President’s Message

Alan Wells

This is an exciting time for Laboratory Medicine. New developments in disease markers and molecular and proteomic profiles are being reported weekly with the promise of fundamentally changing our approach to patient care. There are also new avenues for research into pathogenic mechanisms. Even the unfortunate possibility of bioterrorism provides important opportunities. Our accumulated expertise coupled with a host of talented young investigators position us to achieve new prominence in the biomedical enterprise. We must not shirk from these challenges but boldly expand our horizons.

The new millennium started off well for ACLPS. The Annual Meeting this past June in New York was a complete success. The attendance of 147 made this one of the larger meetings in recent years, and the net profit of $29,000 being sent to the ACLPS treasury is unprecedented. More importantly the forum with which to meet with old colleagues and Young Investigators restored a sense of normalcy that was absent after September 11, 2001. Ellinor I. Peerschke and her colleagues at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University must be congratulated for these achievements.

Efforts are ongoing for next year’s Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Hossein Sadrzadeh and Ron Schiffman have advanced a preliminary program that can be found in this newsletter. The centerpiece of the meeting, the Young Investigator program and presentations, are going fully electronic this year. There will be no mailings and no abstract forms to keep handy for months until used at the last minute; the only exception to this is copyright release form. All information and forms are available on the ACLPS web site (www.aclps.org), for access, downloading and submissions. This should expedite the processes and encourage more investigators to submit and attend. Further, Eric Spitzer, the PESYIAP Director, and Jonathan Miller are working on a mechanism by which YIAP awardees can become Associate Members during the Annual Meeting at which they present. This should encourage membership efforts and continuity of the Academy.

Also on the electronic front, this is the last newsletter that you will see in hard copy, unless you print it out yourself. ACLPS will then transmit the newsletters only in electronic format by email and, as done for the last three years,
post them on the website for public viewing. For those active members who do not have email access, we will continue to print out and mail a copy. In addition the directory with the by-laws and other front pages will be disseminated in electronic format. There is no decision of whether another hardcopy will be printed and disseminated in the future; however, members without email access can contact ACLPS about obtaining this information. These steps, both approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting, should improve the timeliness of the newsletter, directory and by-laws and cut our costs. This should enable us to keep dues level or to moderate increases despite the escalating costs of doing business.

Challenges arose during the year that have implications for our specialty. First, there has been discussion of eliminating separate tracks in Laboratory Medicine (Clinical Pathology) and Anatomical Pathology, mandating dual training for all residents. Such a situation has negative implications for attracting academically-oriented residents into all aspects of Pathology, not just Laboratory Medicine. This is being discussed by APC/PRODS. This is a forum in which academic orientation has incredible support and leaders in Laboratory Medicine are well represented. Interestingly, after an initial push this past winter led to much feedback against this proposal, with the result of hearing little since then. However, we can not be solely reactive since this proposal has significant backing from general pathologists. Another challenge to our base is the attempted dissemination of complex testing to other medical specialties. This takes the face of both marketing established tests to primary care physicians and new molecular and proteomic tests being claimed by other medical specialties. The problem is not one of turf but of an understanding of the proper use of laboratory tests. Our training imparts the knowledge of how to establish and utilize new clinical tests. This is a question of medical quality. Additionally, these new tests represent a major part of the exciting new developments in our field.

A third challenge represents a new opportunity. Last year, CMS established a list of clinical laboratory tests that qualify for reflexive consultation. The one catch is that only an MD can submit the billing. This is contrary to the concept that trained PhD laboratorians can lead laboratories in their specialty, a position that requires clinical consultative services. ACLPS has decided to determine if there was widespread support for gaining consultative billing for these PhD laboratorians. This ensued from the position paper printed in last year’s fall newsletter; the overwhelming feedback from ACLPS members was to pursue this further. This fall I have contacted ASHI, AACC, ASM and the APC to gauge interest. Initial discussions with their presidents and executive councils have been positive. However, the impediments to this change from CMS are large and these organizations might not have the resources to pursue it; ACLPS certainly does not. As such, I have contacted ASCP, which has recently re-aligned itself to emphasize laboratory medicine. You will be kept apprised of developments and your feedback will be sought and appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people for their work over the previous year. Pete Rainey was an extremely pro-active and organized President. Lou Fink and Dan Sabath gained well-earned respite after more than half-a-decade of dedicated service in various offices. And of course Bill Roberts keeps on doing all the heavy lifting as an exemplary treasurer.

Please contact me directly for suggestions of how ACLPS may better serve its members (wellsa@msx.upmc.edu).
Meeting Minutes
The 37th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, hosted the 37th annual meeting of the Academy of Laboratory Physicians and Scientists in New York, NY, June 6-8, 2002. Local Hosts were Ellinor I. Peerschke, Ph.D., Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and Donna Castellone and Irina Lutinger from New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill-Cornell Center. The meeting was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan, and was attended by 125 individuals from 47 institutions and 24 guests.

The meeting began with a reception on Thursday evening, June 6, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. After greeting friends and colleagues, some 20 meeting participants braved pouring rains to participate in a walking tour of surrounding attractions, including Grand Central Station, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall, and Broadway/Times Square.

The scientific program began on Friday morning, June 7, with presentations by young investigators and others in four categories, Clinical Biochemistry, Clinical Hematology, Clinical Microbiology, and Molecular and Cellular Biology.

One of the highlights of the scientific sessions was the Cotlove lecture presented by Dr. Barry S. Coller, David Rockefeller Professor of Medicine, Head of the Laboratory for Blood and Vascular Biology, Physician-in-Chief of The Rockefeller University Hospital, and Vice President for Medical Affairs at The Rockefeller University, New York, New York. The title of the Cotlove lecture was “From the Clinical Laboratory to the Clinic and Back: GPIIb/IIIa Antagonists and Plasma Glycocalcin”. As the title suggests, the lecture was an inspiring journey into the translation of basic structural and functional studies of two major platelet membrane glycoprotein systems into clinically relevant therapeutic and diagnostic reagents.

The Plenary program featured presentations by Carlo Brugnara, Harvard University, Boston, MA and Mitchell G. Scott, Washington University, St. Louis MO. Dr. Brugnara updated the audience on “Biochemical and Hematologic Parameters for the Assessment of Iron Deficiency States”, discussing current concepts and new methodologies. Dr. Scott provided an up-beat and entertaining view of “Clinical Pathology Residency and Fellowship Training in 2002.”

The Plenary Program was followed, in the afternoon, by four simultaneous sessions covering updates on selected topics in Clinical Biochemistry, Clinical Hematology, Clinical Microbiology, and Molecular Pathology.

The annual awards banquet was held at the Griffis Faculty Club at Weill Medical College on Friday evening and was attended by 140 members and guests. Three young investigators received Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards With Distinction—David Grenache, Jennifer Rakeman, and Alissa Weaver. Valerie Ng, University of California, San Francisco, was presented with the Gerald T. Evans award for outstanding contributions to the society.

The Scientific Program concluded on Saturday, June 8 with an in-depth discussion on Laboratory Automation chaired by Dr. Desmond Burke, Professor and Vice Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University.
Directors of automated laboratories at Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY, NY (Elkin Simson, MD), Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY, N.Y. (Melissa Pessin Presbyterian, MD, PhD), Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY (Morton K. Schwartz, PhD), William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI (Frederick L. Kiechle, MD), and Weill Medical College of Cornell University, NY, NY (M. Desmond Burke, MD) discussed the decision-making process in choosing automated laboratory systems and associated successes and failures.

The annual business meeting was called to order on Saturday afternoon by ACLPS President, Pete Rainey. He reviewed the efforts of ACLPS to go “electronic” over the past year and outlined additional efforts in the year to come.

Jonathan Miller presented the new members Sarki Abdulkadir, Ted Eastlund, Michael Hodsdon, Elaine Lyon, Krishna Oza, Alan Rockwood, Alexandra Valsamakis, Vivianna Van Deerlin, and Gay Wehrli. Also presented were new associate members Joan Admirand, Philip Bernard, Bradley Bernstein, Sandy Chang, Danny Chu, David Ferguson, Elizabeth Frank, Kai Fu, Carol Holman, Jinxin Hu, Michael Jacobson, Hyoung-min Kang, Ana Lopez, Richard Louie, Mark Lu, Dongsi Lu, Ryan Lundell, Veronica Luzzi, Keith Pickard, Kathleen Puca, Lirong Qu, Helene Safer, Stephen Schmechel, Dorota Schranz, Krishnarao Tangella, Sherif Tawfic, Tomas Velan, Amer Wahed, Alissa Weaver, Pampee Young, and Xinglong Zheng.

Key points from the committee reports included the expectation that the New York meeting income will exceed expenses. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Roberts reported that as of May 16, 2002 the General Fund balance was $26,594.87, and the Young Investigator balance was $31,515.68. As of April 30, 2002 the Young Investigator Endowment balance was $485,075.09.

The following were elected as officers: President-Elect (2002-2003), Fred Apple; Secretary-Treasurer (2002-2005), Bill Roberts; Executive Council Members-at-Large (2002-2005), Ellinor Peerschke and Ana Stankovic; Director Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award Program (2002-2007), Eric Spitzer; Chair Membership Committee (2002-2005) Jonathan Miller; Nominating and Awards Committee Member (2002-2005) Doug Blackall; and Publications Committee (2002-2005) Amitava Dasgupta.

Pete Rainey turned the meeting over to Alan Wells as the new President of ACLPS. During his remarks, Alan put forth several challenges for the organization. First, the issue of combining AP and CP training and eliminating certification in the individual disciplines is the biggest issue facing our profession. Second, the issue of reimbursement for laboratory tests, particularly new and expensive molecular tests needs to be addressed. Third, POCT is being marketed directly to clinicians which presents a challenge to clinical laboratorians to review the process and oversee control. Recognition of the value of laboratory medicine as shown by approval for part B billing by CMS is important to us as professionals. Non-MD laboratorians should also be involved in this process as outlined in the fall 2001 newsletter. The plethora of new tests in genomics, proteomics, and conventional areas will change the way we interpret and report results. It is truly an exciting time for new trainees in the field. It is a difficult time to recruit junior faculty because of the shortage of qualified trainees but many great opportunities exist. Dr. Wells then adjourned the meeting.

The 2003 annual meeting will be held June 5-7 in Tucson at the University of Arizona. Drs. Hossein Sadrzadeh and Ron Schifman will host the event. For more information please contact Linda Hoffman at 520.629.4629 or by e-mail at Linda.Hoffman@med.va.gov.
ACLPS Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, June 8, 2002  
12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM  

1. Call to Order and Reading of the Minutes  
Pete Rainey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 PM EDT at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York, NY. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of June 16, 2001. It was further moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the minutes be approved as written and previously published in the ACLPS 2001 Fall Newsletter.  

2. Reports of the Executive Council  
Pete Rainey reported on behalf of the Executive Council and thanked Ellinor Peerschke for organizing an outstanding, stimulating, and well-attended meeting. This was the year that ACLPS “went electronic.” The Executive Council “met” three times by e-mail, once to approve setting up accounts to allow payment of meeting fees and annual dues by credit card, once to support a letter from the AAMC requesting changes in proposed privacy regulations that would seriously impair the ability to do research, and once to support the introduction into Congress of two bills addressing gene patents and diagnostic testing. David Chou added job openings to the ACLPS web site. Eric Spitzer set up electronic submission of Young Investigator abstracts, allowing supporting documents to be submitted two weeks later. Repeat Young Investigators noted that this was a substantial improvement. Geza Bodor set up electronic distribution of the Newsletter, and an interim membership directory was successfully distributed by e-mail.  

There will be at least one more hard copy edition of the membership directory distributed in the Fall, along with membership renewal forms. Members’ opinions on whether to continue with a hard copy will be solicited at that time. Currently, the directory costs about $30 per book to print, along with a very substantial amount of donated time. A straw poll of members at the business meeting suggested that most members present supported replacing the hard copy with an electronic directory.  

Computer security has become an important issue, not only for safeguarding patient data in electronic medical records, but also to prevent instruments with Windows-based operating programs from being shut down by computer viruses. The Executive Council will be closely following proposed guidelines being developed by the NCCLS.  

The American Board of Pathology just eliminated the fifth year requirement, and the ACGME has instituted requirements to develop 6 core competencies in all residents, as well as documenting their achievement. This is leading to reassessment of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology residency training. An example of this is a panel discussion at the 2002 meeting of the Association of Pathology Chairs on whether to eliminate separate AP and CP tracks. To assure that a Laboratory Medicine viewpoint is available, ACLPS has petitioned to become a Cooperating Society of the American Board of Pathology.  

3. Reports of the Standing Committees  
A. Membership Committee  
Jonathan Miller welcomed Karen Frank and Dave Chou as new members of the committee. He highlighted the website improvements and indicated that inactive members had been purged from the database. There are currently approximately 300 active members. Word of mouth is still the best way to recruit new members. Next year a new streamlined process of having young investigator award winners become associate members will be initiated. Jonathan presented the list of new members and associate members for approval. The new active members were unanimously approved and are listed below:
The new associate members were unanimously approved and are listed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Admirand, Joan H.</td>
<td>Carl Wittwer</td>
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<td>Bernard, Philip S.</td>
<td>Carl Wittwer</td>
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<td>Bernstein, Bradley E.</td>
<td>David Sacks</td>
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<td>Chu, Danny</td>
<td>Paul Wolf</td>
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<td>Ferguson, David O.</td>
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<td>Frank, Elizabeth L.</td>
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<td>Fu, Kai</td>
<td>Ken Waites</td>
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<td>Holman, Carol J.</td>
<td>Henry Balfour</td>
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<td>Hu, Jinxin</td>
<td>Thomas Fritsche</td>
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<td>Jacobson, Michael C.</td>
<td>Jonathan Tait</td>
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<td>Kang, Hyoung-min</td>
<td>Wayne Chandler and Mark Wener</td>
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<td>Lopez, Ana E.</td>
<td>Amitava Dasgupta</td>
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<td>Louie, Richard F.</td>
<td>Gerald Kost</td>
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<td>Lu, C. Mark</td>
<td>David Herold</td>
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<td>Lu, Dongsi</td>
<td>Samuel Santoro</td>
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<td>Lundell, Ryan B.</td>
<td>William Roberts</td>
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<td>Luzzi, Veronica I.</td>
<td>Mitchell Scott</td>
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<td>Samuel Santoro</td>
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<td>Puca, Kathleen E.</td>
<td>Douglas Tripplett</td>
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<td>Qu, Lirong</td>
<td>Jeffrey Kant and Alan Wells</td>
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<td>Saffer, Helene</td>
<td>Amitava Dasgupta</td>
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<td>Schmechel, Stephen</td>
<td>Daniel Sabath</td>
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<td>Schranz, Dorota B.</td>
<td>Kent Openheim</td>
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<td>Tangella, Krishnarao</td>
<td>Hossein Sadrzadeh</td>
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<td>Tawfic, Sherif</td>
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<td>Samuel Santoro</td>
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<td>Young, Pampee P.</td>
<td>Samuel Santoro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zheng, Xinglong</td>
<td>Samuel Santoro</td>
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The following active members requested a change to emeritus status:

C. Robert Baisden
David M. Brown
Marie B. Coyle
H. Elise Galloway
Jocelyn M. Hicks
J. S. Krauss
Laurence J. Marton
Josephine A. Morello
Daniel P. Stites
Walter H. Traub
Girish N. Vyas
James W. Winkelman
Carl F.W. Wolf
James T. Wu

B. Program and Finance Committee
   Alan Wells thanked Ellinor Peerschke, Irina Lutinger, and Donna Castellone for putting on an outstanding meeting. Thanks to strong support from both academic and corporate sponsors, it appeared that meeting income would exceed expenses by about $10,000.
   Members were reminded to begin planning now to attend next year’s meeting, which will be hosted by the University of Arizona on June 5-7, 2003 in Tucson.

C. Publications Committee
   No report.

D. Nominating and Awards Committee
   Steve Spitalnik announced the ballot to the membership and called for any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. The ballots were distributed to the membership.

4. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees
   No report.

5. Unfinished Business
   None.

6. General Business
   Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
   Bill Roberts reported that the financial condition of the Academy remains sound and that the following account balances exist:
   General Fund Account: $26,594.87 (effective 5/16/02)
   Young Investigator Account: $31,515.68 (effective 5/16/02)
   Young Investigator Endowment and Charles Schwab Account: $485,075.09 (effective 4/30/02)

7. New Business
   Pete Rainey thanked outgoing Executive Council members, Dan Sabath and Lou Fink, for their dedicated service to the Academy. He also indicated that the printing of the membership directory this fall is the last that will be mailed to entire membership. In the future, an electronic version of the directory will be e-mailed twice per year. Members who do not have e-mail will still be able to purchase a directory. The potential uses of the any funds saved were questioned.

8. Presentation of New Members
   Jonathan Miller had previously presented the new members for approval. Those who were present were introduced and welcomed into the Academy.
9. Announcement of Election Results

Steve Spitalnik announced that the election ballot as presented to the membership was approved.

President-Elect, 2002-2003: Fred Apple
Secretary-Treasurer, 2002-2005 Bill Roberts
Executive Council Members-at-Large, 2002-2005: Ellinor Peerschke
Ana Stankovic

Director Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award Program, 2002-2007: Eric Spitzer
Chair Membership Committee, 2002-2005: Jonathan Miller
Nominating and Awards Committee Elected Member 2002-2005: Doug Blackall
Publication Committee Member 2002-2005: Amitava Dasgupta

Pete Rainey congratulated all the newly elected members of the Executive Council and Committees.

10. Installation of the New President

Pete Rainey completed his duty as President and turned the office over to Alan Wells as the new President of ACLPS. During his remarks, Alan put forth several challenges for the organization. First, the issue of combining AP and CP training and eliminating certification in the individual disciplines is the biggest issue facing our profession. The merits of this approach will be discussed at the upcoming APC/PRODS meeting. Second, the issue of reimbursement for laboratory tests, particularly new and expensive molecular tests needs to be addressed. ACLPS may need to make a position statement in this area. Third, POCT is being marketed directly to clinicians. This presents a challenge to clinical laboratorians to review the process and oversee control. It is also an exciting opportunity for laboratory medicine. Recognition of the value of laboratory medicine as shown by approval for part B billing by CMS is important to us as professionals. Non-MD laboratorians should also be involved in this process as outlined in the fall 2001 newsletter. Like-minded societies will be contacted to put together a joint proposal to this end. The plethora of new tests in genomics, proteomics, and conventional areas will change the way we interpret and report results. It is truly an exciting time for new trainees in the field. It is a difficult time to recruit junior faculty because of the shortage of qualified trainees but many great opportunities exist.

11. Adjournment

There was no further business to conduct and Alan Wells adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM EDT.
Announcements

Call for Abstracts

Members of ACLPS and non-members, with the sponsorship of an ACLPS member, are invited to submit abstracts to be presented at the Session for Scientific Papers at the 2003 Annual Meeting. I hope that you will encourage your residents, fellows and other trainees in Laboratory Medicine to submit abstracts for the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards Program.

The materials needed for submitting an abstract to the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards Program will be distributed electronically. The Instructions for Preparing an Abstract, Abstract Form, and the Copyright Release Statement will be available on the ACLPS website (www.aclps.org) and the end of December. The deadline for abstracts will be February 21, 2003. Individuals will be able to submit the completed abstract forms as an e-mail attachment.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Spitzer, MD, PhD
Director, Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards Program

Call for Nominations for ACLPS Officers

The primary job of the Immediate Past President is to chair the Nominating and Awards Committee. This Committee is charged with developing the list of candidates for ACLPS Officers. An ongoing challenge for the Committee is to identify future ACLPS leaders and to get them involved. Initial involvement usually is by election or appointment to one of the standing Committees. If you are a member of ACLPS who would like to become more involved, please let me know (pmrainey@u.washington.edu). Similarly, if you have a colleague who could become a contributor, but might be too modest to propose themselves, let me know as well.

While not part of my official duties, I will once again be contacting MD-PhD students to inform them of the unique opportunities available in laboratory Medicine. This time I will be writing those who will be graduating in 2004. I hope all of you who have been serving as local contacts for those students who wish to follow up will agree to continue in this role. I don’t know whether past letters had anything to do with it, but we certainly had a substantial increase in MD-PhD students applying for residencies in both Pathology and Laboratory Medicine this year.

Pete Rainey
Immediate Past President
2002 ACLPS Annual Meeting Program
Hosted by the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System
And University of Arizona
Sheraton El Conquistador Resort and Country Club
June 5-7, 2003
Tucson, AZ

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

**Thursday June 5**

**Afternoon**
3:00-5:00 p.m. Executive council Meeting
3:00-6:00 p.m. Registration
6:00-8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

**Friday June 6**

7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30-9:45 a.m. Young Investigator Presentations
   (4 simultaneous sessions)
9:45-10:15 a.m. Break
10:15-11:30 a.m. Young Investigator Presentations
   (4 simultaneous sessions)
11:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30-1:15 p.m. Cotlove Lectures
   Thomas Grogan, MD
   Professor of Pathology
   University of Arizona
   "Development of Automated
   Immunohistochemistry and In-situ
   Hybridization Instruments"
1:15-2:00 p.m. Break
2:00-2:45 p.m. Steve I. Gutman, MD, FCAP FDA
   Office of Device Evaluation
   Rockville, Maryland
   "The FDA's Role in the Regulation of
   Laboratory Tests: An Update on IVDs,
   ASRs, OTCs, CLIA Waivers, and Other
   Wonders of the Regulatory World"
2:45-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:30 p.m. Breakout sessions
   **Session A.** Clinical Chemistry - Dr. Sadrzadeh
   Leslie Boyer MD: Clinical toxicology and
   management of venomous snakes bites
   ??
   Speaker 2 Laboratory diagnosis of Toxins
   and poisons ??
   **Session B.** Hematology - Dr. Spier
   Catherine Spier, MD
   Lisa Rimsza, MD
   **Session C.** Microbiology - Dr. Wolk
   Speaker 1 TBA
   Speaker 2 TBA
5:00-6:00 p.m. Optional planned activity
6:30-10:30 p.m. Reception and Awards Banquet

**Saturday June 7**

7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast - Roundtable Discussion
   "Quality Management and Utilization"
   Introduction
   Presentation of aggregate data
   Ron B. Schiffman, MD
8:30-10:00 a.m. Presentations
   Ron B. Schiffman, MD
   George Cembrowski, MD, PhD
   Philip Foulis, MD
10:00-10:15 a.m. Break
10:15-11:00 a.m. Special Presentation
   "Electronic Document Management Systems"
11:00-12:00 p.m. Roundtable discussion
12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch and Business meeting
2:00-4:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting