

**Sponsored Webinar San Diego Section, AACC**

**Free to Members and their Guest**

## **Current Issues in Laboratory Testing for Rheumatoid Arthritis**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2014**

**11:00am PDT - 12:00pm PDT**

### **Location:**

USCD Center for Advanced Laboratory Medicine  
UC San Diego, 10300 Campus Point Drive, San Diego, CA 92121  
Conference Room C, on the SE side of the building; first parking lot on the right as you enter the complex.

### **The Expert:**

***Marvin Fritzler, PhD, MD***, Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

### **Abstract:**

Approximately 1.3 million adults in the U.S. have rheumatoid arthritis (RA), an autoimmune disease characterized by chronic, systemic inflammation involving multiple joints. Patients with RA have periodic flare-ups that can lead to irreversible joint destruction, with systemic effects that may include damage to organs such as the heart and lungs.

Treatment with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) can often ameliorate the disease, minimize irreversible joint damage if RA is diagnosed early enough, and improve clinical outcome. Consequently, laboratory testing can help clinicians differentiate RA from conditions with similar symptoms, enabling clinicians to diagnose the disease in time to prevent damage.

### **Attend this program and know:**

- What current American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) guidelines recommend as criteria for diagnosis and classification of RA
- Why laboratory testing is important in disease diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring patients on DMARDs
- The characteristics, advantages, and limitations of various tests used to diagnose and monitor RA
- What newer tests, such as the third-generation anti-CCP, anti-CARP and anti-biological therapeutic immunoassays, have to offer in diagnosing and managing RA

**Target Audience:**

Clinical laboratory directors, managers, and technologists; clinical toxicology experts; hospital medical directors; and industry representatives interested in the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis and systemic rheumatic diseases.

Attendees are eligible for 1 CEU of Accent credit.