



# NEWS & VIEWS

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*Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

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## Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPG) Program on Diabetes at AACC Annual Meeting

One of the major efforts of NACB for the past seven years has been the development of Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (formerly called Standards of Laboratory Practice, or SOLPs). These represent consensus guidelines for the use of laboratory tests in the diagnosis and management of clinical problems. They also suggest goals for laboratory performance based on clinical needs. Originally conceived by **Larry Kaplan, Ph.D.**, and adopted by the Board of Directors, the LMPG process is designed to unite clinicians and laboratorians in advancing the discipline of clinical laboratory science and in improving patient care. The first LMPG monograph on Nutrition was published in 1996, followed by monographs on Thyroid Disease, Neonatal Monitoring, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, and Cardiac Markers. Two other LMPG monographs, on Hepatitis and Tumor Markers, are in the final stages of preparation.

While the LMPG process has always included both clinicians and laboratorians, until 1999, publications went primarily to laboratorians, and proceedings of the meetings were published in *Clinical Chemistry*. However, the Cardiac Marker LMPG has involved close cooperation between cardiologists and emergency medicine physicians, and Editorials on the Guidelines were published in cardiology and emergency medicine journals to coincide with the publication of the proceedings in *Clinical Chemistry*. The next two LMPG's, on Hepatitis and Diabetes, are to be reviewed and, ultimately, co-published by the appropriate clinical specialty society. It is believed that the increased involvement of clinicians will lead to more widespread adoption of the guidelines and to increased visibility and prestige for our organization.

As part of the LMPG process, the draft of the Diabetes guidelines will be presented to the

American Diabetes Association and will be presented as an Edutrak at the AACC meeting in San Francisco. The one day program, on July 25, 2000, will focus 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 will be considered. The speakers are:

<b>Dr. David Sacks</b>	<b>Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston</b>
<b>Dr. Jay McDonald</b>	<b>University of Alabama at Birmingham</b>
<b>Dr. David Goldstein</b>	<b>University of Missouri</b>
<b>Dr. Noel Maclaren</b>	<b>Cornell University</b>
<b>Dr. David Bruns</b>	<b>University of Virginia Medical Center</b>
<b>Dr. Marian Parrott</b>	<b>American Diabetes Association</b>

The morning session will focus on glucose, including self-monitoring and noninvasive measurements. This topic will be followed by glycated hemoglobin, autoimmunity, and urine proteins. The program will end with a discussion of potentially important analytes, such as amylin and leptin. Each presentation will consist of a 15-20 minute summary of the proposed guidelines and of the evidence used to establish these guidelines. The presentation will be followed by 20-25 minutes for comments from the audience. A draft of the guidelines will be availa-



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able on the NACB web site ([www.nacb.org](http://www.nacb.org)) by the time this article is published.

The LMPG program continues to evolve as a means for promoting the science of laboratory medicine. The 2001 LMPG, on Emergency Toxicology, is in the planning stage, and discussions are underway on the topic for the 2002 program. Members interested in participating in future efforts should contact the Chair of the Education and Scientific Affairs Committee, **Dr Bob Dufour**.

*Submitted by David Sacks, MD  
Chair, Diabetes LMPG*

**BOD Spring 2000 Meeting, Chicago**



Left to right: Ed Sasse, Bob White, Barbara Goldsmith, Tom Annesley, Mary Burritt, Mike Lehrer, Roland Valdes, Charlie Hawker, Bob Murraray, Myron Warshaw.

**President's Corner**

**President's Message to the Membership:  
With an eye to our Future**

We have just held our first Board of Directors meeting for the year 2000. The BOD met in Chicago, Saturday and Sunday April 29 - 30th. Our agenda was quite full, but we were able to complete most of our business. Our Secretary, Dr. Goldsmith, presents some of the details of our discussions separately in this newsletter. I will, however, outline some of the issues addressed and also provide you a perspective of what we are emphasizing in our deliberations and in our present thinking.

After our Academy formulated its Strategic Plan about two years ago, I asked the BOD to initially focus on three major activities needed for repositioning and strengthening our membership (our Fellows). These were: a) promoting visibility of Academy, b) developing infrastructure and c) establishing a solid plan for the financial health of the Academy. I can happily report that we are well on our way to achieving these initial objectives.

The Academy has made substantial headway in promoting its visibility. For example, a final document of agreement was signed with AACC and CCJ to place the Academy logo in the CCJ (this started in the February 2000 issue, see page 6 of the Journal). There is a page dedicated to NACB programs and activities in the AACC annual meeting program for the past 2 years and in this year as well. NACB Fellows are also listed in the AACC directory, our Officers and BOD Members are also listed separately in the AACC Directory of Key

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personnel, and our website is linked to AACC website. Additionally, NACB and AACC have undertaken a joint venture, inviting qualified candidates to apply for Fellowship. A joint-letterhead was designed, and both **Drs. Roland Valdes** and **Michael K. Parker** signed the invitation letters sent. I am most pleased that the campaign has inducted over **62** new Fellows into our Academy in two short months! Additional applications are still being processed, so I anticipate the acceptance of even more new Fellows as we reach midyear. This is perhaps the most successful membership drive in our history as an Academy, and we should thank our Membership/Governance Committee and, most certainly, our BOD for their time and effort on this issue. We plan to have the new members "inducted" into the Academy and be acknowledged at the AACC Meeting in San Francisco and at our own Awards Luncheon at the same location. With regard to our increasing visibility, there is currently a joint coordination between **NACB** and **American Thyroid Association** to revise the Thyroid Monograph which is proposed to be presented at the International Thyroid Symposium in Kyoto, Japan this October, 2000. I recently attended and spoke at the OVS-AACC Katchman Awards Banquet in Louisville where I presented a speech on "Defining Scholarship in Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine." The Academy was used as the model driver for this future definition. More will be written about this concept in the near future.

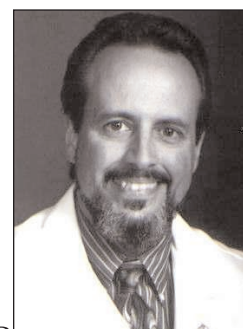
We have made several major improvements to our infrastructure. Our standing committees and task forces have stronger and more direct representation at the BOD because each committee has a board member liaison (or chair) that is able to report to the BOD in an informative and timely manner. In addition, we have arranged for one or two of the standing committee Chairs to attend our BOD or Executive Committee conference calls. The Chairs have also been asked to attend the abbreviated BOD meeting we hold in summer during the annual AACC meeting. This is an opportunity to speak first-hand with the entire BOD as group. We have found this works well for maintaining communication and getting a sense of the different committees' needs and those of the BOD. A second infrastructure issue has involved our administrative needs. After competitive assessment of our costs, we decided several years ago to utilize the administrative services provided by the AACC. These services have been most helpful to us in achieving our objectives. Our costs and charges are being closely monitored by our Treasurer and by

our Finance Committee, and by all indications, we seem to be getting considerable value for our monies.

With regard to establishing a solid plan for the financial health of the Academy, we have also made considerable headway. Our Finance Committee this year is headed by our Treasurer, Dr. Michael Lehrer (other members include: **L. Berntein**, **R. Dufour**, **C. Hawker**, and **M. Warshaw**). Their most recent charge has been to establish a rigorous accounting system that will permit us to track our expenses and categorize each activity independently, thus providing a financial picture and valuable information from which the BOD can make informed decisions. With the help of our former Treasurer (**Dr. Seamonds**), we are successfully making this transition. Over the past five years, our financial position has remained sound and we expect to improve in the future. We continue however, to actively address this issue; for example, we are developing alternative sources of funding, and are re-defining what our expenditures and needs really are, or ought to be based on our Strategic Plan. We recognize as a Board that we must balance present deficits against future growth. Thus we are aggressively pursuing our financial goals to improve our future outlook.

In summary, the Academy is growing and undertaking new activities at an unprecedented rate. There are few that suggest that we may be heading in the wrong direction or "barking up the wrong tree;" in contrast, I see these efforts important in making our Academy grow healthier and stronger. Our accomplishments during the last two years can be attributed to the willingness of the BOD to meet face-to-face as needed, to identify issues important to our future, to take time to deliberate and then to initiate appropriate actions. We have met with significant success. So in closing, I ask for your continued support in helping our BOD perform its duties of leadership as it has so diligently done in the past. I hope to see all of you in San Francisco for our Awards Luncheon and subsequent General Membership meeting. Until then, Good Day!

Respectfully submitted,



Roland Valdes, Jr., Ph.D., FACB

## Secretary's Report

The Board of Directors held a meeting on April 28-30, 2000. Numerous topics were discussed and actions taken. Among these were: the review of the new financial software that will better track NACB accounting; development of several bylaws changes intended to clarify and enhance efficiency (to be voted on by membership); direction given to the awards committee as they move forward; consideration of funding options for LMPGs (formerly called SOLPs); exploring ways to cope with aging demographics of our membership; the relationship between the NACB and the AACC. We also discussed the success of the recent membership drive and the positive impact this will have on the Academy. Dr. Valdes discusses elsewhere in this newsletter the details of Board activities and accomplishments.

*Submitted by Barbara Goldsmith, PhD., FACB*

## Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Discussions (April 2000)

Members: **Larry Bernstein, M.D.**  
**Robert Dufour, M.D.**  
**Charles Hawker, Ph.D.**  
**Michael Lehrer, Ph.D.**  
**Myron Warshaw, Ph.D.**

The finance committee held 2 conference call meetings in the past month. The agenda centered on:

1. Figuring out and reconstruction of NACB's finances for the past 5 years; focusing on format and contents of future financial statements
2. Explorations of ideas to increase income and reduce expenses

The lion's share of time focused on 1st item. Charles Hawker compiled a 5 year spread sheet of income/expense which is included in your binders. Errors, unspecific financial categories, and lack of details in previous reports made the process challenging; spreadsheet underwent many revisions. The final spreadsheet provided a sound review of NACB's past finances.

The committee agreed that future statements will be set-up in Quickbook. The format will be reader friendly so that reports will be easier to follow and comprehend. Reports will offer greater detail and will also track individual SOPL financial progress over a multi year basis. The treasurer will also report to the Board financial progress of NACB's investments (profit/loss) so that the information is current and timely decisions can be made.

Time was not sufficient to discuss the 2nd agenda item at length. However, it was felt that NACB's fund raising should be more organized and focused so that such activities are timely and do not fall through the cracks. Suggestions were made to identify activities that will increase income and decrease expenses. Examples include:

- Systematic review of certain specialties which could produce industry support as well as sales income (e.g. C-reactive factor as a risk factor for MI)
- Exploring with AACC for greater support (i.e. renegotiating the EduTrak)
- Think like "Industry" in terms of projects that they would fund
- Eliminate the free lunch at AACC meeting for new members
- Conference call standardization to reduce costs (e.g. calling in to the 800 number by participants)
- Complete the Tumor monograph
- Ascertain actual AACC administrative costs and if excessive, do more ourselves

*Submitted by Mike Lehrer, Ph.D.*

## NACB Nominations Committee Results

The following are the candidates that were recommended by the Nomination Committee for the positions below for election.

### President-elect (2001-2002, one to be elected)

Jean Joseph, PhD  
Mike Parker, PhD

Serves one year as President in 2003 and one year as Past President in 2004. There will be an election for President-elect every year from now on, with terms from then on being one year each (PE, P, PP).

### Secretary (2001-2003, one to be elected)

David Koch, PhD  
Tony Okorodudu, PhD

### Board of Directors (2001-2003, Two to be elected)

Catherine Hamlett-Stabler, PhD  
Jim Nichols, PhD  
John Sherwin, PhD  
Robert White, PhD

### Nominating Committee (2001-2002, Three to be elected)

Owen Ash, PhD  
Charles Bradley, PhD  
Steven Kahn, PhD  
Ingo Kampa, PhD  
Nannepaga Zachariah, PhD  
Myron Warshaw, PhD

There are three members currently on this Committee who will serve in 2001. Winner of election last year will be Chair in 2001. Winner of 2000 election will be Chair in 2002.

## Membership and Governance Committee Report

The number of fellows in the Academy has averaged 435 since 1995. In an effort to include more distinguished clinical chemists in the advancement of our activities, several prominent members of the AACC were invited to apply for fellowship in the Academy. The NACB President, **Roland Valdes, Ph.D., FACB**, and the former AACC President **K. Michael Parker, Ph.D., FACB**, both championed this invitation effort in late 1999. Due to this initiative, the Membership and Governance Committee for 2000 has received an unprecedented increase in the number of new applicants. For the period January through May 2000, the committee received and processed 77 new applications for fellowship in the academy. Seventy-five of the applicants fulfilled the requirements for admission as fellows of the academy. The members of the Membership and Governance Committee are **Anthony O. Okorodudu, Ph.D., FACB (Chair)**, **K. Michael Parker, Ph.D., FACB**, **John R. Petersen, Ph.D., FACB** and **Rosemarie Romeo, Ph.D., FACB**.

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate and welcome these new fellows to the Academy. Admission as fellow entitles you to use the designation "Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Biochemistry" and the initials "FACB," as appropriate, for professional activities. The new fellows are:

1. John Rex Astles, Ph.D.
2. Michael Bennett, Ph.D.
3. Roger L. Bertholf, Ph.D.
4. Michael G. Bissell, MD, PhD
5. Geza S. Bodor, MD
6. Charles Laurence Brooks, PhD
7. Lawrence A. Broussard, PhD
8. Thomas Burgess, PhD
9. Robert Burnett, PhD
10. Anthony W. Butch, PhD
11. David Chou, MD
12. Gerald R. Cooper, MD, PhD
13. Douglas Dix, PhD
14. Roger P. Ekins, PhD, DSc
15. Ronald J. Elin, MD, PhD
16. Katherine A. Erickson, Ph.D
17. Susan Evans, PhD
18. Daniel H. Farkas, PhD
19. Robin A. Felder, PhD
20. J. Douglas Ferry, PhD
21. Delbert A. Fisher, MD
22. Carl C. Garber, PhD
23. Anthony J. Girgenti, PhD
24. Nathan Gochman, PhD
25. David B.P. Goodman, MD, PhD
26. Ann Gronowski, PhD
27. Frank F. Hall, PhD
28. Robert W. Hardy, PhD
29. Robert Charles W. Hawkins, MD
30. Joseph H. Keffer, MD
31. Kathleen A. Kelly, PhD
32. Michael Kleerekoper, MD
33. William F. Koch, PhD
34. Hideaki Kojima, MD, PhD
35. Peter Kostka, PhD
36. Larry J. Kricka, DPhil
37. Martin H. Kroll, MD
38. David A. Lacher, MD
39. Michael L. Landt, PhD
40. Craig A. Lehmann, PhD
41. Janet A. Lineback, PhD
42. Stanley Lo, PhD
43. Nuala A. McCarroll, PhD
44. Joseph P. McConnell, PhD
45. Jay M. McDonald, MD
46. Gary L. Meyers, PhD
47. Amin A. Mohammad, PhD
48. Christine M. Moore, PhD
49. Patrick J. Nugent, PhD
50. Richard B. Passey, PhD
51. Christopher P. Price, PhD
52. James C. Ritchie, PhD
53. Linda C. Rogers, PhD
54. Herbert Rose, PhD
55. Sayed M.H. Sadrzadeh, PhD
56. Emile K. Schandl, MD, PhD
57. Mitchell G. Scott, PhD
58. Larry W. Seigler, PhD
59. Shahram Shahangian, PhD
60. Carole Ann Spencer, PhD
61. Karla Jean Walker, PharmD
62. Kory Ward-Cook, PhD
63. Tie Quan Wei, PhD
64. David J. Wells, Jr., PhD
65. Peter W. Wentz, PhD
66. James O. Westgard, PhD
67. Frank H. Wians, Jr., PhD
68. Donald A. Wiebe, PhD
69. Ian Wilkinson, PhD
70. Emily S. Winn-Deen, PhD
71. William Ernest Winter, MD
72. CaiCai Wu, PhD
73. Homer R. Yeh, PhD
74. Harold H. Yoshimura, PhD
75. Jack Zakowski, PhD.

*Submitted by:*

**Anthony O. Okorodudu, PhD, FACB**  
Chair, Membership & Governance Committee  
National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry

## **In Memoriam**

**Dr. Morton B. Epstein**, the first president of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, died on March 2, 2000, after a long illness. He received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1942. After the war, he worked for the Ordinance Department as a physical chemist at the National Bureau of Standards, and later he worked for Colgate-Palmolive Company. In 1963, he moved to Chicago and changed careers, entering the field of clinical chemistry, first at the Chicago Board of Health Division of Adult Health and Aging, and then at Christ Hospital in suburban Oak Lawn.

He was active in the American Association of Clinical Chemists, served as chair of the Chicago Section in 1973-74, and received the Samuel Natelson Award for his contributions to the organization in 1984. In 1973, he was one of the organizers of the interdisciplinary Conference on Amniotic Fluid, and was one of the editors of its proceedings. He helped organize the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, serving as its first president in 1976-77. In retirement, he followed the activities of the Academy with much interest, taking great satisfaction in its Standards of Laboratory Practice. NACB would like to extend our condolences to Mrs. Morton Epstein and her family.



## **NEWS & VIEWS**

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