

CDID Division Officers

Chair: Gabriella Lakos, MD, PhD
Chair Elect: Melissa R. Snyder, PhD
Secretary: Tara S. Givens
Treasurer: Evangelos Ntrivalas, MD, PhD
Past Chair: Stanley Naides, MD
Communication Officer: Pascale Akl, MD
Education Officer: Maria Alice Willrich, PhD
Professional Development Officer: Thomas E. Burgess, PhD
Research Officer: Kenneth E. Blick

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Report on AACC Committee Weekend, Sept 30-Oct 1, Leesburg, VA

By Gabriella Lakos



Earlier this year the AACC announced its re-designed governance structure. One of the changes was to create the Science and Practice Core Committee (SPCC), with the participation of all Division Chairs. This change integrates divisions directly into AACC governance, and helps divisions link effectively to strategic plan. The SPCC reports directly to the AACC Board of Directors.

The main function of this new Committee is to guide AACC’s activities in research, science and the translation of science into practice. Examples of this activity include help develop practice documents and scientific statements and help develop AACC programming.

SPCC members met and held a half-day session during the AACC Committee Weekend. The Committee weekend was a two-day event that provided venues for all AACC Committees to talk about the newly announced strategic plan. The strategic plan is summarized below:

VISION:

- Better health and healthcare through laboratory medicine.

MISSION:

- Provide global leadership advancing the practice and profession of clinical laboratory science and medicine.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Member Community – Provide a meaningful and rich member experience in which laboratory medicine professionals can network, collaborate, and connect to the larger laboratory medicine community.
- Science & Innovation – Advance new knowledge in laboratory medicine and its application to healthcare to improve patient outcomes.
- Content & Education – Provide contemporary and cutting-edge information to enhance knowledge in the field of laboratory medicine for the advancement of patient care and improved health outcomes.

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- Advocacy & Influence – Enhance awareness of the value of laboratory medicine and of the unique knowledge of clinical laboratory experts, and advocate for policies that affect the field and improve the professional lives of AACC members.
- Resources & Capacity – Strengthen and expand the association’s financial resources to ensure continued vitality and growth and ensure its infrastructure and governance align with its goals.

AACC defined 27 strategic activities associated with the goals; among those, the following were identified to be the main focus of the SPCC:

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Provide strategic and business-to-business opportunities for members in industry.
- Strengthen the focus on science and technology.
- Develop resources to advance laboratory medicine.
- Provide information about emerging technologies to keep members apprised of the latest advances.
- Promote appropriate test utilization across the healthcare system.
- Collaborate with clinical societies for the development of evidence-based practice guidelines.

The Committee is planning on having quarterly teleconferences and started a project related to appropriate test utilization across the healthcare system.

As one can see, AACC’s plans are very ambitious. The strategic plan is for three years, but 2016 is already coming to an end. We all need to work hard to help AACC’s vision and mission become reality.

Upcoming CDID Elections

Dear CDID members,

The positions of the Treasurer, Communication Officer and Research Officer are scheduled for election for a new 2-year term. Please watch your mailbox; the notification and the ballot are going to show up before the end of the year. We have an excellent slate of nominees; two candidates for each position. Please consider them carefully, and make sure that you cast your vote.

CDID is one of the biggest divisions. By electing competent leaders you can make sure that diagnostic immunology is well represented and promoted in AACC’s new governance structure, during the annual meetings, and in collaborations with other scientific societies.

Highlights from the AACC Annual Meeting

By Maria Willrich

The AACC annual meeting took place in Philadelphia, PA, right after the Democratic National Convention. The city welcomed the clinical chemistry community very well!

The Clinical Diagnostic Immunology Division hosted a business meeting on August 2nd, at the Marriott Headquarters Hotel.

Dr. Gabriella Lakos, CDID Chair, opened the meeting introducing all officers and provided a brief update of the activities of the division in the previous year.

- Activities included the sponsorship of several sessions for the 2016 Annual Meeting, the evaluation of the abstracts submitted in the area of immunology and selection of best CDID abstracts, and the Jolliff award.

Dr. Evan Ntrivalas, treasurer, provided the financial report with expenses and budget for 2017.

Dr. Maria Willrich, education officer, provided an update on current activities.

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- AACC launched an online community in 2015, it is called the Artery. In 2016 we were able to set up a webpage for the CDID activities in the community, with Willrich as moderator of the forum. Several discussions regarding ANA testing, M-spikes, electrophoresis and free light chain interpretations have happened, mostly prompted by questions from SYCL members, the most active users of the community. Willrich showed an overview of the platform.
 - **The Artery** consists of the Open Forum, where general themes and ideas are discussed (for instance, information on Theranos, re-calls of reagents), and specific pages for the divisions, local sections. There are also pages called LabAdvocateNow, SYCL and forums for the annual meeting. In addition, all members have a profile and it is possible to search for members, and connect with them.

The screenshot shows the AACC Artery website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Member Directory, Open Forum, Annual Meeting Forum, Local Sections, Divisions, SYCL, Lab Advocate Now, and More. The main content area is titled 'Open Forum' and features a list of discussion threads. Each thread includes a title, the number of replies, the author's name and profile picture, and the date and time of the post. The threads listed are: 'Siemens Vista Cystatin C and eGFR calculation' (1 Reply, Seetharam Chittiprol, 29 Nov 2016 6:19 PM), 'Anyone Using QuantideX qPCR BCR-ABL IS Kit?' (4 Replies, Charles Beavers, 3 Dec 2016 7:22 AM), 'Prenatal quads in smoking patients' (3 Replies, Alina Sofronescu, 2 Dec 2016 10:55 PM), 'Tube System Validation' (8 Replies, James Ritchie, 2 Dec 2016 10:40 PM), 'Theranos shuts down clinical operations' (4 Replies, Amy Pyle-Eilola, 2 Dec 2016 10:38 PM), and 'CAP vs JC' (6 Replies, David Alter, 2 Dec 2016 10:37 PM). On the right side, there is a 'Website Security Update' section with text about enhanced security measures and a 'Meet your group's moderator' section featuring a profile picture of Tiffany Roberts.

- The community was created with full support of the Board of Directors of AACC, and has proven to be an important member benefit. Most of the AACC announcements happen via the Artery, and the **short-term goal is to discontinue all listservs for members**, which are difficult to manage, and replace them for online communications via the Artery.
- The **“Artery 2.0”** is going to be a major update for the community. In the past few months, a new version of the platform has been undergoing beta-testing, and a scheduled **go-live date of February 14, 2017** is planned. The 2.0 version will allow mobile access, responding to threads via email, automated daily digests with the posts

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from the divisions or local sections you subscribe to, and it also allow you to search members with similar interests as yours. It is going to be pretty sweet. CDID is a beta-tester and we are setting up the new webpage in the Artery 2.0.

This is a screenshot of the Open Forum of the Artery, showing on the top the main webpages available for communication and the exchange of information by AACC members.

The screenshot shows the AACC Artery forum interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Member Directory, Open Forum, Annual Meeting Forum, Local Sections, Divisions, SYCL, Lab Advocate Now, and More. The main header identifies the group as 'Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology' with options to Manage, Forum, or Resource Center. A '+ New' button is visible. The forum threads are sorted by date in descending order. The threads listed are:

- Quick-Poll: QC on QuantiFERON Testing** by Danyel Tacker, 1 Oct 2016 3:40 AM, 4 Replies.
- (How) Do you use Immunocap Score in your Lab?** by Valentinas Gruzdys, 12 Sep 2016 8:59 PM, 0 Replies.
- Best abstract awardees for CDID have been announced** by Maria Alice Willrich, 9 Jun 2016 9:24 PM, 2 Replies.
- Dr. Marvin Fritzler is the recipient of the Joliff Award for 2016** by Maria Alice Willrich, 9 Jun 2016 5:57 PM, 0 Replies.

The right sidebar includes 'Email digest options', a description of the group, 'How Do I Create a Discussion?' (noting it's easy to start a new discussion by selecting the '+New button'), and 'Meet Your Group's Moderator' (Maria Alice Willrich).

This is a snapshot of the CDID webpage on the Artery. **You have not logged in yet? Try it today and stay up-to-date.**

CDID Best Abstract Awards

During the AACC Annual Meeting, the CDID business meeting included the presentation of the CDID Best Abstracts Awards to Lusya Sepiashvili, Ph.D., a clinical chemistry fellow at Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN and to Katherine Turner, a Ph.D. student at Cleveland State University. Each of the winners had a chance to present a summary of their work to the audience. The judges considered there was a tie between the two abstracts, both written with excellent scientific content and novelty.

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- Lusia Sepiashvili submitted an abstract entitled “Detection and Characterization of Serum Free Light Chains by MALDI-TOF MS in immunofixation electrophoresis-negative specimens with abnormal free light chain ratios”.
- Katherine Turner received the award for “Quantification of Death Receptors as Tumor Markers for the Prediction of TRAIL Sensitivity by Flow Cytometry”
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Dr. Willrich hands the certificate of best abstract awards to Dr. Lusia Sepiashvili (left) and Ms. Katherine Turner (right).

The 2016 Jolliff Award

The last item on the agenda was the presentation of the Jolliff Award to Dr. Marvin Fritzler. The Jolliff Award is presented to remarkable individuals with lifetime achievements in the area of Immunology. Dr. Marvin Fritzler is a Professor of Medicine in the Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at The University of Calgary. He is Director of Mitogen Advanced Diagnostics Laboratory, is the Leader of the Autoimmune Diseases Network and held the Arthritis Society Research Chair for 14 years. He is currently Interim Director of the McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health. Dr. Fritzler’s research interests lie in the area of the molecular and cell biology of autoantigens and the induction of autoimmunity by xenobiotics and environmental exposures. The spectrum of diagnostic tests based on his discoveries over the 37 years of his career reflect his commitment to knowledge translation. These tests are provided to clinicians and researchers around the world.

Dr. Fritzler has published more than 360 peer-reviewed manuscripts and his work has been cited more than 11,000 times (h index 48) in scientific publications. He co-authored one of the top 100 cited manuscripts in the Journal of Immunology (K. Miyachi, M.J. Fritzler, E. M. Tan. Autoantibody to a Nuclear Antigen in Proliferating Cells. J Immunol 1978 121:2228-2234). Dr. Fritzler has been invited to lecture in international symposia focusing on autoantibodies as biomarkers for predicting, preventing and treating autoimmune diseases, and especially their application to precision medicine. Dr. Fritzler had an active clinical practice in autoimmune diseases, which he relinquished when he was appointed to the Government of Alberta’s science, technology and innovation policy and strategy boards: Alberta Science and Research Authority and the Chair of the Alberta Research and Innovation Authority. Among his many awards and recognitions, he was inducted into the BioAlberta Hall of Fame and has been awarded

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the Alberta Centennial Medal and the ASTech Foundation Award for his leadership in shaping the research and innovation system in the Province of Alberta.



In 1986, Dr. Fritzler was the principal organizer of the first International Conference/Congress on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This founding event has evolved to high scientific and medical importance because it ignited a series of international congresses to promote this important disease.

For these and his many other contributions to medicine and the community, he was inducted into the American Lupus Society Hall of Fame in 1986, named Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Calgary in 1988, was inducted as an Honorary Member into the Mexican Academy of Medicine in 2002; designated Scientist of the Year by the Canadian Rheumatology Association in 2003 and also in 2003 The Arthritis Society, Hero Award of Distinction. In 2013 he was inducted as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology and into the Order of the University of Calgary in 2014.

Dr. Marvin Fritzler receives the Jolliff Award from Dr. Gabriella Lakos and Dr. Stanley Naides.



Dr. Marvin Fritzler giving his acceptance speech to CDID members.

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An IFCC Survey Coming Up Soon via your laboratory Quality Assurance Program

The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) has formed a Working Group for Harmonization of Interpretative Commenting, to focus in particular on harmonizing the laboratory investigation and reporting of protein electrophoresis and serum free light chains, as well as the quantitation of small monoclonal proteins. Previous surveys in several countries have variously indicated a lack of harmonization in all related testing phases.

The working group has decided to send out an international baseline survey to understand current clinical laboratory practices on a global basis, including reporting and interpretative commenting. The IFCC has planned on inviting AACC members to participate, and we should be notified of a survey link once the survey late December, and the survey should be available until March 2017. The goal is to invite the participation of all laboratories enrolled in a national M-protein/serum free light chain external quality assurance program. All responses will remain anonymous and confidential. Following receipt and analysis of the completed surveys, a position paper using a consensus-driven approach to refine the final recommendations is planned. The sub-group is chaired by Jill Tate (Australia) and members are Michael Moss (Canada), Maria Stella Graziani (Italy) and Maria Willrich (USA).

Happy Holidays Wishes!



The leadership of the Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology Division wishes everyone a peaceful and joyful Holiday season, and successful and productive New Year! We appreciate your support and looking forward to working with you in 2017.