

# The Curious Chemist

## 2009 Van Slyke Award Recipient: Tipton Golias

by  
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Chair, Van Slyke Awards Committee

**The Curious Chemist** is a quarterly e-newsletter created by the New York Metro Section of the American Association of Clinical Chemists for its members. To comment or propose an article for the newsletter, please e-mail [nym.aacc@gmail.com](mailto:nym.aacc@gmail.com).

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The American Association for Clinical Chemistry is the largest, worldwide professional society for clinical chemists, Clinical Pathologists, and Clinicians of varying subspecialties, including pharmaceutical, industrial research, and medical technology. The New York Metro Section of the AACC is represented by approximately 350 members.

The Van Slyke Award is the highest academic award presented by the AACC New York Metro Section and has been presented annually since 1957 to honor the memory of Dr. Donald Van Slyke. This scientist laid the foundation of modern Clinical Chemistry by his work over three decades in the early 20th century. The Van Slyke Award acknowledges outstanding contributions to the

science of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

The 2009 Van Slyke Award is presented to Tipton Golias. Mr. Golias founded Helena Laboratories in 1966. Since then, his activities as an innovator led to his being listed as the inventor or co-inventor on 40 patents. His work has had positive impact on clinical laboratory science, making significant contributions to analytical instrumentation for clinical chemistry and hematology, for describing improved assays for serum lipoproteins, cholesterol fractions, sub-fractions of serum isoenzymes, and platelet function.

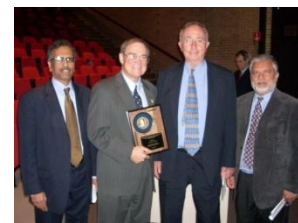
The Van Slyke Award Committee recognizes and congratulates Tipton Golias

for his seminal contributions to laboratory medicine and honors him for his tremendous achievement.

We would like to thank Siemens Health Care Diagnostics Division for hosting the event on October 8, 2009 at their headquarters in Tarrytown, NY.

Photos of the event are located on our webpage at:

[www.aacc.org/members/loc\\_sections/nymetro](http://www.aacc.org/members/loc_sections/nymetro).



*Golias pictured with Van Slyke Award Committee (Abdul Basir Kazi, Tipton Golias, Arthur Karmen, Danyal Syed)*

## Meet the 2010 Chair: Nicole Lafontant

Ms. Lafontant has been working in the field of Laboratory Medicine for over 25 years.

Currently, she works at Flushing Hospital Medical Center as the Laboratory Manager. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from the College of Staten Island and recently obtained her Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.

In less than ten years after joining AACC, Nicole became a member of the Executive Committee of the New York Metro Section.

Upon learning of her election, Ms. Lafontant had this to say:

"I am extremely pleased to have been elected as Chair of the New York Metro section for the upcoming year. It is a privilege to walk in the footsteps of such a dedicated group of professionals. I am proud to be a member of AACC, an organization whose objective is to advance Clinical Chemistry. In keeping with AACC tradition, I will promote educational programs that are informative and relevant. Currently, there is a shortage of laboratorians, and

I pledge to find ways to increase active membership and attendance."



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## Ezra Levy High School Science Awards Dinner

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the New York Metro Section hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Ezra Levy High School Science Awards Dinner at Mount Sinai NYU Health Center Goldwurm Auditorium. During the first part of the evening, the four awards recipients from the New York Academy of Sciences and Long Island Science Engineering Fair presented a summary of their award winning projects. The winners and their presentations included:

- **Gianluca A. Arianna** - *"Dynamic Aggregation Properties of Three New Photodynamic Therapeutics"*
- **Steven Ham** - *"Exploring The Effects of nicotine on The Expression of Molecular Compounds Associated with Alzheimer's Disease; A Novel Mechanism in Neuroprotection"*
- **Jung Woo Kim** - *"The Upregulation of Comexin 43 Expression in Cardiomyocytes Co-cultured with C2C12 or hMSC Utilizing 4-PBA in Cellular Cardiomyoplasty"*
- **Samantha Larsen and Cole Blum** - *"Sunscreen: Catch 22 Blocking of the Photocatalytic Activity of Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles by Polymer Coating"*

The evening concluded with a special guest lecture by Dr. Lakshmi Ramanathan, Director, Chemistry Stat Laboratories and Point of Care at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Her presentation was entitled "Third Generation Laboratory Automation".

We would like to thank Beckman Coulter for sponsoring the event and providing awards for the student winners. The next science awards dinner and presentation will be held on May 13, 2010 at Mount Sinai NYU Health Center. Keep an eye on your e-mail for more information.

For more photos from the event, please visit our web site:

[www.aacc.org/members/loc\\_sections/nymetro/awards](http://www.aacc.org/members/loc_sections/nymetro/awards)



## NYSSEF & LISEF: Call for Judges

The deadline for registration of judges in NY High School Science Fairs is fast approaching. All volunteers who would like to participate in this rewarding educational activity will have three different opportunities to do so.

### Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – NYSSEF

The New York State Science and Engineering Fair (NYSSEF) will begin at 8:30 am. Judges should arrive at X Hall by 8:15 am for a light breakfast, followed by a judging orientation. Judges will receive lunch, a modest NYSSEF gift and a \$25 travel voucher to defray travel costs.

To find out more information about the fair, please go to the [NYSSEF website](http://www.nyssef.org). To register as a judge, please fill out the form found at the [Judge's Registration Link](#).

### Tues, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> & Mon, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - LISEF

The Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF) events will take place from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury.

For more information about LISEF and to register as a judge, please visit [www.lisef.org](http://www.lisef.org) or call (631) 871-6375.

If you are interested in serving as a judge for any of these fairs, please e-mail Dalia Green at [dalia\\_green@bd.com](mailto:dalia_green@bd.com).

## The Curious Chemist Question of the Month:

A patient has an elevated serum T<sub>3</sub>, free T<sub>4</sub> and a very low serum TSH.  
**Which of the following is the most likely cause of these results?**

- Primary hyperthyroidism
- Secondary hyperthyroidism
- Euthyroid with increased thyroxine-binding proteins
- Euthyroid sick syndrome

For the answer to this question and an explanation of the result, please visit the AACC website:  
[http://www.aacc.org/members/loc\\_sections/nymetro](http://www.aacc.org/members/loc_sections/nymetro)

# The Curious Chemist

## Legislative Updates for 2010: NYS Licenses

First, say goodbye to grandfathering, as that option is no longer available as of January 1, 2009.

A new **Limited License** is available for those who qualify until September 1, 2013 and **cannot** be renewed. This limited license may be issued to a person who is employed in a clinical laboratory under the direction of a clinical director in order for a person to complete the educational requirements and pass the examination required for licensure as a clinical laboratory technologist.

The **Limited Permit** is valid for one year. After that time, the applicant is expected to complete the examination required for New York State Licensure. The permit may be extended for one additional year if the applicant can document good cause.

The **Restricted License** is for someone who practices as a clinical laboratory technologist within the following areas:

- Cytogenetics;
- Flow Cytometry/Cellular Immunology;
- Histocompatibility;
- Molecular Diagnosis (Can include Genetic Testing-Molecular and Molecular Oncology.)

The **Full License** is available to those who qualify and take the New York State Licensure examination. This exam is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (A.S.C.P.).

For more information, visit:

[www.op.nysed.gov/prof/clt/clp-technologistoptions.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/clt/clp-technologistoptions.htm)

### ASCP-BOC is the sole provider for licensure examinations for New York State.

On February 4, 2009 the ASCP Board of Registry (BOR)/ Board of Certification (BOC) was awarded the contract to be the sole provider of licensure examinations for Medical Technologists (MT)/ Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) and Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT) for a period of five years by the New York State Education Department.

For more information, please visit:

[www.ascp.org/functionalnavigation/certification/getst/atelicensure.aspx](http://www.ascp.org/functionalnavigation/certification/getst/atelicensure.aspx)

## Tax Exempt Status

The New York Metro Section congratulates past Treasurer Jesse Gourdet for working with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in obtaining the Tax Exempt 501 (c) 3 status for the section. This will keep the New York Metro Section in good financial standing for years to come.

## Haiti Earthquake Relief

As this newsletter was being prepared, news broke of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hitting the capital of Haiti, Port-a-Prince. People around the world have come together to provide assistance to the Caribbean nation. Many aid organizations, such as the Red Cross and Yele Haiti (foundation of singer and song-writer Wyclef Jean) have collected monetary donations to support relief efforts in Haiti. Some organizations have sent food, supplies and basic necessities, while others have focused their efforts on shipping medical supplies to the areas hardest hit by the earthquake.

This is a cause held dear and close to the hearts of AACC members. The organization counts many members of Haitian descent in its rank. The New York Metro Chair, Nicole Lafontant, is urging everyone to contribute to the relief efforts. "Contributions of any size are

welcome and needed. Together we can make a difference," said Ms. Lafontant.

We invite you to consider supporting any of the following relief organizations:

- [American Red Cross](http://www.americanredcross.org)
- [NetHope](http://www.nethope.org)
- [Save the Children](http://www.savechildren.org)
- [World Vision International](http://www.worldvision.org)
- [Care](http://www.care.org)
- [MercyCorps](http://www.mercycorps.org)
- [Unicef](http://www.unicef.org)
- [Doctors Without Borders](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)
- [Yele Haiti](http://www.yelehaiti.org)

You can donate any amount directly to the Red Cross. You can also text "HAITI" to "90999" and a donation of \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts, charged to your wireless bill.

## Special Membership Promotion in 2010!

Tipton Golias, *President/Owner of Helena Laboratories Corporation* and 2009 Van Slyke Award recipient, has provided a grant to the New York Metro section. This will be used to promote membership in AACC.

Members are encouraged to invite lab students and residents to apply for AACC student or AACC affiliate membership and the New York Metro section will pay for the cost of the membership.

For more information, please contact the AACC Membership Chair, Peter Jung.



# The Curious Chemist

## AACC New York Metro Section Annual Report 2009

The New York Metro Section had a very successful year in 2009.

The Section organized six educational programs with average attendance of 40 members and non-members.

Four meetings were held at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center in New York City, one at Flushing Hospital in Queens and the Van Slyke Award Dinner Lecture at Siemens Diagnostics in Tarrytown, NY. Additionally the Executive Board met on numerous occasions in person and in teleconference calls to plan activities for the section.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and members for a very successful year, and look forward to even greater success in 2010.

The 2009 lectures were as follows:

### January 22, 2009:

*"Changing Paradigms in Inpatient Glycemic Control"*

Presented by

**Tracy L. Breen, M.D.**

Clinical Director, Mount Sinai Diabetes Program

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Bone

Diseases

### March 26, 2009

*"Financial Aspects of Laboratory Medicine: Where Does All the Money Go?"*

Presented by

**Helen Huff, RN, MBA**

Senior Vice President of Support Services at

Mount Sinai

### Continuing Education Series: An Update of Laboratory Quality Skills, II

Sat., March 6, 2010

Princeton Club of New York

See website for more information and registration:

<http://www.trimarkpublications.com/conferences>

## NY Metro Section 2010 Schedule

| Date                        | Organizer/ Sponsor        | Topic   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Feb 4<sup>th</sup> *</b> | <b>L. Ramanathan</b>      | <b>Meet the Officers!</b>                     |
| March 18 <sup>th</sup>      | J. Gourdet/ Abbott        | QC/ J. Westgard                               |
| April 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | J. Lashley/ N. Lafontant  | POCT 2010; The Good, The Bad, The Unchartered |
| May 13 <sup>th</sup>        | D. Green                  | Ezra Levy Awards                              |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup>       | S. Green/ BD              | Preanalytical Variables                       |
| Sept                        | L. Ramanathan/ Radiometer | New AHA Guidelines                            |
| Oct                         | S. Levy/ Siemens          | Van Slyke Award                               |
| Nov                         | TBA                       | TBA   |
| Dec                         | TBA                       | TBA   |

### April 23, 2009

*"HSV and Syphilis Testing – Current Recommendations, Challenges and Trends for the Future":*

Presented by

**Greta Schwichtenberg, MS**

Liaison Infectious Disease and Hepatitis

### May 21, 2009

Ezra Levy High School Science Awards

Scientific Presentations by 4 students from the New York City-New York Academy of Sciences and Long Island Sciences and Engineering Fair.

*"Third Generation Laboratory Automation "*

Presented by

**Lakshmi Ramanathan, Ph.D.**

Director, Chemistry Stat Lab and Point of Care, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine

### June 18, 2009

*"Blood Beta-Hydroxybutyrate Testing, Discussion on Keto-Acidosis":*

Presented by

**Margaret Pellizzari, RN, CDE,**

North Shore / Long Island Jewish Hospital

### October 8, 2009

Van Slyke Award Dinner Lecture  
*"History and Development of Clinical Laboratory Assays"*

Presented by

**Tipton L. Golias**

President/Owner of Helena Laboratories Corp.

Next AACC NYM Meeting:

**Thurs., Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*Meet the Officers & Special Guest Lecture*

Mount Sinai Medical Center

See the e-mail flyer for more details.