

## AACC History of Clinical Chemistry Division Newsletter

December 2018

Dear History Division Member,

As we say goodbye to 2018 we can look back at many accomplishments of our Division over the past year.

As you know, this year marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting and the Division had a strong presence and was involved in activities marking this milestone for more than a year prior to the meeting itself. Among the many highlights noting the anniversary was a display showcasing the history of our profession over the past seven decades.



The large display was a great success and throughout the meeting attendees could be seen taking photographs, selfies, etc. of the display. If you were at the meeting you know it was hard to miss as it was on the route to the entrance to most scientific sessions and the exhibits.

An attractive fold-out wall chart on the development of Clinical Chemistry over the 70 years of the Association's existence and Annual meeting, based on the large display, was prepared and distributed at the AACC booth. Limited copies are available, so if you didn't get yours please contact one of the officers and we will try to accommodate all requests. The wall chart was also a hit; I even saw one on a wall in laboratory in Gal, Sri Lanka about a month after the meeting!

Opening Mixer: Those present noticed a new look to the Sunday evening opening mixer. It included a Division networking event where all AACC Divisions participated and had a chance to engage in lively discussions with acquaintances new and old. I think that it was a success, albeit

with some rough edges commonly associated with a first try, and I personally hope that it continues at the 2019 meeting as well.

Division Meeting: The Division held its annual business meeting on 31 July at the 2018 AACC Annual Meeting in Chicago. Two awards were presented: The Caraway/Meites Award was presented to Dr. Nathan Gochman and a new award, the History Division Abstract Award was presented to Rajesh Krishnamurthy for work that was judged to have a lasting, or 'historic' contribution to the field.



The History Division Abstract Award was presented to Dr Rajesh Krishnamurthy (L) by Chair- Elect Joe Wiencek.



The Caraway/Meites Award was presented to Dr Nathan Gochman (L) by Division Chair Bob Rej.

Symposia/Seminar: Along with the Industry Division, the AACC History of Clinical Chemistry Division organized a symposium titled "AACC goes Platinum: 70 years of the AACC National Meeting on Monday 30 July. The session was chaired by Joe Wiencek and the two speakers were Robert Rej (How We Got Here from There: The AACC and its Annual Meeting 1949-2018) and Larry Kricka (One hundred years of laboratory medicine: 1949-2048).

Presence at the AACC National Office: Working with AACC staff the Division supplied and edited content that displays the history and progress of the profession of Clinical Chemistry now on display at the AACC National Office. It's an impressive slide show; if you're at the AACC National Office (900 Seventh Street, NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001) or nearby, be sure to have a look. The Division, largely through the initiative of Chair-Elect Joe Wiencek, with assistance of AACC Staff, a Library of Books on Clinical Laboratory Medicine at the AACC National Office as a resource to all members has been initiated. There is a core of books that we would like to grow and continue to build on the current collection; we still need to establish mechanisms for

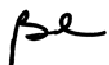
curation and access to interested parties and welcome any suggestions (as well as book donations) from members.

Photographs and Videos: Thanks to Mitch Scott (Chair 2013-2014) and many volunteers there is a large archive of photographs of AACC's rich history in the Division's archives. They are predominately from Annual Meetings and since digital cameras became ubiquitous in the first decade of this millennium. If you have some old photographic gems that you would like to share, please pass them along. There was a small collection of DVDs as well as VHS-, and Beta-Video tapes at the National Office. The last VHS recorder was produced in July of 2016 with the end of Betamax manufacture a few months prior it was clear that getting these into the digital domain was essential to preserve any content. I am happy to say that is now complete. The content is spotty at best but capture the eras of the past few decades. The Division has some videos on its YouTube Channel since 2009: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AACCHistory> Look for more to come.

The on-line Clinical Laboratory Analyzer Archive: the instrument archive has had some updates and can be found at <https://www.aacc.org/community/divisions/history-of-clinical-chemistry/clinical-laboratory-analyzer-archive>

Division Officers for the new year: by rotation Joe Wiencek, becomes Chair for 2019-2020; and Bob Rej, will serve as Past-Chair for the same time period. By the election carried out this month Richard Baltaro will serve as Chair-Elect 2019-2020 (Chair in 2021-2022) and Mitch McGill was elected to a three-year term as Treasurer 2019-2021. Elizabeth Frank continues as Secretary for her three-year term (2017-2019).

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to making history with you in the coming years,



Robert Rej  
Chair, AACC History Division 2017-2018

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