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Dear AACC Academy Fellows,

It is an honor to serve as the AACC Academy President and Chair of the AACC Academy Council for the 2021 – 2022 year. I am proud of the work we are doing to support the strategic initiatives of the AACC and am excited for innovations that we will begin in the coming year.

This past year has brought numerous unforeseen challenges with the COVID Pandemic. We, as a laboratory community, have not only risen to these challenges, but established ourselves as experts in diagnostic testing and thought leaders in the field of laboratory medicine.

The AACC Academy and its members have also thrived this past year. With our mission in mind, we worked to harness the expertise of our distinguished membership around the world to move the profession and science of laboratory medicine forward while also providing better health for our patients worldwide, through numerous initiatives. Under the leadership of the council, the AACC Academy has implemented several new initiatives while continuing successful existing programs. In line with AACC's strategic goal to highlight the value of laboratory medicine, the Academy initiated an economic benchmark series that will utilize case-based examples to highlight the economic impact of laboratory medicine professionals to healthcare. After publishing our inaugural guidance document in early 2020, we published 3 additional guidance documents focused on Management in Point of Care Testing, Biomarkers of Preterm Delivery, and laboratory assessment of Acute Kidney Injury this past year. Under the leadership of council member Yusheng Zhu, the test utilization taskforce continues its great work in publishing guidance on appropriate utilization of laboratory tests. This year we published guidance on 4 new tests. Finally, Christine Snozek and her editorial board oversaw the publication of 36 Scientific Shorts accompanied by >1600 unique site visits. Not surprisingly, the most visited short of all times, a discussion of false positive COVID rtPCR results, was published this year! Much of this great content is available on the Academy's Webpage; please check it out when you have an opportunity! Also, please participate in the latest discussion on our Artery page [here](#).

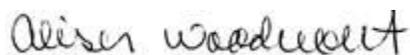
This year we will continue much of this great work and roll out new initiatives as well! We have several guidance documents planned for publication along with an updated Laboratory Medicine Practice Guideline on Diabetes in collaboration with the ADA. We also plan to publish case studies highlighting the clinical and economic impact of the clinical laboratorian on the patient care team. This is in support of AACC's strategic initiative to highlight the value of laboratory medicine. Finally, we are hoping to add additional

learning opportunities for our members by introducing a webinar series. It is sure to be a great 2021-2022 for the Academy and its fellows.

The Academy has the honor of awarding extraordinary research in and contributions to the field of clinical biochemistry/laboratory medicine. This year's awardees will be honored in person at our upcoming AACC Academy luncheon on September 29, 2021, at the AACC Annual Scientific meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The winner of the 2021 AACC Academy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research is Qing Meng, PhD, DABCC, FAACC. The recipient of the Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy is Angela Ferguson, PhD, FAACC, DABCC, while the George Grannis Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication goes to Christopher Farnsworth, PhD, DABCC, FAACC. Please join me in congratulating these deserving award winners.

I would like to close by thanking our past President, Dr. Gyorgy Abel, for his incredible contributions to the AACC Academy this past year. The many successes of the AACC Academy are a testament to Gyorgy's leadership during this challenging year. I want to thank the hard working and talented AACC Academy Council members for their service and time. Finally, a huge thanks to Stefanie Kleinman and Sam Edgerly from AACC who kept us going throughout the year and supported our many successes, despite the crazy schedules of many of our members. I am looking forward to working with many of you next year!

A final thanks goes to you, our members! None of these programs would be successful without your contributions. If you are interested in volunteering for one of many committees or activities sponsored by the AACC Academy this year, please fill out this [form](#). I look forward to working with many of you this coming year to serve the AACC Academy, AACC, and the field of laboratory medicine.



Alison Woodworth, PhD, DABCC, FAACC
AACC Academy President