnosis of Pancreatic and Gastric Cancers.

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-115

Robert L. Taylor, BS

Diagnosis of Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Using Tandem Mass Spectrometry

Wednesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m. C-128

Hassan M. Hussien Qazzaz, PhD

Evidence Suggest a Novel Biosynthetic Pathway for Production of DLIF that Does Not Involve Removal of the Cholesterol Side Chain

Wednesday, July 28, 2:00 p.m. D-15

Brenda E. Moore, BS

Evaluation of an "In-House" Cytochrome P450 Assay on an Open Platform: the Potential for Allelic Drop-out.

Wednesday, July 28, 2:00 p.m. D-95

Werner Steimer, MD

Prospective CYP2D6 Genotyping in Psychiatric Inpatients. A Preliminary Report.

Thursday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. E-32

Roy A. Sherwood, PhD

Serum Protein S100B as a Marker of Prognosis in Children with Traumatic Brain Injury

Thursday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. E-40

Nur Aksoy, MD

The Effect of Homocysteine-lowering Therapy on Endothelium-dependent Vasodilation and Exercise Performance in Coronary Patients with Hyperhomocysteinemia

Thursday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. E-41

Mohammad N. Allam, MD

Plasma sE-selectin: A Promising Tool in the Diagnosis and Therapeutic Monitoring of Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis

2004 NACB MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2003 final NACB membership numbers are given below. The final figures for 2003 (below) show that NACB membership has increased slightly (1 %) over the past year. The 2004 membership numbers are as of June. Renewal notices have been sent to members who have not sent in their 2004 dues. All Fellows that have joined since the last annual Meeting will be recognized at the annual Awards Luncheon and Membership meeting held in conjunction with the annual AACC meeting in Los Angeles.

The draft electronic NACB application is in progress. Once the electronic application is finished this will allow distribution of the applications by e-mail reducing the cost of mailing applications. The membership committee will evaluate the electronic application and make recommendations regarding changes as necessary.

NACB	OCTOBER 99	OCTOBER 00	OCTOBER 01	OCTOBER 02	OCTOBER 03	JUNE 2004
Fellow	290	367	427	423	438	430
Associate fellow	7	6	7	15	15	13
Emeritus fellow	76	66	78	82	82	83
Honorary fellow	8	8	8	2	1	1
Total	381	447	520	522	536	527
% change relative to previous year		17%	16%	0.3%	1%	
% change relative to 1999		17%	36%	37%	41%	
* as of 5/1/02 only honorary fellows with contact information included						
New Fellows		92	80	23	28	13
New Associate Fellows		1	1	9	3	0
ABCC 1st year free			6			1

TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, NACB has the following assets excluding the Washington bank (AACC) from which our monthly administrative fees and board expenses are paid:

Legg Mason Investments:	\$146,753.37	Receivables:	\$ 20,000.00
Current Cash (Naples):	\$ 10,567.80	Payables:	\$ 5,000.00

Thus, overall, NACB is quite financially healthy so far in 2004.

Our first CPA Review is complete and showed that we are performing as expected financially.

I will have a detailed report on 2003 and how we are faring in 2004 at the NACB Awards Luncheon in Los Angeles. I very much look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheon and discussing our finances.

BOB WHITE
Treasurer