• The new molecular pathology codes are on the agenda for the July CMS Lab Fee Schedule meeting, which has been extended to cover two days in anticipation of comments from various groups regarding each CPT code. AMP will be represented by Economic Affairs Committee (EAC) Chair Jeffrey Kant.

• EAC plans to release a framework proposal for CPT coding of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) assays by the end of June for feedback from stakeholders in the laboratory and payer community. The committee will then consider submission of a formal code change proposal to the AMA-CPT Editorial Panel.

• The Professional Relations Committee (PRC) has formed a Working Group to address the complexities involved with oversight of LDTs. The group plans to complete their work by the end of the year.

• The seven-member coalition of laboratory professional associations has visited House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committee members to seek sponsors for 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. Staffers are very interested in the issue and are open to supporting the legislation but so far no primary sponsors have emerged.

• AMP is actively opposing legislation that would severely restrict the ability of federal employees to attend conferences, including scientific and medical conferences. AMP is seeking a carve-out for scientific and medical conferences.

• The FDA user fee reauthorization bill includes a provision that requires FDA to notify Congress at least 60 days before publishing guidance documents regarding Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs). This is advantageous to AMP’s position regarding oversight of LDTs.

• The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit hears oral argument July 20 in its reconsideration of the case in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Mayo v Prometheus. The Court has denied Myriad’s request that the case be dismissed on standing grounds. Both sides have filed their briefs on merit; the U.S. Attorney General’s office has filed an amicus brief in support of neither party. ACLU has now added the case to its docket.

• The MAC is currently working on drafting proposals for two new awards for AMP members, the Outstanding Investigator Award and the Excellent Educator and Mentor Award. These awards will recognize AMP members who have contributed breakthrough discoveries to the molecular pathology community. Details to follow in future announcements from AMP.

• The Publications Committee welcomes and congratulates the recently appointed Electronic Media Advisors Dahil Qin, Mohamadou Sene, and Shahnaz Verma. The new volunteers will advise the Publications Committee and AMP Staff on electronic media opportunities and trends as they relate to molecular pathology and the AMP membership; and, they will monitor CHAMP 2.0 and make recommendations on improved usage.