

Michigan Section AACC Newsletter

Summer 2015

Message from Chair-Elect

Kenneth W. Simkowski, Sr.

Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the nice, hot summer that we have been experiencing. It is a time for picnics, vacations and get-togethers with family and friends. The Annual AACC meeting was held in Atlanta, GA this year, another hot venue (both in the Convention Center and outside). Whether it was the exciting talk by Plenary speaker Dr. Martin Makary on “*Art, Assassination and American: How Transparency Disrupts an Industry and Changes a Nation*”; to the beluga whale exhibit at the Georgia Aquarium. There was excellent science and a chance to meet old friends and make new acquaintances as well as an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues.

We have an exciting Fall meeting scheduled on Thursday, September 24th on “*Galectin 3 – Elevating the Standard of Care in Heart Failure*” to be given by Dr. Agim Beshiri, Senior Medical Director, Abbott Diagnostics to be held at the Greektown Casino-Hotel in downtown Detroit. It has been a while since we held a meeting in Detroit and I hope you can join us at this informative seminar. We are still in the planning stages for the November 2015 meeting. The March 2016 meeting will feature residents and fellows (M.D. & Ph.D.) from the various institutions in and around Detroit informing the section of their current research endeavors.

We will be soliciting volunteers to serve on the 2016 Michigan Section Executive Committee, with elections around the corner. Please see Elizabeth Sykes’ report in this Newsletter. I also want to point out that the National Office has extended the Membership Drive to the end of October 2015. We are looking to recruit new members into the ranks of the AACC on a National and Local level. Please encourage colleagues, students and friends to join the AACC.

Again, I hope to see all of you at our Fall meeting at the Greektown Casino-Hotel and learn more about the new cardiac marker Galectin 3.

Ken

Legislative Liaison Report

Raymond Karcher

At the national level, recent AACC position statements include the following:

Direct to Consumer Testing, July 2015

AACC supports expanding consumer access to DTC laboratory testing services that have demonstrated analytical and clinical validity and clinical utility. It is important that individuals

learn more about their health status so they can become more involved in decisions affecting their wellbeing. AACC recommends that only CLIA-certified laboratories perform DTC testing and that such facilities provide consumers sufficient information and/or access to expert help to assist them in ordering and interpreting tests. Consumers should work with qualified healthcare providers in making decisions affecting their personal health.

Personalized Medicine, June 2015

AACC strongly supports efforts within the healthcare community to personalize patient care and improve individual patient outcomes. Laboratory medicine plays a vital role in enabling the practice of precision medicine, including the identification of drugs or interventions that are best suited for each individual patient. We urge policymakers and payers to adopt policies that ensure access to and appropriate reimbursement for laboratory testing that will facilitate personalized therapeutic decisions.

Laboratory Developed Tests, Nov. 2014

Laboratory developed tests (LDTs) provide timely, accurate, quality testing for many conditions for which no commercial test exists or when an existing test does not meet current clinical needs. The regulation of LDTs should remain under CLIA'88 and its deemed accreditation bodies, except for high risk tests that should be subject to both FDA and CMS oversight.

You can find more on the AACC website under Health and Science Policy/Advocacy Resources or Position Statements. Under Advocacy Network, you can get the names of your representatives and find information on pending legislation or recent Capitol Hill votes.

At the state level, there are no laboratory related bills pending in the Michigan State Legislature.

Ray

24th Annual Symposium on Molecular Pathology



On Sept. 16 and 17, 2015, Beaumont Health Systems will hold the 24th Annual Symposium on Molecular Pathology entitled **Clinical Applications of Genomic Medicine** at the Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver Rd in Troy. The keynote address will be **“The Microbiome: A New Lens for Human Disease”**.

Registration is \$150 for both days or \$80 for one day for physicians, bioscientists, PhDs, scientific or research staff. Residents, fellows, technologists and students can register for \$75 for both days, or \$40 for one day. Registration materials can be found at www.beaumont.edu/dnasymposium.

Call for Nominations

Elizabeth Sykes

The fall election for AACC local sections will soon be here. Therefore if you would like to become more involved with the Michigan section in 2016 or know someone who you think would be a good fit, please let me know by the end of September. We will be electing individuals for the positions listed below – each of these except “chair elect” is a 1 year term. The “chair-elect” nominee will become “chair” and then “past-chair” so that this is a 3 year commitment.

Chair elect

Secretary

Treasurer

Nominations chair

Legislative liaison chair

Membership chair

Please consider being more involved and getting to know your colleagues.

Elizabeth Sykes

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Michigan Section AACC

Fall 2015 Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Location: Greektown Casino-Hotel
1200 St. Antoine
Detroit, MI 48226

Directions: <http://www.greektowncasino.com/>

Registration Fee: \$20.00 *Advance Registration PLEASE by
Sept 16, 2015*

*Make checks to Michigan Section AACC. Pay at the door is fine, we just
need a count for dinner by September 16th.*

Registrant's Name _____

Affiliation _____

Program: MI AACC

5:00 – 6:00 PM Registration / Social hour

6:00 – 7:00 PM *“Galectin 3 – Elevating the Standard of Care in
Heart Failure”*

Agim Beshiri, Ph.D.
Senior Medical Director, Abbott Diagnostics

7:15 – 8:00 PM Buffet Dinner

Mail or email registration to:

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