

Training & Education Committee Annual Report 2011

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Projects:

Webinars

The online webinar series was launched by T&E in 2009 and has continued to grow. The committee hosted nine webinars in 2011, with another one planned for December 2011 or early 2012. Partial financial support was provided for four webinars from external corporations. In addition, the T&E committee co-sponsored a series of four webinars hosted by Asuragen on BCR-ABL quantitation and standardization on the International Scale. Overall, the webinar program has been quite successful, with an average attendance of 240 participants per webinar in 2011, and an average overall evaluation rating of 4.45 out of 5.0. See page 3 for a summary of 2011 webinars.

Molecular Pathology Outreach Course

For the past several years, the T&E committee has organized an outreach course held just prior to annual meeting which is geared to individuals with little experience in molecular diagnostics. Last year, a poll of participants indicated that the majority of participants attended the annual meeting following the course. This year the course is entitled "Current Applications of Molecular Pathology: Real Time Updates and Case Studies". The course includes an overview of applications of molecular pathology by invited speakers (Greg Tsongalis, Iris Schrijver, Adam Bagg, Alexandra Valsamakis, Jennifer Hunt) followed by case studies presented by T&E members. As of October 19, 2011, there were 74 paid registrants for the course, which represents an increase of 7% from 2010.

Molecular Curriculum Task Force

The T&E committee has selected a molecular curriculum task force as recommended by council. The chair of the task force is Charlie Hill. The task force consists of the four outgoing subdivision chairs, a representative from the AMP council of MGP directors, and (4) individuals selected from a list of volunteers. Ted Schutzbank, as incoming chair of the Training and Education Committee, will be an *ex officio* member. The major goals of the task force are 1) to write a publication (presumably for JMD) on a recommended curriculum for education in molecular pathology and genomics for pathology residents and 2) to present a draft curriculum proposal at the 2012 USCAP meeting in March. The task force will report their progress to the Training and Education committee.

Manuscript on Routes to Certification in Molecular Pathology

A working group of the T&E committee has written a manuscript to describe the various routes available for certification in molecular diagnostics: *A.C. Mackinnon, Jr., Y. L. Wang, A. Sahota, C.C. Yeung, and K.E. Weck, Certification in Molecular Pathology in the United States: A 2011 Update from the Association for Molecular Pathology Training and Education Committee*. This manuscript is an update to a 2002 T&E publication (*Killeen AA, et al. Certification in Molecular Pathology in the United States J Mol Diagn 2002*) and has been expanded to include certification and licensing requirements for laboratory technologists. The manuscript has been approved by council with recommended changes for submission to JMD.

Judging of Young Investigator Awards

The T&E committee is responsible for judging the posters eligible for the three young investigator awards. This year, there were 26 eligible YIA applicants, which represents a 30% increase from 2010. As in recent years, the YIA posters were required to be submitted prior to the meeting for pre-meeting evaluation by the committee and will also be judged at the annual meeting.

Trainee Activities (Cecilia Yeung and Nikoletta Sidiropoulos)

The junior members of the committee organized a trainee luncheon at the annual meeting featuring a panel discussion of recent MGP graduates and a presentation by Craig MacKinnon on certification routes in molecular pathology. In addition, they organized a book display and lottery of books in molecular pathology, donated by individuals and publishers, to be given away at the trainee luncheon. Finally, the junior members organized a "take a trainee to lunch" event at the annual meeting to facilitate interaction between trainees and molecular professionals ("senior members") at the annual meeting.

RISE Exam

At the request of the American Society of Clinical Pathology, T&E selected volunteers to write exam questions for the Pathology Resident In-Service Exam (RISE). The selected RISE Question Writers are: William Bellamy, Allison Cushman-Vokoun, Tina Edmonston, Jordan Laser, Amrik Sahota, Silvia Spitzer.

Online Case Studies Update

In past years, the committee sponsored a series of online case studies in molecular pathology on the AMP website. Overall, it was difficult to solicit volunteers to add case studies. In addition, an evaluation of website statistics indicated that the number of hits for the case studies was small and the average time spent per visit was under two minutes. Based on the low interest rate in the online case studies, the committee decided not to continue this activity.

Trainee Exchange Program Update (Tina Edmonston)

In 2009 the T&E committee began a pilot trainee exchange program that identified molecular pathology laboratories willing to host external trainees and provided a listing of programs on the AMP website (http://www.amp.org/trainee_exchange/trainee_exchange.cfm). A total of eight programs agreed to being listed in 2010. In the summer of 2011, participating laboratory directors were surveyed about their experience. Responses from five directors were received. Three of the responding laboratories were contacted by interested trainees and each hosted between 1 and 3 trainees; a few exchanges were cancelled due to travel/expense issues. The visiting trainees included residents from other programs (USA and foreign) as well as one medical technologist. It was unclear whether the trainees found the hosting laboratory through the AMP trainee exchange program or through other resources. Overall, the uptake of the trainee exchange program has been very limited, both from program directors and trainees. Comments from participating laboratory directors referred to liability issues and administrative issues that are time consuming and complicated. The committee will evaluate whether to continue this program.

Review Courses

The T&E committee oversees the implementation and evaluation of several review courses and AMP companion courses. The MGP Board Review Course, directed by Kevin Halling, takes place every other year and was held from April 28 - May 1, 2011 in Washington DC.

An AMP-AACC co-sponsored course entitled "Molecular Pathology Essentials: Principles and Practice" has been offered for the past several years. This year, the course will be from May 7-8, 2012 in Chicago. Linda Sabatini is the current AMP representative on the organizing committee.

The College of American Pathologists Program Committee requested AMP sponsored course proposals for the CAP September 2011 meeting and accepted all three courses recommended by T&E: 1) A practical guide to molecular testing in neoplastic conditions of the skin (Julia Bridge and Alexander Lazar), 2) An integrated approach to the subclassification of acute myeloid leukemia (Scott Rodig, Neal Lindeman, Olga Pozdnyak), and 3) Molecular hematopathology in the era of personalized medicine (Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson and Megan Lim). We have not yet received feedback from the CAP regarding the course evaluations.

2011 Webinar Summary

Date	Sub-Division	Topic	Speaker	Attendance (Registered)	Attentive-ness	Overall Evaluation - 5 Satisfied	Corporate Sponsor
12/9/10	Genetics	Genomic Arrays in Pediatric Oncology	Jaclyn Biegel	178 (337)	74.56	4.40	iKaryos Diagnostics
1/24/11	Infectious Disease	Rapid Detection and Identification of Mycobacteria with real-time PCR	Niaz Banaei	239 (377)	66.63	4.41	
4/27/11	Infectious Disease	Molecular Testing for BK Polyomavirus-Associated Nephropathy	Benjamin Pinsky	155 (254)	63.78	4.50	EraGen Biosciences
5/25/11	Genetics	Preventing "Identity Theft" at a Biobank through Analytical and Functional Quality Control	Andrew Brooks	62 (115)	58.76	4.44	
6/16/11	Hemepath	Biomarkers of Prognosis in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia	Lynne Abruzzo	238 (393)	63.27	4.47	CombiMatrix Diagnostics
7/20/11	Genetics	Genetics of Schizophrenia: Clinical and Diagnostic Implications	Linda Brzustowicz	177 (292)	57.06	4.51	
8/10/11	Technology	Clinical Sequencing by Sanger: State of the Art in a Next-Gen World	Elaine Lyon	313 (482)	59.45	4.42	
9/29/11	Solid Tumors	The Role of c-KIT Mutation Screening in GIST, Melanoma, AML and Systemic Mastocytosis	Christopher Corless	282 (517)	62.45	4.62	Sequenom
10/25/11	Technology	Clinical Utility of Next Gen Sequencing	Madhuri Hegde	517 (732)	52.52	4.32	
December, 2011 (TBA)	Solid Tumors	Molecular Testing in Lung Carcinoma (EGFR and ALK)	Neal Lindeman	TBD	TBD	TBD	
AVERAGE STATS				240	62.05	4.45	

Co-sponsored webinars hosted by Asuragen

Date	Sub-Division	Topic	Speaker	Attendance (Registered)	Attentive-ness	Overall Evaluation - 5 Satisfied
3/31/11	Hemepath	BCR/ABL Testing and IS Standardization	Rick Press	276 (454)	63.83	
5/5/11	Hemepath	BCR/ABL Quantitation – IS standardization to monitor patients on TKI therapy	Michael Deininger	140 (220)	60.88	4.00
7/7/11	Hemepath	Current Monitoring for CML: goals and Principles	Jorge Cortez	145(307)	59.38	4.00
9/26/11	Hemepath	Monitoring CML Patients by RT-PCR on the International Scale	Nicholas Cross	218 (408)	62.44	5.00

