



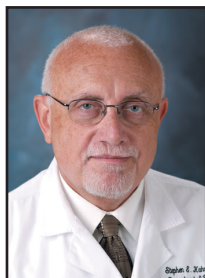
NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2009

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As I write this, the calendar says its spring. But the local weather and my Chicago baseball teams are acting like its fall. Yet summer is weeks away and AACC's Annual Meeting (AM) will be here less than a month afterwards. One place where it did

feel like summer was at the NACB Board of Directors meeting in Alexandria, VA in late April. While we weren't out much, the weather was spectacular in a location providing many benefits. It was local for some board members and also allowed both Betsy Garman and Penny Jones from NACB's office to attend. Plus it was right before the NACB co-sponsored Clinical Chemistry Review Course and right after AACC's Oak Ridge Conference. My thanks to Bill Winter, his course faculty and the many people responsible for another successful review course.

At our April meeting, NACB's board deliberations were lively and productive. The agenda addressed many issues. The board discussed potential use of several electronic communication tools that could increase the visibility and impact of NACB. While I'm very enthused about most opportunities, it's a good bet that nobody will be receiving a 'tweet' from me any time soon. I still struggle sending text messages and am likely 'twitter-challenged.' Our board reviewed a handful of guideline

topics that have now been submitted to AHRQ and IOM with the goal to seek their support for summarizing evidence in launching guidelines. We also identified and prioritized potential 2010 Beckman Conference topics now submitted to AACC's Program Coordinating Commission for further consideration.

Of note, AACC EBM Chair, Rob Christenson, and ESAC Chair, Shirley Welch, were also able to meet with the Academy's board to discuss developing a closer relationship between NACB and EBM in areas ESAC has been responsible for. One goal of this collaborative effort is to guide the evolution of the processes NACB uses as well as the ways we commit our resources for new guideline development. We also expect to finalize several decisions on administration of archived guidelines later this year. The group identified a number of potential follow-up activities to further disseminate key information and recommendations from recently finalized LMPG's. The board also voted full approval of the LMPG on Emerging Biomarkers of Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. Our LMPG 'process improvement' discussions will continue during the rest of this year. We hope to create a revised approach for guideline development that will ably serve our field, guideline users and guideline developers for the next several years.

As always, there are new programs and activities involving the Academy. NACB will jointly sponsor a new diabetes certificate program with AACC. NACB board member Bill Winter is the

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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.

**EMERGING CV RISK
FACTORS LMPG NOW
AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The *Emerging Biomarkers for Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke* Laboratory Medicine Practice Guideline, edited by Gary L. Myers is now available on the NACB web site:

<http://www.aacc.org/members/nacb/LMPG/OnlineGuide/PublishedGuidelines/risk/Pages/default.aspx>

Heart disease and stroke continue to be the leading causes of death in the United States. As a result, investigators continue to look for new and emerging biomarkers of disease risk. Because many of these emerging biomarkers are not as well documented as those of conventional lipid and lipoprotein risk factors, their value in clinical practice needs to be critically appraised and appropriate guidelines developed for their proposed use.

The NACB Board would like to thank the following committee members for their hard work and dedication: Gary L. Myers, Robert H. Christenson, Christie M. Ballantyne, Gerald R. Cooper, Mary Cushman, Scott M. Grundy, Darwin R. Labarthe, Daniel Levy, Nader Rifai, and Peter W.F. Wilson.



Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

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lead faculty member for this program with registration to launch later this fall. On another front, you probably received an email in May providing an opportunity to take a survey on fetal lung maturity testing. Results of this survey will be part of a Wednesday AM symposia session at this year's AM given by David Grenache and Ann Gronowski. NACB also plans to update selected parts of our 2006 LMPG that relate to current and future laboratory practices in the fetal lung maturity testing area. David and Ann have graciously agreed to contribute their expert guidance in this effort. Another new initiative involves the NACB Media and Publications Committee – especially newsletter editors Alex Rai and Uttam Garg, and the NACB staff – working towards creating an online newsletter format that would allow embedding of video files, live links, etc..

In my last report, I mentioned NACB had become a member of the National Quality Forum (NQF). Not long after, NQF announced release of a consensus report on *'Preferred Practices for Measuring and Reporting Patient Safety and Communication in Laboratory Medicine'*. That's a key area for NACB and other lab groups although we joined NQF just as the report was being published in final form. But I'm impressed with the focus of this report and its implications for laboratory practice. I encourage you to go to http://www.qualityforum.org/pdf/reports/Laboratory_Report_Nonmember.pdf for review of the public version. Our membership experience in NQF is still very new. But the board's goal is to gain better insight into what role NACB may be able to play in NQF's future activities that comprehensively address quality issues throughout healthcare.

Returning to July's AACC AM, I'm looking forward to a great week of networking, education and NACB activities. **Please note a change from my last report. The final scheduling of the afternoon symposium for oral presentation of selected Distinguished Abstracts is Wednesday, July 22nd, from 2:30 – 5:00 pm in McCormick Place Convention Center in Room S402A.** Typically, several hundred abstracts are reviewed annually by members of the Abstract Review Committee (ARC) for possible poster presentation at AACC. The highest rated category undergoes further consideration

as a NACB Distinguished Abstract by a group using additional criteria selected by Loralie Langman who not only coordinates this program, but the ARC overall and is also a member of the 2009 AMOC (that's what I call multitasking and it doesn't even include Loralie's 'day job'). This year, six of the Distinguished Abstracts are selected for oral presentation in the Wednesday afternoon session. But all Distinguished Abstracts will be identifiable in the posters area with blue ribbons.

Also another reminder that the AM will have NACB sponsored symposia as well as other sessions and events where the Academy will participate or be represented. My congratulations again to 2009 NACB award recipients, David Sacks, Mary Burritt and Chris McCudden. They will be appropriately recognized before Tuesday's AM Plenary Lecture as well as at the NACB Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting on Wednesday. I hope many of you can attend the luncheon and business meeting. Details on NACB activities at the AM can be found on page 76 of the registration brochure.

Once again, thank you for your participation and support of the Academy. At every year's AACC AM, I look forward to seeing so many valued friends and colleagues. But this year, as NACB President, I'm also enthused to speak with many of you about current and future NACB activities and issues. Hope to see you in Chicago next month.

— STEPHEN E. KAHN, PH.D., DABCC, FACB
President

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY COURSE A SUCCESS

UPDATE FROM WILLIAM WINTER, MD

The NACB co-hosted the 2009 AACC Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry course that was held April 19-23 in Alexandria, Virginia. There were over 110 registrants in attendance. The course was well received by the audience. The next course will be in 2011.

NACB PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2009 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY COURSE

The Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry Course represents the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals over an 18-month period. There is no doubt that the continued success of the program is in part to the commitment of these AACC and NACB members. We spoke with Lisa Dunay, AACC's Education Assessment and Accreditation Manager, and Dr. Roger Bertholf to learn more about the Professional Practice course and the ways that some NACB members play a part in its development.

NACB members involved as faculty of this year's course include: D. Robert Dufour, William Winter, Roger Bertholf, William Clarke, Rob Christenson, David Endres, Robin Felder, Martin Fleisher, Ann Gronowski, Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ishwarlal Jialal, Greg Miller, James Nichols, and Gregory Tsongalis. The organizing committee included William Winter (chair), Roger Bertholf (vice chair), William Clarke, and Neil Harris.

Dr. Bertholf said that "In choosing the faculty, the organizing committee turns to AACC, and specifically NACB, members who have made contributions and are highly regarded for their expertise so that the course will contain the most up-to-date and current information."

Typically about 18 months before the course, the organizing committee meets by conference call and carefully reviews both the overall program and individual speaker evaluations from the past programs. Input from past participants is essential to program design and the committee will begin reviewing this year's evaluations in order to start working on the 2011 course. The organizing committee rotates the faculty members in order for new people to have the opportunity to participate and yet they also choose speakers who are known as being good teachers and presenters. Approximately one year before the course, the speaker list is compiled and speakers are invited. This provides speakers

with time to prepare and submit their presentations which are sent out by the organizing committee for review. After presentations are complete and approved, the handouts and program materials are prepared for participants by Lisa Dunay. Dr. Bertholf stressed that one advantage for external course reviewers, faculty, and course attendees is that they all receive electronic copies of all of the course presentations to use as a resource for years to come.

Offered on alternating years, the 2009 Professional Practice course took place from April 19-23, in Alexandria, VA. There were 111 registrants and 20 faculty members—many of whom are NACB and AACC members. Dr. D. Robert Dufour was chair from the course's conception in 1990 until 2003. Dr. William Winter was course chair in 2005, 2007, and 2009. For the 2011 course, Dr. Roger Bertholf will be chair.

The purpose of this course is to cover fundamental and state-of-the-art practices in the field of clinical chemistry, which includes core laboratory topics. Invited speakers present as much new material as possible which is vital to managing and working in a core laboratory. The lectures focus on clinically relevant advances and the use of information to solve technical challenges and diagnostic problems. All presentations are peer-reviewed, making this course different from many other educational programs.

In addition to lectures related strictly to clinical chemistry, there is an attempt to include some non-clinical chemistry subjects. For example, topics such as hematology, coagulation, and molecular diagnostics may be covered. The committee has found that some attendees want to learn about other areas of the laboratory because they are responsible for these areas, or they may be transferring to areas relatively new to them. The program has evolved over the years from a course focusing on the basic to include the most to date information. The organizing

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committee looks at emerging areas and topics that are increasing in importance, for example, pharmacogenomics, which probably was not mentioned in the original version of the course.

Dr. Bertholf mentioned that one major benefit of attending this course is the large number of continuing education credit offers available—between 38 and 40. Both CME and ACCENT credits are offered, which is important for individuals who must obtain a certain number of hours for institutional, state, or certification requirements. Despite hard economic times at many institutions, Dr. Bertholf was pleased by this year's attendance and he felt that it was a testament to the importance and value of the course that so many people would choose to attend and pay for the course out of pocket if their institutions were unable to cover the costs. He also noted that the number of physicians who choose to participate in the course increases each year and that he was impressed by this. Dr. Bertholf believes that this speaks to a growing desire for physicians to make sure that their knowledge of clinical laboratory issues is current and to their increased interest in these subjects.

AACC and NACB members contribute to the clinical laboratory field in many ways, and courses such as this one are dependent upon these content experts for their success. We applaud AACC and NACB members who choose to participate as faculty, chairs, or on the organizing committee.

— CONTRIBUTED BY BETSY GARMAN



NACB HONORS NEW ACADEMY FELLOWS

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) is proud to announce the following new Academy Fellows. As NACB members these distinguished scientists are all doctorate-level professionals dedicated to enhancing the scholarship and practice of clinical biochemistry. New Fellows will be honored during the NACB awards luncheon on Wednesday, July 22 during the AACC Annual Meeting.

The official Academy of AACC, NACB honors the achievements of its members and through an active education and publication program enlists their support and expertise to bring about positive change in the current practice of clinical biochemistry.

NACB Fellows Accepted Since Summer 2008:

Alicia Algeciras-Schimnich, PhD
Zuhier Awan, MD
Angela Ferguson, PhD
Yanping Gong, MD, PhD
Neil Harris, MD
Peter Heseltine, MD
Andrew Hoofnagle, MD, PhD
Kenneth Ihenetu, PhD
Peter Kavsak, PhD
Geraldyn Lambert-Messerlian, PhD
John Land, PhD
Ross Molinaro, PhD
Godwin Ogbonna, PhD
Amy Saenger, PhD
Pratap Singh, PhD
Christine Snozek, PhD
Ulf-Hakan Stenman, MD, PhD
Ping Wang, PhD
Rita Windisch, PhD

NACB CONGRATULATES 2009 DISTINGUISHED ABSTRACT WINNERS

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Distinguished Abstract Awards. 825 abstracts accepted for the AACC Annual Meeting were submitted to a second scientific review by a group of NACB Fellows and 22 were identified as representing outstanding research worthy of special recognition.

Winning abstracts will be marked with the NACB blue ribbon and may be viewed during the Annual Meeting poster session on the day indicated below.

Tuesday, July 29, 10:00 a.m.

- A-3 Tania S. Frode**
Down-regulation of Antioxidant Status and Lipid Peroxidation in the Inflamed Pleural Cavity of Mice Treated with Mycophenolate Mofetil
- A-31 Raffick A.R. Bowen**
Improvements in Turnaround Time (TAT) after Computerized Autoverification in a Rapid Response Clinical Chemistry Laboratory

Tuesday, July 21, 2:00 pm

- B-77 Ioannis Papassotiriou**
Soluble Endoglin and Its Interaction with Adhesion Molecules in Patients with Thalassemia Intermedia
- B-87 Debra A. Hoppensteadt**
Activation of Prekallikrein by Contaminated Heparins, Isolated Contaminant and Related Hypersulfated Chondroitin Sulfate Preparations: Pharmacologic Implications
- B-94 Jamila Hirbawi**
The Function of Acidic Amino Acid Region 659-663 of Factor Va on Prothrombinase during Prothrombin Activation
- B-114 Andrew N. Hoofnagle**
Clinical Lipoproteomics Unveils Clusterin as a Novel Biomarker of Insulin Resistance
- B-129 Stacy J. Hartman**
Elevated C-Reactive Protein is Associated with Elevated LDL Particle Concentration in Patients with Normal Calculated LDL Cholesterol

Wednesday, July 22, 10:00 am

- C-13 Rasha M. AlKhalidi**
Adipokines and Adiponectin Gene Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms as Potential Links between Obesity and Cancer
- C-28 Mathias Gehrman**
Prognosis of Distant Metastasis in Node-Negative Early Breast Cancer
- C-34 John R. Petersen**
A New Biomarker Panel to Predict Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Chronic HCV Patients

Wednesday, July 22, 2:00 pm

- D-52 Alessandra Barassi**
Fecal Calprotectin Levels in Patients with Colonic Polyposis
- D-141 Matthew P. Thompson**
The Correlation of Peroxiredoxin Levels and Pain in Patients with Varicella Zoster Reactivation: A Novel Biomarker for Postherpetic Neuralgia
- D-148 Mario Plebani**
Determination of Asymmetric Dimethylarginine (ADMA) and Symmetric Dimethylarginine (SDMA) in Human Plasma: Analytical and Clinical Validation
- D-151 Maria C. Gonzalez Mao**
S100B Protein as a Serum Marker of Survival After Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

D-157 Svetlana A. Dambinova
Diagnostic Values of NMDA Receptor
Peptide for Acute Ischemic Stroke

Thursday, July 23, 10:00 am

- E-31 Ming Guan**
Quantitative Determination of Methylation
Level of DLC-1 Promoter with Methylation-
Sensitive High-Resolution Melting in
Prostate Cancer
- E-42 Ellen Umlauf**
Implication of Wild Type Glutathione S-
Transferase Omega-1 as a Risk Factor in
Non-APOE4 Carriers in Alzheimer's Disease
- E-47 Ping Wang**
Using Genetic and Clinical Factors to Predict
Tacrolimus Dose in Renal Transplant
Recipients
- E-89 Alison Woodworth**
Cervicovaginal Interleukin-6 is a Predictor of
Preterm Birth in African American but Not
Caucasian Women
- E-95 Angela M. Ferguson**
The Impact of Creatinine Standardization on
Dosing of Chemotherapy Drugs that are
Based on Creatinine Clearance
- E-141 Ron Schiffman**
Association of Drugs of Abuse Urine Testing
with Risk of Hepatitis C Infection
- E-161 Pierre Olivier Héту**
Ion Suppression Observed During
Quantification of the Immunosuppressants in
Blood by LC-MS/MS is Significantly
Reduced by the Addition of Divalent Cations
in the Extract after Protein Precipitation

Join us at this year's annual meeting for the following Oral Presentations of Selected NACB Distinguished Abstracts, Wednesday, July 22, Afternoon Symposium, McCormick Place Convention Center, 2:30pm—5:00pm.

Moderator: Stephen Kahn, PhD, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL
Developed in cooperation with NACB

Session overview: This session features oral presentations of the following NACB distinguished abstracts. Room: S402A

Clinical Lipoproteomics Unveils Clusterin as a Novel Biomarker of Insulin Resistance, Andrew N. Hoofnagle, MD, PhD, University of Washington, Seattle

Fecal Calprotectin Levels in Patients with Colonic Polyposis, Alessandra Barassi, MD, University of Milan, Buguggiate, Varese, Italy

The Correlation of Peroxiredoxin Levels and Pain in Patients with Varicella Zoster Reactivation: A Novel Biomarker for Postherpetic Neuralgia, Matthew P. Thompson, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Mansfield TX

S100B Protein as a Serum Marker of Survival After Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Maria C. Gonzalez Mao, Vigo-Pontevedra, Spain

Diagnostic Values of NMDA Receptor Peptide for Acute Ischemic Stroke, Svetlana A. Dambinova, Dsc, PhD, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Using Genetic and Clinical Factors to Predict Tacrolimus Dose in Renal Transplant Recipients, Ping Wang, PhD, The Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX

The Impact of Creatinine Standardization on Dosing of Chemotherapy Drugs that are Based on Creatinine Clearance, Angela M. Ferguson, PhD, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Kansas City, MO

NACB 2009 AWARD WINNERS

Through its annual awards program, NACB, the Academy of AACC, celebrates the achievements of colleagues who have made significant contributions through scholarship and service to the profession. Chaired by Dr. Loralie Langman, the NACB Awards Committee wishes to thank the sponsors of these awards and to congratulate the 2009 Academy award winners.

NACB DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD For Outstanding Research Advances in the Field of Clinical Biochemistry

*Sponsored by Siemens Health Care Diagnostic, Inc.
and NACB*

David B. Sacks, MD, MB, ChB, FRCPath, FACB



David B. Sacks, MD, MB, ChB, FRCPath, FACB, is a Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, and Director of POCT & Clinical Chemistry at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. His primary clinical focus is on diabetes mellitus, with an emphasis

on the interface between the clinical laboratory and patient care. He chairs the National Glycohemoglobin Standardization Program steering committee and serves on several other national and international diabetes committees. Dr. Sacks has lectured extensively and has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has served on the editorial board of *Clinical Chemistry* since 1995 and is currently an associate editor. He has also served or currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *American Journal of Pathology*, *Clinical Proteomics*, *Clinical Biochemist Reviews*, *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, and *Biochemical Journal*.

NACB ALVIN DUBIN AWARD

For Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy

Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics

Mary F. Burritt, PhD, FACB, HCLD



Mary F. Burritt, PhD, FACB, HCLD is Professor of Laboratory Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; and Clinical Chemist at Mayo Clinic Arizona. She previously held the positions of Medical Co-Director, Central Clinical

Laboratory and Director of the Metals Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. She was also the Associate Dean of the Mayo School of Health Sciences. Dr. Burritt has served the AACC in many roles since becoming a member in 1978, and served as President of the Association in 1996. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the NACB from 1998-2002, and served as President of the Academy in 2005. Dr. Burritt has also been active in the CLSI where she served as Chair of the Area Committee on Clinical Chemistry, and the IFCC where she served as the Vice Chair of the Education and Management Division. Her research/clinical interests include calcium metabolism, cardiac markers and trace/heavy metals.



NACB 2009 AWARD WINNERS

NACB GEORGE GRANNIS AWARD

For Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication

Sponsored by AACC Ohio Valley Section and NACB

Christopher R. McCudden, PhD, DABCC, FACB



Christopher McCudden received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, in London, Canada. After graduate school, he did postdoctoral research at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in the Department of Pharmacology. He then spend a

year at Duke studying non-enzymatic posttranslational protein modification in osteoarthritis before starting the ComACC Fellowship program in Clinical Chemistry at UNC. Dr. McCudden joined the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine faculty at UNC as an Assistant Professor in 2008 and serves within the McLendon Clinical Laboratories at UNC Hospitals as the Associate Director of the Core Laboratory. His current research interests include the analysis of endocrine hormones and metabolites, evaluation of new in vitro diagnostic technology, and the effect of preanalytical variables on blood gas and critical care analysis. Dr. McCudden has received several awards over the course of his career including the J.D. Detwiler Thesis Dissertation Award from the Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario and a Post Doctoral Research Fellowship from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

OBITUARY:

GERALD R. COOPER, PHD

(EXCERPTED FROM AACC ENEWS)

AACC sadly notes the passing of a legendary clinical chemist, Gerald R. Cooper, MD, PhD, 94, on May 25. An expert on cholesterol, Dr. Cooper was well known for his gracious Southern demeanor and revered and loved by the many people who knew him. He served as AACC president in 1984 and spent almost his entire career at CDC, where he still could be found working in the lab. Dr. Cooper published in the first volume of Clinical Chemistry and was still publishing in the journal more than 50 years later. He was recently featured on the cover of Clinical Chemistry in an Inspiring Minds article. "Dr. Cooper loved the AACC and was extremely proud of being a Past President," said AACC Past-President, Dr. Gary Myers, a close friend and associate of Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper is in AACC's Hall of Fame.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in honor of Dr. Cooper be made to the Van Slyke Foundation, the CDC Foundation, or a charity of your choosing.