



Better health through laboratory medicine.

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Dear Academy Fellows –

It is my pleasure to serve as Academy President and chair of the Academy Council in 2018. I am excited about the work the Academy and its fellows are doing and look forward to our continued success this year.

As you heard from Dr. Ritchie last year, the Academy begins its use of the FAACC designation to indicate fellowship this month, replacing the former “FACB.” This designation reflects the new name the Academy assumed in 2016 – AACC Academy. As the Academy of the premier professional association in the field of laboratory medicine, AACC Academy members are individuals who have achieved significant accomplishments in the field. The designation carries the recognition of these accomplishments, and I encourage all fellows to use it in their professional signatures. Later this year, a list of active Academy fellows will appear on the Academy’s website with the designation FAACC, giving further recognition to fellows.

On January 2, the Academy launched an Artery forum open only to Academy fellows. I encourage fellows to check it out and participate in the conversation. This private forum is a place for fellows to connect, discuss ongoing projects, and exchange ideas. Join the conversation [here](#).

The Academy Council is collaborating with AACC’s Science and Practice Core Committee (SPCC) on a new initiative, the Lab Test Utilization Resource. This resource is designed to be a collection of short guidance documents describing the correct usage of commonly mis-used and mis-ordered tests. As experts in the field, Academy fellows have been tasked with developing the content, while the SPCC defines the scope of the resource. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the [Academy’s Expertise survey](#). The expertise survey also serves as a source of content experts, which AACC staff often consult as a starting point to help the Council identify appropriate fellows for Academy projects.

Last year, the Academy introduced additional science into its Awards luncheon during AACC’s Annual Scientific Meeting, hosting three Academy Distinguished Abstract recipients to present their research. This practice will continue during the luncheon at the 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, and I hope you can attend. More information will be available later this spring.

The Academy continues many other successful projects, including Scientific Shorts and our Awards program. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of the Academy initiatives or serving on a committee, please fill out this [form](#). I look forward to an exciting and productive year, serving you, the Academy, and the field of laboratory medicine.

William Winter, MD, FAACC
AACC Academy President