

## CLINICAL CHEMISTRY IN HISTORY

### JOIN US IN LOS ANGELES

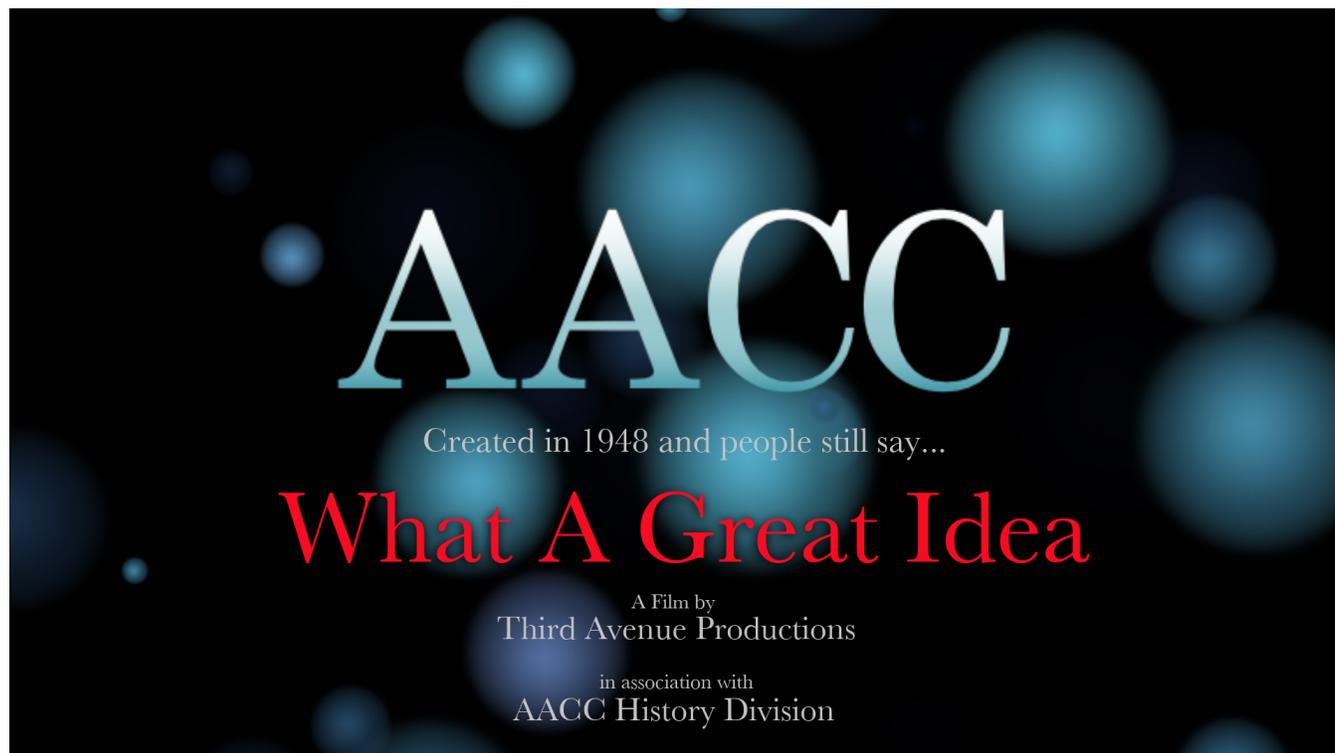
The Division will create a precedent at AACC this year when we will present a film made by division members and directed by Third Avenue Productions (New York). At the Division Meeting in Atlanta we made a bold decision to produce a film that will record some of the history and accomplishments of the AACC since its creation in 1948.

The film will be shown TWICE in:

**Room 407 of the Los Angeles Convention Center  
on Monday, July 16th at 2.30PM and 3.30PM.**

The room/theater has a capacity of 50 and so you are urged to come early and support this special activity. We are confident that you will approve of the content and presentation. The film includes photographs and film from the AACC archives, interviews with numerous individuals and commentary on significant achievements and events during the association's history.

**WE ALSO HAVE A SURPRISE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEATURE WHICH WE ARE SURE YOU WILL ENJOY.  
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE DIVISION ACTIVITY**



**SUDOKU - With a "Twist"**

You play this Sudoku in the conventional way except that the numbers are substituted by nine letters that are an anagram for:

**A METABOLITE WE MEASURE FREQUENTLY. LET US KNOW IF YOU COMPLETE THE PUZZLE AND IDENTIFY THE KEY WORD.**

The significant word for the LAST issue was: **PYRIDOXAL**

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**History Division Wins AACC Award for Advancing the Profession**

On March 16, 2012 the AACC President, Dr. Greg Miller announced that the History Division had been given an award for the Development of the online Clinical Chemistry Archive. This database, which resides on the division web page, is a long-term project of the division to collect and archive images of clinical laboratory and point-of-care analyzers.

**The Division will be recognized for its achievement at the Divisions Management Group meeting on Sunday, July 15 at 1:00 pm at the JW Marriott Hotel in Los Angeles.**

This award is due to the sterling efforts of division members, Larry Kricka and Ed Neren and the many individuals and companies that have provided images and photographs of the instruments our profession has employed over the past 50 years.

We sincerely hope that some of you will be present to see the award presentation.

**The "Elizabeth K. Smith Bequest Fund"**

In 1997 The History Division received a gift of \$37,500 from Elizabeth K. (Betty) Smith. This generous gift has been held since that date without significant use. It is this fund that has allowed the Division to develop the movie **"AACC - What a Great Idea"** that we will present in Los Angeles.

We are seeking corporate sponsorship for the film so that we can diminish the impact on the Bequest Fund, so that other projects can be commenced in coming years that will justify Betty's belief in the importance of the History Division.

On Page 5, we reprint an edited description of Betty's career

**Division Officers:**

- Chair: Peter Wilding, Ph.D., Chair-Elect: Mitchell Scott, Ph.D.
- Past Chair; Richard M. Rocco, Ph.D. Secretary: Robert Rej, Ph.D.
- Treasurer: David J. Thornton, Ph.D., Staff Liason; Penelope Jones
- Consultants: Larry M. Demers, Ph.D., Nathan Gochman, Ph.D., Larry J. Kricka, Ph.D.

FOR COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER, OR TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE,

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR: **Peter Wilding**

e-mail ([pwilding@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:pwilding@mail.med.upenn.edu)) or by phone (610-240-0233)

## **BREAKING NEWS !!**

Arrangements have now been made for the Division Meeting at The Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The AGM for the Division will take place at:

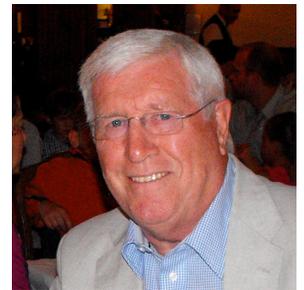
**12.00 noon on Tuesday, July 17, 2012**  
**LA LIVE at The JW Marriott Los Angeles.**

All division members are invited and **LUNCH IS PROVIDED**. We urge you to attend to learn about the plans for the division during the next year and to give you the opportunity to voice your support, or concerns, about the ongoing activities. The decisions we made at our annual division meeting last year have resulted in our Film Project and ongoing support and recognition of the Clinical Laboratory Analyzer Archive. PLEASE JOIN US FOR A LUNCH-TIME CHAT AND OUR DIVISION MEETING, WHERE WE WILL WELCOME CRITIQUE AND COMMENTS ON OUR FILM AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

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### ***Chairman's Corner:***

This has been a busy year for the Division, and I sincerely hope that the efforts will result in a repeat of last year's increase in membership. I must acknowledge the tremendous support I have received in the creation of our movie. Even though everyone who agreed to participate in interviews knew they might end up on the "cutting room floor", their efforts were wonderful. Making the movie has made me appreciate just how well we can communicate, instruct and educate people about our profession using the medium of film. Our collaboration with JB Edwards, Memory Contento, Raymond Hamlin and Joyce Kuhn of Third Avenue Productions has been excellent, and their willingness and expertise in editing the script prepared by Division members and processing the videography has been an education.



I would like to express thanks to division members David Bruns, Larry Demers, Susan Evans, Jim Faix, Larry Kricka and Nader Rifai for their help with the script and interviews, and to Richard Flaherty, Arthur Karmen, Ingo Kampa, Joyce Kuhn, Jack Levine, and Marcia Zucker for traveling to New York for video interviews.

PLEASE COME TO SEE THE MOVIE ON JULY 16TH  
IN ROOM 407 AT THE LA CONVENTION CENTER.

Also, at the Annual Meeting The History Division will present a Poster entitled:

**"AACC History Division Clinical Laboratory Analyzer Archive"**

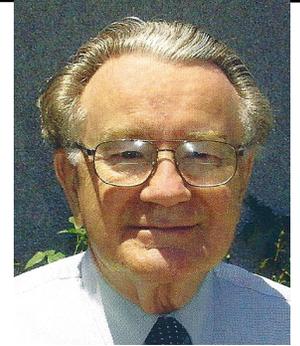
between 2.00pm - 4.30pm on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. TRY TO SEE IT !!

Finally, I hope some of the readers will give serious thought to serving as an Officer or Consultant for the Division. Please contact the Secretary, Dr. Bob Rej.

## **The Carraway-Meites Award for 2012**

We are delighted to announce that this year's recipient is

***Norbert W. Tietz, Ph.D., FACB.***



Dr. Tietz was President of AACC in 1977 and has won multiple awards from AACC and other organizations.

Norbert was born in Germany and received the degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences from the Technical University in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1950. From 1951 to 1954 he was a research fellow at the University of Munich, where he published several papers on fat metabolism and lipases. In 1954 he immigrated to the United States and worked as a research fellow with Dr. Samuel Natelson. In 1959 he joined Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, Chicago as Director of Clinical Chemistry, a position that he held for 17 years (1959–1976). In 1976 Norbert moved to Lexington, KY, where he was Professor of Pathology and Director of Clinical Chemistry at the University of Kentucky Medical Center until 1996 after which he moved in retirement to San Diego, CA.

Norbert has been involved in education throughout his career. In the late 1960s, he started the first M.S. degree program in clinical chemistry in the United States which subsequently expanded into one of the first Ph.D. programs in clinical chemistry. He has been invited as lecturer to 70 regional and national professional meetings and, on the international scene, he has lectured in 18 countries, including the USSR, the Peoples' Republic of China, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. In addition, he has written 164 scientific publications whose topics have included laboratory instrumentation, gas chromatography, clinical enzymology, acid-base balance, and gastric function.

Dr. Tietz is best known for *Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry* and the *Textbook of Clinical Chemistry* which is now in its FIFTH edition. Dr. Tietz also edited the *Clinical Guide to Laboratory Tests*; this handbook contains data from the various laboratory disciplines for use by practicing physicians, paramedical personnel, and laboratorians. It has been published in English, Spanish, Italian, and Russian. Dr. Tietz also served as editor for the clinical chemistry sections of the *Dictionary and Encyclopedia of Laboratory Medicine and Technology*.

Dr. Tietz has been active in the AACC since 1955 at both the local and national levels. He served on the executive committee of the Chicago Section for many years and at the national level, he served on numerous Committees and Study Groups. Dr. Tietz was also a member of the IFCC expert panel on enzymes for five years. He was elected a member of the AACC Board of Directors and subsequently as President, and served as chairman of the Board of Directors, and Council. In retirement he has written his memoirs "**My Life: From Refugee to Teacher & Scientist**". This is a colorful and moving account of Norbert's life and career and is available from the AACC Book Store. Recently, in 2008 he received the IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions to Education Worldwide

## A Tribute to Elizabeth K. Smith (1917-1997)

An edited copy from *Clinical Chemistry*, 1999  
Written by: LaVerne L. Szabo and Alex Kaplan



We remember here Elizabeth K. Smith, “Betty” to her many friends, a pioneer in pediatric clinical chemistry and a part of the history of AACC and of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry.

Betty was born in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, in 1917. Her family lived in New Jersey and Louisiana before settling in Pensacola, Florida, where Betty graduated as salutatorian of her high school class at the tender age of 15. Her family felt she was too young to go off to college, so her father, a chemical engineer who worked as a research organic chemist, set up a laboratory in the basement and gave Betty a series of rigorous projects to work on for the next year. She received a BS in Chemistry from Florida State University in 1938, an MS in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan in 1939, and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa in 1943. Betty worked as a Research Associate, and later as a Research Assistant Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa. She was board-certified by the ABCC in 1952.

Betty moved to Seattle in 1950 to a position as Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington. In 1958, she became a Research Biochemist at the Children’s Orthopedic Hospital (now Children’s Hospital and Medical Center) in Seattle, where she became the Director of Chemistry in 1971. Betty remained at Children’s Hospital where she engaged in research and service responsibilities until her retirement in 1983.

Betty became active in the AACC and was one of 10 charter members who formed the Puget Sound Section (now the Pacific Northwest Section) in 1961. She was President of the section from 1962 to 1965. Dr. Smith was the author or co-author of 39 scientific articles involving pediatric endocrinology, particularly with the urinary excretion of adrenal steroids.

Dr. Smith was also one of the small group of local AACC members who worked very hard to stage the successful 23rd AACC National meeting in Seattle in August 1971, held jointly with the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC). Betty also was a charter member of the AACC committee on Pediatric Clinical Chemistry that first met in 1973. She was a Contributing Editor to the first three editions of *Pediatric Clinical Chemistry*, AACC Press.

Betty was an executive committee member of the AACC History Division at its founding in 1991 and wrote the history of the Pacific Northwest Section (*Clinical Chemistry* 1981;27:762–4). She left a \$75,000 bequest to the AACC in her will, with the proviso that it be shared equally by the Van Slyke Society and the History Division. Betty died in 1997.