



NEWSLETTER

April, 2002

Editor: Geza S. Bodor, MD
Denver, Colorado

President's Message

Petrie M. Rainey, MD

Fellow ACLPS members—

If all goes well, most of you should be reading this newsletter as a .pdf document received by e-mail. We will be sending everyone a printed newsletter by snail mail as a backup. If you are seeing this for the first time in the printed version, it means we don't have your correct e-mail address (or that your e-mail server does not accept attachments). To update your e-mail address (or to report any other problems related to receipt of ACLPS e-mail), please send a note to lmlists@u.washington.edu.

Assuming that the e-mail distribution of the newsletter goes well, we will then attempt to distribute an interim copy of the directory. There will still be a paper directory, but the Executive Council has directed that the process of updating, printing and distributing the directory be delayed until after the Annual Meeting, to allow inclusion of new members inducted at the Meeting. The .pdf interim directory will be a fairly large attachment. If your e-mail server substantially limits the size of attachments, you might have a problem receiving it. Unfortunately, this is a problem that can only be solved at the receiving end.

ACLPS has already had one major

success in going electronic this year. The new Director of the Young Investigator Program, Eric Spitzer, arranged to handle almost the entire process of abstract submissions electronically. Downloadable forms and instructions were posted on our web site (www.aclps.org), and abstracts could be submitted by e-mail up to the deadline. Authors then had two additional weeks to send in supporting materials.

This saved ACLPS printing and mailing costs for the forms, and undoubtedly saved ACLPS members a substantial total amount of avoided FedEx charges. Local feedback from my residents and fellows was that the process became a lot easier for them. It was no longer necessary to track down a faculty member who had remembered to keep the Abstract forms. Nor was abstract submission complicated by the need to get sponsor signatures prior to submission (these could be sent later as supporting materials). Many thanks to Eric.

I hope everyone has begun making arrangements to attend the Annual Meeting hosted by Cornell University on June 6-8 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. Ellinor Peerschke and her colleagues have set up an outstanding program. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. (Further

information is elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Roberts, has been busy working to set up accounts that will allow ACLPS to receive payments by Visa or Mastercard. These were not in place at the time the Annual Meeting announcements went out, but should be available by the time you receive this newsletter. This means you should be able to charge your meeting registration fees, despite the contrary statement in the registration form. To do so, you will need to include your card number and expiration date with your registration. You will also be able to charge next year's dues when the time for renewal arrives. Good work, Bill.

Steb Chandor, our representative to the Council of Academic Societies, has been approached by the National Board of Medical Examiners to ask if there are ACLPS members who would like to become involved in preparation of examination materials for the US Medical Licensing Examination. If you are interested, please contact Steb at (chandor@usc.edu).

After 20 or so years, the American Board of Pathology has done away with the requirement for the "fifth year" (Credentialing Year). They have indicated they may consider further changes in the near future, particularly with regard to the "Flexible Year" requirement. The flexible year is required in addition to the two 18-month core requirements in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology for the AP-CP track (4 years total), or the single 2-year core requirement for those in a straight CP-only or AP-only pathway (3 years total) (see <http://www.abpath.org/qualific.htm#PrimCertTraining>).

At the same time the Board has changed its training requirements, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has mandated major changes in all residency training programs. Accredited programs will now be required to document resident competency in six core areas (see <http://www.acgme.org/req/300pr701.asp>, Sec.

VII.C). The conjunction of these changes is leading to reassessment of residency training at many institutions, as well as on a national level via the Pathology Program Directors Organization.

Some pathologists have advocated elimination of the AP-only and CP-only tracks, and keeping only a single Pathology track. Implicit in this would be the loss of specific training requirements in AP and CP—all training would also be in "Pathology." (Advocates of this position generally assert that the boundaries between AP and CP have become so blurred as to be meaningless.)

I expect that most of you share my opinion that the loss of straight tracks would be very detrimental to all of academic Pathology, particularly with regard to our ability to recruit scientists with an academic/research orientation and little desire to be broadly trained as community pathologists. Additionally, the loss of specific requirements for a CP core could easily lead to a decline in the overall quantity and quality of CP training afforded to residents. I call upon all ACLPS members to become involved in any discussions of residency training in your Department. I believe that vigilance will be warranted to assure the ongoing quality of residency training in Clinical Pathology/ Laboratory Medicine.

Finally, ACLPS has endorsed the introduction of two companion bills into Congress. The Genomic Science and Technology Innovation Act bill mandated a study of the impact on future innovation of current gene patenting laws. The Genomic Research and Diagnostic Accessibility Act proposed limits on the ability of gene patent holders to excessively restrict use of the patented sequences in basic research and in genetic testing. While the Executive Council did not unanimously support the restrictions as proposed, the members agreed that the bill would provide a needed opportunity for discussion and debate of the issues.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in New York.

Report on CAS Meeting

The Council of Academic Societies (CAS) held its annual spring meeting in Santa Fe from March 14th through 17th. The theme was "Changing Values - The Evolving Art and Science of Medicine". The sessions were interesting and timely. In summary: Francis Collins discussed the genome project and its relevance to disease, stressing the gap between gene and disease. Robert Desnech from MT Sinai continued that theme, relating his experience with Tay-Sacks disease. Richard Weinshilboum from Mayo discussed instances where genetic material altered the response of a given individual to a drug and its clinical implications. Dr. Alan DeCherney from UCLA reviewed his group's experience with in vitro/vivo fertilization. Dr Ann Jobe, a newly appointed Dean at Mercer, outlined efforts to bring the Academic Health Center (AHC) and the community closer together to improve patient care. David Hunter discussed how his group works, noting that his name has become a verb, but in reality his group is helping AHCs become more competitive in the Service arena. Dr. Lori Alvord, an associate dean at Dartmouth, talked about

how environmental and cultural factors influence patients' well being based on her experience as a Navajo.

There were optional workshops dealing with HIPAA, and AAMC staff speaking on specific issues such as conflict of interest. Each morning there were breakfast breakout sessions, two I attended dealt with workforce changes and the make-up and future of CAS members.

In summary, there was a mixture of topics with generally excellent speakers. Two specific topics pertinent to ACLPS were the decreasing number and "quality" of individuals going into medicine and the gradual decrease in the number of basic science departments, including Pathology. Handout material is available if anyone is interested and the workforce issues will be again discussed at the fall AAMC meeting in San Francisco.

Stebbins Chandor, MD
CAS Representative
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Announcements

AJCP Subscription: Several ACLPS members have not received copies of the American Journal of Clinical Pathology since June of 1999. My investigation has revealed that they were not members of ASCP and therefore were on a special subscription list. When ASCP changed computer system, the codes for this special list were not transferred. ASCP is still working on this problem. If any ACLPS member has a problem with their AJCP subscription please contact Michelle Harris McGraw at ASCP.

Her phone number is **(312) 738-1336** and her e-mail is micheleh@ascp.org. She will mail back issues and add your name to a manual mailing list which has been created for temporary use while the computer problem is being fixed. Also, please let me know of your problem. My phone number is **(800) 242-2787 ext. 2086** and my e-mail address is: william.roberts@arup-lab.com.

Bill Roberts, MD
Secretary-Treasurer

ACLPS 37th Annual Meeting
June 6-8, 2002
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Grand Hyatt Hotel

Thursday, June 6, 2002

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Executive Council Meeting

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Welcome Reception – Grand Hyatt

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Optional Walking Tour of Manhattan

Friday, June 7, 2002

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Young Investigator Presentations

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Lunch

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM **Plenary Session**

Cotlove Lecture: Barry S. Collier, M.D.

(Rockefeller University, NY, NY)

From the Clinical Laboratory to the Clinic and
Back: GPIIb/IIIa Antagonists and Plasma
Glycocalicin

Carlo Brugnara, M.D.

(Harvard University, Boston, MA)

Biochemical and Hematologic Parameters for the
Assessment of Iron Deficiency States

Mitchell G. Scott, Ph.D.

(Washington U. School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO)

Clinical Pathology Residency and Fellowship
Training in 2002

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM **Simultaneous Sessions**

Clinical Chemistry

Chair: Richard W. Lent, Ph.D.

Amitava Dasgupta, Ph.D.

(University of Texas-Houston Medical School)

Alternative Medicines: Interference in Clinical
Laboratory Testing

Richard W. Lent, Ph.D.

(Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY)

C Reactive Protein: Cardiovascular Risk Factor

Clinical Hematology

Chair: Ellinor I. Peerschke, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Van Cott, M.D.

(Harvard University, Boston, MA)

Update on Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia

Ellinor I. Peerschke, Ph.D.

(Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY)

New Challenges in F VIII Measurement

Clinical Microbiology

Chair: Davise H. Larone, Ph.D.

James Versalovic, M.D., Ph.D.

(Harvard University, Boston, MA)

Molecular Virology – HCV and HIV genotyping

Davise H. Larone, Ph.D.

(Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY)

Emerging Fungal Pathogens

Molecular Pathology

Chair: M. Desmond Burke, M.D.

Mary Zutter, M.D.

(Washington University, St. Louis, MO)

The $\alpha_2\beta_1$ integrin-deficient mouse: Multifaceted
hematologic defects in innate immunity and
hemostasis

Ethel Cesarman, M.D., Ph.D.

(Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY)

Viral Pathogenesis of Lymphoma

5:30 PM Optional Tour:

The New York Hospital Laboratories

New York Presbyterian Hospital

Weill Cornell Center

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM Reception and Awards Banquet

Griffs Faculty Club

Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Saturday, June 8, 2002

9 AM – 12 PM **Panel Discussion**

Laboratory Automation

M. Desmond Burke, M.D., Chair

Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY

Frederick L. Kiechle, M.D., Ph.D.

William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

Daniel J. Fink, M.D.

Columbia University, NY, NY

Elkin Simson, M.D.

Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY, NY

Morton K. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY, NY

12 Noon – 1:30 PM **Lunch & ACLPS Business Meeting**

1:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM **Executive Council Meeting**