

## MICHIGAN SECTION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016

Raymond Karcher, Ph.D., Editor

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Yvonne Posey

The turn of every new calendar year often brings on thoughts and promises of new things. In the clinical laboratory, this may be new assays, new tests or just new ways of doing things. In our case, it is new automation, new assays, new technology and a new organization. I've often teased my molecular and microbiology colleagues about how they will soon be "hooking" their new instruments up to the chemistry automated line. In some places hematology departments are already doing this. So, (and yes, I do realize that there is a movement underway to remove this word from the English lexicon, but until then.....) how can we, in our local sections, help prepare ourselves and our profession for this future? For starters, it can hardly go unnoticed that there is an entire issue of Clinical Chemistry devoted to mass spectrometry – new technology with the promise of new discovery. Who would have thought that mass spectrometry and point of care testing would appear in the same sentence!

As we plan events for the New Year, please do not hesitate to call or email or "snail" mail, if you like, your suggestions for topics for the upcoming year. Better yet, come out, show up, join the fight to stay current and promote what we already know – that we are relevant, our talents are needed and that we are prepared to meet these challenges! As we continue to network on a national level, let's not forget our local and regional colleagues when it comes to sharing ideas. This past year, under the leadership of Dr. Simkowski, the Michigan section held two excellent scientific meetings; the first on March 18, 2015 when Drs. David Keren and Debbie Boldt-Houle gave presentations on Multiple Myeloma and the Hevylite assay; the second on September 24, 2015 on Galectin-3 as a marker for heart failure by Dr. Agim Beshiri. November's meeting did not take place due to speaker scheduling conflicts but we will begin 2016 on course to holding what is becoming our traditional -three meetings in March, September and November starting with March 17, 2016 at Schoolcraft College. Hold the date! We hope to see you there and just for fun, ask an interested student, resident, colleague or friend to come along with you.

A word of thanks goes out to our past chair, Dr. Kenneth Simkowski, for his kind support and guidance and I'm looking forward to working with a great team in the coming year!

Yvonne

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## MICHIGAN SECTION SPRING 2016 DINNER MEETING

Tentative Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2016

Location: Schoolcraft College  
Vis-Ta-Tech Center  
18600 Haggerty Road  
Livonia, MI 48152

(Free parking is available in Schoolcraft College North Lot off of Haggerty Road)

Registration Fee: \$20.00 (Advance registration please by March 10, 2016 for dinner count)  
Make checks payable to Michigan Section AACC. (Payment at the door is fine).

Registrant's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Program: TBA

**HOLD THE DATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### Legislative Liaison Report

**Raymond Karcher**

The following are excerpts from the Government Relations section of AACC's webpage:

In late December, key members of the House and Senate wrote to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) urging the agency to make significant changes to its [October 1, 2015, proposed rule](#) implementing the clinical laboratory provisions of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA). The statute requires the agency to gather data from clinical laboratories on the fees paid by private insurers for each test they perform. This information will be used to set the new test payment rates. More than 60 House and Senate lawmakers informed CMS of their objections to CMS' proposed rule, particularly the exclusion of hospitals from the reporting requirements and the arbitrary elimination of protein biomarkers from the new payment category. In addition, the legislators also questioned CMS' timeframe for adopting the proposal. AACC expressed similar concerns in its [November 24 comments](#) to CMS.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defended its bid to regulate laboratory developed tests (LDT) at a November 17 House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, insisting the agency has the legal authority to proceed without a rulemaking process, even as some lawmakers float a bill that would give the agency even more explicit authority to regulate these tests. For its part, FDA sought to drive home the message that unregulated LDTs are not safe. The day before the hearing, the agency released a report citing 20 examples of LDTs that "illustrate, in the absence of compliance with FDA requirements ... [tests that] may have caused or have caused actual harm to patients." The agency has completed its final guidance on LDTs and expects to release it in 2016.

In a letter to lawmakers, AACC recommended against giving FDA new authority. Some congressional representatives have proposed creating a new center within FDA tasked with oversight of all laboratory tests, including LDTs. In the letter, AACC expressed concern that the proposed new regulatory structure would foster an anti-competitive environment, stifle test innovation, and ultimately impede patient

access to testing. AACC recommends that Congress use the existing regulatory framework under CMS to enhance the oversight of LDTs.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Donald Giacherio, Ph.D**

A. Total Cash & Investments, Beginning Jan. 1, 2015)	15,154.28
From Bank Statement	
REVENUE DURING THE PERIOD	
1. 2015 Local Section Allotment	0.00 not received
2. Meeting Registration Fees	910.00
3. Contributions, Gifts, Grants, Sponsorships	0.00
4. Interest & Investment Income	15.01
5. Miscellaneous	0.00
<b>B. Total Revenue for the Period</b>	<b>925.01</b>
EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	
1. Printing 0.00	
2. Postage	0.00
3. Supplies	0.00
4. Meeting Expenses	3,027.01
5. Travel	513.44
6. Accounting Fees (bank fees)	197.62
7. Executive committee meeting expenses	189.67
8. Honoraria/Speaker Fees	0.00
9. Grants/Awards	0.00
10. Miscellaneous	20.00
<b>C. Total Expenses for the Period</b>	<b>3,947.74</b>
<b>D. Ending Cash &amp; Investment Balances this Period (A+B-C)</b>	<b>12,131.55</b>
<u>Cash and Investment Balances (at end of period)</u>	
Comprised of:	
1. Bank accounts, per books, as reconciled to bank statements:	12,131.55
2. Investment accounts, per books, as reconciled to statements:	0.00
<b>Total Cash and Investments (=Line D)</b>	<b>12,131.55</b>

Notes: All funds are in one bank checking account. We have no investment acct.

Travel expense is for 2-nights hotel for section delegate Seetharam Chittiprol to attend House of Delegates meeting at AACC in Atlanta.

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The \$20 miscellaneous fee is for annual Michigan Nonprofit corporation registration.

The anticipated 2015 section allotment is not yet received.

The December banking fees and interest will not be known until January 2015 and are not included in this spreadsheet.

The end of November bank statement balance of \$12,131.55 agrees with this report. Section allotment for 2015 not included because not yet received.

Michigan Section Treasurer's report submitted Dec 23, 2015 by Donald Giacherio, Ph.D.

### House of Delegates Report

Seetharam Chittiprol

House of Delegates Meeting – Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

2:00 PM – 2:05 PM Opening of Meeting – Dr. David Koch

2:05 PM – 2:15 PM Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Lorin Bachman

Review of meeting goals

House guidelines

Approval of July 2014 minutes

Local section manual reminder

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM AACC CEO report – Janet B. Kreizman

### Officer Elections

The House of Delegates meeting took place on the Sunday of the AACC meeting in Atlanta. As always, the atmosphere of the meeting was collegial and pleasant. To open the meeting, Dr. Lorin Bachmann, current HOD Chair, introduced Dr. David Koch, current AACC president. Dr. Koch welcomed the group and thanked us for being part of the meeting. Immediately, all meetings participants introduced themselves. There were several of the AACC board members, including Corinne Fantz, Dennis Dietzen, David Grenache, and Paul Jannetto. Next, Janet Kreizman provided the CEO's report:

- New projects with high ROI: We have a healthy budget and are going to invest in new initiatives. The idea is to focus on sections programs that provide high return-on-investments and have high visibility or are worth the risk for 3 years of funding.
- Advocacy: we need to bring the members in front of the policy makers. AACC is working on this at different levels. Most importantly, we need to work on a position statement that is understood by congressmen.
- Visibility: AACC is working on getting an article in Wire magazine. There will be more to come on this topic in the near future.
- New Journal: A new magazine sponsored by AACC is going to be launched in 2016. This journal will be dedicated to applied clinical chemistry: "The Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine". This journal will have a new educational format.

- Strategic Initiatives for the Annual Meeting: announcements and more information will be available next year.
- Governance: evaluating the current structure and creating a structure for the future based on enhancing communication with other professions.
- Local Sections: promoting networking, education and exchange at each local section to promote the profession.
- Membership: There is a slow decrease in the number of members. The goal will be promoting membership by providing a better value proposition. Bylaws changes in effect to create a new member category: Express member.
- AACC 2015 International meeting: The expo is SOLD OUT! Members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on what the lab of the future would look like. There will be a white board at the entrance of the convention center.
- Whole blood and serum bank: AACC is conducting a blood draw from volunteers. The goal is collecting 1,100 samples from attendees and using these specimens as future source of reference range material to be offered to In-vitro Diagnostic companies.

2:30 – 3:20 PM Local Section Business & Updates – Dr. Lorin Bachmann

Officer elections

Local Section financials – delegate discussion

AACC Educational Opportunities – Lauren Kramer

Lauren Kramer, recently announced vice president of education and meetings briefly described the educational opportunities available to AACC members. These opportunities are in the form of live conferences available on live-streaming, on-line conferences, corporate supported webinars with a new fee of \$99 instead of \$170, quick-take series and online certificate programs.

Local Section financials – delegate discussion

Some of the delegates were asked to share with the rest of the attendees how they distribute their spending and in particular what they do with the savings to engage the members. Examples of events to engage members were support travel awards, promote clinical laboratory scientific local fairs, network with local medical technologists programs to encourage students to become members, support poster competitions in laboratory medicine, donate funds to international participants, support high profile seminars to promote a large number of attendees and recruit new members.

Local section engagement examples – Simona Ciampi

This section focused on 'The Artery' and how to create an account, login, create a profile and participate in discussions. The Artery is an online community for all members and is seen as a 'knowledge-sharing-tool'. In the last year, the topics covered in The Artery were split into the following categories: 31% community and events, 18% laboratory management, 10% new instrumentation and 10% reimbursement. The Artery can be accessed at <https://community.aacc.org/>. If a local section is interested in creating its own local channel, contact Simona Ciampi. The local section should have 2 member volunteers that are committed to work on maintaining the communication live. There is no mobile App for The Artery yet.

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3:45 PM – 3:55 PM New business  
There was no new business.

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM Wrap-up – Dr. Lorin Bachmann  
Dr. Bachman thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 4:00 PM.

**Election Results**

**Elizabeth Sykes**

The following individuals were elected to offices in the Michigan Section for 2016:

Chair	Yvonne Posey	Beaumont Health System
Chair-Elect	Bernard Cook	Henry Ford Hospital
Secretary	Hema Ketha	University of Michigan
Treasurer	Donald Giacherio	University of Michigan Hospital
Delegate	Seetharam Chittiprol	Memorial Health System
Membership Chair	Tiffany Roberts	Immucor Inc.
Nominating Chair	Lee Schroeder	University of Michigan
Legislative Liaison	Raymond Karcher	Retired
Past-Chair	Kenneth Simkowski	Beaumont Health System