



NEWS & VIEWS

DECEMBER 2008

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The first snow of the season is falling today in the Boston area. The first covering of snow is always beautiful but it is also a preview of the weeks ahead. Last Spring I said I was amazed how

quickly 2008 and my year as President of the Academy was going by. I am now truly amazed that it is December and I am preparing to transition leadership to Steve Kahn. It has been a busy and productive year for the Academy. I want to thank all those who volunteered their time and service this year. It is valued and sincerely appreciated.

It has been a while since we were in Washington for the 2008 Annual Meeting but I want to tell you about the many exciting and valuable activities that the Academy took part in. The week was very successful, very busy and I was honored to represent you as the president of the Academy.

- I represented the NACB at the President's dinner. This is a new event, hosted by the president of AACC, where all the presidents of attending Associations come together to have dinner and to discuss the profession. It was held at the Canadian Embassy and was a very special event.
- NACB Symposium – Great job, excellent program. Thanks to Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Rex Astles, Steve Kahn and Mary Nix from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- Oral Poster Presentations – Thank you to Elizabeth Seth and Loralie Langman
- Outstanding Abstracts – Congratulations to the winners. The recognition is well deserved.

- NACB Award Luncheon – It was fantastic to welcome so many new Fellows to the Academy and to recognize outstanding Award winners. We had great audio-visuals this year thanks to Penny Jones. They added so much to the occasion, especially the very special video of Dr. Gerald Cooper.
- NACB BOD Breakfast – The NACB Board of Directors and the Committee Chairs met for a breakfast meeting while in DC. It was extremely valuable for all of us to connect mid-year. Susan Maynard joined us to share her experience working with AHRQ. This was very insightful and will help us as we explore collaboration with AHRQ in support of LMPG development.
- Video taping – Roland Valdes and I can be seen in living color on the NACB website. Preparing the video was fun and I think it adds an important human touch to our website.
- Elections – a sincere thank you to all who ran for election, and congratulations to the winners: Bob Murray (President-elect), Ken Blick (Treasurer), Patty Jones and Gary Myers (Members-at-large), and Thomas Annesley, Mary Burritt, and Catherine Hammett-Stabler (Nominating Committee).

At the time of the merger with AACC it was decided that the NACB president would attend the September AACC BOD Meeting to represent the Academy. The September Meeting was chosen because the AACC discusses priorities at this meeting and it is also the meeting where the report of Division Management Chair is presented and this year the Editor of Clinical Chemistry was also in attendance. I participated at this meeting and found

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Report from the Spring NACB
Board of Directors Meeting**

At the 2008 lunch meeting in Washington DC, the election results for the new officers in 2009 were announced. They are:

President-elect	Robert Murray
Treasurer	Ken Blick
Members-at-large	Gary Myers Patricia Jones
Nominating Committee	Thomas Annesley Mary Burritt (serving as chair in 2010) Catherine Hammett-Stabler

Congratulations to the new officers. As in the past several elections the turnout was not high with less than one-third of the eligible members voting. Although the results may not have changed, we should all be reminded to take our ability to vote for our leaders seriously.

John Petersen, PH.D., FACB, DABCC
NACB Secretary, 2008



Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

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that there were a number of topics discussed that were of interest to the Academy. I was pleased to see that the Academy and the NACB sponsored programs continue to rank very high in priority. I had the opportunity to provide the AACC board an update on NACB activities and discuss ways the Academy and its members can contribute to the Association.

Recently we co-sponsored an outstanding conference, Laboratory Medicine – Into the Future. This conference was held in Hawaii just a few weeks ago. It was co-sponsored by the AACC, the Australasian Society of Clinical Biochemists (AACB), and the NACB. It was also under the auspices of the IFCC and the Asian and Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB). It was an excellent forum to discuss the future of Laboratory Medicine and to gather the insight of professions across many regions of the world.

Academy membership is now at 573 including Fellows, Associate Fellows and Emeritus Fellows. We have a new membership promotion ongoing and hope to see membership continue to grow in 2009.

At the recent NACB BOD meeting the board endorsed ESAC's recommendation to approve the LMPG developed by Mike Bennett and his committee entitled, "Follow-up Testing for Metabolic Diseases Identified by Expanded Newborn Screening Using Tandem Mass Spectrometry". Special thanks to Mike and his committee for an outstanding accomplishment.

The Pharmacogenetics (PGx) LMPG has been updated based on the comment period and has been submitted to ESAC for review. I expect this LMPG to be finalized early next year. The committees are also putting the final edits to the Tumor Marker and Emerging Biomarkers of Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke LMPGs. These should also be finalized in the first half of 2009.

The Diabetes LMPG committee, under the leadership of David Sacks, is working diligently to develop updated guidelines in this important and

challenging area of laboratory medicine. We have also submitted two topics to AHRQ as candidate topics for systematic review; 1) urine drug testing in chronic opioid therapy and 2) immunosuppressant therapy. Our thanks to Roger Bertholf, Gary Reisfield, Susan Maynard and their colleagues for developing the submissions and a special thank you to Rob Christenson and the AACC Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) Committee for their expertise, guidance and support in the development of these proposals.

The NACB BOD recently met in Boston. We covered Academy business, including budget development for 2009 and ongoing committee activities. We also initiated in-depth discussion on a number of important topics including guideline grading systems, the processes associated with LMPG development, the awareness and utilization of Laboratory Practice Guidelines and Core Measures and the National Quality Forum. I want to thank the board of directors for their many contributions and guidance during the year. I want to especially recognize the outgoing board members: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Roger Bertholf, Marty Fleisher and Ken Blick (who will be returning in 2009 as Treasurer) and thank them for their many years of service to the Academy.

I also want to thank and acknowledge the significant contributions of the NACB staff members including, Penny Jones, the NACB Executive Director, and Betsy Garman and Patty Brady. They are a key success factor and provide outstanding support to the Academy.

Thank you again for your many contributions to the Academy and the profession. It is time again to recognize those who deserve special recognition. Please remember to submit nominations for 2009 Awards to the Awards Committee.

It has been a busy and successful year for NACB, and has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Academy's president.

SUSAN EVANS, PhD, FACB
President

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

As 2008 draws to a close, there are a number of NACB issues and activities that I have been involved with as president-elect. At this time of year, **Penny Jones** and I are in contact with all NACB committee chairs regarding committee evaluations and potential changes to specific charges and/or composition for 2009. I'm particularly appreciative of having this opportunity to work with Penny who always is a pleasure to work with, particularly now on NACB issues. During our recent Board of Directors meeting in Boston, several new issues and areas of focus were identified by the BOD that will impact future committee processes. By the time that you read this report, I hope to have contacted each 2009 NACB committee chair to finalize their respective committee's plans for 2009. In turn, I'll provide an update on this information to all of you in our spring 2009 newsletter.

There is no more intense area of activity for NACB than our ongoing efforts in development of laboratory management practice guidelines (LMPGs). I'm unaware of any other organization that even comes close to the level and quality of effort as well as the scope of impact that NACB continues to have with their LMPGs. Of course, you are probably well aware of the many recent LMPGs that have been or are about to be finalized. Please continue to monitor the efforts of our LMPG committees in collaboration with other clinical groups and under the auspices of NACB's Education and Scientific Affairs Committee (ESAC) at www.nacb.org.

During this past year, I was privileged to report the results of a comprehensive survey taken by more than 500 laboratorians on utilization and application of practice guidelines such as our LMPGs in their practice settings. Results of this survey were presented at the AACC meeting in an afternoon symposium. This session also included excel-

lent presentations by **Rex Astles** and **Mary Nix** all under the moderation of **Catherine Hammett-Stabler**. While the challenges that we face in implementing guidelines in our own work setting may be similar, a number of surprising findings were discovered in this effort. Most significantly, several areas of opportunity were identified for NACB's BOD that may improve the process and impact of future guideline development. Again, please go to www.nacb.org where all three of the session presentations are currently posted. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions or comments on the LMPG survey. I'd also like to thank **Betsy Garman** who provided an exceptional level of staff support on this survey effort.

It's been a privilege to have many roles and responsibilities during my career in laboratory medicine and clinical biochemistry. But I'm particularly enthused and looking forward to the opportunity to serve as NACB's president in 2009. In the four years that I've served on NACB's BOD, I've been constantly impressed by the dedication and effort of our board members as well as the support from our excellent staff at AACC. Of course, I've paid careful attention to the fine efforts of my immediate predecessors, **Sue Evans** and **Catherine Hammett-Stabler**. In professional organizations where a president serves a one-year term, one key to progress and success is continuity of leadership. I'll do my best to try to continue the level of outstanding leadership that Sue and Catherine have provided to NACB.

Thank you again for the privilege to lead NACB as president next year. My best wishes to you and your families during the holiday season and for a healthy 2009.

Respectfully,

Stephen E. Kahn, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB
2008 NACB President-Elect

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Abstracts for the 2009 AACC/CSCC Annual Meeting

Deadline: February 6, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting Organizing Committee is calling for abstracts to be submitted for the 2009 AACC/CSCC Annual Meeting in Chicago, July 19-23, 2009. All abstracts will be peer reviewed and those accepted will be published in the June, 2009 supplement to *Clinical Chemistry*.

Outstanding abstracts will be identified by AACC's Academy to receive the NACB Distinguished Abstract Award and selected award winners will be invited to give oral presentations during the meeting. To submit an abstract, go to <http://www.aacc.org/events/2009am/abstracts/Pages/default.aspx>.

NACB to cosponsor Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry: A Review and Update

April 19-23, 2009 in Alexandria, VA

This comprehensive program features nationally and internationally recognized experts speaking on fundamental and state-of-the-art practices in the field of clinical chemistry, including selected topics relevant

for the emerging core laboratory. NACB Board members Dr. William Winter and Dr. Roger Bertholf chair the planning committee. For more information, go to <http://www.aacc.org/events/meetings/Pages/ppcc.aspx>

Academy Past President to Speak at ACBICON Meeting in Kolkata, India

NACB Past President Catherine Hammett-Stabler and AACC President Larry Broussard will represent the Academy and AACC at the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBICON) meeting December 19-21, 2008 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Dr. Hammett-Stabler and Dr. Broussard will be presenting the following keynote addresses and invited lectures during the meeting:

- Linking Safety and Efficiency
- Practicing Clinical Biochemistry When Disaster Hits (Katrina)
- TDM Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines—Where are we now?
- Toxicology Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines

