AMPlications

AMP 2017 Annual Meeting - Early Registration Deadline Extended

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

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 are announced on July 13. In addition, Betty 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 they serve. These awards will be presented at the AMP Annual Meeting this fall.

Award for Excellence
Andrei P. Feinberg, MD, MPH
Director of the Center for Epigenetics and Bloom distinguished Professor Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Writing of Engineering and, Bloomington 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 disease development and disease, including aging, and neuropsychiatric illness. His numerous honors include the MERIT Award of the National Cancer Institute, the NIH Director’s Pioneer Award, and the Fedor Honors Medal for pioneering the field of cancer epigenetics.

Jeffrey A. Kant Leadership Award
Gregory T. Tsongalis, PhD
Director of Clinical Genomics and Advanced Technology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Professor of Pathology at the Geisel School of Medicine

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 Diagnostic Pathology Review Course in 2017, and he has provided valuable insights for how coding, coverage and pricing may be improved to ensure patients have access to appropriate testing in a sustainable manner. Dr. Tsongalis has served as the first Informatics Subdivision Chair, and he has served on AMP’s Board of Directors since 2015. In addition, Dr. Tsongalis has been the Medical Director of the Laboratory 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 improve patient care," Dr. Tsongalis states. "AMP’s goal is to bring these resources together to drive the economic landscape for molecular testing for the betterment of patient care.

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 the Chair of the AMP Education and 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 disease.

AMP Hosts Third “Lunch and Learn” Event for Patient Advocates

On July 11, AMP hosted representatives from six patient advocacy groups for a discussion on the importance of diagnosis 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 Jing, 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 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 Committee Chair, led the discussion among 11 medical directors and staff. "Throughout the summit our medical directors and payers were able to share ideas and concerns in a collaborative manner.

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

AMP together with 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 (LDCs) pertaining to Gastrointestinal Panels and Respiratory Viral Panels. The American Gastrological Association was also a signatory on the gastrointestinal letter. Palmetto has not yet finalized these LDCs.

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

- Multi-society response to MoDiX: Foodborne Gastrointestinal Panels identified by Multiplex Nucleic Acid Tests
- Multi-society response to MoDiX: Multiple Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for Respiratory Viral Panels

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