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## CDID Division Officers

**Chair:** Melissa Snyder, Mayo Foundation

**Chair Elect:** Maria Alice Vieira Willrich, Mayo Foundation

**Past Chair:** Gabriella Lakos, Abbott Laboratories

**Secretary:** Tara Givens, Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute

**Treasurer:** Peter Martis, Inova Diagnostics

**Research Officer:** Lokinendi V. Rao, Quest Diagnostics

**Communications Officer:** Mohammad Al-Ghoul, Center for Disease Detection

**Professional Development Officer:** David F. Keren, University of Michigan

**Education Officer:** Evangelos Ntrivalas, Nova Biomedical



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## Message from the Chair

It is difficult for me to believe that my first year as chair for CDID is coming to an end. I think it has passed so quickly because the division has had a very busy year! Beginning in 2017, we began planning for the 2018 AACC Annual Meeting. CDID is always well-represented at this meeting, and this year was no exception. CDID worked with our membership to submit a variety of scientific sessions, with topics ranging from autoimmune serology to monoclonal antibody therapeutics to allergy diagnostics. Clinical immunology was also visible at the revamped AACC University, with sessions on protein electrophoresis and ANA by IFA. Beyond the scientific sessions, CDID organized and participated in other activities at the annual meeting. The Immunology Poster Walk, led by David Keren, featured several excellent posters, including the CDID award-winning abstract. The discussion at each poster was lively and informative! I encourage you to take advantage of this activity at future meetings. CDID also participated in the Opening Mixer, which was new at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The CDID booth was a huge success, both in raising awareness of clinical immunology within AACC and in attracting new members to our division. Finally, CDID held a joint division mixer with the Tumor Markers and Cancer Diagnostics Division. This was a great opportunity to network with other members of CDID and to meet individuals outside our division but with similar interests. Details regarding the joint mixer can be found further along in this newsletter. However, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to James Faix, who was recognized with the 2018 Jolliff Award. Jim is a talented scientist and dedicated proponent of clinical immunology. It is an honor for CDID to present him with this award.



I also want to acknowledge some of our activities outside of the annual meeting. Members of our division are currently representing CDID and AACC on two important committees. LV Rao, our current Research Officer, is the CDID representative on the Science and Practice Core Committee. This committee, which reports directly to the AACC Board of Governors, directs AACC's activities in research and translational science. Stan Naides, a member and Past Chair of CDID, is the AACC Liaison to the College of American Pathologist's Diagnostic Immunology Resource Committee. This committee oversees proficiency testing and inspection checklists related to clinical

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immunology. Both LV and Stan do a great job at representing our interests on these committees – my thanks to both of them for their commitment to our division.

Finally, I want to extend a huge “Thank you” to all the members of the Executive Committee, in particular for their efforts at the AACC Annual Meeting. I wasn’t able to attend the meeting this year, although I had a relatively good excuse in the form of a 1½ month old baby boy☺. The officers took on many responsibilities to ensure a productive and fun meeting, and they absolutely succeeded. I’m so lucky to be able to work with such dedicated officers!

As we look toward the upcoming year, I encourage you to be involved with AACC and with CDID. There are many opportunities, and your participation will only make our organizations stronger. If you are looking for ways to become involved, please don’t hesitate to contact me ([snyder.melissa@mayo.edu](mailto:snyder.melissa@mayo.edu)).

## **Call for Elections**

As we approach the end of the year, it is time for elections to the CDID Executive Committee. The CDID Executive Committee consists of nine officers. This year, the positions open for nominations within CDID are Treasurer, Communication Officer, and Research Officer. Officers can serve two consecutive, two-year terms in the same role; there is no limitation on the number of functions in which a person can serve.

Serving on the Executive Committee is a great way to promote CDID and the field of clinical immunology within AACC. We are a very active division, and we look forward to continuing our work in the future – but we cannot do it without you! Please help us by nominating laboratory professionals - including yourself - who are willing to serve in this volunteer role to “encourage the study, advance the science, and improve the practice of diagnostic immunology and the use of immunological techniques in clinical chemistry”\*.

Please send the names of the candidates to David F. Keren together with a short bio and a photo of the candidate, and the name of the interested position. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

*\*Mission statement from the Bylaws of the CDID.*

## **Highlights from the CDID and HCD Mixer and Business Meeting**

The Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology Division (CDID) and Tumor Marker and Cancer Diagnostic Division (TMCDD) hosted a joint mixer on July 31, 2018 at the Marriott Marquis in Chicago. Drs. Maria Alice Willrich, CDID Chair-Elect and Lakshmi Ramanathan, TMCDD Chair opened the meeting by welcoming division members and guests.

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## ***The Carl R. Jolliff Award for Lifetime Achievement in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology***

The Jolliff Award recognizes a current AACC member for outstanding contributions in clinical service or education in the area of immunology or immunodiagnostics. Dr.



Gabriella Lakos, CDID Past Chair, presented the 2018 Jolliff Award to James Faix, MD. Dr. Faix is the Director of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, New York. Previously, he was the Director of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology Laboratory Services at Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, California for fifteen years.

He obtained his medical degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He performed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and also completed a fellowship in Clinical Immunology and Immunopathology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Faix is a member of many scientific organizations, and two were highlighted during the award ceremony. For the College of American Pathologists, he served on the Special Chemistry Resource Committee, the Standards Committee, and the Chemistry Resource Committee. He currently serves as a member of the CAP Diagnostic Immunology Resource Committee. Dr. Faix has been an active member of the AACC since 1987. He is a Past Chair of the Northern California Local Section, the current Chair of the Endocrinology Division, and Chair-Elect of the New York Metro Local Section. He is also a Past Chair of the Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology Division, serving in that role from 2008-2009. Dr. Faix's research interests include celiac disease autoantibody testing and standardization of thyroid function testing. He has published many scientific articles and has received several awards during his career, most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Clinical Chemistry from CAP. He is a well-known and respected member of AACC, CDID and the immunology community. Congratulations Jim Faix on your distinguished career!

Corporate sponsorship for the Jolliff award was provided by ThermoFisher Scientific.

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### ***CDID Best Abstract Award***

Dr. Maria Alice Willrich presented the 2018 Best Abstract Award to Mindy C. Kohlhagen from Mayo Clinic for her abstract entitled “Automating a MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry Replacement of Gel Electrophoresis in the Clinical Laboratory.” Mindy was also presented with a certificate and ribbon to place on her poster. She presented a brief summary of her poster during the mixer.

### **Report on SPCC Activities and CDID Business Meeting**

#### ***Report from the Chair***

Dr. Gabriella Lakos introduced the CDID officers and presented the division’s financial status for 2018. CDID currently has more than 430 members with membership continuing to increase. The division’s total income is \$7253, and the total expenditure to date is \$3568, which includes the expenses for the Jolliff and Abstract awards and the mixer. The division has a net income of \$3685, which is positive compared with the budget.

Dr. Lakos also gave an update on the division’s activities during 2018 and future activities.

#### ***AACC Opening Mixer***

CDID participated in the Division Networking event at the AACC Opening Mixer. There was a lot of traffic to CDID’s table, which included informative handouts about the division, copies of the latest newsletter, and a quiz to compete for a chance to win prizes. The winners of the raffle were selected during the business meeting:

- Amy Rockefeller won the Case Studies in Immunology book.
- Brenda Suh-Lailam won the AACC water bottle.
- Sharon Roberts won a pair of AACC socks.
- Victor Rivera won an AACC T shirt.

Forty-eight AACC members expressed an interest in joining CDID during the opening mixer.

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### ***CDID Poster Walk***

Dr. David Keren, CDID Professional Development Officer, led the Immunology Poster Walk with a group of enthusiastic participants. Many of the authors enjoyed discussing their work and answering questions. It was a fun activity and a chance to network with our colleagues.

### **Call for Proposals for the 2019 Annual Meeting**

It is that time of the year again when your expertise is most sought after. We would love to hear your ideas for proposals to the AACC Annual Meeting in Anaheim in 2019. If you have a proposal in mind, aligned speakers, and it's a topic related to Clinical Diagnostic Immunology, send your proposal ideas for review and endorsement to the CDID. In Chicago we had 4 approved sessions with CDID endorsement.

The deadline for online submission is November 12th. If you'd like to receive endorsement by CDID with your submission, please send us a draft of your proposal by November 2nd. We may suggest a few edits and will help advertise the session amongst our members, once the session is approved.

We welcome any type of submission and are looking forward to hearing from you.

Questions? Need an idea or would like some assistance drafting your proposal? Reach out to us, we are here to help. Please reach out to Evangelos Ntrivalas, our Education Officer.