Diamond Club was named in remembrance of the “Acres of Diamond” speech by Russell H. Conwell, the founder of Temple University and the theme of this speech lies at the heart of its mission. It recounts a story Conwell heard from a guide when he was travelling up the River Tigris in present day Baghdad in 1872. The tale refers to a person who leaves his home in the hope that he will find his fortune in foreign lands. After much wandering, he returns home, heartbroken and penniless. He soon dies, and being so poor, the locals decide to bury him in back yard of his house. As they begin digging his grave, they start to uncover diamonds, not just a handful but by the bucket load. Little did the man know that the fortune he was looking for was in his own back garden!

Fujirebio Diagnostics Incorporated, located in picturesque Malvern, PA hosted the section’s next lecture in August. The topic was, “Application of Magnetic Nanoparticles in in vitro diagnostics,” given by Dr. Shan Wang from Stanford University. The talk was very well received and generated a very lively discussion. Some history on Fujirebio Diagnostics, Incorporated: Fujirebio, Inc., is the parent company and has origins in Japan. It is a leading healthcare company with a focus on diagnostics. As well as Pennsylvania, and Japan, it has branches in Seguin, TX and Sweden. It specializes in the manufacturing of manual assay products, reagents and controls distributed throughout the U.S. and around the world, as well as...
custom-developed products for use through their worldwide network of distribution partners. With close to 65,000 square feet of manufacturing space between their U.S. headquarters in Malvern, PA, Seguin, TX, and Sweden, Fujirebio Diagnostics’ proven manufacturing process has made it a global partner of choice among leading diagnostic companies.

**SYCL Travel Award Winner**

The SYCL Travel Award recipient, supported by the Philadelphia section, was Dr. Tian Yu from the University of Pittsburgh. SYCL is an acronym for “Society of Young Clinical Laboratorians.” It is part of the AACC and membership is open to anyone 40 years or under with an interest in clinical laboratory science. For anyone interested in laboratory medicine as a career, SYCL membership is a great starting point that puts you in touch with both leaders and other members that share the same interests and vision as you.

**Rockland Immunochemicals in Limerick, PA**

Rockland Immunochemicals, in Limerick, PA held the final chapter meeting featuring the President of the AACC Dr. Steven H. Wong’s talk on “Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacometabolomics for Personalized Medicine.” Rockland Immunochemicals has supported the academic, biopharma and diagnostic industries with antibodies and antibody based tools for basic research, assay development and pre-clinical studies for over 50 years. Rockland manufactures Primary and Secondary Antibodies, Buffers and Substrates which are ideally suited for integration into critical assays such as western blotting, immunohistochemistry (IHC), immunofluorescence microscopy (IF), ELISA and FLOW cytometry.

**Webinars at Last!**

We first experimented with the webinar during Dr. Luzzi’s talk on Vitamin D assays – the plan was to be able to deliver the presentation to York, PA. We were partially successful – the slides could be seen but it was devoid of any voice! Jennifer Thebo (Education coordinator) was in York and fortunately had some of the transcript - kindly supplied by Dr. Luzzi - she improvised very well! The next attempt was in December at Rockland Immunochemicals and that was a success! We transmitted both video and voice to the members at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. We were triumphant only because of the great team work between Dan Kenney and his Rockland group, Zhong Li (Section secretary), Octavia Palmer and her UPMC group and April Gascon from the AACC. Thanks to you all! We hope to continue with webinars in the coming year and this aspect really touches one of the main themes of the Philadelphia Section and AACC on a global level: to make it possible for all members, regardless of distance or cost, to get the benefits of membership.

**New Members**

This year we have had 25 new members, listed below - and from all of us WELCOME ABOARD! We hope that you find this membership beneficial and that you can become active participants.

- Kimberly A. Riedl, Philadelphia, PA
- Denise Pappacena, Doylestown, PA
- Paula Tarquini, East Norrington, PA
- Lidia Aguilera, Newark, DE
- Deborah M. Faryna, Collegeville, PA
- Michael Deck, Lancaster, PA
- Bo Wang, Garnet Valley, PA
- Joseph Corvo, Willow Grove, PA
- Michael Barrett, Bethlehem, PA
- Aneita M. Paiano, Hershey, PA
- Joshua Savina, Wilmington, DE
- Larry Coffey, Collegeville, PA
- Gejing De, Wilmington, DE
- Rita Hayes, Coatesville, PA
- Paul F. Aller, Ivyland, PA
- Lamar W. Chandler, Abington, PA
- Lilah Evans, Philadelphia, PA
- Andy Keys, Bethlehem, PA
- Rhonda M. Petit, Jamison, PA
- Joan Kariuki, Elkton, MD
- Craig Hixson, Newark, DE
- Sarah R. Nassau, Lancaster, PA
- Kim Sue, Cornwell, York, PA
- Kimberly Robyak, Hershey, PA
- Elysse Robbins, King of Prussia, PA
Closing Comments...

I want to thank the Philadelphia Section’s Executive Team for their help and ideas and for YOUR involvement that have made this year the success it was.

Wishing all the members a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

From The AACC Philadelphia Section Team

Photos from the seminar, “Application of Magnetic Nanoparticles in in vitro diagnostics,” given by Dr. Shan Wang from Stanford University - Held at Fujirebio Diagnostics Inc.
Photos from the seminar, “Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacometabolomics for Personalized Medicine” given by Dr. Steven Wong, from Wake Forest University and 2014 AACC President - Held at Rockalnd Immunochemicals.