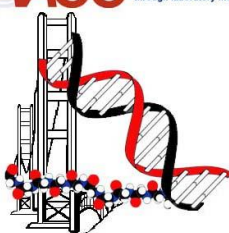


AACC Improving healthcare
through laboratory medicine



NoCA AACC Meeting Recap
January 22, 2014
Annual Awards Dinner
Emeryville, CA

Northern California Section

Our annual awards dinner was held at the Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood restaurant in Emeryville. Over 60 people attended.

2013 Award Winners!

Ken Kasper PhD, the 2013 Awards Chair, presented awards to the following individuals:

- **Alan H.B. Wu PhD**, Director of Clinical Chemistry & Toxicology at San Francisco General Hospital, won the Harold Van Remortel Service award in honor of his long and dedicated service to the Northern California section. He had previously won our Education Award in 2006.
- Two scientists from Wako Life Sciences, **Henry G. Wada PhD** (Chief Scientific Officer) and **Shinji Satomura PhD** (President), won the award for Outstanding Contribution in Clinical Chemistry through Science and Technology. This was in recognition of their company's development of an immunoassay analyzer using a cost-effective microfluidic chip. **Chiaki Kagebayashi**, the Lead Chemist who developed the AFP-L3% assay for the analyzer, accepted on behalf of Dr. Satomura who could not attend the dinner.
- **Steven R. Binder**, Director of Technology Development for Bio-Rad Laboratories, won the award for Outstanding Contribution in Clinical Chemistry through Education. This was in recognition of his active involvement in education at our local meetings, the AACC annual meetings, annual meetings of other organizations, as well as his recent expert direction of the AACC's Clinical & Diagnostic Immunology division.
- Finally, **M. Laura Parnas PhD DABCC**, Director of Science at Sutter Health Shared Laboratory, received the Past Chair award, as well as the thanks of our local section's membership for her superb leadership. She organized four section meetings, began the popular LC/MSMS workshop series and also delivered a highly successful BayChem symposium in 2013.



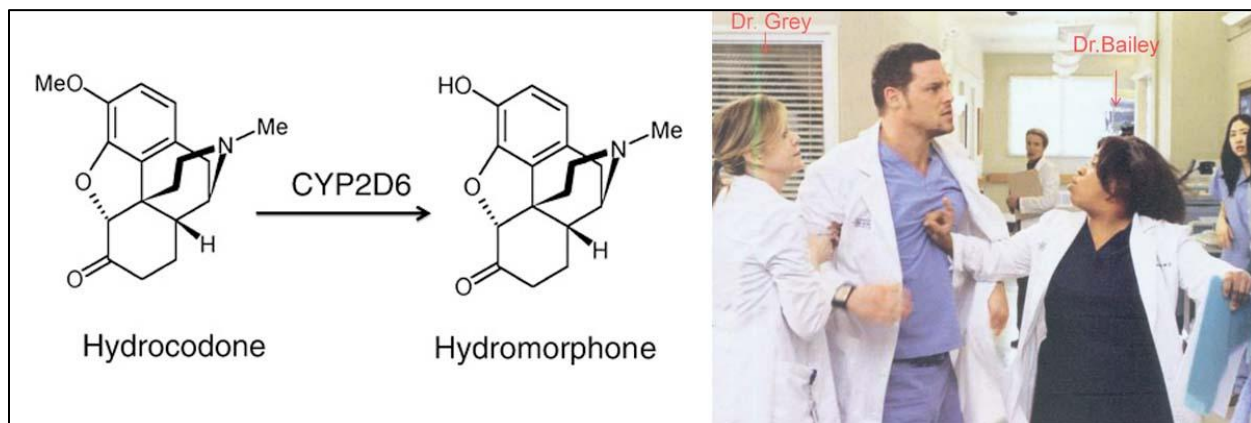
Ken Kasper (far right) with award winners (left-to-right) Steve Binder, Laura Parnas, Alan Wu, Henry Wada, and Chiaki Kagebayashi (accepting on behalf of Shinji Satomura).

AACC President's Presentation

Steven HY Wong PhD DABCC (TC) FACB, Director of Clinical Chemistry & Toxicology at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC, is the new AACC President. He discussed his plans for 2014. He said that local sections are “vital” to the success of AACC and that he wanted to focus on increasing local section membership. In fact, he recruited two of his dinner table companions that evening!

His scientific discussion concerned **Personalized Medicine** – using pharmacogenomics to individualize drug therapy. Dr. Wong’s major interest is the emergence of **metabolomics** as a comprehensive way to integrate all of the scientific and clinical disciplines related to this goal. He used five examples: preventing the syndrome of toxic epidermal necrolysis which may be caused by carbamazepine (an anti-convulsant drug); anti-coagulation using warfarin (a well-established application of personalized medicine) and clopidogrel (an anti-platelet drug); pain management; and immunosuppressive drug therapy.

His conclusions about growing public awareness and the fact that payors are beginning to cover the testing led him to predict that personalized medicine will become a major area of laboratory medicine in the near future. Because it involves so many different disciplines, he suggested that clinical chemists are well-prepared to contribute to these advances in major ways.



Two images from Dr. Wong’s presentation. He discussed a recent study which found that the genotype for CYP2D6, an enzyme that metabolizes the opioid hydrocodone to hydromorphone (left), was a major factor determining the efficacy of the drug (see *Clin Chim Acta* 2014; 429:26-29). He also used a scene from *Grey’s Anatomy* (ABC Television) in which a problem metabolizing the anesthetic propofol caused a patient to wake up during surgery.

AACC CEO's Presentation

Janet Kreizman is the new AACC Chief Executive Officer. She reviewed the five primary areas of AACC’s new **strategic vision**: the value of membership; best practices; science & innovation’ AACC’s resources; and AACC’s global influence.

In order to enhance the value of membership, AACC has inaugurated a new e-mail newsletter called **Smartbrief** which summarizes recent advances in laboratory medicine. She also gave us a peek at the newly designed AACC website. AACC is investing in a new technology platform that will allow us to attend “**virtual**” **conferences**; the first one is planned for September. The focus for best practices will be a renewed effort to develop timely position statements, such as the recent one regarding the need for laboratory test harmonization.

Although the overall financial health of the AACC is solid, we need to reverse a downward trend in membership over the past several years. AACC recently conducted a large survey of members (and non-members) to see what aspects of AACC membership were especially valuable (and what non-members would like to see in order to join the organization). This report will be discussed soon by the AACC board of directors and new membership models may be developed. In the meantime, AACC has established a **local section membership challenge**. Prizes will be given for the local sections that bring in the most new members this year. NoCA is off to a good start as we have 65 new members for 2014!

Finally, in addition to our LabTestsOnLine website, which is available in 17 countries, Ms. Kreizman described a new AACC global initiative, supported by the **Wallace H. Coulter Foundation**. Workshops in designing and using quality control have been conducted in five Latin and South American countries since 2012. These have been very successful and two more are planned for this year.



Two images from Ms. Kreizman's presentation. The new AACC website (left) will be completely revamped and will feature enhanced content, advanced search functionality and a new community portal. The Q.C. Workshop in Bolivia last year (right) was only one of several such workshops targeted to Latin and South America. Where's Laura? (Can you find past-Chair Laura Parnas in the group?)

Don't miss our next AACC Northern California Local Section Meeting!

If you missed our meeting in January, plan now to attend our next meeting, held in conjunction with the AACC's **Emerging Clinical & Laboratory Diagnostics Conference** (formerly the Oak Ridge Conference). This meeting, which will occur April 24-25, 2014 in San Jose, will focus on "The Portable Lab", with speaker addressing point-of-care testing, mobile medical apps, and nanotechnology.

The session on mobile apps will be moderated by **Larry Kricka DPhil FACB**, Director of General Chemistry & Critical care laboratories at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia PA. He will give us a preview of his session and discuss "Technologies and Trends Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine" at our local session meeting on **Tuesday evening, April 22**. More details (and information about how to register) are on our website (click on "Events" in the sidebar menu).

- Jim Faix MD
Chair-Elect, AACC NoCA