

[View this as a webpage](#)



AMPlificationsTM

NEW NAME! Same great news.

Vol. 19, No. 1, January 2013
Printable Version

ADVOCACY



• The AMP Board of Directors appointed **Aaron Bossler** and **Jan Nowak** as co-Chairs of the **Economic Affairs Committee (EAC)**. **Ester Stein** was appointed as a regular member and **Dara Aisner** as a junior member.

• The new molecular pathology CPT procedure codes went into effect on January 1, 2013. The AMP Economic Affairs Committee (EAC) will present a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, February 26, 1:00-2:00pm EST "Ins & Outs of Coding with the New

Molecular Pathology CPT Procedure Codes." Registration is now open:
<https://www2.qotomeeting.com/register/536507538>.

• AMP provided preliminary **comments to CMS on the 2013 PFS Final Rule** which expressed disappointment with the placement of all of the molecular pathology procedures on the CLFS and noted concerns regarding 1) creation of a single HCPCS G-code, G0452, to recognize physician work related to a large number of procedures with varying Relative Values recommended by the AMA; and, 2) the notion that some of the molecular pathology procedures are "automated" and produce obvious results, precluding the need for professional work. The EAC is composing detailed comments for CMS about each of these topics and will continue to collaborate with fellow professional associations. View AMP's comments at: <http://bit.ly/W2ECc2>.

• The EAC framework **proposal for CPT coding for multi-gene sequencing assays** will be submitted soon to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to engage during the development process.

• **Aaron Bossler** has been appointed to the **AMA Molecular Pathology Advisory Group**. The members of this group provide expertise to the CPT Editorial Panel and the Pathology Coding Caucus (PCC). **Jan Nowak** will replace Dr. Bossler on the PCC, with **Jill Hagenkord** and **Sam Caughron** serving as alternates.

• The LDT Working Group of the Professional Relations Committee (PRC) continues its work drafting a **white paper to address the complexities involved with oversight of LDTs**.

• PRC has been actively engaged in efforts to obtain **NYSDOH recognition of Molecular Genetic Pathology certification** by the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.

• **Roger Klein** represented AMP at the second **USPTO roundtable** to discuss the impact of gene patents on the ability of patients to access confirmatory (2nd opinion) testing. This is a part of a Congressional mandated study.

• The **FDA "framework" on oversight of LDTs** could be released in 2013; the Agency must notify Congress at least 60-days before issuing the document. The PRC is prepared to engage the Agency and will keep AMP members informed.

• The PRC continues to monitor and engage Congress and federal agencies on efforts to **restrict federal employee's educational travel**.

• Scheduled automatic budget reductions known "**sequestration**" were postponed until March 1 as part of the "fiscal cliff" negotiations. Congress and the President will be negotiating over these reductions and raising the government's borrowing limit "debt ceiling" over the next several weeks.

• AMP is in the process of implementing the online media **PopVox.com** to aid our legislative efforts and gain awareness of our positions.

• AMP has started an **Industry Member Task Force**, and is looking forward to receiving input on issues of concern to members working in industry.

• The PRC continues to interact with, and when appropriate, coordinate with other organizations such as CAP, ASCP, ACLA, and the [Personalized Medicine](#) Coalition.

• The placement of the **molecular pathology CPT codes on the CLFS** removed the principle need (in the eyes of Congress) to introduce legislation to designate non-physician doctoral scientists with appropriate training and experience as Qualified Health Care Practitioners, permitted to bill Medicare directly from the Physician Fee Schedule for interpretive services for tests in the Molecular Pathology section of the CPT® codebook. AMP is discussing with the seven-member coalition ways to continue the discussion regarding the essential role of professional work in molecular pathology testing.

• When the last Congressional Session closed, any legislation introduced, but not passed, would have to be re-introduced in order for it to continue on a pathway to becoming law. AMP representatives will visit

EDUCATION



• Attention All Molecular Genetics Pathology Program Directors: Are you interested in how to best train our fellows in genomics, determining the minimum requirements for genomics training in individual programs, establishing an ideal fellowship curriculum, and deciding if there would be a role for a separate fellowship (maybe in genomic bioinformatics) to complement the MGP fellowship? **The MGP Fellow Training in Genomics Task Force is currently drafting a manuscript and can use your input.** MGP Program Directors interested in serving on the Task Force can contact **Anna Berry** (anna.berry@ucsf.edu) for more information.

• What board certifications are currently available to individuals seeking certification in molecular diagnostics? Access the free report "**Certification in Molecular Pathology in the United States: An Update from the Association for Molecular Pathology Training and Education Committee.**" [[http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/imdi/article/S1525-1578\(12\)00180-8/abstract](http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/imdi/article/S1525-1578(12)00180-8/abstract)] published in November 2012 *JMD* by **Craig Mackinnon, Lynn Wang, Amrik Sahota, Cecilia Yeung, and Karen Weck**.

• Need an intense update or a review of molecular genetic pathology? Take the **AMP 2013 Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course** on April 4-7 in Bethesda, MD! Information and registration are now available at: <http://www.amp.org/mgp2013/>. Space is limited, so register today!

• The AMP Economic Affairs Committee (EAC) will present a webinar on Tuesday, February 26, 1:00-2:00pm EST "Ins & Outs of Coding with the New Molecular Pathology CPT Procedure Codes." Registration is now open: <https://www2.qotomeeting.com/register/536507538>. **Aaron Bossler** and **Jan Nowak**, Co-Chairs of the AMP Economic Affairs Committee will be presenting.

• AMP continues its outreach to other organizations to partner in mutually beneficial educational opportunities. **Martin Fleisher** was also selected to present at the SLAS 2013 2nd Annual Conference, in addition to **William Wachsmann** and **Eric Duncavage**. For details about the conference, visit <http://www.slas2013.org/index.cfm>.

AMP AT WORK FOR YOU



• The Nominating Committee is hard at work on the 2013 AMP election ballot and seeking individuals who are willing to serve in a variety of important roles, in the subdivisions and organizational leadership. Self nominations are encouraged.

Open positions include:

- President-Elect
 - Secretary-Treasurer
 - Program Committee Chair-Elect
 - Training & Education Committee Chair
 - Membership Affairs Committee Chair
 - Technical Topics Representative to the Program Committee
- CONTACT: Iris Schrijver (ischrijver@stanfordmed.org)

Genetics Subdivision

- Clinical Practice Committee Representative
 - Nominating Committee Representative
 - Program Committee Representative
 - Training & Education Committee Representative
- CONTACT: Sam Caughron (scaughron@mawdpathology.com) or Ramakrishnan Sasi (ramakrishnan.sasi@mghs.org)

Hematopathology Subdivision

- Chair
 - Clinical Practice Committee Representative
 - Nominating Committee Representative
 - Program Committee Representative
 - Training & Education Committee Representative
- CONTACT: Daniel Arber (darber@stanford.edu) or James R. Cook (cookj2@ccf.org)

Infectious Diseases Subdivision

- Clinical Practice Committee Representative
- Nominating Committee Representative

Congressional offices once the new Session opens to introduce itself to new members, to offer AMP member expertise, and to monitor activity. AMP is well-received on Capitol Hill and we look forward to continue offering positive interactions and influence.

- The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the **gene patent case**. Oral arguments are expected to be scheduled for mid-April, with a decision in late June.

INNOVATION & IMPROVED PATIENT CARE



• Congratulations to **Paul Rothberg** for being appointed as the CPC's liaison to the **Molecular Oncology Committee of the College of American Pathologists!** AMP gratefully acknowledges **Linda Sabatini** who served in that role over the last six years.

- Want to quickly catch up on the landscape for next generation sequencing technology and its clinical relevance and impact on improving patient care? Read and share the freely accessible report, "**Opportunities and Challenges Associated with**

Clinical Diagnostic Genome

Sequencing" [[http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/jmd/article/S1525-1578\(12\)00175-4/abstract](http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/jmd/article/S1525-1578(12)00175-4/abstract)] published in the November issue of *JMD* by the AMP Whole Genome Analysis Working Group.

- The **AMP Variant Nomenclature Database** is now available to AMP members to facilitate standardizing the nomenclature used in clinical reports. This resource will continue to grow with your help! We invite you to submit the gene variants you work on in your lab. The submissions will be reviewed by a subcommittee prior to being included in the database. If you missed the specialty lunch at the annual meeting on using and contributing to the database, you can view **Linda Jeng's** presentation, the database files, and the procedure for contributing to the AMP Variant Nomenclature Database in the CHAMP 2.0 "Open Forum" under the "Library" tab in the "AMP Variant Nomenclature Database" folder at <http://bit.ly/13lcm0G> (CHAMP 2.0 login is required).

- AMP was represented by **Loren Joseph**, CPC Chair and **Roger Klein**, PRC Chair, at a recent NCI Workshop, "**Evidence Needed to Support the Clinical Utility of Molecular Diagnostics**" in Bethesda, MD. The workshop presentations will be posted at: <http://cancerdiagnosis.nci.nih.gov>.

- Program Committee Representative
- Training & Education Committee Representative
CONTACT: Bobby Boyanton (bobby.boyanton@beaumont.edu) or Christine C Ginocchio (cginocch@nshs.edu)

Solid Tumors Subdivision

- Chair
- Clinical Practice Committee Representative
- Nominating Committee Representative
- Program Committee Representative
- Training & Education Committee Representative
CONTACT: Neal Lindeman (nlindeman@partners.org) or Vivianna Van Deerlin (vivianna@exchange.upenn.edu)

AMplifications™

Copyright 2012, Association for Molecular Pathology
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3993 (USA)
Tel: 301-634-7939 | Fax: 301-634-7990 | Email: amp@amp.org | www.amp.org