

## **AMP 2009 Committee Annual Reports**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Jan A. Nowak MD PhD, President  
Karen Mann MD PhD, President-Elect and Liaison to the Strategic Planning Committee  
Gregory J. Tsongalis PhD, Past President and Nominating Committee Chair  
S. Terence Dunn PhD, Secretary-Treasurer and Publications Committee Chair  
Iris Schrijver MD, Clinical Practice Committee Chair  
Jean Amos Wilson PhD, Professional Relations Committee Chair  
Timothy J. O'Leary MD PhD, Program Committee Chair  
Barbara Zehnbauer PhD FACMG, Program Committee Chair-Elect  
Jennifer L. Hunt, MD, Training and Education Committee chair

### **EX OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Hanna Rennert PhD, Genetics Committee Chair  
Kojo S.J. Elenitoba-Johnson MD, Hematopathology Subdivision Chair  
Frederick S. Nolte PhD, Infectious Diseases Subdivision Chair  
Antonia R. Sepulveda MD PhD, Solid Tumors Subdivision Chair  
Helen Fernandes PhD, Membership & Professional Development Committee Co-Chair  
Mark E. Sobel MD PhD, Executive Officer  
Mary Steele Williams MNA MT(ASCP)SM, COO & Director of Scientific Programs

### **Clinical Practice Committee (CPC)**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Iris Schrijver MD, Chair  
Kasinathan (Murali) Muralidharan PhD, Genetics Representative  
Narasimhan Nagan PhD, Genetics Representative  
Daniel E. Sabath MD PhD, Hematopathology Representative  
Joseph F. Pulliam MD, Hematopathology Representative  
Donna M. Wolk PhD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
Belinda Yen-Lieberman PhD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
William K. Funkhouser MD PhD, Solid Tumors Representative  
Federico Monzon MD, Solid Tumors Representative  
Michelle Dolan MD, *Ad Hoc* Member  
Ira Lubin PhD, *Ad Hoc* Member  
M. Fernanda Sabato Charreun MS, *Ad Hoc* Member  
Patrik Vitazka MD PhD, *Ad Hoc* Member

#### **Clinical Practice Guidelines and Comments**

CPC drafted a letter to the World Health Organization supporting the UK NIBSC (National Institute for Biological Standards and Control) for development of certified reference materials for the World Health Organization. ESHG and CDC also sent letters.  
Status: completed (December 2008)

AMP formed an ad hoc hybrid committee with members from PRC and CPC ("AMPRCP") to jointly address the Genentech petition to the FDA to regulate Lab Developed tests (LDTs). The AMP response was sent to the FDA.  
Status: completed (January 2009)

CPC responded to the published ACMG guidelines on myotonic dystrophy.  
Status: completed (January 2009)

CPC responded to a request for public comment by the National Human Genome Research Institute's (NHGRI) on their phase I white papers in the context of NHGRI's long-range planning project.  
Status: completed (February 2009)

CPC responded to the recommendations from The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) on commercial and academic ancestry testing efforts. CPC created an AMP position statement and it was sent to ASHG.  
Status: completed (March 2009)

CPC provided input to the House Science and Technology Committee (to Rep. Gordon) regarding the need for and priorities in the development of NIST reference materials  
Status: completed (June 2009)

CPC created a letter to the NY Department of Health regarding the delays in reviews of molecular genetic and virology test requests to NYS. AMP received a response from the NYDOH re: long review times in August, which was posted on CHAMP.  
Status: completed (June 2009)

CPC created a letter to the FDA to commend FDA for the important precedent of labeling of ImClone and Amgen drugs which specifies KRAS mutation analysis but does not specify a test by brand name. AMP encourages FDA to always identify a companion diagnostic on drug labeling by the biological description.  
Status: completed (August 2009)

CPC and PRC jointly commented on the draft report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): "AHRQ Draft Report on Quality, Regulation and Clinical Utility of Laboratory developed Tests".  
Status: completed (September 2009)

### **Publications/Presentations**

The Catalogue of Mutation Database Websites went live in the CPC section on the AMP website. Five new websites have been added in 2009.  
Status: Completed (November 2008)

The CPC Methylation Working Group manuscript was accepted for publication in the July issue of JMD: "CpG Methylation Analysis - Current Status of Clinical Assays and Potential Applications in Molecular Diagnostics: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology".  
Status: completed (April 2009, published in JMD in July 2009)

CPC created a comprehensive table of AMP publications on practice guidelines/guidances, to be posted on the AMP web site.  
Status: virtually completed (October 2009)

Analytical evaluation of genotyping assays – an AMP guideline for our membership, available on the website (members-only). The guideline is a brief practical reference to be used during the validation process. Additionally, a sample summary validation checklist is provided as a template.  
Status: completed (October 2009)

## Projects

### Genetics (Kasinathan Muralidharan and Narasimhan Nagan)

New SMA testing guidelines were published by ACMG. CPC will be commenting.  
Status: Active

MCC/prenatal practice guidelines manuscript. An outline draft has been finished and a full draft of the manuscript is in progress.  
Status: Active

### Hematopathology (Dan Sabath and Joseph Pulliam)

CPC is exploring a JAK2 sample exchange to address issues in "Sample prep Techniques Qualitative/Quantitative".  
Status: Active

Control material project for NPM1. There currently is only one available cell line (for Mutation A). CPC has not received any information regarding reference materials from our CHAMP request or literature searches. This might be a project for GeT-RM, i.e., search for cell lines. Synthetic controls for a quantitative assay would need to be created by NIST.  
Status: Active

### Infectious Disease (Belinda Yen-Lieberman and Donna Wolk)

AMP is developing guidelines for ID panel grouping, with appropriate infectious disease organizations.

*Donna is the EAC liaison (panels and associated coding needs).*

*Belinda is leading the RPWG (Respiratory Pathogen Working Group). The priority is assessment of utility and billing codes for influenza testing. The second priority will be assessment of utility of viruses in the Resp. panels via literature review (planned for publication in JMD).*

Status: Active

CPC is represented in the TB project of C-Path and USDS (US Diagnostics Standards), to accelerate TB drug available for MDR and XDR.

*Background:* The Critical Path Institute in Tucson works with FDA to speed drug, and now diagnostic, assay development. The focus for USDS is any companion diagnostics associated with a new drug that will be planned for FDA submission and for which there will be a companion lab assay. CPC will invite participants to this project via CHAMP.

Status: Active

Quantitative reference materials are needed for CMV and BK virus. CPC is working with NIST. Nothing currently in existence is satisfactory, lending even greater urgency to the NIST project. CPC (AMP) is lobbying for the needs for these reference materials.

Status: Active

### Solid tumors (Bill Funkhouser and Federico Monzon)

MSI testing manuscripts: A 1<sup>st</sup> paper will include a broader range of mismatch repair defects beyond Lynch Syndrome. A 2<sup>nd</sup> paper will explore the detection of Lynch Syndrome patients by screening of extra-colonic tumors. A "Publication Plan" form is being completed.

Status: Active

Practice guidelines for tissue fixation. A manuscript is in preparation regarding the effects of ischemia and fixation on DNA, mRNA, and microRNA.

Status: Active

Creation of a database of validated microsatellite markers for LOH. CPC sent out a message on CHAMP with an excel table to be filled out by the membership.

Status: Active

Testing recommendations for KRAS, manuscript. A "Publication Plan" form is being completed.

Status: Active

### Other

Synoptic reporting. Ad Hoc member Ira Lubin leads a project on the reporting of genetic test results. Genetics in Medicine invited the working group to submit a commentary discussing the broader ramifications of the initial findings. This commentary will be authored by a group of those who have been directly involved in past work, including Jean Amos Wilson, Elaine Lyon, and Vicky Pratt, who have also been past members and chairs of the CPC. The current CPC will provide input.

Status: Active

Clinical utility project. A CPC working group has proposed a "road map" on how AMP could proceed when payers pose questions about test utility and reimbursement. The working group outlined the steps that should be followed when a request is received from third party payers. Other AMP committees are reviewing.

Status: Active

Creation of a Nomenclature Database (with standard nomenclature and the common names), to be posted on the AMP website (members only)

Status: Active

### **Recommendations:**

We encourage all AMP members to alert council or appropriate committees when laboratory guidelines or recommendations are opened for public comment.

We encourage AMP members to actively contribute to calls for information from the CPC.

### Economic Affairs Committee (EAC)

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Jeffrey A. Kant MD PhD, Chair  
Jean Amos Wilson, Professional Relations Committee Liaison  
Aaron D. Bossler MD PhD, Member  
Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez PhD, Member  
Roger D. Klein MD JD, Member  
Joan Logue MT BS, Member  
Elaine Lyon PhD, Member  
Jan A. Nowak MD PhD, Member  
Paul A. Raslavicus MD, Member  
Linda Sabatini PhD, Member  
Michele Schoonmaker PhD, Member  
Jill Hagenkord MD, Junior Member

**Name change:** The Committee (formerly the AMP Coding Subcommittee of PRC) changed its name in 2009 to reflect its role as a free-standing committee with a broad mission overseeing Economic Affairs issues across a range of areas for the Association and its members. The name change was endorsed as a change in the Bylaws by the membership during this year's election process.

**Leadership and membership:** Jan Nowak had served as Chair of the Committee since its inception in early 2008. Because of duties associated with his Presidency of AMP in 2009, Jan stepped down as Chair. Jeffrey Kant MD PhD was appointed by Council to fill this role. The committee currently includes 12 members including a junior member, Jill Hagenkord MD. Our representative to the Pathology Coding Caucus is Aaron Bossler MD PhD. The Chair of the Professional Relations Committee sits on EAC *ex officio*.

#### Committee Activities

##### **1. CPT Code Proposals**

- a. Bacterial identification by DNA sequence analysis: the committee (Aaron Bossler, point person) followed through on activities started in 2008 to submit this code proposal which was acted upon favorably the Editorial Panel at the February 2009 Meeting. As a result, this code will be available for billing in 2010. Although AMP and all other organizations but one in the laboratory community had recommended a crosswalk to the hepatitis C viral genotyping code, CMS used a range of stacked procedural codes to come up with a value roughly ½ of that recommended by crosswalk. Aaron submitted a letter to CMS indicating the committee had micro-costing information in support of a higher value. At the time of submission of this report, we have not heard back from CMS whether they wish this information. In the future, we feel it is desirable to submit favorable micro-costing data with the request for reconsideration of valuation.
- b. Testing for Influenza A and B and subtyping of influenza virus samples: Jan Nowak has served as the point person for this submission which asks for separate codes for testing for influenza virus types A and B, as well as subtyping codes for identification of other influenza viruses such as the pandemic H1N1 strains. Submission for the November 2009 deadline will ensure consideration by the Pathology Coding Caucus in January and review by the CPT Editorial Panel at their February meeting, again ensuring a billable code(s) in 2011 if this is acted upon favorably. See also item c. immediately below.

- c. The Committee plans to ask CMS to issue HCPCS codes immediately for influenza virus testing for CMS beneficiaries.
- d. The Committee is waiting on feedback from the multiplex respiratory virus panel workgroup of the Clinical Practice Committee before considering whether to proceed with a code proposal for such panels. At the moment, these are being paid in many jurisdictions at multiplex of the organism, NOS code, but there are some areas in which payer pushback or non coverage has begun.

## 2. Coverage Policy actions

- a. Influenza: Jan Nowak has spoken with coverage individuals at Aetna which does not pay for influenza testing, indicating it is still research or experimental. We are using experiences with the H1N1 pandemic and other information to demonstrate why this is no longer the case and are hopeful for a successful outcome.
- b. Exclusions for molecular testing because of narrowly-drawn coverage policies. The committee has supported in spirit and by e-mail and phone contacts with CMS medical directors, the Noridian coverage policy for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer which has lead to non-payment and coverage for a wide range of molecular tests offered in its former region of jurisdiction and the promulgation of this policy to several other CMS contractor jurisdictions. The policy was withdrawn in jurisdiction region 1 and is being reviewed in the Pacific Northwest. The Committee also supported activities on an AMP in Montana who had submitted a formal request for reconsideration of this policy as well as successfully gaining coverage for several molecular assays performed by his group. Unfortunately, this member relocated to be closer to extended family. We need to find another champion in that area.
- c. AMP provided representatives to speak to the February and May 2009 meetings of the MEDCAC to provide perspective on coverage issues for genetic (and other complex) molecular testing.
- d. The Committee hosted two Carrier Medical Directors on conference calls briefly providing background on the Committees activities and getting perspective on challenges these individuals face. The Committee is reviewing a proposal for how we might provide input on problems faced by payers.

## 3. CPT Coding 'Reform':

- a. The committee spent significant time discussing how to 'fix' CPT coding for genetics and oncology assays currently coded using primarily procedural codes in the 83890-83914 section of CPT. Major issues include 1) laboratories are not consistent in coding practices, 2) payers have no idea what they are paying for, 3) the (often very large) multiple units of service are confusing to payers, and 4) narrowly drawn coverage policies de facto exclude other molecular assays (often many) which must be billed using the same CPT codes. The continuing proliferation of medically unlikely edits (MUEs) this year extended to molecular assays. Many are unpublished but in force, and the area is as confusing as ever.

Assisted by an unrestricted grant from Abbott Diagnostics, the Committee held 3 face-to face meetings in suburban Chicago this year putting together the principles of a reform proposal. This was circulated to select experts in the field for comment, and the proposal is currently being revised to be more specific. At that point, it will be circulated to a larger group of stakeholder organizations and groups for comment with the goal of creating a proposal for discussion at the Pathology Coding Caucus and at the Editorial Panel. Because the 'solution' is necessarily broad in scope, and the tendency of the Panel is to handle things in small bites, this process will likely require some time. The revised proposal will suggest a hybrid system of analyte specific codes for the more common tests and tiered complexity-based codes for less

common tests. Our preference would be to have as granular a system as possible, but numbers of available CPT codes will likely not permit that. It seems best to submit a concrete proposal so others in working with it will understand current limitations including those for a resolution. With luck, maybe we will get a more fundamental solution.

A 'reform' principle the Committee wishes to pursue as part of coding reform is better opportunity for PhD laboratorians to bill for interpretive and reporting services (the 'professional component' of billing). It appears this 'plank' needs to be pursued separately, and AMP will probably wish to coordinate with other organizations having a stake in this. Council is alerted to the fact further discussion and action on this could elicit some tension between physician and non-physician laboratorians in AMP.

- b. The EAC Chair attended the October 2009 CPT Editorial Panel meeting at which the larger CPT Advisory Group discussed the area of coding for molecular pathology tests. All agreed the system needs to be reformed. It is likely any changes will be gradual and implemented over several years, to start who knows when. Hopefully our proposal will help catalyze this process.

#### **4. Legislative and healthcare reform-related activities**

- a. AMP Office staff and the Chair of EAC have been active lobbying Senate and House members about the 'Wyden' special interest amendment which would allow independent (non-hospital) laboratories to bill Medicare immediately for tests performed on hospital-acquired samples. These tests are currently payable as long as they are requested and performed 14 days after patient discharge. The amendment would create a non-level playing field for laboratories in which many AMP members work and is likely to encourage over-utilization of expensive tests, further driving healthcare costs.

### **Membership & Professional Development Committee (MPDC)**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Helen Fernandes PhD, Co-Chair  
Richard Press MD PhD, Co-Chair  
Shuji Ogino MD PhD, Member  
Robyn Temple-Smolkin PhD, Member

The MPDC was created in 2008 with a charge to provide recommendations to Council and assistance to other committees and subdivisions regarding matters of membership and professional development. MPDC coordinates the requests of AMP committees for additional personnel with suitable volunteer members to facilitate the selection process. Volunteer positions are posted on CHAMP and updated on the AMP website (<http://www.amp.org/AboutAmp/getinvolved.htm>) along with a link to the application form.

Projects undertaken in 2009 include:

- Matching AMP volunteers with Committee Needs:  
The MPDC fulfills this mission by an online application process for volunteers to respond to requests by the various AMP committees. A database of volunteers' interests and committee needs is maintained to facilitate appropriate matches. In 2009, the MPDC facilitated the following:

- The formation of a respiratory panel working group within the Clinical Practice Committee under the leadership of Belinda Yen-Lieberman. A major charge of this group will be to prepare guidelines for assessing optimal testing strategies for respiratory viruses.
- The selection of a new CHAMP Associate Moderator, Bernadette Wildemore, by helping to define the criteria for this appointed Publications Committee position and screening the many fine applicants.
- Establishing guidelines for setting up international chapters with sister organizations around the world that specialize in Molecular Pathology.

- Establishing guidelines for setting up new interest groups:

The process by which members can form new interest groups was formalized by MPDC in 2009. These groups may share "topical" or "geographic" interests and are encouraged to get together at our annual meeting. One such group was established in 2009 and another is "under construction," namely:

- A pharmacogenetics interest group led by Rajeev Sachdeva was established with 22 founding members, and will operate under the Genetics subdivision.
- A regional Rocky Mountain molecular pathology group is being organized by Robyn Temple-Smolkin.

- AMP international membership grants:

Thanks to generous donations to the AMP Leadership Fund, starting in January 2010, AMP will subsidize the annual AMP membership fee for five international laboratory professionals per year who would not otherwise have access to AMP services and activities – due to limited financial resources in the applicant's local environment. The MPDC worked to establish this new program in 2009 and to define the selection criteria for awardees.

- The AMP Technologist Travel Award:

Thanks to generous donations to the AMP Leadership Fund, a Technologist Travel Award was established in May 2009 to provide travel assistance to the annual meeting to selected AMP member technologists who do not receive travel support from their institutions. The MPDC helped to establish the criteria for selecting the awardees.

### **Nominating Committee**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Gregory J. Tsongalis PhD, Chair  
Siby Sebastian PhD, Genetics Representative  
Min Fang MD PhD, Genetics Representative  
Jane S. Gibson PhD, Hematopathology Representative  
John W. Longshore PhD, Hematopathology Representative  
Randall Hayden MD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
Jeanne Carr PhD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
Marina N. Nikiforova MD, Solid Tumors Representative  
Deborah Dillon MD, Solid Tumors Representative

The Nominating Committee nominates Officers and Committee Representatives for the annual elections and recommends the recipients of the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics and the AMP Leadership Award.

### **Professional Relations Committee**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Jean Amos Wilson PhD, Chair  
Elaine Lyon PhD, Chair Elect  
Angela M. Caliendo MD PhD, Member  
Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez PhD, Member  
Wayne W. Grody MD PhD, Member  
Roger Klein MD JD, Member  
Debra G. B. Leonard MD PhD, Member  
Roberta Madej MS MBA, Member  
Karen Mann MD PhD, Member  
Shelby Melton MD, Junior Member  
Jan A. Nowak MD PhD, Member  
Vicky Pratt, PhD, Member  
Michele Schoonmaker PhD, Member

The committee welcomed Roger Klein and Karen Mann as new members in 2009. Going forward, we invite the President-Elect to join this committee.

The PRC has been intensively involved this year in a number of crucial issues at the national level affecting regulation, reimbursement, scope and oversight of molecular diagnostic testing. Because of their broad sweep, potentially impacting all areas of molecular diagnostics, we have consulted frequently with AMP Council, other AMP committees, and sister organizations (CAP, ACMG, ACLA, AACC, and others) with whom we can partner. The 2009 activities are well documented on the AMP website and all members are encouraged to stay current with our diverse activities.

A sampling of the key issues addressed in 2009 follows:

We revised the previous AMP position statement on gene patents and exclusive licensing and recommended to Council that AMP join the ACLU-sponsored litigation vs. Myriad

Genetics, challenging the BRCA patents on constitutional grounds. Of note, the PRC was not unanimous on this issue but none of us are supportive of exclusive licensing. We drafted the AMP principles for HealthCare Reform and provided feedback to the NIST roadmap document titled, "Measurement Science and Measurement Standards to Support Innovation in Healthcare"; most of our comments were expression of concern and we offered our support for a revision.

We reiterated our positions on gene patents, DTC marketing of genetic testing and genetic nondiscrimination to the SACGHS meetings throughout the year and also provided suggestions for future priorities. Of note, the PRC was not involved in the Oct. 14 AMP press release commending the recent and controversial SACGHS position on gene patents.

The PRC provided public comment to the CLIAC on ensuring laboratory quality during public health emergencies and described the community experience of AMP member labs during the Spring H1N1 outbreak.

We provided comments to the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research on the subject of comparative effectiveness research (CER) and share our recommendations on priority areas on which to focus CER activities

Under the leadership of Jennifer Lieb and Robert Wells of HealthFutures, our policy consultants, and Mary Williams, we introduced AMP to several Senate and House members this year through a series of visits to Capital Hill in which we had the opportunity to offer AMP assistance in legislative issues of common concern. We wished Robert Wells well, as he left HealthFutures for a sabbatical and subsequent new, future position, and feel that we are in good hands with Jennifer. Both Robert and Jennifer have provided invaluable assistance to the PRC and other AMP committees this year and we look forward to a continued relationship with their firm.

Our current activities center on developing our position statement around regulation of laboratory developed tests. To this end, we provided comment to the FDA on the Genentech Citizen Petition and have interacted with CAP on their draft LDT registry proposal. We expect that the AMP position will be finalized for Council review early in 2010 and will be subsequently published on the AMP website.

### **Program Committee**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Timothy J. O'Leary MD PhD, Chair  
Barbara A. Zehnauer PhD, Chair-Elect  
Hanna Rennert PhD, Genetics Subdivision Chair  
Arlene Buller PhD, Genetics Subdivision Chair-Elect  
Kojo S.J. Elenitoba-Johnson MD, Hematopathology Subdivision Chair  
Timothy C. Greiner MD, Hematopathology Subdivision Chair-Elect  
Frederick S. Nolte PhD, Infectious Diseases Subdivision Chair  
David H. Persing MD PhD, Infectious Diseases Subdivision Chair-Elect  
Antonia R. Sepulveda MD PhD, Solid Tumors Subdivision Chair  
Loren Joseph MD, Solid Tumors Subdivision Chair-Elect  
Joan T. Gordon, BS, MT(ASCP), Technical Topics Representative  
Steven C. Cook MT(ASCP), Technical Topics Representative

## Publications Committee

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

S. Terence Dunn PhD DABCC, Chair  
Shuji Ogino MD PhD, CHAMP Moderator  
Qiulu Pan, MD, PhD, CHAMP Associate Moderator  
Karen L. Kaul MD PhD, JMD Editor-in-Chief  
Teresita C. Redondo MD, Newsletter Co-Editor  
Marlene Sabbath-Solitare PhD, Newsletter Co-Editor  
Alexis Carter MD, Test Directory Editor  
Kathleen M. Murphy PhD, Web Library Editor  
Mary C. Lowery Nordberg PhD, Website Editor

### **Publications**

#### ***AMP-Owned Manuscripts***

##### Published in JMD:

- *Laboratory Practice Guidelines for Detecting and Reporting BCR-ABL Drug Resistance Mutations in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia and Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology.*  
The ABL Mutation Working Group of the Clinical Practice Committee. (January 2009)
- *Multi-site PCR-based CMV Viral Load Assessment - Assays Demonstrate Linearity and Precision, but Lack Numeric Standardization: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology.*  
The CMV Sample Exchange Working Group of the 2003–2008 Clinical Practice Committee. (March 2009)
- *CpG Methylation Analysis - Current Status of Clinical Assays and Potential Applications in Molecular Diagnostics: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology.*  
The Methylation Working Group of the 2006-2007 Clinical Practice Committee. (July 2009)
- *Competency-Based Education for the Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellow: Guidelines from the Association for Molecular Pathology.*  
T&E Committee. (November 2009)

#### ***AMP-Acknowledged Articles*** (did not originate in AMP)

##### Published in *Advance for Medical Laboratory Professionals*:

- *Trends in Molecular Diagnostics.* Talwalkar, Moore and Kant. (April 2009)

##### Pending Submission:

- *Characterization of 107 genomic DNA reference materials for CYP2D6: A GeT-RM and Association for Molecular Pathology collaborative project.*  
Vicky Pratt *et al.*

***“Molecular Edge” for ADVANCE for Administrators of the Laboratory***

The following contributors/topics have been published. Topics/authors have been arranged for issues up to July 2010.

Author	Topic	Issue
Jeanne Carr	<i>Training of Technical Personnel for the Molecular Diagnostics Lab</i>	Jan, 2009
Jeanne Carr	<i>Competency Testing of Technical Personnel for the Molecular Diagnostics Lab</i>	Mar, 2009
Marina Nikiforova	<i>Identity Testing In The Anatomic Pathology Lab</i>	May, 2009
Mary Lowery Nordberg	<i>Pharmacogenetics: Chemotherapeutics</i>	Jul, 2009
Debs Payne	<i>Convincing Administration to Fund New Technologies</i>	Sept, 2009
Jennifer Hunt	<i>Microsatellite Instability Testing</i>	Nov, 2009
Terry Dunn	<i>HPV Genotyping: New Algorithms and Clinical Applications</i>	Jan, 2010
Federico Monzon	<i>Biomarkers Guiding Drug Eligibility</i>	Mar, 2010
Larry Jennings	<i>Molecular Testing in HLA</i>	May, 2010
Carrie L. Cresenzi	<i>Growth of Molecular Testing in the U.S.</i>	Jul, 2010

**Web Editorial Board**

The *Web Editorial Board* initiated monthly conference calls beginning this year to discuss re-design of the AMP website. They initially used BaseCamp as a collaborative web tool to post comments, tasks and timelines amongst those involved in the project. A small initial investment was made to an outside company to help create a variety of template web pages with different navigation and design features. A choice was made and these pages are currently being populated with existing updated and new content. Launch of the new design for the AMP website is scheduled for the Annual Meeting.

**AMP Test Directory**

Extensive updates were made by Alexis Carter to the Infectious Diseases, Solid Tumors and Hematopathology test directories to clean-up old and inconsistent data. Reformatting of the “back-end” of the test directory database is underway which will enable the easy addition of new tests and bring improved search features.

**Web Library**

The *Web Library* was updated with new slide presentations from the 2008 Annual Meeting.

**Journal of Molecular Diagnostics (JMD)**

Beginning January 2010, Karen Kaul will step-down as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *JMD* after 10 years of service. The JJOC concluded its search for a new EIC in July. Incoming EIC is Tim O’Leary. *JMD* shows continued steady growth and had an ISI Impact Factor of 3.643 in June, 2009. *JMD* submissions will likely top 200 for the year which is the highest ever.

**CHAMP**

Shuji Ogino will be stepping-down from his role following the 2009 Annual Meeting after four years of service as Moderator of CHAMP. Qiulu Pan, currently Associate Moderator, will

become the Moderator. Bernadette Wildemore will assume her newly appointed role as Associate Moderator.

### ***AMP Newsletter***

The first electronic version of the *AMP Newsletter* was issued February 2009. The e-Newsletter seems to appeal to most members and immensely reduces formatting time for staff in the AMP office. Teresita Redondo and Marlene Sabbath-Solitare continue to discuss ways to modify the May issue of the Newsletter (possibly by including special featured articles) which generally suffers from low volume/content of submissions.

## **Strategic Planning Committee**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Debra G. B. Leonard MD PhD, Chair  
Karen L. Kaul MD PhD  
Karen P. Mann MD PhD, President-Elect and Liaison to Council  
Steven A. Schichman MD PhD  
Timothy T. Stenzel MD PhD FACMG  
Raymond R. Tubbs DO

The Strategic Planning Committee carries out long range assessments regarding opportunities and challenges in the molecular pathology profession and other environments that affect AMP interests.

## **Training & Education Committee**

### **Committee Members**

Jennifer L. Hunt, MD, MEd, Chair  
Madhuri Hegde, PhD, Genetics Representative  
Linda Jo Bone Jeng, MD, PhD, Genetics Representative  
John Greg Howe, PhD, Hematopathology Representative  
Megan S. Lim, MD, PhD, Hematopathology Representative  
Matthew J. Bankowski, PhD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
Carol Holland, PhD, Infectious Diseases Representative  
Liang Cheng, MD, Solid Tumors Representative  
Jennifer Laudadio, MD, Solid Tumors Representative  
Charles E. Hill, MD, PhD, *Ad Hoc* Member  
Alison Cushman-Vokoun, MD, PhD, Junior Member  
Kandelaria Rumilla MD, Junior Member

### **Projects:**

### **Webinars**

The committee hosted 5 webinars this past year. They were very successful, with great participation and excellent reviews. The webinar subcommittee has scheduled between 8 and 10 webinars for 2010, with topics ranging across all subdivisions and topics in laboratory management.

Date	Webinar topic	Speaker	Attendance*
Dec 8	Update on Molecular Testing for Type 2 Diabetes Risk	Alex H. Cho, MD, MBA	TBD
Sept 17	Next Generation Sequencing for HIV Resistance	Robert Shafer, MD	70
Aug 6	<b>HOT TOPIC:</b> Contamination with Nucleic Acid in Molecular Settings, Detection, Removal, Monitoring and Prevention	Safedin Sajo Beqaj, PhD	208
May 6	Tumors of Unknown Origin: New Molecular Approaches	Marina N. Nikiforova, MD	187
Jan 13	JAK2 and MPL Mutation Testing in Myeloproliferative Neoplasms	Jonathan M. Diver, PhD	252

\*Note: The webinars are recorded and available on the website for later viewing. This could affect attendance at the live webinars.

### Annual meeting

The T&E Committee is primarily responsible for judging the posters of Trainee applicants and selecting the recipients of the Young Investigator Award. The Committee also hosts and teaches the Pathology Outreach Course on the first day of the annual meeting and the Trainee Luncheon session, which highlights a panel discussion moderated by the Trainee members of the T&E Committee. The Book Table, at which donated copies of molecular textbooks can be perused, is run by the Trainee members of the committee. The donated books are given away to Trainees at the Trainee Luncheon via a drawing. The on-line textbook listing for molecular pathology book references has been updated for the Annual Meeting as well.

### Review courses

T&E and AMP conducted a Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course in April-May 2009. This course was directed by Dr. Kevin Halling. The attendance was 57 and evaluations were excellent.

### On line case presentations

Cases are being solicited in each of the subdivision areas for presentation as on-line downloadable webinar cases. Four cases have been recorded, three of which are currently only line in a downloadable format. Future solicitation of cases will be done by the Case study sub-committee, which hopes to present at least one new case per month.

### Training program updates and trainee exchange

The Committee did a survey of all program directors to solicit information to update the website on specific training programs and also to investigate the interest in a Trainee Exchange program. This program would be used when trainees desire short experiences at other institutions for specialized training. The trainees will be able to search these programs for unique opportunities and then will be directed to work with the program director to arrange an exchange visit.