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Dear Academy Fellows:

I am honored to serve as Academy President and Chair of the Academy Council in 2019 through AACC Annual Scientific Meeting in 2020. I am excited about the work the Academy and its fellows are doing and look forward to our continued success this year.

Over the past few years, the Academy has announced updates to its processes and rules that resulted from the change in AACC governance structure and the transition of the NACB to the AACC Academy. This year, the Council will codify those changes in new Academy Rules and Process Documents. Dr. Paul Jannetto, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Academy, will lead the effort to develop this document, which will replace the former NACB bylaws. As the Academy is now under the auspices of AACC and governed by AACC bylaws, separate bylaws governing the Academy are no longer necessary. We anticipate the revised Rules and Process documents will be available this summer.

The Academy Council is collaborating with the Science and Practice Core Committee (SPCC) to develop a Lab Test Utilization Resource (LTUR). This resource will be a collection of short guidance documents that describe the appropriate use of commonly misused tests. Academy fellows have been tasked with developing the LTUR content, while the SPCC makes the resource available through various conduits. Some of you have already participated in the LTUR project, and the Council intends to expand this resource in the next year. If you are interested in participating, please complete the Academy expertise survey.

The expertise survey also identifies content experts that AACC staff may contact to help the Council select appropriate individuals for various Academy projects. Several projects planned for the next couple of years will require the input and participation of experts in various fields, and I hope you will pursue those opportunities to get involved. Several guidance documents are in progress. In addition, Dr. Jim Nichols is revising the POCT LMPG with updates to each section of the previous document. If you are interested in participating in the development or revision of guidance documents (listed below) or the POCT LMPG update, please email academy@aacc.org.

The Awards Luncheon during Annual Scientific Meeting continues to be a source of pride for the Academy. In 2018, the scientific program included presentations by two of the Academy Distinguished Abstract recipients, in addition to the George Grannis Award and Outstanding Contributions to

Clinical Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research Award winners, Drs. Phedias Diamandis and Allan Jaffee, respectively. Dr. Loralie Langman, a past President of the NACB, was presented the Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy at the luncheon. The 2019 Academy Luncheon at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim will continue this tradition, and I hope you can attend. More information will be available later this spring.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of the Academy initiatives or wish to serve on a committee, please fill out the volunteer today form.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Bill Winter, Past President of the Academy, for his leadership and vision during his term as President. His dedication to the Academy and its scholarly initiatives is inspirational; his shoes will be hard to fill.

I look forward to an exciting and productive year serving you, the Academy, and the laboratory medicine profession.

Roger L. Bertholf, PhD, FAACC
AACC Academy President

Academy Guidance Documents

- ANA testing
- Biomarkers of acute kidney injury
- Fetal Fibronectin vs. Alpha Microglobulin-1 as predictors of preterm delivery
- Pap-smears vs. HPV screening for detection of cervical cancer