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Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

Fall 2012

NACB President's Report



Dr. Stanley Lo recaps NACB activities at AACC's 2012 Annual Meeting and discusses recent Academy activities such as white papers, guidelines and the NACB Blog.

Are You a Regular Reader and Commenter of the NACBLOG? Join Us!



Learn more about NACB's blog and its plans for next year.

2012 NACB Awards Ceremony



A quick recap of this year's ceremony at AACC's 2012 Annual Meeting.

NACB Distinguished Abstracts Awards, 2012



Find out who won!

NEWS & VIEWS

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

NACB President's Report



Stanley Lo
President

I am honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity by our membership to govern the Academy. The year has passed quickly and I firmly believe we are moving in the right direction. I have been fortunate to have had a number of individuals who have been instrumental in assisting/advising/mentoring me this past year. In particular, I would like to specifically thank Ms. Penny Jones for her many wonderful skills and talents. She has been instrumental in guiding the Academy through many transitions for many years this year included, and has been critical to the success of our Academy. Thank you Penny!

Congratulations to the 2012 AMOC for a wonderful meeting! It was a pleasure to observe the presence of our Academy within the educational component of the meeting. Thanks to Ken Blick and Mary Lou Gantzer for organizing their symposia and thanks to Dave Koch and the Awards committee for recognizing distinguished abstracts and for working with the AMOC to create topic-specific oral presentations. I look forward to seeing additional topic-oriented oral abstract presentations in future meetings.

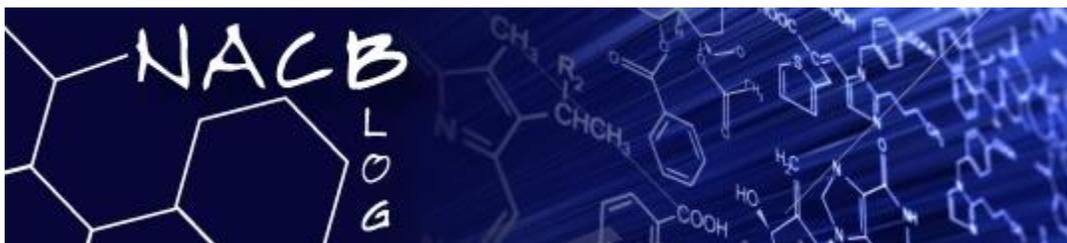
The Academy is excited to have two LMPGs underway. The first one addresses Laboratory Analysis of Human Chorionic Gonadotropin in Clinical Practice and is being led by Niki Baumann. The second addresses evidence in the area of Pain Management and is led by Loralie Langman and Paul Jannetto. In concordance with the development of our new SOP for LMPGs, we will be working with the AACC Clinical Societies Collaboration Committee to enlist the expertise of other clinical societies in their development.

Penny Jones and her NACBLOG committee continue to provide many interesting subjects for discussion in our NACBLOG. One of its challenges is finding new subjects and new authors for these blogs. Here's a great opportunity for our membership to submit new ideas for feedback, to address controversial issues for the clinical lab, and to shed light on topics that are rarely discussed. Please contact Penny if you have ideas or suggestions.

Our White Papers continue to move forward as Ron Whitley authors his paper addressing thyroid function testing during pregnancy. In addition, a second topic has been approved for development. Catherine Hammett-Stabler will lead a group in authoring a white paper on future research needs in serum free light chain testing. We look forward to seeing the publication of these new products in the near future.

The Academy continues to have productive discussions with AACC. Greg Miller, Ann Gronowski and Rob Christensen have been very supportive in assisting the Academy in establishing its role within AACC. Mike Bennett will soon undertake the leadership role of the Academy and I have no doubt that he will continue to improve our role beyond its current status. As I have received enormous support this past year, please continue your generous support for Mike and the Academy!

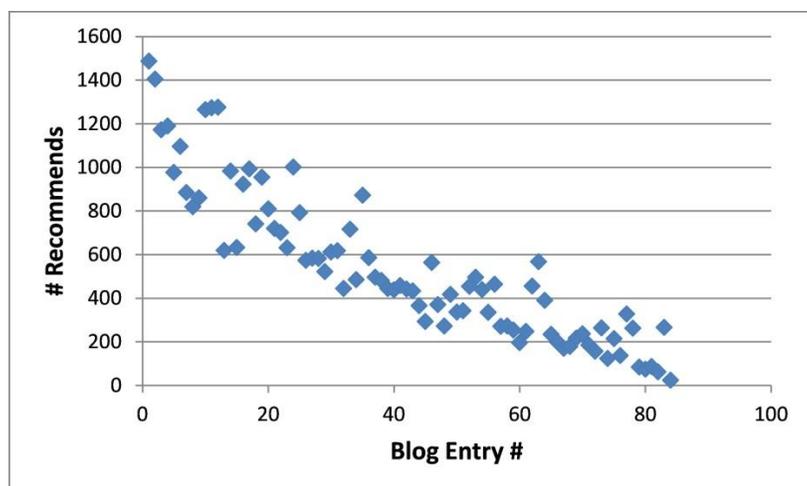
Are You Regular Reader and Commenter of the NACBLOG? Join Us!



The NACBlog has produced 4 entries per month since its inception in January 2011. It has covered a wide variety of topics thanks to the inputs of a large number of expert contributors. A graph of the number of "Recommended" comments from readers vs. blog entry number is shown below. Such recommendations represent at least a minimum for the number of readers or "hits" for each entry. For most posts, the number or recommendations continues to grow as a function of time after the original date of posting, indicating that the blogs are a valuable, ongoing resource of information.

We have had some difficulty in maintaining the pace of posting, so consideration is being given to reduce the number of entries per year. We anticipate that the blog will continue to provide such a valuable resource of expert opinions. As always, we welcome your contributions and participation.

Patti Jones
Chair, Editorial Board, NACBlog



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2012 NACB Awards Ceremony

The NACB 2012 Awards Ceremony was held during the 2012 AACC annual meeting in Los Angeles in July.

NACB President Dr. Stan Lo opened the meeting with recognition of special guests: AACC President Dr. Greg Miller, ABCC President Dr. Corrine Fantz, and ComACC President Dr. Elizabeth Frank. Dr. Lo also recognized all past NACB presidents in attendance.

Distinguished abstract winners were recognized. There were 32 abstracts designated as Distinguished Abstracts this year.

The ceremony proceeded with the introduction of new NACB fellows by Dr. Lo. A total of 22 new Fellows were installed into the Academy, with congratulations from Dr. Lo and from the entire membership of NACB. The 2012 new NACB Fellows are listed below.

Dr. Lo recognized Abbott Diagnostics and Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics as two companies that have been longstanding supporters of NACB's Awards Program. Dr. Norm Wald from Abbott and Dr. James Donnelly from Siemens were welcomed as representatives of their companies.

Awards Chair Dr. David Koch introduced recipients of NACB's major awards for 2012:



Dr. Dennis Lo was introduced as the winner of the AACC-NACB AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLINICAL CHEMISTRY IN A SELECTED AREA OF RESEARCH. The award for outstanding contributions to clinical chemistry in a selected area of research is given jointly by the AACC and NACB. The clinical chemists who have received this award have achieved national and international status for their pioneering efforts in an area of research considered fundamental to the science and have been considered among the world's foremost experts in that specific discipline.

Dr. Dennis Lo is the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences and the Chairman of the Department of Chemical Pathology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is highly regarded for his work on the fundamental biological characteristics of circulating fetal DNA. Dr. Lo demonstrated the use of such fetal-derived molecules for the prenatal diagnosis of sex-linked diseases, blood group genotyping, and a variety of monogenic disorders. His work has contributed to the noninvasive prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome and has been called the 'holy grail' of the field. Dr. Lo also developed an approach for identifying Down syndrome using molecular techniques for detecting fetal chromosomal aneuploidies. This technology has been rapidly introduced into clinical practice. Recently, Dr. Lo has pushed the envelope in the field by demonstrating that a

genome-wide genetic map of the fetus can be deduced by deep sequencing of the pregnant mother's plasma. Taken as a whole, Dr. Lo's work has created a paradigm shift in prenatal diagnosis, making such testing safer for the fetuses and less stressful for the pregnant mothers.



Dr. Stephen Kahn was announced as the recipient of the ALVIN DUBIN AWARD. This award recognizes contributions to the profession and the Academy by a member of NACB. It is named for a past president of the Academy, the late Professor Alvin Dubin. As Dr. Kahn was unable to be present at the ceremony, the award was received on his behalf by Dr. Robert Christenson, who read comments of thanks from Dr. Kahn.

Dr. Amy Pyle of the Ohio Valley Section presented the GEORGE GRANNIS AWARD to Dr. Geoffrey Baird. This award is given for excellence in research and scientific publication by a young investigator. It is sponsored by the Academy and the Ohio Valley Local Section. Dr. Baird gave a short and engaging talk on his research.



Dr. Lo then presented the NACB PRESIDENT'S MEDAL to our current President-elect, Dr. Michael Bennett, and the PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE to former NACB president Dr. Ron Whitley. Dr. Ken Blick was recognized in appreciation for his three years of service as the NACB Treasurer from 2009 to 2011. Dr. Patti Jones and Dr. Gary Myers were recognized in appreciation for their service on the Board during the years 2009 to 2011.

Dr. Elizabeth Frank, President of the Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry (ComACC) presented the COMACC SERVICE AWARD to Dr. Fred Apple, in absentia.

Dr. Lo concluded the 2012 NACB Awards Ceremony and invited all attendees to reconvene to conduct the NACB annual membership meeting.



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NEW NACB FELLOWS IN 2012

Abayomi Akanji, MD, PhD
Rasoul Alikhani Koupaei, PhD
Boris Calderon, MD
Gurdeep Dhatt, MBBS
Abubaker Elfatih, MD
Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, PhD
Ethan Flynn, MD
Deborah French, PhD
Malgorzata Jaremko, PhD
Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD
Adrian Kruit, PhD
Vivek Kumar, PhD
Patrick Kyle, PhD
Hui Li, PhD
Richard Louie, PhD
Olusegun Mojiminiyi, MD, PhD
Michael Oellerich, MD
Joely Straseski, PhD
Qin Sun, PhD
Weijia Wu, PhD
Hoi-Ying (Elsie) Yu, PhD
Bingfang Yue, PhD

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NACB Distinguished Abstracts Awards, 2012

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry announced 32 winners of the 2012 Distinguished Abstracts Awards for the 2012 AACC Annual Meeting. A group of NACB Fellows selected these abstracts for their scientific excellence from a pool of 888 abstracts accepted for the meeting. Winning abstracts displayed the NACB blue ribbon during the Annual Meeting poster sessions in Los Angeles, CA.

A list of the 2012 winners and abstract titles may be found on the NACB website [here](#).

Congratulations to all authors recognized by these awards, and thanks to the NACB Fellows who participated in the awards selection process.

A count summary of the NACB Distinguished Abstract Awards, inaugurated in 2004, is given in the table below:

Table: History of NACB Distinguished Abstract Awards

Year	Number of Abstracts	Pool	% of Pool	Country of Origin			
				US	CA	UK	Other
2004	16	600	2.7	9		2	5
2005	25	837	3.0	12	3	2	8
2006	13	629	2.1	4	1	2	6
2007	14	724	1.9	11			3
2008	26	725	3.6	15	4	1	6
2009	22	824	2.7	12	1		9
2010	25	820	3.0	13	3	2	7
2011	30	742	4.0	13	1	0	16
2012	32	888	3.6	17	2	0	13
TOTAL	203	6789	2.9	106	15	9	73
AVERAGE	23	754	3.0				