



# NEWS & VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2006

*Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are coming to the end of an exciting year for the Academy. The NACB has accomplished much in 2006, and we should look forward to the new opportunities that lie ahead.

The NACB presented two LMPGs this year. In addition to the Pharmacogenetics Guidelines presented at the AACC meeting in Chicago, we again collaborated with the AACC in the development and co-sponsorship of the 2006 Beckman Conference on "Emerging Cardiac Markers: Establishing Guidelines for Risk Assessment". As NACB President I was invited to formally open the meeting.

Although our Awards program was very successful again this year, continued success requires input and participation by members of the Academy. I encourage all of you to refer to the information about our awards on the NACB website, and be proactive in nominating individuals for each award. More information on the 2007 awards program is included in this newsletter.

The NACB By-Laws Committee has begun work on preparing new/updated by-laws as part of our merger with the AACC. Once the process has been completed the new By-Laws will be formally

presented to the membership. The NACB Board has begun a policy governance review of our LMPG policies and procedures, with the goal of continual improvement in the quality and rigor of the guidelines we produce. AACC Executive Vice President Rich Flaherty has been helpful in this process. We have also recently initiated a review and update of the NACB Policy Manual.

As my year as the NACB President comes to a close, I want to thank the many individuals who have contributed behind the scenes towards the success of the Academy and its programs. I simply cannot successfully name everyone. Dedicated volunteers have worked on our newsletters, awards, by-laws, web layout, scientific programs, publications, LMPGs, staffing the booth at the AACC meeting, nominations, finances and budgeting, and collaborations with other professional groups.

The NACB also owes its gratitude to Penny Jones and Patty Brady. As always, Penny and Patty continue to keep the Academy running smoothly, and perform more work on behalf of the NACB than publicly recognized.

Lastly, on behalf of the officers and board of the NACB, I want to thank you for entrusting us with guiding the Academy in 2006.

THOMAS M. ANNESLEY,  
PHD, DABCC, 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.

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**SECRETARY'S REPORT  
DAVE KOCH, PH.D.  
NOVEMBER, 2006**

I announced the 2006 Election Results at the NACB Membership Meeting in Chicago. Sue Evans won the office of President-Elect. She will serve in that role in 2007, as President in 2008, and Past-President in 2009. John Peterson was elected Secretary, in which office he will serve from 2007-09. Members at large of the Board will be Stan Lo and Sal Sena. New members of the Nominating Committee are Nader Rifai, Frank Sedor, and Bob Dufour, with Bob serving as Chair of the Committee in 2008.

Several elections were typically close. Turnout was lower than usual; only about one-third of members voted. The numbers earlier in the spring for the merger ballot were excellent, so perhaps people became tired of voting in NACB elections. The results may have been the same, but we are all reminded to take our opportunity to vote seriously.

**LAB TESTS ONLINE**

Several months ago, Lab Tests Online hosted its 25 millionth visitor and Lab Tests Online-UK has crossed the 2 million mark. The progress on development of these websites is leading towards the development of new sites. For example, the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists has received a government grant to create and launch Lab Tests Online-AU. This is another example of the continued growth of Lab Tests Online as a global standard for patient education on lab testing.

## **NACB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 13, 2006**

Nominations for the 2007 annual awards of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry are being solicited. The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 13, 2006. Please submit nominations in writing to:

Elizabeth L. Frank, PhD, DABCC, FACB  
c/o ARUP Laboratories  
Medical Directorship  
500 Chipeta Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
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The annual awards of the NACB are:

### **The Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy.**

This award is named in honor of one of the Academy's founding members and its eighth President. The award recognizes a current or past member of the Academy who has made noteworthy contributions to the mission and stature of the NACB and whose professional activities have been dedicated to the advancement of laboratory medicine. The Dubin Award consists of a plaque and a \$2000 honorarium. The nomination should include a letter of nomination, three letters supporting the nomination, and a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.

### **The NACB Distinguished Scientist Award for Outstanding Research Advances in Clinical Biochemistry.**

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated significant research accomplishments in the field of clinical biochemistry. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of the biochemistry of disease or who have made discoveries of fundamental importance to the use of clinical chemistry techniques and instrumentation or in the application of the principles of clinical biochemistry. The award consists of a plaque and a \$2000 honorarium. The nomination should include a letter of nomination, copies of the nominee's ten most important research papers, and a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.

### **The George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication.**

This award is named in honor of the second President of the Academy, George F. Grannis, Ph.D. The award is given to recognize excellence in research and scientific publication by a young investigator. Current and past students in undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral clinical chemistry training programs who were enrolled sometime during the three-year period prior to the year of the award may be nominated for this award. The nominee must have published a paper indexed in Index Medicus during the same three-year period. Students may be proposed for consideration by a mentor or by the director of a ComACC-accredited program. The NACB Awards Committee will consider the scientific merit of the student-authored paper in selecting the award recipient. The Grannis Award consists of a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium.

John E. Sherwin, Ph.D. (Professor Alvin Dubin Award), Y.M. Dennis Lo, M.D. (Distinguished Scientist Award), and Linnea M. Baudhuin, Ph.D. (George Grannis Award) are the most recent recipients of the NACB Annual Awards.

## **NACB HOME PAGE UPDATE**

### **CHARLIE HAWKER, WEBMASTER**

The NACB Home Page is now part of the AACC's new and improved Home Page! Although you can still reach the Academy section by typing NACB.org, most members will probably find it more convenient to simply bookmark the following URL: <http://www.aacc.org/AACC/members/nacb/>. This location on the AACC Home Page can also be reached by selecting About AACC on the top left banner, and then selecting NACB in the drop down menu. All of the content from our previous home page is still present and listed under the NACB heading. However, much of it has an improved appearance, plus there are rapid links to order copies of LMPGs, view the LMPGs on line, apply for membership on line, and much more.

## EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

NACB has several LMPGs at various stages of development. Each of these can be viewed online at <http://www.aacc.org/AACC/members/nacb/LMPG/>.

Two guidelines are in their final draft form and will soon be ready for publishing.

[Point of Care Testing \(Nichols\)](#)

[Biomarkers of ACS \(Christenson\)](#)

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The following guidelines are currently in the comment phase (Emerging CV Risk Factors) or in the process of being revised in response and closed to comments. Please take a look and provide your comments.

[Tumor Markers \(Diamandis/Sturgeon\)](#)

[Pharmacogenetics \(Valdes/Payne\)](#)

[Emerging CV Risk Factors \(Myers\)](#)

Dr. Myers and his group presented the draft guidelines October 20-21 at the Beckman Conference in Baltimore. This was a tremendously successful meeting with much discussion and interaction between the presenters and the attendees.

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New LMPG update.

[Expanded Newborn Screening \(Bennett\)](#)

Dr. Bennett has submitted a proposal to the 2007 Annual Meeting Organizing Committee to present a draft of these guidelines in San Diego. Watch for the program and reserve that time to participate in the guideline process.

[Diabetes \(Sacks\)](#)

The Diabetes LMPG is being revised and will be presented at the 2007 Beckman Conference. Dr. David Sacks is the chair of the committee. The dates and location of the meeting are still to be determined.

## FALL, 2006 NACB TREASURER'S REPORT ROGER L. BERTHOLF, PH.D., FACB

Due to the merging of the NACB and the AACC, as of September 2006 all assets of the NACB have been transferred to the AACC. At the time of transfer, the assets included approximately \$7,000 in cash, and approximately \$150,000 in securities. The cash assets will be used to satisfy existing and future obligations of the Academy, whereas, by contractual agreement, the securities will be held in escrow for a period of three years. If, during that three year period, the NACB Board of Directors decides to dissolve the current relationship with the AACC, and the NACB re-incorporates as a separate entity, the balance of the securities account, along with any accrual, will be returned to the NACB.

Expenses for 2006, through August, are slightly over \$63,000, compared to a budget of \$85,000 for the year. Income for 2006 (through August) is \$41,000, compared to a budget of \$73,000. The primary reasons for the shortfall in revenue are the annual contribution from the AACC, which was rendered superfluous when the merger agreement was signed, and corporate sponsorships that have not yet been funded.

The 2007 NACB budget has been submitted to the AACC Finance Committee for consideration, but we have not been notified of their decision.

