TRANSITIONAL TIMES
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REVIEW OF THE CLINICAL TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING ON JULY 29, 2014

On Tuesday, July 29th, the Clinical Translational Science (CTS) Division held its Luncheon and Business Meeting at the Annual American Association for Clinical Chemistry Meeting in Chicago. In addition to a buffet lunch (provided by The Binding Site) President Vincent Ricchiuti gave a general overview of the current status of the division, and its acceptance by the AACC as a permanent division as of January 1, 2015. He noted that the division, founded in 2010, has over 130 members, 30 of which attended the business meeting. The division has sponsored symposiums, workshops, webinars, best abstract awards, a newsletter, and collaborations with other divisions. Following the lunch and his talk, Dr. Ricchiuti introduced the speakers for the educational presentation that followed.

The presentation was titled “Next Generation Tools for Better Clinical Management of Patients”. The speaker topics included: 1) “Opportunities and Challenges of High Sensitive Troponins in Clinical Practice”, presented by Vincent Ricchiuti for Hans-Juergen Loyda, Roche Diagnostics Corp, (Indianapolis, IN) and 3) “Addressing the Challenges in Multiple Myeloma: Benefit of testing multiple Plasma Cell Biomarkers in monoclonal Gammopathies”, Debbie Boldt-Houle, The Binding Site, Inc. (San Diego, CA)

2) “Found in Translation, The Cardiac Biomarker ST2 from Discover to Clinical Adoption”, James Snider, Critical Diagnostics (San Diego, CA),

THE CLINICAL TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE DIVISION HAS BEEN GRANTED PERMANENT STATUS BY THE AACC EFFECTIVE JAN. 1ST!

At the AACC Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 27th, the Division Awards and Networking meeting was held. At this meeting, it was announced that the Clinical Translational Science Division (CTS) has been granted permanent status as a division of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. At the Joint Mixer on July 28th, President, Vincent Ricchiuti, thanked those who helped in the formation of the division for all their help in its founding, (left to right) Peggy Emmett, Paul Hartman, and Merrill Emmett. Additionally, (not pictured) he thanked Ben Varasteh.
OMICS IN THE TRANSITION FROM BIOMARKER RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

In a recent article written by Christie Hunter, PhD, in the Mary 2014 issue of MLO (Medical Laboratory Observer), pp 20-21, Dr Hunter discusses the transition of biomarker research into clinical laboratory practice. She discusses that it is not clear what the impact of today’s “omics research” will have on the clinical laboratory in the future. She notes, “Over the next decade, the common concept of a “biomarker” is likely to transition from a single analyte to something that involves a panel of three or more analytes, such as proteins. What could also become increasingly important is the relationship between proteins and their related lipids and metabolites, as the integrated network likely plays a key role in understanding the disease stage. There will be a need for definitive multi-analyte tests that capture and interpret all this information.” Though not mentioned in the article, another example of the transition of “omic research” to clinical practice would include the development and ultimate approval of a new drug treatment for patient’s with Cystic Fibrosis who have the G551D CFTR mutation. Through screening of hundreds of thousands of molecules to detect an increase in function of the CFTR protein, Vertex Pharmaceuticals found a few candidates for clinical trials. Through multi-center clinical trials, one of the molecules, Ivacaftor, was found to significantly increase the FEV1 and decrease the sweat chloride. This was rapidly approved by the FDA. Therefore, the future of ‘omics research” is playing a significant role for biomarker testing in the transition from bench research to clinical trials to clinical practice.

AACC ANNUAL MEETING GUIDED POSTER TOUR

On Wednesday July 30, 2014, the AACC hosted a guided tour of the posters submitted to the meeting. This guided poster tour began as a pilot project in 2013, as a concept is to review posters from abstracts that are considered relevant by Division experts. The guided tour did not involve the presenter of the posters, but was led by the division experts. It was a unique opportunity to review and discuss the work accomplished by the authors in their posters among a peer group and colleagues in a casual and collegial environment. It was hoped that the attendee participants would learn much from the division leaders, even when they were unfamiliar with the topic or methods used in the

2014 CTS DIVISION ABSTRACT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

Every year each division is requested to review abstracts which have been submitted for the AACC annual meeting, which are related to the mission of their division. This spring, the CTS Division executive board reviewed approximately 50 abstracts and selected the best abstract based on its merit and contribution to Clinical Translational Science. On Monday, July 28, 2014, the Clinical Translational Science Division presented the 4th Annual Abstract Award for Outstanding Research in Translational Medicine. The ceremony took place during the Joint Mixer with the Pediatric Maternal Fetal, the Industry, the LIS-Informatics, and the Clinical Translational Science Divisions. The award winner was Dr. John Mills, Mayo Clinic. The title of the winning abstract was: “High Sensitivity Detection of Residual Disease in Multiple Myeloma using Mass Spectrometry”. President Vincent Ricchiuti presented the award and a check for $500.00.

(Vincent Ricchiuti (left) and John Mills)