



# NEWS & VIEWS

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*Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Welcome to What's My Line," announces show moderator John Daly. You are to appear as the mystery guest on the TV show and try to

stump panelists Arlene Francis, Bennett Cerf, Dorothy Kilgallen, and Steve Allen. As they fire questions to you, will they ultimately identify you as a clinical biochemist? Perhaps you see this as a rather far-fetched scenario, but if you're my age you can remember a television show where this just might have happened. For those of you too young to have shared the experience, you can check out reruns on the Game Show Network.

Even if you have never been asked to reveal your profession on a TV show, I suspect you have answered the question many times to friends and family. Usually the answer, "I am a clinical biochemist (or something similar)," either abruptly terminates the conversation or promotes a series of follow-up questions which lead to no appreciable enlightenment on the subject.

Back to "What's My Line" – I want to stretch your imagination a bit more. Imagine that I am the mystery guest and my line is "President of the NACB." "President" will make sense, but questions are certain to arise like, "What is the NACB?" Here's an answer in less than 100 words.

The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) was founded in 1976 and is the official Academy of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. Its membership consists of doctorate level fellows who are involved in developing the science and practice of laboratory medicine. The Academy is a

leading advocate for scholarship through scientific research and conducts educational programs to promote scientific discovery and application. NACB develops and publishes laboratory medicine practice guidelines to enhance medical diagnosis and therapy.

This answer may leave the panelists scratching their heads, but I hope it concisely reminds you what the NACB is all about. I regard the opportunity given to me to serve as its President during this year as a tremendous honor. Thanks for your confidence in me and thanks to all of you who contribute so much of your time, energy, and expertise in support of the Academy and to the field of laboratory medicine.

K. MICHAEL PARKER, PhD, FACB  
*President*

## NGC Posts LMPGs

In response to a request from the National Guideline Clearinghouse, the last four Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines which have been published in printed form are now posted on the NGC website. To see them go to [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov).

According to the NGC, their website has more than 70,000 weekly visits by physicians and other health professionals. In addition, the NGC sends email notices to more than 17,000 professionals each week. This is a tremendous opportunity for our Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines to be disseminated and incorporated into medical practice.



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The policy of the NACB is that only the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer may make official statements on behalf of the NACB. This limitation does not apply to the conduct of routine business transactions. All views expressed in the newsletter are solely those of the contributors, authors, or editors and not necessarily those of the NACB.

## THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY “ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP IN LABORATORY MEDICINE”

As the Academy of AACC, NACB's mission is to elevate the science and practice of clinical laboratory medicine by promoting research, education, and professional development in clinical biochemistry. Through its annual awards program, NACB celebrates the achievements of colleagues who have made significant contributions through scholarship and service to the profession. The NACB Awards Committee wishes to thank the sponsors of these awards and to congratulate the 2003 Academy award winners.

**NACB Awards Committee**

*Thomas Annesley, PhD, DABCC, FACB, Chair*

*Elizabeth Frank, PhD, DABCC, FACB*

*Douglas Stickle, PhD, DABCC, FACB*

*Roland Valdes, Jr., PhD, DABCC, FACB*

*Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, FACB*

### **NACB DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD** For Outstanding Research Advances in the Field of Clinical Biochemistry



**MICHAEL J. BENNETT, PH.D., DABCC, FACB**

Dr. Bennett received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Sheffield in the U.K. He is board certified by the Royal College of Pathologists (London) and ABCC. Following appointments at the University of Sheffield and Baylor University, he joined the faculty at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 1993, where he is currently Professor of Pathology and Pediatrics as well as the Director of Clinical Chemistry at The Children's Medical Center. In 2002 he was awarded the Mary Quincy Parsons and Kelsey Louise Wright Endowed Professorship of Mitochondrial Disease Research.

Dr. Bennett is internationally recognized for his research activities, which have focused on inborn errors of metabolism, especially disorders of fatty acid and lysosomal storage diseases. He has published 160 original investigative reports and numerous book chapters in these areas. His scientific expertise has been recognized through appointments to several editorial boards, including *Clinical Chemistry*, *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*, and *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism*.

## **NACB ALVIN DUBIN AWARD**

**For Distinguished Contributions to the Discipline and Practice of Clinical Biochemistry**

*Sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL*



### **JAMES O. WESTGARD, PH.D, FACB**

Dr. Westgard received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin and has remained at this institution throughout his career. He currently is a Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, the Director of Quality Management Services, and Co-Director of the Graduate Certificate in Laboratory Quality Management.

Dr. Westgard's research interests include statistical quality control, performance validation of measurement procedures, modeling and simulation of testing processes, and computer programs for analytical quality management. It is in these specific areas that he has made significant contributions to the field of clinical biochemistry. His extensive work led to the multi-rule control procedure, often called the "Westgard Rules", which have advanced QC practices in virtually every clinical laboratory. More recently his book, *Six Sigma Quality Design and Control*, has introduced this new concept of quality management to the field of laboratory medicine. This is just one of multiple books and educational products that he has written on the subject of quality control.

Dr. Westgard has been invited to present his concepts around the globe. His presentations and teaching activities continually contribute to excellence in the practice of clinical biochemistry.

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## **NACB GEORGE GRANNIS AWARD**

**For Excellence in Research and Scientific Publication**



### **ROSHINI SARAH ABRAHAM, PHD**

Dr. Abraham received her Ph.D. from the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi, followed by post-doctoral training at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Abraham has remained at Mayo, where she is an Assistant Professor in the Mayo Medical School, as well as a Senior Associate Consultant within the Division of Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine with a joint appointment in Lab Medicine and Pathology. Dr. Abraham's research has focused on the areas of autoimmune disease and diabetes. She has received grant support from the Lupus Foundation of America, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and American Diabetes Association. Her current area of focus is B cell neoplasias, particularly light chain amyloidosis and multiple myeloma.

Dr. Abraham has published 17 papers, the majority as primary author, in prestigious journals such as *Clinical Chemistry*, *PNAS*, *Journal of Immunology*, and *Diabetes*. She holds a patent for methods to increase and modify immune responses.

## **NACB LEADERSHIP FOLLOWS ANNUAL CYCLE**

Based on an effort launched in 1996, the Academy has defined a vision statement, a mission statement, and six strategic objectives. (See the NACB website for information about these.) Deliberations and decisions of the BOD are guided by the principles identified in the vision, mission, and strategic objectives. Activities which are consistent with the objectives are selected as initiatives. Based on the interplay of these elements, the actions of the BOD follow a predictable annual cycle. Each year the BOD reviews the strategic plan, evaluates the progress and needs that remain (gap analysis), develops initiatives or activities to fill the gaps, and oversees the work on the initiatives. By repeating this cycle repeats each year, the BOD practices strategic leadership.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

DAVID D. KOCH, PH.D., FACB

### Report from the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Board of Directors Meeting

The NACB Board met for our spring meeting of 2003 at the Doubletree O'Hare Hotel in Chicago, IL from April 4-6. President Mike Parker presided over his first Board meeting and highlighted the January issue of *Thyroid*, which was entirely given to our thyroid LMPG, along with a complimentary editorial from the Editor. Thanks to Carol Spencer and Larry Demers for their efforts. Bob White gave his first Treasurer's report. We approved a recommendation that Academy revenue collected by AACC on our behalf be maintained in the AACC Office, allowing AACC to debit Academy expense as needed, with one rectifying transfer at the end of the year. Written financial statements will be provided monthly by the AACC to the Academy Treasurer. Bob is also going to make full use of the Finance Committee, e.g. having them help in developing next year's budget.

Penny Jones mentioned that it appears membership will reach last year's total. She also reported that our web site grows in popularity; there were 14,487 hits in March! Penny and AACC Staff are receiving more requests for support, assisting with the Nominating Process, LMPG efforts, Beckman Conference plans, awards, and other things. We recognized that our budget should correctly reflect the FTE amount we are coming to require of the AACC Office.

We reviewed the report of the Education and Scientific Affairs Committee. Considerable activity is occurring with last year's LMPG, **Maternal-Fetal Health**. Plans are jelling for the **Cardiac Risk Factor LMPG** scheduled for this summer. Significant progress is already being made on the **POCT LMPG**, which is set for 2004. The Academy will be busy next year as we also intend to provide much assistance to the Beckman Conference in May of 2004, which will be on the subject of cardiac injury. Plans are also beginning for the 2005 and 2006 LMPGs. We talked about several matters related to our LMPG efforts, namely the process for online publication, copyright approval, and financial considerations. We also discussed plans for a pilot "Distinguished Abstracts" program at this year's

AACC Annual Meeting, with the goal of recognizing and encouraging excellent science in our profession.

Finally, we reviewed NACB activities planned for the AACC Annual Meeting and a draft of a possible NACB Board Manual, which has never existed in the past. President-Elect Bob DuFour was appointed Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee. And we considered comments to an FDA draft on **Statistical Guidance**. President Parker will seek comments from our members and send a response on behalf of the Academy.

SUBMITTED BY DAVE KOCH, PH.D., SECRETARY, NACB

## NACB Joins LTO

Lab Tests Online was launched in 2001 for the purpose of helping patients better understand the value and application of laboratory tests as part of their personal healthcare. The monthly activity for the site (about 200,000 users each month) suggests that the site has become the top online resource for patient education about clinical laboratory tests. The site is linked to such key resources as the Food & Drug Administration website.

The quality of the website was recently recognized by the American Society of Association Executives with a prestigious Award of Excellence in the 2003 Associations Advance America Awards program. "Lab Tests Online truly embodies the spirit of the Associations Advance America campaign. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this activity as an example of the many contributions associations are making to advance American society," stated Michael S. Olson, ASAE President. In accepting the award, Richard Flaherty, Executive Vice-President of AACC, remarked "We are excited that ASAE has recognized this collaboration and the contribution that Lab Tests Online has made to patient education."

Lab Tests Online is sponsored by more than 15 of the leading clinical diagnostic companies and produced through the collaboration of multiple professional societies representing the lab community. In addition to AACC, 11 other associations are involved in producing the site: ACLA, AMP, ASCLS, ASCP, ASG, ASM, CAP, CLMA, CSCC, CSMLS, and NCCLS. The NACB is being added to the list of associations. Check out the site at <http://www.labtestsonline.org/> and recommend it to others who are looking for quality information on laboratory testing.

## **NACB MAKES INAUGURAL PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S MEDAL**



NACB Presidents will receive an antique gold medal to commemorate their service to the Academy at a special ceremony on Wednesday, July 23rd at the NACB Awards Luncheon being held at the Philadelphia Marriott. Since its foundation in 1976, 19 distinguished scientists have held the position of NACB President. Through their leadership the Academy has helped elevate the science of laboratory medicine through research, education, and professional development. NACB is the Academy of AACC and is internationally recognized for its laboratory medicine practice guidelines.

### **NACB Presidents**

1976-1977	Morton B. Epstein, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1977-1978	George F. Grannis, PhD, FACB
1978-1979	William S. Matthews, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1979-1980	Arthur L. Levy, PhD, FACB
1980-1981	Marge A. Brewster, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1981-1982	John A. Lott, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1982-1983	Herbert E. Spiegel, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1983-1984	Alvin Dubin, M.S., FACB
1984-1985	Laurence M. Demers, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1985-1986	Basil T. Dumas, PhD, FACB
1986-1988	John E. Sherwin, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1988-1990	Steven J. Soldin, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1990-1992	Lester W. Wells, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1992-1994	David C. Hohnadel, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1994-1996	Lawrence A. Kaplan, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1997-1998	Myron M. Warshaw, PhD, DABCC, FACB
1999-2000	Roland Valdes, Jr., PhD, DABCC, FACB
2001-2002	Charles D. Hawker, PhD, FACB
2003	K. Michael Parker, PhD, DABCC, FACB

## **SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The NACB Board of Directors met April 4-6 in Chicago. Those attending are shown in the photograph. For the first time, new board members attended a pre-meeting orientation session. During this time, Academy President Michael Parker described current and planned activities and reviewed the role and responsibilities of BOD members. Those attending for the first time remarked that the orientation session was very helpful in preparing for the meeting and year ahead. During the meeting, the board worked through an extensive agenda. Considerable discussion focused on the LMPG projects and the finances of the Academy. Since these are covered in other articles in this newsletter, here are some of the other issues discussed and decisions that were made.

As of January 2000, the ABCC requires diplomats to obtain 25 hours of continuing education credit each year in order to remain an active diplomat. Individuals who do not submit documentation of sufficient continuing education and pay the associated fee will not be listed as active diplomats. The ABCC certification is one pathway to take for doctoral-level scientists to become Fellows of the NACB. The BOD discussed what effect the new ABCC requirement should have on membership in the Academy. The BOD decided that we should encourage Fellows to attain the required continuing education but failure to do so would not alter their membership in the NACB. Members would remain as Fellows even if they become inactive diplomats of the ABCC.



At a prior meeting of the NACB BOD, a decision was made to develop a program to recognize outstanding abstracts submitted for the AACC Annual Meeting. This program would concentrate on identifying abstracts of superior scientific merit. The BOD at the Spring 2003 meeting authorized a pilot project to determine the feasibility of a Distinguished Abstracts Program. Dr. Tom Annesley has agreed to lead the pilot project for the 2003 annual meeting. You will be hearing more about this and an evaluation of the success of the pilot project in the future.

During the Academy's 27-year history, many decisions have been made and policies established; however, these have been loosely organized. Communication of this history often depended on the memory of individuals who were involved in leadership positions in the past. In order to codify this information for use by future boards, the current BOD is developing a Policy and Procedures Manual. At the spring meeting, the BOD reviewed the progress that had been made on this effort. Subsequent meetings will continue this process until a document is produced. The plan is to bring together the relevant documents into one manual as a reference for future NACB boards.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

ROBERT WHITE, PHD, FACB

The current amount in NACB's checking account in Naples, Florida (Fifth Third Bank) \$3597.19 including checks written for awards to be given in Philadelphia in July 2003. The amount in the Legg-Mason fund is still approximately \$181,000. Accounts receivable (bulk monograph sales) stands at \$4995.67. This year, the checking account will have two additional signatories (Drs. Parker and Dufour) as back up for the Treasurer.

As usual, Federal income taxes for NACB for 2002 were \$0.00. However, since the minimum tax for the District of Columbia, where we have a business license, is \$100, we paid \$100.

The current Reserve Fund for NACB is set at \$60,000. The Finance Committee is working on reviewing this figure to determine whether it needs to be adjusted or left the same.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in Philadelphia.

## **NEW CARDIAC MARKER LMPG**

The committee writing the ACS and heart failure LMPG includes expert members with associations with several different professional groups. Dr. Rob Christenson of the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, serves as Chair of the ACS and heart failure LMPG. The plan is to have the first draft of the guideline ready for presentation at AACC's 2004 Arnold O. Beckman Conference, which will bring together representatives from the NACB, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, the American Society of Emergency Medicine and others. The conference is slated for May 21-22, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel in Boston, Mass.

The use of biochemical markers for risk stratification and to guide therapy in acute coronary syndrome and heart failure is an area that has exploded in the last five years. Cardiac markers have become the keystone of the diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction and for this new LMPG, we've identified experts in the fields of laboratory medicine, cardiology, emergency medicine, and heart failure. The group is now in the process of defining topic areas. The structure is that each member of the committee will then spearhead a different topic area and develop an outline of the topics to cover. For each of those topics, the guideline writers will develop a list of questions they want to answer. Then using an evidence-based approach, the committee will address the questions.

The Beckman Conference will focus on topics such as the clinical need for these markers, what's included in current guidelines from groups such as the American Heart Association and the European Society of Cardiology/American College of Cardiology joint working group, and how these new NACB cardiac marker guidelines fit into the approaches others have taken. Ultimately the goal is to develop one guideline on biochemical markers for ACS and heart failure with input from a variety of groups, with the NACB having a leadership role on the project. Then, as other groups develop their own guidelines, they could refer back to these NACB guidelines.



## **UPDATE ON THE “EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE OF POCT” LMPG**

The organizing committee has formed and been meeting monthly via conference call. The field of POCT has been split into several areas (diabetes, renal, infectious disease, cardiac, etc.) and groups of experts are conducting systematic reviews of the literature to develop recommendations within each area. Groups are currently in the process of finalizing their membership, formulating the pertinent clinical questions and conducting the systematic reviews. Currently almost 100 clinicians, POCT directors and liaisons to other professional organizations are involved in the LMPG development process. Recommendations should become available for public comment by fall of this year. After comment resolution, group leaders will present their recommendations at AACC in 2004.

## **AWARDS LUNCHEON TO HONOR PAST PRESIDENTS**

The annual NACB luncheon will occur on Wednesday, July 23 from 12:30-2:15 pm at the Philadelphia Marriott. In addition to the regular events, e.g. recognition of award recipients, this year the NACB will honor those who have served as Academy Presidents. In our 27-year history, 18 Fellows of the NACB have served and have built the foundation for our current activities and success. (The sidebar lists the Past Presidents and the years served.) We are truly indebted to those who have given so willingly and generously of their time and talents to develop the Academy. Please make plans to attend the Awards Luncheon and participate in this special ceremony.

### **NACB Past Presidents**

Morton B. Epstein	1976-1977
W. Stephen Matthews	1977-1978
George Grannis	1978-1979
Arthur L. Levy	1979-1980
Marge A. Brewster	1980-1981
John A. Lott	1981-1982
Herbert E. Spiegel	1982-1983

Alvin Dubin	1983-1984
Laurence M. Demers	1984-1985
Basil T. Doumas	1985-1986
John E. Sherwin	1986-1988
Steven J. Soldin	1988-1990
Lester W. Wells	1990-1992
David C. Hohnadel	1992-1994
Lawrence A. Kaplan	1994-1996
Myron M. Warshaw	1996-1998
Roland Valdes	1998-2000
Charles D. Hawker	2000-2002

## **TUMOR MARKER GUIDELINES**

Dr. E.P. Diamandis [Chair of the Committee] has already finalized the Steering Committee for this undertaking, comprised of the following members:

- \* Cathie Sturgeon [Vice-Chair]
- \* Nils Bruner
- \* Daniel W. Chan
- \* Michael J. Duffy
- \* Martin Fleisher
- \* Herbert A. Fritsche
- \* Farooq Ghani
- \* Nadia Harbeck
- \* Daniel F. Hayes

Considerable progress has also been made in identifying Sub-Committee Chairs for various cancer sites. Over the next month, the Sub-Committee Chairs will work towards finalizing the composition of their Sub-Committees. The next year will be crucial in developing these Guidelines further. More information to be given as this program progresses.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**Dear NACB Board,**

I wanted to let you know of the death of Sam Meites on June 14, 2003. Dr. Meites was an Honorary NACB Fellow, founding member of the Ohio Valley Section, charter member of the History Division, and former secretary of the AACC. I understand that at Dr. Meites' request there will be no services. I believe that the family may ask that remembrances be sent

## *Advancing Scholarship in Laboratory Medicine*

in the form of donations to a memorial fund. As soon as I get information on that I will include it with an obituary and post it on the NACB web site.

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### **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY THE ACADEMY OF AACC**

**For their distinguished record of achievement  
in advancing scholarship in laboratory medicine,  
NACB proudly announces  
the following new Academy Fellows:**

Popoola Akinyele Akinyanju, PhD  
Joan Elizabeth Aldrich, PhD  
Burton M. Altura, PhD  
Theresa Marie Ambrose, PhD  
David Allyn Armbruster, PhD

Valerie Jean Bush, PhD  
Roger Neill Carey, PhD  
Barun Kumar De, PhD  
Henry R. Drott, PhD  
Richard J. Earley, PhD  
Donald T. Forman, PhD  
David Austin Green, PhD  
Ibrahim Abdel-Moneim Ibrahim Hashim, PhD  
Anthony Alexander Killeen, MD  
Loralie J. Langman, PhD  
Steven Alan Lobel, PhD  
Stefano Longoni, PhD  
Gregory S. Makowski, PhD  
Robert Frederick Moran, PhD  
Jorge Ordóñez-Llanos, PhD, MD  
William Hudson Porter, PhD  
Timothy M. Reynolds, MD  
Daniel Robitaille, MD  
Jennifer Carlton Rood, PhD  
Jack Willard Snyder, PhD, MD  
Werner Steimer, MD  
Deborah Sun, PhD  
James Versalovic, PhD, MD  
Beverly Ann Warden, PhD  
David Calhoun Williams, PhD

## **NACB MEMBERSHIP**

The NACB membership year runs from October 1 to September 30 of each year with the final membership numbers set on October 1. The final figures for 2002 (below) show that NACB membership has not changed appreciably over the past year. The 2003 membership numbers are as of May. Renewal notices have been sent to members who have not sent in their 2003 dues. All new Fellows that have joined since the last annual meeting will be recognized at the annual Awards Luncheon and membership meeting held in conjunction with the annual AACC Meeting in Philadelphia.

<b>NACB</b>	<b>October-99</b>	<b>October-00</b>	<b>October-01</b>	<b>October-02</b>	<b>May-03</b>
Fellow	290	367	427	423	412
Associate fellow	7	6	7	15	13
Emeritus fellow	76	66	78	82	80
Honorary fellow	8	8	8	2	2
Total	381	447	520	522	507
* as of 5/1/02 only honorary fellows with contact information included					
New Fellows		92	80	23	17
New Associate Fellows		1	1	9	1