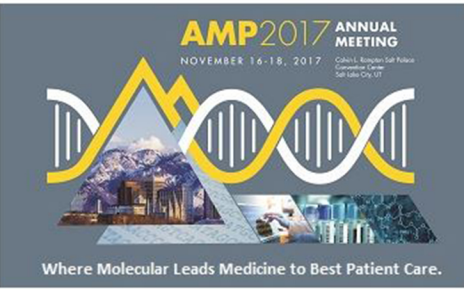


AMP 2017 Annual Meeting - Early Registration Deadline Extended

Clinical Practice News



Due to the catastrophic event currently impacting the Gulf Coast of the US, AMP will be extending the [AMP 2017 Annual Meeting Early Registration Deadline](#) until Friday, September 15th.

If you are directly affected by Hurricane Harvey and are not able to register before the extended deadline, please contact the AMP Meetings Department at meetings@amp.org.

- The AMP 2017 Program Committee

Joint Colorectal Cancer Guideline Earns Top Marks on National Guideline Clearinghouse Assessment

The joint ASCP, CAP, AMP, ASCO guideline, "[Molecular Biomarkers for the Evaluation of Colorectal Cancer](#)" was scored "excellent" across all domains by the National Guideline Clearinghouse Extent Adherence to Trustworthy Standards (NEATS) assessment.

The NEATS instrument was developed and tested to be used by trained staff at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) to provide assessments focused on adherence to the Institute of Medicine standards. The joint guideline is among the first to be evaluated using this new instrument, which the NGC began implementing in 2017.

"We are pleased to see the joint colorectal cancer guideline recognized for the scientific rigor that was displayed during the development process," said Antonia R. Sepulveda, MD, PhD, project co-chair on behalf of AMP. "On behalf of AMP, I wish to congratulate all involved in the development of the guideline."

Do you have an idea for a clinical practice project? We want to hear from you! Email us at cpcprojects@amp.org.

AMP News

Results of 2017 AMP Leadership Elections and FASEB Board of Directors Appointment

AMP is an organization driven by the dedication of its volunteers. The results of [AMP's 2017 leadership elections](#) were announced on July 13. In addition, Betsy A. Bove, PhD, joined the [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#) Board of Directors in July. We look forward to working with these new leaders and with all members involved in society endeavors. Thank you for your service to AMP!

AMP Announces 2017 Award Recipients

On behalf of the more than 2,300 AMP members, we honor Drs. Feinberg, Tsongalis and Carter for their professional achievements and their service to the molecular diagnostics community and the patients we serve. These awards will be presented at the AMP Annual Meeting this fall:

Award for Excellence

Andrew P. Feinberg, MD, MPH
Director of the Center for Epigenetics and Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Whiting School of Engineering, and Bloomberg School of Public Health

Dr. Feinberg has earned this year's [Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics](#) for his lifetime of service and noteworthy achievements in the field. Dr. Feinberg has dedicated his career to understanding the epigenetic basis of normal development and disease, including cancer, aging, and neuropsychiatric illness. His numerous honors include the MERIT Award of the National Cancer Institute, the NIH Director's Pioneer Award, and the Feodor Lynen Medal for pioneering the field of cancer epigenetics.



Jeffrey A. Kant Leadership Award

Gregory J. Tsongalis, PhD
Director of Clinical Genomics and Advanced Technology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Professor of Pathology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Dr. Tsongalis is being recognized with this award for his exceptional leadership in the advancement of AMP's mission and vision. He has been an active AMP member since 1995, serving as AMP President in 2008, the Program Committee Chair in 2005, and as Director of the Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course in 2017, and on numerous committees, Working Groups and projects. Dr. Tsongalis has dedicated his entire career to applying new molecular techniques to diagnostic questions that are not adequately addressed by traditional laboratory methods.



AMP Meritorious Service Award

Alexis B. Carter, MD
Physician Informaticist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Dr. Carter is being recognized with this award for her exceptional, extensive, and often behind-the-scenes volunteer efforts over the years. An AMP member since 2003, Dr. Carter is the society's first Informatics Subdivision Chair, and she has served on AMP's Board of Directors since 2015. In addition, Dr. Carter has served as a Publications & Communication Committee member since 2005, and as AMP Liaison to the development of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Genetic Test Registry in 2010-2011. Dr. Carter is board-certified in Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, Molecular Genetic Pathology and Clinical Informatics, and her clinical practice is in both clinical informatics and molecular genetic pathology.



AMP Hosts Third "Lunch and Learn" Event for Patient Advocates

On July 11, AMP hosted representatives from six patient advocate groups for a discussion on the importance of diagnostics and treatment for inherited and rare diseases. AMP's "Lunch and Learn" series is intended to foster deeper relationships with the patient advocacy community and facilitate discussions where all parties can share policy objectives and opportunities to collaborate on advocacy efforts.

"As our field evolves, we must educate patient advocates about the importance of molecular testing," said Linda Jeng, MD, PhD, Director of Medical Genomics and the Laboratory Director for the Translational Genomics Laboratory at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "At the same time, our patient advocate partners provide essential insights that can help us to improve patient care. The 'Lunch and Learn' series is a great way to strengthen existing relationships and to build new ones between our two communities."

AMP Hosts Payer Summit Meeting on Liquid Biopsies

On August 8, AMP hosted another virtual summit focusing on the clinical utility and economic issues for liquid biopsies. Samuel K. Caughron, MD, AMP Economic Affairs Committee Chair, led the discussion among 11 Medical Directors and staff. "Throughout the summit our Medical Director colleagues provided valuable insights for how coding, coverage and pricing may be improved to ensure patients have access to appropriate testing in a sustainable manner," said Caughron. "I believe we all share the vision of providing the right care for every patient, and that by working together we can improve the economic landscape for molecular testing."

AMP is now building upon the interest and feedback from the May summit on clinical utility for molecular testing by forming a focus group devoted to delving further into the clinical utility of molecular procedures, and the group will attempt to reach consensus about the levels of evidence that are appropriate and sufficient for prognosis, diagnosis and therapy selection.

AMP Comments on Draft Local Coverage Determinations for Gastrointestinal Panels and Respiratory Viral Panels

AMP, together with numerous other professional societies including the American Society for Microbiology, American Public Health Laboratories, Infectious Disease Society of America, College of American Pathologists, and Pan-American Society for Clinical Virology provided comment on July 20, 2017 to Palmetto on their infectious disease draft local coverage determinations (dLCDs) pertaining to Gastrointestinal Panels and Respiratory Viral Panels. The American Gastroenterological Association was also a signatory on the gastrointestinal letter. Palmetto has not yet finalized these dLCDs.

Subsequently, the letters were also sent to other MoIDx jurisdictions (Noridian and CGS) during their comment periods, which ended in August. AMP anticipates sending the letters to WPS during their comment period when they release identical dLCDs. It is likely that WPS (another MoIDx-contracted jurisdiction) will soon release identical dLCDs. AMP anticipates sending these letters to WPS during their comment period.

- [Multi-society response to MoIDx: Foodborne Gastrointestinal Panels Identified by Multiplex Nucleic Acid Tests](#)
- [Multi-society response to MoIDx: Multiplex Nucleic Acid Amplified Tests for Respiratory Viral Panels](#)

Education News

New Recorded Webinars Available with CME/CMLE and SAM Credit

Did you miss AMP's recorded webinars released this summer? There's plenty of time to catch up! The [AMP 2016 Annual Meeting Highlights](#) and [2016 AMPlicons: A Practical Molecular Toolkit and Case Studies Course](#) are now available for purchase.

In addition, the following webinars are free for AMP members:

- [Interpretation and Reporting of Sequence Variants](#) (Speaker: Elaine B. Spector, PhD, Denver Genetic Laboratories at Children's Hospital Colorado; Host: Kristy Crooks, PhD, University of Colorado Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus)

- [Dealing with Highly Homologous Genes in the Context of Medical Sequencing](#) (Speaker: Birgit Funke, PhD, Veritas Genetics; Host: Avni Santani, PhD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

Connect with AMP

There are many opportunities to network and connect with colleagues on social media.

To get started, follow [@AMPPath](#) or "Like" us on [Facebook!](#)