

Spring 2013

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Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine

NACB President's Report



NACB President's Report: Dr. Michael Bennett updates the early 2013 activities of NACB, including LMPGs and the LMPG SOP.

Meet the New NACB Board Members!



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Congratulations to the 2013 NACB Award Winners!



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2013 Annual Meeting NACB Activities



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Are You a Regular Reader and Commenter of the NACBLOG?



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

NACB Membership Committee Update



NACB Membership Committee Update

Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine Committee Update

Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine Committee Update

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NACB President's Report



Michael Bennett
President

In my first newsletter message to the Fellows, in addition to my greetings to you all I would like to first thank the Academy membership through your votes, for entrusting me with the task of steering NACB through 2013.

I would also like to use this opportunity to remind you all that not only are your votes always important during the election but also that your suggestions for nominations to the Board of Directors are equally important and are presently being sought ahead of the upcoming election. The composition of the Board determines the direction that NACB moves in and you can impact that direction by your suggestions for membership.

Some of the defining products of the Academy include our output of Laboratory Medicine Practice guidelines (LMPG's), our scholarly presentations at scientific meetings such as the Annual Meeting and the Beckman Conference and the publication of white papers on a number of hot topics to the profession. I am delighted to say that 2013 is a very strong year for all of these activities. We currently have 2 LMPG's under development. These include an LMPG on Pain management being championed by Loralie Langman and Paul Janetto and an LMPG on the Laboratory Analysis of Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin in Clinical Practice championed by Nikola Baumann. For those who have been reading related articles in Clinical Chemistry Journal, you will be aware that the Board has approved a new SOP for LMPG development that was developed with a lot of hard work by Steve Kahn on behalf of NACB and the EBLM committee. The new SOP includes the major elements of the AGREE II tool which will ensure that all of our future guidelines will have the greatest impact across ours and associated clinical professions.

The Beckman conference this year is going to be on renal markers and will be held in conjunction with the American Society of Nephrology annual meeting. It will be held in Atlanta in November 2013 and Academy input has been very ably coordinated by Mary-Lou Gantzer.

There will be much more on our Annual Meeting activities in the next newsletter but we do have a very full program. I do want to make a point to remind Fellows not to forget to order your Awards Luncheon tickets when you register for the Annual Meeting.

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Finally, White Papers are a new venture for The Academy. We are preparing White Papers on Thyroid Hormones in Pregnancy (Ron Whitley) and Serum Free light chains (Catherine Hammett-Stabler) and anticipate they will be available for you to see soon.

NACBlog is a highly prized part of our operation. Please keep your blogs coming. There is no limit on numbers of blogs and they do keep The Academy profile very high. I recently generated a blog and my feeling is; if I can do one, anyone can! So I throw down a challenge to anyone who has never written a blog to do so.

Whilst this is all very exciting, we do need to maintain a continuous supply of Academy products. I would ask any Fellow who has an idea about a possible future LMPG, White Paper or meeting session including symposia to let the Board of Directors know and we will certainly consider your suggestions positively. Don't hesitate to contact myself or any other board members with any suggestions at all regarding Academy activities.

I wish all fellows the very best and look forward to meeting with as many of you as I can this year.

Mike Bennett PhD, DABCC, FACB

NACB New Board Members



President Elect: Patti Jones, Ph.D., FACB

Dr. Jones is currently the Clinical Director of the Chemistry and Metabolic Disease Laboratories at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, TX, and Professor of Pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Patti has been a member of the AACC since 1986, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) since 1997 and is actively involved in both the AACC and its Academy. She is currently on the AACC Board of Directors and is President-elect of the NACB as well as being the current secretary of the TDM/Toxicology

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Division and past-Chair of the Texas Section. She also serves on the Pediatric Reference Range Committee and is chairing the Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry Review Course Organizing Committee.

Patti also serves as a clinical consultant for the county hospital in Dallas, Parkland, and for two university hospitals. She did her clinical chemistry training as a Fellow at UT Southwestern Medical Center and was board certified by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry in 1992. Along with her regular duties, she also teaches residents and fellows in chemistry and metabolic disease testing.



Treasurer: William E. Winter, MD

Dr. Winter is Professor of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine; Pediatrics; and Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Winter holds boards in Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrinology and Chemical Pathology. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry (DABCC), a fellow of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (FACB) and is a fellow of the College of American Pathologists (FCAP). He is principle investigator for the NIH-funded Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet Islet Cell Autoantibody Core Laboratory and the NIH-funded Islet Autoantibody Standardization Program (IASP). Dr. Winter directs the Endocrine Autoantibody Laboratory that is part of the University of Florida Pathology Laboratories (UFPL). Dr. Winter's specialties are clinical chemistry and pediatric endocrinology with a focus on diabetes in children. He teaches in the basic science and clinical science curricula of the UF College of Medicine and directs the following courses: cardiovascular and respiratory systems; kidney and the urinary tract; gastroenterology and hepatology; dermatology and the musculoskeletal system; and hematology.



Andy Hoofnagle, MD PhD

Dr. Hoofnagle is Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Clinical Chemistry in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Washington. He also serves as the Director of Clinical Mass Spectrometry, Director of Reference Lab Services, and Director of the Analytical Core of the Nutrition and Obesity Research Center. His grant-funded research program focuses on using mass spectrometry to accurately and precisely quantify proteins in complex mixtures, on the interaction of inflammation, lipoprotein metabolism, and atherosclerosis, and on the importance of vitamin D metabolism in populations at increased risk of cardiovascular disease. He serves on the editorial boards of Clinical Chemistry (as Associate Editor) and Molecular and Cellular Proteomics (Board of Editors), as Chair of the Continuing Medical Education Committee of AACC, and as the Treasurer and Chair-elect of the Proteomics Division. He has also served as co-Chair of scientific committee of the Mass Spectrometry: Applications to the Clinical Laboratory Annual Meeting since it began in 2008. He was awarded the Grannis Award for Excellence in Research from NACB in 2010 and the Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievements by a Young Investigator from AACC in 2012.



Carmen Wiley, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB

Dr. Wiley is currently the Co-director of Chemistry and Immunology and Point of Care Testing at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center. She also directs the Bioanalytics Laboratory at PAML. In her previous position, she was the Head of Clinical Chemistry in the Division of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI. She earned her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. She completed a postdoctoral fellow in Clinical Chemistry at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. She is board certified by ABCC and a Fellow of the NACB.

She has been a member of AACC since 1999 and has held several positions in AACC at the national and local levels. Currently she is a member of the editorial board for Lab Tests Online (LTO) and a new member of the board to NACB. Additionally, she is the chair of the 2014 AACC Annual Meeting and serves as the Pacific Northwest Section's delegate in AACC's House of Delegates. Past involvement in AACC includes serving on the 2008 on 2011 Annual Meeting Organizing Committee, the Membership Committee, the SYCL committee, and the Government Affairs Committee.

Carmen is passionate about promoting the field of laboratory medicine, especially among young and early career clinical laboratorians. She is also interested in encouraging laboratorians to be great communicators. As the field of medicine becomes more and more specialized, it is difficult for health care providers to keep up with the changing field of laboratory medicine. She feels it is our role as clinical laboratorians to guide health care providers in the appropriate use of laboratory tests and aid in the interpretation of laboratory results.

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NACB Announces 2013 Award Winners

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

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



Shirley Welch, PhD, DABCC, FACB

Dr. Shirley Welch, Ph D, DABCC, FACB recently retired after more than 20 years as the Director of Chemistry and Toxicology at Kaiser Permanente in Portland, OR and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Pathology Department at Oregon Health and Sciences University. She received her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley and received a clinical chemistry fellowship at the Oregon Health Sciences University. She joined the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in 1980 and the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in 1997.

Dr. Welch has been active in AACC at both the local and national levels. She served on several committees including the Program Planning Commission and the Forensic Urine Drug Testing Laboratory Improvement Program Committee. Dr. Welch was on the AACC Board of Directors from 1998-2001 and was Chair of the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee in 2004. From 1997-2003, she was on the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, serving as Vice President and Chair of Examinations.

Dr. Welch served on NACB Education and Scientific Affairs Committee from 2006-2009 and was chair in 2009. She remained on this committee when the NACB and AACC joined forces to form the AACC Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine Committee. Most recently Dr. Welch served on and chaired the NACB Nominating Committee.

George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication



Dina Greene, PhD, DABCC, FACB

Dr. Dina Greene embarked on her scientific career in Gainesville, Florida by obtaining a degree in Microbiology from the University of Florida. As an undergraduate she distinctly remembers falling in love with biochemistry when she enrolled in the class "The Physiology and Biochemistry of Prokaryotes", where she immediately understood that some of her happiest moments would be spent deciphering complicated scientific phenomena. Dr Greene then obtained her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Emory University and subsequently migrated west, trading in her southern roots for snow-filled mountains, to complete the Clinical Chemistry Fellowship Program at the University of Utah. In 2011 Dr Greene joined the staff at Northern California Kaiser Permanente, where she is enthusiastic about the diverse population served and contributions she can make toward positively impacting the quality of laboratory testing and results. Throughout her scientific career, Dr Greene has had the opportunity to work with amazing mentors and to establish numerous collaborations. She undoubtedly understands that these relationships have acted as catalysts for her to achieve a successful publication record and scientific honors.

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



Gregory Tsongalis, PhD, DABCC, FACB

Dr. Tsongalis is the director of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory and co-director of the Translational Research Program in the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Lebanon, NH. In 1994, he completed his post-doctoral training in clinical chemistry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where he was first exposed to molecular diagnostics. Throughout his career, Dr. Tsongalis has been striving to apply molecular techniques to diagnostic questions that are not adequately addressed by traditional lab methods and has challenged the boundaries between clinical pathology and anatomic pathology. His early work described methods for localized in situ amplification (LISA) of DNA and RNA targets in tissue sections as well as the identification of double heterozygotes in BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers. He described some of the first applications of molecular methods used in identity testing of clinical specimens when a mislabeling or mix-up was suspected. His laboratory embraced early automation for high volume molecular infectious disease testing and the development of molecular techniques for use with unconventional specimen types. His laboratory is currently applying state of the art molecular techniques to better patient management thru precision medicine. As a continuous challenge, his laboratory pushes the application of molecular technologies beyond their traditional uses and is now focusing on nanotechnologies for routine use in the clinical setting. His work has led to 140 publications and 8 textbooks in the field of Molecular Pathology. Dr. Tsongalis has served on numerous professional society committees including the AACC Board of Directors and the editorial boards of several medical journals including Clinical Chemistry.

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NACB Activities at the AACC 2013 Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 28

5:00pm—6:30pm

Opening Plenary

NACB Awardees are honored.

Tuesday—Thursday, July 30-August 1

NACB Distinguished Abstracts

Houston Convention Center

Tuesday, July 30

Morning Symposia: Coagulation Analysis by Viscoelastography – Is There a Point-of-Care Clinical Application?

Moderator: Marcia Zucker, PhD

ZIVD, LLC, Metuchen, NJ

Session Overview: Viscoelastography (TEG, ROTEM, SonoClot) provides a unique assessment of coagulation in whole blood. These techniques provide simultaneous assessment of platelet function, humoral coagulation, and fibrinolysis. This session will discuss the principles of this technology, its proper validation and clinical applications.

Speakers:

Brad Karon, MD, PhD, Mayo Clinic Comparison of Viscoelastic to Routine Coagulation Tests in the Laboratory or at the Point-of-Care

Mark Ereth, MD, MA, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine Extraordinary Reductions in Cardiac Surgery, Trauma and Critical Care Transfusion Using Laboratory Algorithms with Viscoelastic Tests.

Tuesday, July 30

Oral poster presentations selected by the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee and NACB

Houston Convention Center

Wednesday, July 31

12:30pm – 2:15pm

NACB Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting

Hilton Americas Houston

Wednesday, July 31

2:30pm – 5:00pm

Oral poster presentations selected by the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee and NACB

Houston Convention Center

NACB Blog

NACBlog continues to post regular entries on the NACB website. Contributions are welcome. To access NACBlog visit <http://www.aacc.org/members/nacb/NACBBlog/default.aspx#>. Anyone with ideas for entries should contact the chair of the NACBlog Editorial Board, Dr. Alison Woodworth alison.woodworth@vanderbilt.edu

Membership Activity

Greetings from the Membership Committee. We have been busy reviewing applications for Fellowship and we have added a number of excellent new Fellows and Associate Fellows to the Academy. However, our overall numbers are declining and we need your assistance. The 2013 numbers are influenced by timing. We will see where we are in October. We are about to kick off our annual membership drive. Historically we have seen a positive impact of our campaign. Invitations will be going out to targeted groups in the coming weeks. We need your help. Please recommend colleagues who meet the requirements for membership but are not Fellows or Associate Fellows. You can send names to Stefanie Kleinman atskleinman@aacc.org and we will send an invitation letter.

	As of October 2010	As of October 2011	As of October 2012	March 2013
Fellow	413	410	395	370
Associate Fellow	51	53	41	34
Emeritus Fellow	115	112	115	112
Total	579	575	558	521
% Renewal	92.3%	91.5%	92.6%	92%
New Fellows	6	18	25	8
New Associate Fellows	7	4	3	2

2013 Membership Committee; Paul Jannetto, Danyel Tacker, Sue Evans

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Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine Committee Update

Report from the AACC/NACB Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine Committee

Stephen E. Kahn, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB (Chair, EBLMC)

Revision of the NACB Laboratory Medicine Practice Guideline (LMPG) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to Be Posted on NACB Website

Over the past six months, the AACC/NACB Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine Committee (EBLMC) has focused on finalizing the revision of NACB's LMPG SOP. This function became the responsibility of the EBLMC once it was created by merging the previous AACC Evidence Based Medicine Committee and NACB Education and Scientific Affairs Committee. During their spring meetings, both the NACB and AACC Board of Directors are also reviewing this current draft of the LMPG SOP. Following their review and input, a proposed final draft will then be posted on the NACB web site for a 60 day open public comment period. This action is planned to occur before this year's annual meeting in Houston. All submitted comments will be considered and responded to, if not incorporated by, the EBLMC.

Laboratory Management Practice Guideline Development Activities

In the past two years, a renewed emphasis on appropriate methods, tools and processes for the development of stronger clinical practice guideline has received increasing attention. This is particularly true in the U.S. with the publication of two reports by the Institute of Medicine—*Clinical Practice Guidelines We Can Trust* (1) and *Finding What Works in Health Care—Standards for Systematic Reviews* (2). There are two working LMPG committees. One group is focusing on pain management and is co-chaired by **Paul Jannetto, Ph.D.** and **Loralie Langman, Ph.D.** The other LMPG group is chaired by **Nikola Baumann, Ph.D.** and is focusing on hCG testing. Both committee are already using a working draft of the 2013 NACB LMPG SOP.

Besides the LMPG SOP revision, there are a number of other approaches that the EBLMC is using towards a goal of improving our LMPG development and guideline approval processes. Last year, **William Clarke, Ph.D.**, attended a two day guideline development workshop sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians, a clinical society that is recognized worldwide for its excellent practices in guideline development. As a member of both the EBLM and Pain Management LMPG committees, Dr. Clarke's experience and knowledge is being put to good use.

Two other members of the EBLMC, **Alex Chin, Ph.D.** and **Catherine Hammett Stabler, Ph.D.**, members of the hCG LMPG and pain management LMPG committees respectively, have also agreed to develop their expertise in using the AGREE II guideline evaluation instrument to ensure a more standardized LMPG format. Information on the AGREE II guideline evaluation instrument can be found at www.agreetrust.org (3) and has been previously discussed (4)

Status of EBLMC Initiated Systematic Review Proposals to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Three topic-based systematic review (SR) proposals continue in intermediate stages of development by Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) under the auspices of AHRQ. Use of natriuretic peptide measurements in the management of heart failure is nearing completion and publication of a final SR report is expected in 2013. Our TEP members are Robert Christenson,

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Ph.D. and Christopher Price, Ph.D. The scope and focus of efficacy of drug regimens designed to lower target levels of immunosuppressants in renal transplantation and the analytical methods to support monitoring has continued to evolve. Susan Maynard, Ph.D., our representative on this TEP, has been informed that AHRQ is willing to retain a focus on immunosuppressant testing for a secondary systematic review developed from two of the original five key questions in the initial proposal. Finally, the TEP working on troponin cardiac marker interpretation during renal function impairment has started starting). Alan Wu, Ph.D., is our representative on this TEP.

In the fall of 2012, AHRQ finalized and posted a SR on the use of procalcitonin measurements to guide antibiotic therapy. This was also a topic arising from an initial proposal from the EBM committee and with TEP representation from myself as a member of the EBLMC. EBLMC continues to consider whether there are other appropriate topics or key questions for SR proposals to AHRQ potentially including a greater emphasis on effective utilization of laboratory tests. This committee plans to submit proposals to AHRQ later this year. Through the use of AACC's EBLM list serve, we will continue to keep you posted on relevant actions and issues relating to EBLM. Also through the list serve or by contacting me via direct email, we welcome your input and suggestions.

References

1. Clinical Practice Guidelines We Can Trust, Institute of Medicine, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C., 2011.
2. Finding What Works in Health Care – Standards for Systematic Reviews, Institute of Medicine, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C., 2011.
3. The AGREE Enterprise Website. Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) Instrument. www.agreetrust.org
4. Brouwers MC *et al.* AGREE II: advancing guideline development, reporting and evaluation in health care. *CMAJ* 2010; 182(18): e839-42.

NACB - Scientific Shorts

NACBlog(NACBlog) continues to post regular entries on the NACB website. Contributions are welcome. To access NACB - Scientific Shorts visit <http://www.aacc.org/members/nacb/NACBBlog/default.aspx#>. Anyone with ideas for entries should contact the chair of the NACB - Scientific Shorts Editorial Board, Dr. Alison Woodworth alison.woodworth@vanderbilt.edu