

NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY



New York
Metro Section

Dec 1999

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Remember:

AACC

52nd Annual Meeting

July 23-27th, 2000
San Francisco, CA

abstract submission deadline:

JANUARY 12th, 2000

1999 Van Slyke Award

The 1999 recipient of the Van Slyke award is Eleftherios P. Diamandis, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Professor and head of the Division of Clinical Biochemistry in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Diamandis earned the PhD degree in analytical chemistry in 1979 prior to his studies for the MD degree awarded in 1982 from the University of Athens.

One needs to look no further than the impressive publication record of Dr. Diamandis to gain appreciation for the advantage that training in analytical chemistry can provide to someone who is intent on making significant contributions to the advancement of medical science. Dr. Diamandis' Van Slyke address entitled "Discovery of New Kallikrein-like Genes and their Application to Breast and Prostate Cancer" was a sterling reminder that real medical progress often awaits advances in development of new instruments and methods. Of course, it helps to be gifted, and have great students, to help pursue significant new directions of research, which Dr. Diamandis surely is doing.

Many of Dr. Diamandis' articles, of which there are more than a hundred have been published in the last five years, have dealt

EDITOR: Dr. Samuel Reichberg, (718) 9185988
reichberg@labmed.com

with the development of ultrasensitive methods for measuring extremely low levels of the serine protease prostate-specific antigen (PSA), which, as one experienced in these things might predict, is not prostate specific at all. What one should appreciate from his publication record is that Dr. Diamandis' research effort, which initially involved method development, has moved him now into the forefront of the study of human genetics and the human genome. His research involves elucidating the expression of proteins in different cells, which is all about genes being turned on and off, frame shifts, point mutations, down-regulation, inducer and suppressor genes and gene sequencing. Naturally, this leads his group into the area of sophisticated computer applications and techniques, since advances in our understanding of the human genome are contingent on finding ways to manage almost inconceivably large databases of base information and gene information. Dr. Diamandis presented one finding relating to gene expression that evolved entirely from a computer analysis of human genome data. We can expect more such results from Dr. Diamandis in the future.

The AACC New York Metro Section is pleased to recognize Dr. Diamandis' contributions to medical science with the 1999 Van Slyke award.

CHAIR'S REPORT

By Jesse Gourdet

This is my last report as Chair of the AACC New York Metro Section. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you members who participated in the educational programs and gave us the feedback necessary to keep us in the right direction. My special thanks go to the industry leaders who supported these programs with their generous grants. I am indebted to my colleagues of the Executive Board who contributed their time and expertise for the success of the New York Metro Section. The new millennium will find our association in the mist of a dynamic and challenging period. Members' involvement is needed to bring the vision of the AACC to fruition. Under the leadership of Lauria Lindesay as Chair and Dr. Sol Green as Chair-Elect, the New York Metro section will continue to provide quality education programs for the benefit of the membership. It was an honor. I thank you all.

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Metro Section Activities

On September 8, 1999, **Kenneth Emancipator, MD**, Director, Clinical Chemistry, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City, NY and Past Chairman, AACC New York Metro Section presented an academic program entitled: "**Laboratory Diagnosis and Monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus.**"

The program was excellent. It clarified the new 1997 ADA guidelines for the testing and diagnosis of diabetes. Dr. Emancipator indicated that the lowering of the fasting plasma glucose (FPG) from 140 to 126 mg/dl means more patients will be diagnosed with diabetes. The program generated many questions and discussion from an audience of over 60 attendees. Dr. Emancipator was congratulated by the Chair for taking charge of all the logistic details for this program, in addition to being the guest lecturer. It was obvious that Dr. Emancipator practices Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's motto: "If you wish a thing to be done well, you must do it yourself."

On Wednesday October 13, 1999, the New York Metro Section held a joint meeting with the AACC New Jersey section and the CLMA Northeast Region. Dr. Sol Green and Dr. Valerie Bush organized the program. Four speakers debated the subject: "**The Impact of Positive Specimen Identification.**"

George J. Keney, JD, Adjunct Professor, Rutgers School of Law spoke on "*The legal Consequences of Hospital Patient Misidentification.*"

Deborah Johnson MT (ASCP), CLDIR-Administrative Director, Laboratories, Risk Management Committee, Holy Name Hospital discussed the "*Risks and Costs associated with Specimen Identification Errors.*"

Lawrence Bologna, MBA, BS, MT (ASCP), CHE -Director of Laboratory Services, The Valley Hospital, discussed "*Process / Workflow and Specimen Identification Issues Associated with the Transition from a Centralized to a Decentralized Phlebotomy Service.*"

Christine Lind, RN, BA, MPA- Nurse Manager, Orthopedics, Total Joint Center, The Valley Hospital, reported on "*Recent Experience with a Positive Patient Identification Specimen Management System in a Decentralized Phlebotomy Care Center.*"

Over 90 people attended this lecture which successfully made the case for Positive Specimen identification.

THE NEW YORK METRO SECTION 1999 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS were supported by grants from:

Abbott Diagnostics, American Laboratory, Bayer Diagnostics, Beckman Coulter, Becton Dickinson, Dade Behring, Diagnostic Products Corp., Gen-Probe, Lifescan, Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Quest Diagnostics, Roche Diagnostics

1999 Ezra Levy High School Science Awards

The recipients of this year's awards deserve much credit for their science projects, which were sophisticated and extensive investigations developed with the assistance of their high school mentors. The AACC New York Metro Section applauds their accomplishments and wishes each of them well in their future endeavors.

1st Prize: Man Sze Wong, Stuyvesant High School, Corona

Project: Macromolecular recognition Using Linkers.

Man Sze's research in conductive polymer blends was conducted at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, with Dr. Kalle Levon, Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Material Science and head, polymer research institute. Details of Man Sze Wong's research are described in a research paper he wrote for the 1999 Intel Science Talent Search Competition (formerly Westinghouse Science Awards). Entitled Macromolecular recognition using para-hydroxybenzenesulfonic acid as a bifunctional linker between polyaniline and polycaprolactone. See <http://meltingpot.fortunecity.com/oltorf/601/intel_paper_webpage.html>

Man Sze also won a NYC Science & Technology Expo First Award for Exceptional Projects, and U.S. Army and U.S. Navy awards for his research. She will be attending MIT this year.

2nd Prize: Ariel Amdur, Fieldston School, Manhattan

Project: Safe Sodium Levels in Drinking Water.

Ariel also won a NYC Science & Technology Expo First Award for Exceptional Projects and a U.S. Air Force Award.

3rd Prize: Jennifer Gale & Christine Marzano, Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn.

Project: Do SPF's Work at Advertised Levels?

Christine and Jennifer are in the 10th grade and are to be complimented on choosing a topic particularly relevant today, namely the efficacy of various commercial sunscreen products. *Consumers Reports* magazine actually revisited this topic in their July 1999 issue, with an article entitled "sun Protection Update. Which sunscreens belong in your beach bag this summer?" Note that Christine and Jennifer described their findings before the article appeared in *Consumer Reports*!

Congratulations to all Winners!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**“CPT CODES and REIMBURSEMENTS,
How does Point of Care Testing Impact the Laboratory?”**

Wednesday December 8 , 1999

Mount Sinai Hospital
98th Street and Lexington Ave. New York

MEET THE OFFICERS YEAR 2000

Thursday January 27, 2000

Mount Sinai Hospital
98th Street and Lexington Ave. New York

Topic to be announced

March 2, 2000

Lab 2005

March 23-24 , 2000

Marriott Marquis
New York, N. Y.

Topic to be announced

April 2000

Topic to be announced

May 2000

Van Slyke Award Dinner

June 2000

52nd Annual Meeting & Clin Lab Expo

July 23-27 , 2000

San Francisco

and Methods; Quality Assurance and Quality Control; Age-Related Chemistry; Tumor Marker; Endocrinology; and Autoimmune Diseases. Please keep these topic areas in mind as you consider submitting your proposals.

DEADLINE: Friday, January 14, 2000 for Plenary Session proposals and Edutrak proposals.

Preparation guidelines and forms are available via AACC’s web site at: www.AACC.org/meeting

Or you may request a copy of the material by calling AACC’s Meeting Department at 800 892-1400, ext. 702

All proposals should be submitted to:

Christine S. Donnell

Director of Meeting

AACC

2101 L Street, NW, suite 202

Washington, D.C. 20037-1526

Fax 202 833-4576

e-mail address Cdonnell@AACC.org

NY METRO SECTION WORD SEARCH

S O E - E N E E V A N S L Y K E
W H J R M J S - S O N G A - D -
R E M E U M J R E S A S - N B M
E M E P T H U T I N S A T I I M
N I H R A O R N M A H C G E O U
Z L C O T H Y R O I D I A T H N
Y U L D S - O N J C - N A O A O
M M A U O T U T E C E O R R Z G
A I N C A M N I T M U M N P A L
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FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

AACC

2001 Plenary Session and Edutrak Session Solicitation

AACC’s 53rd Annual Meeting & Clin Lab Expo scheduled for July 29 – August 2, 2001 in Chicago. The Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Canadian Society for Clinical Chemistry.

The Annual Meeting Organizing Committee (AMOC) will meet in early February 2000 to begin the planning process. Proposals for Plenary Session Speakers and Edutraks will be considered. The AMOC invites you to submit suggestions for Plenary session speakers, as well as proposals for Edutraks.

Areas identified as high priority needs are: Cardiac Functions; Automation and Robotics in the laboratory; Clinicians guide to using lab information; Effective delivery of Lab Services and Improving Customer Service; Evaluation of Lab Instrumentation

ANEMIA
BIOHAZARD
CARDIAC
CHEMILUMINESCENT
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ENZYMATIC
GLYCOPROTEIN
GONADOTROPIN
HORMONE
IMMUNOASSAY
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MONOCLONAL
PLASMA
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THYROID
TROPONIN
VAN SLYKE

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AACC New York Metro section

I would like to nominate the following colleagues for AACC membership:

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Join by phone (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

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You can visit our website at
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for meeting announcements and for the issues of our sections
Newsletter.

Contributors to the newsletter: Jesse Gourdet, James Bemis, Lauria Lindesay

If you would like to contribute to the newslette, please send it to the editor at reichberg@labmed.com

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FROM:

AACC METRO SECTION

99-15 216th Street

Queens, NY 11429

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient address]

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