



# NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2007

*Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are well into 2007. This morning we started the “new” Daylight Saving Time and despite the media hype, there were few problems in our lab

when we had to reset the clocks. We are also seeing signs of spring here in Chapel Hill. For some, it's the hint of warmth in the breeze when you walk out of the house in the early morning. The thermometer may be close to freezing, but there is a definite change in the air. For others, it's the narcissus in full regalia and hints that the forsythias are ready to burst open. And for many, it's the anticipation of March Madness. In any event, it's an interesting and exciting time. We often have some pretty strong storms rumble through (the price of warm Gulf flows hitting the cold fronts from the North), freezes are not out of the question, and, well let's not get into the games that are about to begin.

March also means the members of the Awards Committee have completed one of their tasks and selected the recipients for the 2007 awards: David Bruns is the recipient for the Distinguished Scientist Award; Thomas Annesley is the recipient of the Alvin Dubin Award, and Melissa Snyder is the recipient of the George Grannis Award. I'm sure you agree that they are each well deserving of recognition, and I hope you will join us July

18th in San Diego before the morning's plenary to honor them. Within a few days, the committee will begin the process of reviewing abstracts for the Distinguished Abstracts program. While going through the posters, make sure you look for the blue ribbons noting this distinction and congratulate the recipients! This year's Annual Meeting Organizing Committee will use these to determine the abstracts selected for oral presentation, and the NACB will moderate the session.

It's also been exciting for the Education & Scientific Affairs Committee (ESAC) and our currently active Laboratory Medicine Practice Guideline (LMPG) chairs – and these groups have indeed been active! An executive summary of the POCT guidelines was recently published in *Clinica Chimica Acta*, and the various subcommittees are busy preparing additional manuscripts detailing the issues they encountered for upcoming issues of the *Journal of Point of Care*. The Pharmacogenomics Committee is in the process of readying the final revision for submission to ESAC and the Board. Having closed the first period for public comments (on time!), the Ischemia Risk Marker Committee is also in the revision phase. The Newborn Screening Committee is on target for a May posting of their recommendations in preparation for the public presentation in July. Last, but not least, a group has convened to review and update the Diabetes guidelines for presentation later this year at the Beckman

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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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Meeting in Atlanta. Shirley Welch and her committee are continuing to improve the process and to address new issues that have evolved, such as conflict of interest, tracking, and archiving. We do need your suggestions for future topics.

By being so active, these committees are keeping our Publications Committee busy, though in not quite the same way as in the past. We have taken some of the more onerous chores of readying the guidelines for publication from the Publications Committee and given them to professionals. This doesn't mean the members of this committee are sitting back relaxing. They are working with ESAC to develop guidelines for the guideline committees. And, I hope you noticed they are busy breaking in a new newsletter team. Alex Rai volunteered to serve as editor with Uttam Garg as his co-editor. I want to thank Stan Lo for his outstanding term in this capacity and to warn Alex and Uttam that they have big shoes to fill.

Finally, I want to say that it is an honor to serve as your president and to work with such a strong board of directors. We will be meeting mid-April in New Orleans, so if you have issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any board member to bring the item forward. I hope the rest of your winter and spring is enjoyable.

DR. CATHERINE HAMMETT-STABLER,  
PHD, DABCC, FACB  
*President*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

DAVE KOCH, PH.D.

OCTOBER 21-22, 2006

### National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Board of Directors Meeting

We held our Fall '06 meeting in conjunction with the Beckman Conference. This Conference was the first public presentation and discussion of the Emerging Cardiovascular Risk Factors guidelines. The excellent attendance, solid participation from leading physician-scientists in the field, and robust discussion brought encouragement to the Board and ESAC members.

The main topics for our Board Meeting were details to complete the merger with AACC, and review of the status of several specific LMPGs and a philosophical discussion of LMPGs in general. One outcome is the likely strengthening of ESAC by adding a few more members, with those not tied to a specific LMPG. We also felt that the focus in some years ought to be a reconsideration of existing LMPGs rather than attempting to present a new LMPG each year. The Academy's involvement with the Beckman Conference is an appropriate scholarly activity that can enhance interaction between laboratory professionals and clinicians in the specific field. A variety of means by which the papers from an LMPG reach the clinical laboratory and the appropriate physician audiences need to be considered. The Board feels that LMPGs provide a good teaching tool and a venue for laboratorians to interact with patient care professionals at the member's institutions, and thereby are one of our most significant outputs. NACB possesses the opportunity to enhance the role of laboratory professionals in healthcare, and generate recognition and respect within medicine. NACB and the LMPGs also have the capability of informing manufacturers and the IVD industry where they need to make progress, and stimulating that improvement. We realize that NACB should monitor whether laboratory practice is actually influenced by the LMPGs.

DAVE KOCH, PH.D., FACB, DABCC  
NACB Secretary, 2006

## 2007 NACB AWARD RECIPIENTS

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) celebrates the achievements of colleagues who have made significant contributions through scholarship and service to the profession by presenting awards annually. The Annual Awards are: the NACB Distinguished Scientist Award for Outstanding Research Advances in the Field of Clinical Biochemistry, the Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy, and the George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication.

The NACB Distinguished Scientist 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 to the application of the principles of clinical biochemistry. The award consists of a plaque and a \$2000 honorarium. Dade Behring, Inc., sponsors this award.

The Professor Alvin Dubin Award is named in honor of one of the Academy's founding members and its eighth President. This award recognizes a current or past member of the Academy who has made noteworthy contributions to the mission and stature of 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 award is sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics.

The George Grannis 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 that were enrolled sometime during the three-year period prior to the year of the award are consid-

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ered as candidates for this award. The Grannis Award, which consists of a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium, is sponsored by the NACB with support from the Ohio Valley Section of the AACC.

This year the NACB Awards Committee has selected **David E. Bruns, M.D.**, as the recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award; **Thomas M. Annesley, Ph.D.**, as the recipient of the Professor Alvin Dubin Award; and **Melissa R. Snyder, Ph.D.**, as the recipient of the George Grannis Award. Dr. Bruns is Professor of Pathology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and Editor of Clinical Chemistry, a position he has held for over 17 years. Dr. Annesley is Professor of Clinical Chemistry in Pathology at the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Snyder is a Clinical Chemistry Fellow at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota. The Academy congratulates these individuals on their professional accomplishments and their contributions to the field of Clinical Biochemistry. The awards will be presented during the NACB luncheon at the AACC Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. ELIZABETH FRANK

## UPDATE ON LMPG FOR POINT-OF-CARE TESTING

The NACB LMPG Evidence-Based Practice for Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) has been published and is available at the NACB website. An Executive Summary of the POCT Guidelines is also available in the April issue of *Clinica Chimica Acta*, *Clin Chim Acta* 379:14-28 (2007). The POCT Guidelines are the work of more than 80 expert contributors and include nearly 200 practice recommendations covering POCT management, coagulation, critical care, diagnosis and management of diabetes, drugs and ethanol, infectious disease, occult blood, intraoperative parathyroid hormone, pH testing, renal function testing, and reproductive testing.

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. JIM NICHOLS

## NACCCA TRANSLATION OF NACB THYROID LMPG TO CHINESE LANGUAGE

The North American Chinese Clinical Chemists Association (NACCCA, [www.naccca.org](http://www.naccca.org)) took on the task of translating the NACB thyroid LMPG at the suggestion of Dr Jerry Yeo in 2005. A Translation Committee (TC) was formed to coordinate and implement this project. The NACCCA translation committee members are: Drs *Caicai Wu* (Chair), *Stanley Lo* (Acting Chair), *Anna Zhou* (Chief Editor), and *Jerry Yeo* (Advisor). Since we anticipated that this will be a monumental task, the first order of business was to seek permission from NACB followed by the identification of key colleagues in China to help with the translation work. Through the special efforts of Drs. Anna Zhou and Caicai Wu, the committee selected and recruited the following medical professionals from China as editors: Drs Weixin Dai and Zhenhua Yang. Other Chinese-speaking medical professionals who assisted in translation and proof-reading were: Drs Weiguo Zhao, Qihong Miao, Yao Bai, and Guiqing Yuan. The project started in earnest in October 2005 and after many hours expended in drafts, reviews, and editions by the TC committee and our Chinese colleagues, we were all extremely relieved and pleased when the final manuscript was completed in March 5, 2007 and made available online at:

<http://www.aacc.org/AACC/members/nacb/LMPG/OnlineGuide/PublishedGuidelines/ThyroidDisease/>

This is truly the first example of a major joint educational project between the NACCCA laboratory professionals (most of whom are also AACC and NACB members) and the Chinese medical professionals in further disseminating the NACB Thyroid LMPG to the Chinese-speaking nations worldwide. The NACCCA Translation Committee expresses profound gratitude to the assistance of the above experts, and other physicians, scholars, and individuals whose names are not listed, that have supported this task. Special thanks are due to Dr. *Carole Spencer*, who provided us with full encouragement and financial support for this task!

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. JERRY YEO

## AN EXCITING YEAR FOR LAB TESTS ONLINE

Lab Tests Online started the year as one of the best healthcare websites recognized by Dorland's Healthcare Information in their Healthcare Website Guide, and has continued its steady growth in traffic, averaging about 1 million visitors for the first three months of 2007.

Early in March, SEQC, the Spanish Society of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Pathology, and EDMA, the European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association, launched a Spanish version of the site. Dubbed Lab Tests Online-ES ([www.labtestsonline.es](http://www.labtestsonline.es)), it is the first of five new European sites expected to launch in the first half of the year. An Australian version of the site is also scheduled to launch later in the year.

Lab Tests Online-ES, in particular, has been eagerly anticipated given its potential to serve Spanish speakers throughout Latin America and here in the US.

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. GEORGE LINZER

## UPDATE ON EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Education and Scientific Affairs Committee (ESAC) expanded this year by adding two new members, Drs. Steve Kahn and Jim Nichols. They will be invaluable as we rewrite the SOP for Guideline preparation, clarify policies on Conflict of Interest disclosure, and develop a closer working relationship with the AACC Evidence Based Medicine Committee.

The Biomarkers of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) LMPG is close to final, with the Heart Failure chapter due to be published in Circulation in April.

Two new LMPG Committees have been developed and will be presenting draft guidelines during 2007. Dr. Mike Bennett is chair of the Expanded Newborn Screening LMPG, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in San Diego in July. Watch for the

draft guidelines to be posted in the month before the meeting and plan to attend the symposium on Tuesday, July 17.

The Diabetes LMPG committee, chaired by Dr. David Sacks will be presenting their draft guidelines at the 2007 Beckman Conference to be held in Atlanta, November 15-16. Save the date and plan to attend this dynamic meeting.

Do you have an idea for a future LMPG? Contact any member of ESAC:

Shirley Welch, Chair  
Sal Sena  
Lori Sokoll  
Steve Kahn  
Jim Nichols

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. SHIRLEY WELCH



### REMINDER

The NACB Newsletter Committee welcomes articles for publication in the next issue of the NACB Newsletter. If anyone is interested in submitting an article for the summer issue, please e-mail your article, notice, or contribution by **Friday, June 1st** to Dr. Alex J. Rai at [raia@mskcc.org](mailto:raia@mskcc.org). We look forward to receiving and reviewing your contribution.

## **THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY**

*The Academy of AACC*

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry is the Academy of AACC and is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of clinical laboratory medicine through research, education, and professional development. NACB will conduct the following activities at the AACC Annual Meeting:

### **MONDAY, JULY 16**

1:30 – 3:00 PM

**NACB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
SAN DIEGO MARRIOTT HOTEL AND MARINA

### **TUESDAY, JULY 17**

10:30am-12noon and 2:30-5:00pm

**EXPANDED NEWBORN SCREENING  
FOR METABOLIC DISEASES  
BY TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETRY  
AND FOLLOW UP TESTING**  
SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**

12:30-2:15pm

**NACB AWARDS LUNCHEON AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina

Luncheon cost: \$35.00

Make reservations in advance using the AACC Annual Meeting registration form.

NACB members are invited to attend this luncheon in honor of new Academy Fellows and recipients of the following awards:



**DAVID E. BRUNS, MD, FACB**

**Distinguished Scientist Award**

Outstanding Research Advances in Clinical Biochemistry

Sponsored by Dade Behring Inc.

**THOMAS M. ANNESLEY, PhD, DABCC, FACB**

**Professor Alvin Dubin Award**

Distinguished Contributions to the Profession and the Academy

Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics

**MELISSA SNYDER, PhD**

**George Grannis Award**

Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication

Sponsored by NACB and the Ohio Valley Local Section

### **TUESDAY – THURSDAY, JULY 17-19**

#### **POSTER SESSIONS**

San Diego Convention Center

NACB Distinguished Abstract Award Winners: Look for the NACB blue ribbon displayed on posters selected by the Academy for their scientific excellence.

*For information about the Academy, go to the NACB web site at [www.nacb.org](http://www.nacb.org) or stop by the NACB booth at the AACC Clinical Lab Exposition.*