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NEWS & VIEWS

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

Spring 2012

NACB President's Report



Dr. Stanley Lo discusses recent and upcoming Academy activities such as guidelines, the Beckman Conference, and white papers.

2012 NACB Award Winners



Find out this year's NACB award winners and learn a little more about their background and research activities!

NACB Activities at the AACC 2012 Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars. Here's the official list of NACB's activities in Los Angeles this July.

Are You Regular Reader and Commenter of the NACBLOG?



Join Us! Learn more about NACB's blog and its successful first year.

NEWS & VIEWS

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

NACB President's Report



Stanley Lo
President

As I write this, Spring Fever has arrived in Wisconsin. Thankfully, the warmer weather has transcended the heavily publicized saga of baseball's Ryan Braun. Who would have thought that Milwaukee would be at the center of preanalytical testing issues for performance enhancing drugs in Major League baseball players? Spring is also the time for a NACB Board meeting. This year we will be meeting in Chicago to discuss the current and future directions of AACC's Academy especially as it pertains to guideline and white paper development. I am pleased to announce that current AACC President Dr. Greg Miller and AACC President Elect Dr. Rob Christensen will be joining us. This is a wonderful opportunity for NACB to learn more about the strategic objectives of AACC, as well as an opportunity to meet the prominent leaders of AACC.

LMPGs. We continue to work in support of the EBLMC (a joint AACC/NACB committee) to improve guideline development. To accomplish this, EBLMC Chair Dr. Steve Kahn is continuing to develop a standard operating procedure document for creating and reviewing internal and external guidelines. In addition, Dr. Bill Clarke (EBLMC member) attended a two day interactive workshop to help guideline developers meet the goals laid out in the recent IOM report "*Clinical Practice Guidelines We Can Trust*." Hopefully many guideline development suggestions from this workshop can be incorporated into our standard procedure. As always, suggestions for new LMPG topics are always welcome. We will also address the possibility of updating archived LMPGs, specifically chapters from the POCT LPMG, as well as potential topics from last year's Beckman Conference.

NACBLOG. The NACBLOG continues to provide many interesting and relevant points of view pertaining to the clinical laboratory. Take advantage of the blog to get your ideas discussed and possibly promoted! If you have a suggestion for a blog topic, don't hesitate to contact the NACBLOG Editorial Board (Patti Jones, Mary Lou Gantzer, Bill Winter, or Allison Woodworth).

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2013 Beckman Conference. Plans for the 2013 Beckman Conference continues to move forward. Arrangements are being made to organize this meeting with the American Society of Nephrology. Thanks to Conference Chair Mary Lou Gantzer for carrying out this objective. Once the organizing committee is formed the conference content and speaker information should soon become available. The potential for collaborative guidelines related to kidney disease testing resulting from this conference will be investigated.

White Papers. The first attempt at creating a NACB White Paper is being developed and authored by NACB Past President Ron Whitley. Our current vision is that the white papers will be directed towards laboratory professionals for the purpose of summarizing and consolidating state of the art practice related to particular laboratory tests or clinical scenarios. Primarily, these will be technical papers (8-10 pages in length) that may provide the basis for future position statements as well as portions of guideline development. The white papers will be available free from the NACB website. Not only will Dr. Whitley be working on the content of his paper addressing thyroid function testing during pregnancy, but he will be establishing a standard procedure for this new publication form.

AACC Annual Meeting. Though the AACC Annual Meeting is still several months away, please consider attending the NACB afternoon symposium (Monday, July 16th) being chaired by Ken Blick and titled Effective Implementation of Expert Decision Support for System Monitoring Dashboards and Rules Based Autovalidation/Autorelease of Laboratory Results. In addition, please join us on Wednesday, July 18 for the NACB Board Breakfast meeting and the NACB Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting. Awards will be presented to Dennis Lo for outstanding research advances in clinical biochemistry, Steve Kahn for distinguished contributions to the profession and the academy, and Geoffrey Baird for excellence in research and scientific publication. And finally, don't forget to attend Mary Lou's symposium Evidence in Action: Translating Guideline Recommendations into Clinical Practice Worldwide on Thursday, July 19th. The Distinguished Abstracts and Oral Poster Presentations will be held throughout the week, it would be great if you can get to one or all of these!

It's only been a few months as President and I firmly believe we are moving in the right direction. I know there is plenty of work to be done and I appreciate the efforts of ALL of our officers and directors, as well as those involved with the various NACB committees. Thanks for continuing to promote and improve NACB.

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Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

NACB Announces 2012 Award Winners

NACB is pleased to announce that the following recipients have received the 2012 NACB awards. Congratulations to this year's award winners!



AACC/NACB Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research

Y. M. Dennis Lo, MD
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy

Stephen Kahn, PhD, DABCC, FACB
Loyola University



George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication by a Young Investigator

Geoffrey Baird, MD, PhD
University of Washington

Interested in learning more about this year's award winners? Read their biosketches!

Y.M. Dennis Lo, DM, DPhil, FRS, is the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences and the Chairman of the Department of Chemical Pathology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1997, Dr. Lo and his co-workers reported the presence of cell-free fetal DNA in the plasma of pregnant women. This discovery has challenged the conventional wisdom regarding the role of the placenta as a barrier between the fetal and maternal circulations. The finding of circulating fetal DNA in maternal blood has also opened up new possibilities for noninvasive prenatal diagnosis. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Lo has elucidated the fundamental biological characteristics regarding circulating fetal DNA, including its concentrations, gestational variations, length distributions and clearance patterns. Diagnostically, Dr. Lo has 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. The noninvasive prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome has hitherto been called the 'holy grail' in the field. The application of circulating fetal nucleic acids for detecting Down syndrome is challenging because fetal DNA only represents a minor fraction of the total DNA that is present in maternal plasma. Dr. Lo and his team have tackled this problem from a variety of angles, including approaches that are based on detecting circulating RNA and DNA methylation patterns. In 2007, Dr. Lo has developed an approach that is based on molecular counting and has shown in 2008 that massively parallel sequencing is an efficient method for implementing this approach

for detecting fetal chromosomal aneuploidies. In 2011, Dr. Lo and his team published the first large-scale validation of this sequencing-based technology for Down syndrome detection, with confirmations by numerous groups since then. This technology has since then been rapidly introduced into clinical practice in late 2011. Recently, Dr. Lo has pushed the envelope of 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. In recognition of his work, Dr. Lo has won numerous awards and was elected to the Royal Society, the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence, in 2011.

Stephen E. Kahn, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB, is a tenured Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Services in Pathology at the Loyola University Health System (A Member of Trinity Health) in Maywood, Illinois, USA. He serves as Associate Director of Clinical Laboratories plus Director of Core Laboratory Operations, Point of Care, Referred Testing and Toxicology. After completing postdoctoral training in clinical chemistry at Loyola, he joined the department as a faculty member becoming certified by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry in 1982.

Dr. Kahn has held a multitude of positions at the local and national levels including being a Past-President of the AACC and NACB. Currently, he chairs the joint AACC/NACB Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine Committee. Recently, he chaired the 2011 Arnold O. Beckman Conference, *'Glycemic Control in the Hospital: Evidence, Issues and Future Directions.'* He has chaired or served on numerous task forces, committees, boards of directors and work groups of AACC, NACB and ABCC as well as other organizations and societies.

Dr. Kahn is the recipient of AACC's 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award as well as AACC's Award for Outstanding Contributions in Service to the Field of Clinical Chemistry, two AACC presidential citations and several other awards. He is committed to education with over 100 publications having given numerous presentations worldwide. His current areas of interest are evidence based laboratory medicine, biomarkers of cardiac and cardiovascular disease, clinical laboratory utilization, point of care testing, toxicology and automation.

Geoffrey Baird, MD, PhD, grew up in San Diego, CA, and attended Stanford University for his undergraduate education. He spent the summers of his college years working on GC/MS assay development in the clinical chemistry laboratories at the VA Hospital in San Diego and studying porphyrin chemistry at Stanford. After graduating as a Chemistry major, he attended the University of California, San Diego for medical school and graduate school as a trainee in the NIH-sponsored Medical Scientist Training Program. In graduate school, Dr. Baird worked in the laboratory of Dr. Roger Tsien, where his work on jellyfish Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) contributed to the body of work for which Dr. Tsien was awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. After graduation from medical school, Dr. Baird moved to Seattle for residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of Washington.

After a year as chief resident of Clinical Pathology, Dr. Baird spent a year training in clinical immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology with Dr. Allen Gown at PhenoPath Laboratories in Seattle. Dr. Baird then started as faculty in the University of Washington's Department of Laboratory Medicine, where he now is an assistant professor, Director of Clinical Chemistry at Harborview Medical Center, and Laboratory Director of Airlift Northwest. His clinical interests include encouraging rational utilization of routine laboratory testing, and his research interests include histochemical techniques, tissue proteomics and oligonucleotide aptamer technology. He has authored or co-authored 31 peer-reviewed research publications, three book chapters and numerous abstracts, and he is an inventor on several licensed patents relating to fluorescent protein indicators. Dr. Baird is married to Denise, and they have two energetic boys, Flynn (age 9) and Galen (age 7).

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Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

NACB Activities at the AACC 2012 Annual Meeting



Tuesday-Thursday, July 17 – 19

NACB Distinguished Abstracts

Los Angeles Convention Center

Look for the NACB blue ribbon displayed on posters.

Monday, July 16

2:30pm – 5:00pm

**Effective Implementation of Expert Decision Support
for System Monitoring Dashboards and Rules Based
Autovalidation/Autorelease of Laboratory Results**

(32209)

Los Angeles Convention Center

Tuesday, July 17

2:30pm – 5:00pm

**New Trends in the Diagnosis and Monitoring of
Inflammatory Response**

Oral poster presentations selected by the Annual Meeting

Organizing Committee and NACB

Los Angeles Convention Center

Wednesday, July 18

7:00am – 8:30am

NACB Board Breakfast Meeting

Westin Bonaventure

Wednesday, July 18

12:30pm – 2:15pm

NACB Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting

JW Marriott Los Angeles at LA LIVE

NACB Fellows: \$40.00 Make reservations in advance using the AACC Annual Meeting registration form.

NACB members are invited to attend this luncheon in honor of new Fellows and award recipients.

NEWS & VIEWS

Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

Yuk-Ming Dennis Lo, MD

**AACC/NACB Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical
Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research**
Outstanding Research Advances in Clinical Biochemistry

Stephen Kahn, PhD, DABCC, FACB

Professor Alvin Dubin Award
Distinguished Contributions to the Profession and the Academy

Geoffrey Baird, MD, PhD

George Grannis Award
Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication
Sponsored by the Ohio Valley Local Section and NACB

Wednesday, July 18

2:30pm – 5:00pm

Advances in Personalized Medicine

Oral poster presentations selected by the Annual Meeting
Organizing Committee and NACB
Los Angeles Convention Center

Thursday, July 19

9:30am – 12noon

**Evidence in Action: Translating Guideline
Recommendations into Clinical Practice Worldwide**
(35101)

Los Angeles Convention Center

AACC and NACB would like to thank the following companies for their support of the 2012 Awards Program:

Abbott Diagnostics

BD Diagnostics – Preanalytical Systems

Beckman Coulter, Inc.

Roche Diagnostics

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

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



Visit [NACBLOG](#) if you have not already done so! NACBLOG publishes new posts every Tuesday morning. It includes broad laboratory topics and provides discussion on laboratory issues and practice, and often offers solutions and comments on best practices. The NACBLOG had a very successful 2011—its first year of operation. There were 52 blog posts with total of 107,096 page views and 80,224 unique views. If you would like to contribute to the blog, please contact any member of the Editorial Board: [Patti Jones](#), [Mary Lou Gantzer](#), [Bill Winter](#), or [Alison Woodworth](#).