



Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

Charles D. Hawker, PhD, MBA, FACSc, FAACC, Editor

Vol 40, No 2—May, 2020

2020 Annual Meeting in Banff Cancelled

It was with great regret that the Association of Clinical Scientists was forced to cancel its 140th Meeting in Banff, Alberta, due to the global Covid19 viral pandemic. Dr. Kyle Kurek and his committee had assembled an excellent program of topics and speakers and we hope there may be an opportunity in a future year to consider this outstanding venue for an ACS meeting.



ACS Looks Forward to Louisville in 2021

140th Annual Meeting

May 12-15, 2021

Embassy Suites by Hilton

Louisville Downtown

The 140th Meeting of the Association of Clinical Scientists will be held May 12-15th, 2021 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Louisville Downtown. Hosted by the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Dr. Roland Valdes has assembled an enthusiastic Program Committee (see below) to develop an outstanding conference. After the cancellation of our 2020 meeting in Banff, you will not want to miss the momentous occasion of ACS once again convening to enjoy the great science, camaraderie, and networking that are the hallmark of ACS meetings.

THEME AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical researchers and innovators will join from all over the world to embrace the 2021 themes, "The Analytical Side and Demands of Precision Medicine" and "The Environment and Proteomics in Health and Disease." Topics will include "Mass Spectrometry and the Surgical Knife" (surgical applications of MS technology) and "New Proteomics Approaches and Analysis," and "The Informatics Side of Pathology." Currently, the Program Committee is considering the possibility of two keynote

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2021 in Louisville...

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addresses – one on Thursday and one on Saturday. If held, the Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture and the Abraham J. Gitlitz Memorial Lecture would make up for missing a memorial lecture in Banff. Although learning is the focus, no ACS meeting is complete without some fun added in. The Embassy Suites Downtown Hotel is directly adjacent to Fourth Street Live!, Louisville's two block, pedestrian-only, venue of restaurants and entertainment.

The nationally recognized Postdoctoral Clinical Chemistry Fellowship Program (CCFP) at UofL Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will hold its 30-plus years reunion during the 2021 ACS meeting, a chance to re-acquaint with past friends, grad colleagues and many previous ACS award recipients.

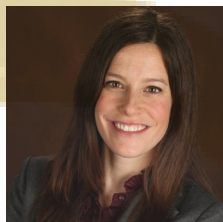
The Annual Reception and Banquet will feature the presentation of the Association's annual awards which unfortunately could not be presented in Banff. These awards include the Clinical Scientist of the Year presented to **Keri J. Donaldson**, MD, PhD, the FW Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor presented to **Robert W. Hardy**, PhD, and the Young Clinical Scientist Award presented to **Amanda Haynes**, D.O. The featured speaker at the Annual Banquet is still to be determined.



Embassy Suites by Hilton Louisville Downtown



Dr. Keri Donaldson

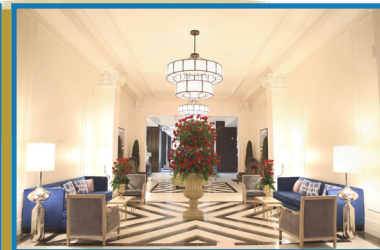


Dr. Amanda Haynes



Dr. Robert Hardy

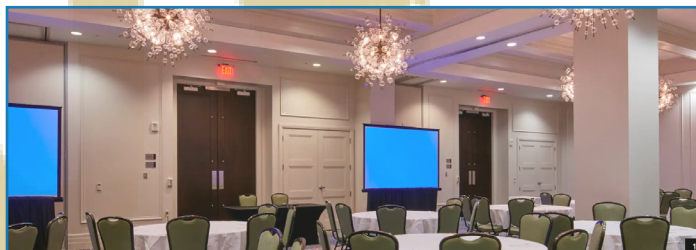
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Various Embassy Suites lobbies, including Atrium Lobby



UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



A meeting room at the Embassy Suites

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2021 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

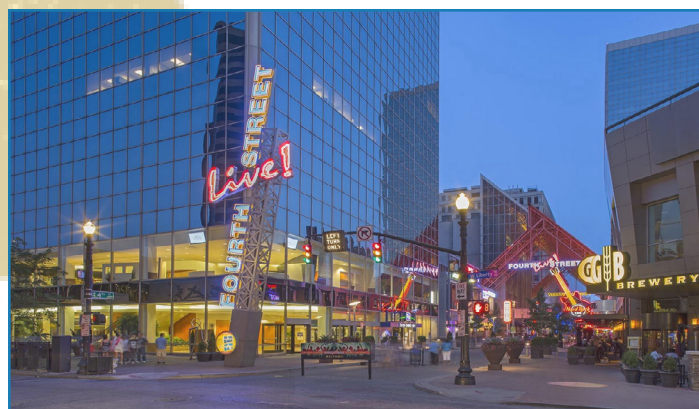
Roland Valdes, PhD, University of Louisville, Chair
Mark Linder, PhD, University of Louisville
Tiffany Roberts, PhD, University of Louisville
Chris Crutchfield, PhD, University of Cincinnati
Philip J. Foulis, MD, MPH, Veterans Admin. Hospital, Tampa, FL
Jonathan Hoyne, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL

Stay tuned to the Association's website at: <http://www.clinicalscience.org/annualmeeting.html>, our September newsletter, and broadcast emails and other promotions to get the latest updates on Louisville 2021.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Embassy Suites Louisville Downtown Hotel, 501 South Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40202, phone (502) 813-3800, www.hilton.com/en/hotels/sdfndes-embassy-suites-louisville-downtown/ is a AAA 4 Diamond boutique hotel in a renovated historic Louisville building, a former department store built in 1907. The hotel is next to Fourth Street Live! and steps from Museum Row, and the Muhammad Ali Center. It is blocks from Whisky Row and four miles from Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. The hotel features an indoor pool and fitness center, daily free cooked-to-order breakfast, and a complimentary evening reception. Every stay includes non-smoking rooms, complimentary safes, and free Wi-Fi.

The guaranteed conference rate at the Embassy Suites is \$189, plus (currently) 16.07% taxes. This rate includes the hotel's cooked-to-order breakfast and evening reception as well as the amenities in the preceding paragraph. Reservations must



Fourth Street Live is next to the Embassy Suites



Churchill Downs is home to the annual Kentucky Derby

be made no later than April 13, 2021 either by calling the hotel directly at 502-813-3800 (be sure to request the ACS Meeting room block) or using an on-line tool on the website which will be created shortly for ACS. Reservations made after April 13, 2021 will depend on availability.

TRANSPORTATION

Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport is 6.2 miles (13 minutes) from the Embassy Suites Louisville Downtown Hotel. The hotel provides a courtesy shuttle bus to and from the airport. For those that prefer to rent a car, the hotel provides free valet parking. Taxi service ranges from \$16.56 to \$26.19 (plus tip) depending on time of day and traffic. Uber or Lyft rates are approximately \$4-5 lower.

Election Results

by Robert Hardy, PhD, Chair, Nominating Committee

For the first time in its history, and due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting in Banff, Alberta in June, the ACS conducted its annual election by email instead of at the Business Meeting. One month was allowed for members to return their ballots to our office and 36 ballots were received.

The elected ACS officers and members of the Executive Committee are: **Dr. Keri Donaldson**, President; **Dr. Joshua Bornhorst**, President Elect; **Dr. Chris Crutchfield**, Vice President; **Dr. Jonathan Hoyne**, Secretary 2020-23; **Dr. Shuko Harada**, Executive Committee Member 2020-22; and **Dr. Yusheng Zhu**, Executive Committee Member 2020-21.

Congratulations to all.



Whisky Row building facades, the David statue and the Slugger

President's Corner

A FOND FAREWELL AS PRESIDENT OF ACS

My tenure as President of the Association of Clinical Scientists is coming to a close with this issue of the Clinical Science Trumpet. It has been my distinct pleasure and honor to serve in this capacity with the distinguished officers, executive committee members, and committee chairs and members of this outstanding Association. I value all members of ACS and their past, current and future contributions to the success and future of ACS. My tenure commenced at the close of the highly successful 139th ACS 2019 Annual Meeting in Hershey, with **Dr. Keri Donaldson** and **Dr. Myra Wilkerson** as co-chairs of the organizing committee. This meeting provided excellent academic and social programs with the camaraderie of ACS members on display.



John Hicks

ACS: A VICTIM OF COVID19

As all ACS members are aware, COVID19 has significantly affected our professional and personal lives and all members of society in general. An unfortunate victim of the COVID19 pandemic is the ACS 2020 Annual Meeting that was to be held in Banff in June 2020. With restrictions on travel throughout North America and much of the developed world, it was not feasible to go forward with the ACS 2020 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Kyle Kurek chaired the organizing committee, which had developed a program highlighting the field of transplantation with presentations by world renowned experts, and an additional review of the effort by Alberta province to amalgamate and standardize provincial clinical laboratories. The social program was developed to highlight the natural beauty of Alberta. ACS would like to thank Kyle, **Tito Sergi**, and all members of the organizing committee for their efforts in developing what would have been an outstanding Annual Meeting. With the cancellation of the meeting, the conference hotel had initially demanded payment of at least 80% of all projected costs for the entire meeting. With persistence and excellent negotiating skills, **Dr. Kurek** was able to reduce the cancellation penalty to only the minimal deposit fee required by the initial contract - at least a 10-fold reduction in the initial cancellation payment demanded by the conference hotel.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ACS 2021 IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Since the ACS 2019 Annual Meeting in Hershey, the ACS Executive Committee has been working closely with **Dr. Roland Valdes** to organize the 140th ACS Annual Meeting to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. **Dr. Valdes** and the organizing committee have contracted with the **Embassy Suites in Louisville** for the ACS 2021 Annual Meeting to be held May 12-15, 2021. **Drs. Valdes** and **Hawker** made a site visit to the Embassy Suites several months ago in order to confirm the acceptability of the site and to secure a favorable contract for the meeting. The sponsoring institution is the **University of Louisville** with **Dr. Valdes** serving as host. The local organizing committee has developed a preliminary thematic plan for the meeting. The meeting is further discussed elsewhere in this issue of the *Trumpet*.

TASK FORCE FOR SYMPOSIUM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Committee formed a task force to survey the ACS membership to determine whether a symposium should be considered as an additional educational event in conjunction with the ACS Annual Meeting. The survey indicated overwhelming support for a half-day symposium on the day prior to the beginning of the ACS Annual Meeting. Several topics were suggested by ACS members. It is anticipated that the inaugural symposium will be presented in conjunction with the 140th ACS Annual Meeting in Louisville. This task force is co-chaired by **Drs. Tito Sergi** and **Rob Hardy**. Additional information regarding the symposium will be forthcoming.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORTS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE TRUMPET

The Business Meeting of the Association is held at the ACS Annual Meeting. Due to the unfortunate cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting, this issue of the Trumpet will provide the annual reports that are typically presented at the Business Meeting. These include **reports** by the ACS Treasurer, and by the various ACS Committees. The Executive Committee would like to reassure the ACS members of the financial stability and security of the Association, even with the recent economic downturn.

ACS MEMBERS: THE LIFE BLOOD AND FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

ACS is dependent upon membership involvement in all aspects of the Association. The volunteer nature and commitment of ACS members to the Association is outstanding and a source of pride for ACS. ACS members are essential to development of the academic program for the Annual Meeting, with submission of abstracts for plenary, platform and poster presentations. ACS members are integral in recruitment of new members. Recruiting colleagues, collaborators, residents, fellows, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to become ACS members is a means to increase membership in this long-standing Association established in 1949. Encouraging these individuals to attend and present at the Annual Meeting provides exposure to the academic and social events, and camaraderie of the Association. ACS also provides exceptional opportunities for junior to mid career professionals to become committee members, committee chairs and officers in this nationally and internationally recognized Association. Such appointments are important for academic promotion and career advancement for junior to mid career professionals.

This Association is unique in that it has published the *Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science* for the past 50 years. This outstanding journal is readily searchable through PubMed and numerous journal search engines. The state of the art papers submitted by national and international experts span the field of clinical science, laboratory medicine and anatomic pathology, including clinical, translational and basic science research. Under the editorial supervision of **Drs. Nina Tatevian** and **Kyle Kurek**, and the editorial assistance of **Ms. Anara Baimetova**, this journal has become the hallmark of the Association of Clinical Scientists. As such, subscription to this journal is an exceptional benefit of ACS membership.

ACS members are the true life blood of the association and also determine the future of the Association. You are encouraged to

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be ambassadors for ACS and recruiters for engaging individuals to attend and present at the ACS meeting and to become ACS members.

ACS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: DIGITAL MARKETING

During the past year, ACS has been involved in a digital marketing initiative headed by **Dr. Charles Hawker**, Executive Director of ACS. With input from the Executive Committee, digital advertisement of the Association and the Annual Meeting has targeted major professional groups. This targeting has resulted in numerous hits on the ACS advertisements with a certain degree of trafficking to the ACS website. This initiative has given a certain degree of visibility to ACS among like minded professionals. Perhaps, a future initiative of ACS should be directed toward additional digital formats. Individuals interested in becoming involved with digital expansion of ACS should contact members of the Executive Committee.

COVID19 HIGHLIGHTS CONTRIBUTION OF LABORATORY MEDICINE, CLINICAL SCIENTISTS AND PATHOLOGISTS

With the onset of SARS-COV-2 (COVID19) viral infection, there has been a flurry of activity to provide appropriate diagnostic tests and instruments, improve turnaround times, provide reliable and reproducible results, and eliminate tests and testing devices with unacceptable false negative and false positive results. Within a very short period of time, RNA-based molecular testing of COVID19 was brought online at individual institutions and commercial laboratories. In-house testing for this virus was accomplished by many institutions with a turnaround time of 24 hours or less, providing rapid diagnosis, institution of quarantining of affected individuals, and initiation of appropriate therapy.

At the same time, laboratory medicine was also closely involved in determining the reliability and reproducibility of purported testing devices offered by various commercial interests. The input of laboratory medicine scientists and pathologists lead to elimination of certain testing devices from being utilized due to high false negative and false positive rates. Also, these individuals were instrumental in eliminating at home testing that was not validated as reliable and reproducible. There has been considerable interest in plasma banking from individuals with antibodies against COVID19. Again, laboratory scientists and pathologist have had tremendous input in protocol development and implementation of plasma-based therapy. Research scientists also are playing an integral role in working toward development of COVID19 vaccines.

Of note is the fact that, almost daily, the popular media presents data generated by laboratory medicine scientists and pathologists regarding rapid COVID19 identification, appropriate tests and instrumentation, antibody identification, and possible treatment against this virus.

A recent article in Forbes magazine ([click here to link to article](#)) praised the efforts of laboratory professionals and called for more medical laboratory professionals. Typically, laboratory medicine and pathology, in general, does not receive such recognition. This was especially appreciated during the concurrent National Laboratory Week.

I wish to congratulate all ACS members who are on the front line of dealing with the COVID19 pandemic.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD FOR ACS OFFICERS

An item that required attention with the cancellation of the ACS 2020 Annual Meeting was the **election of officers** by the ACS membership. In order to accomplish this item, election ballots were sent via email to the membership. The slate of candidates was overwhelmingly approved. The incoming ACS officers are: **Dr. Keri Donaldson** as President; **Dr. Joshua Bornhorst** as President Elect; **Dr. Chris Crutchfield** as Vice President; **Dr. Jonathan Hoyne** as Secretary 2020-23; **Dr. Shuko Harada** as Executive Committee Member 2020-22; and **Dr. Yusheng Zhu** as Executive Committee Member 2020-21. These well-qualified officers will continue the mission of ACS. The Nomination Committee was chaired by **Dr. Rob Hardy**.

FOND FAREWELL

The past year as ACS President has been a wonderful opportunity to interact with highly competent and dedicated individuals on the Executive Committee, the various ACS committees, and the Executive Director. I would like to acknowledge those members of the Executive Committee who are completing their terms. **Dr. Rob Hardy** served for several years on the Executive Committee, most notably as President-Elect, President, and Past President. **Dr. Consolato (Tito) Sergi** served as an Executive Committee Member, and will continue to Co-Chair the Task Force on Symposium Development and Implementation, along with Co-Chair **Dr. Rob Hardy**. **Dr. DeLu (Tyler) Yin** served as Secretary from 2018-2019 with the remainder of his term completed by **Dr. Jonathan Hoyne** as Interim Secretary commencing in 2019.

Executive Committee Officers and Members continuing to serve include: **Dr. Alexander Feldman**, Chair of Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee; **Dr. Robert Hunter, Jr.**, Director of Scientific Sections; and **Dr. Nina Tatevian**, Editor-in-Chief. The incoming officers include: **Dr. Keri Donaldson**, President; **Dr. Joshua Bornhorst**, President Elect; **Dr. Chris Crutchfield**, Vice-President; Executive Committee Members, **Dr. Shuko Harada** and **Dr. Yusheng Zhu**; and **Dr. John Hicks**, Past President.

There are two individuals who have served on the Past Presidents Advisory Council—**Dr. Philip Foulis** and **Dr. Rob Hardy**—who provided sage knowledge and insight on ACS operation and issues.

There are also two people that contribute greatly to the operation of ACS on a daily basis. **Dr. Charles Hawker** has served as the Executive Director of ACS for several years, and serves in many aspects as historian, parliamentarian, and constitutionalist of ACS, in addition to his many other activities. In general, one of Charlie's responsibilities is to "herd cats" (the Executive Committee Members) to ensure that Executive Committee Meetings are appropriately carried out. In addition, Charlie is essential in meeting guidelines for the Annual Meetings. I know Charlie would be most appreciative if a member would volunteer to serve as Newsletter Editor, a position Charlie is filling on an interim basis. A person who is essential for day to day operation of ACS is **Ms. Anara Baimetova**. She serves as the editorial assistant to **Dr. Tatevian**, manages the membership information, and also accounting for ACS and the Journal. **Ms. Baimetova** is an incredible resource and a dedicated "hard-worker" for ACS.

Wishing you all life has to offer,



John Hicks



From the President-elect

by Keri J. Donaldson, MD, MSCE, FACOP

President-elect, Association of Clinical Scientists

While the 140th Meeting of the Association in Banff had to be postponed due to the pandemic, I would like to recognize **Dr. Kyle Kurek** and his committee for the exceptional program they had organized. An announcement will be made as to when this program will be presented in the future. Until that is scheduled, we invite you to join us at the next **Annual Meeting to be held May 12-15, 2021**, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky (sponsored by University of Louisville). **Dr. Roland Valdes**, Program Chair, and his committee are putting together an informative and enjoyable program. The information will be posted on our website and in the Newsletter.



Dr. Keri Donaldson

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize special members of the Association for their service and dedication. Thank you to **Dr. John Hicks** for his many contributions and leadership as President this past year. His oversight has been invaluable to enhance the overall vision of the Association. **Dr. Robert Hardy** in his role as Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee continues to provide oversight to all committees. I would also like to recognize **Dr. Christopher Crutchfield** and **Dr. Consolato Sergi** for their participation and service on the Executive Committee. Dr. Crutchfield has agreed to serve as Vice President for the upcoming year. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee for two years, **Dr. Sergi** has also graciously agreed to participate on an exploratory committee for the creation of a workshop or symposium at the Annual Meeting.

A warm welcome to new members of the Executive Committee, **Dr. Shuko Harada** from the University of Alabama in Birmingham and **Dr. Yusheng Zhu**, from Penn State Health, Penn State University, Hershey, PA.

If you are not already a member of the Association, we invite you to join. There are three levels of membership: Fellows, Associate Fellows, and Members. Applications are available on the website: <http://www.clinicalscience.org/pdf/2019%20ACS%20Brochure.pdf>.

The Association provides an opportunity for specialists to remain abreast of developments in areas of medicine ancillary to their specialty. For anatomic and clinical pathologists, the Association provides coverage of new methods and concepts that are pertinent to clinical diagnosis. ACS Annual Meetings are accredited for continuing medical education credits.

Through its meetings, workshops, publications, and professional interactions, the Association fosters scientific inquiry, education, and collegiality. An atmosphere not found in larger meetings and promotes discussion, learning, and mentoring. This is especially important during these challenging times to the medical community.

We hope you will join us in Louisville next May.



Treasurer's Report

by Stephen M. Roper, PhD, FACSc

Treasurer, Association of Clinical Scientists

For the 2019 calendar year, several factors had an impact on the finances of ACS. For income, manuscript charges and journal subscription fees accounted for more than 75% of the Association's revenue. Membership dues, conference fees, and donations were also a substantial source of revenue in 2019, representing 23% of the \$201,139.65 total income. Contractor fees and payroll were the largest expenses for ACS last year, representing for approximately 73% of the \$164,054.79 total expenditure. Notably, an unrealized gain of \$27,247.24 reduced the organization's expenses and is attributed to market value adjustments in the investment fund.

The 2019 financial report has obviously preceded the dramatic changes in the stock market caused by the viral pandemic. The Association's investment fund was intentionally selected to be conservative. As of the April meeting of the Executive Committee there had been only a 9.7% decline in value compared to December, so we are confident that the Association's finances will "weather this storm."

Association of Clinical Scientists

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2019

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1110 Chase Investment Account	
1112 Chase Mutual Funds	316,373.00
1113 Chase Market Value Adjustment	11,971.90
Total 1110 Chase Investment Account	328,344.90
Total Bank Accounts	\$328,344.90
Total Current Assets	\$328,344.90
TOTAL ASSETS	\$328,344.90
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3200 Retained Earnings	
Net Income	
Total Equity	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$0.00

Wanted

Fellow or Associate Fellow to volunteer to serve as Newsletter Editor for the *Clinical Science Trumpet*. This is a great way to serve and learn about the Association.

Contact Charles D. Hawker, PhD, at:
charlie@charlesdhawker.com

Association of Clinical Scientists

PROFIT AND LOSS

January - December 2019

	TOTAL
Income	
4000 Program Revenue	
4100 Subscription Fees for ACLS	73,132.79
4101 Copyright Clearance Royalty	1,105.18
4102 Manuscript Charges & Offprints	80,475.00
4200 Membership Dues	18,875.00
4300 Conference Fees	15,583.95
4301 Shipping Income	211.12
Total 4000 Program Revenue	189,383.04
4400 Donation	11,756.61
Total Income	\$201,139.65
GROSS PROFIT	\$201,139.65
Expenses	
5000 Office/General Expense	
5001 Post Office Expenses	386.16
5002 Phone & Internet	24.00
5003 Dues & subscriptions	1,338.88
5100 Bank Charges	3,951.97
Total 5000 Office/General Expense	5,701.01
5200 Contractors Fees	68,731.83
5500 Travel Expenses	
5501 Airfair	4,563.40
5502 Hotel	2,723.05
5503 Travel Meals	79.59
5504 Ground Transportation	2,177.66
Total 5500 Travel Expenses	9,543.70
6000 Program Expenses	
6100 Venue	22,235.80
6101 Printing and Publishing Expenses	34,440.45
Total 6000 Program Expenses	56,676.25
7998 Unrealized Gain/Losses	-27,247.24
Payroll Expenses	
Taxes	3,599.32
Wages	47,049.92
Total Payroll Expenses	50,649.24
Total Expenses	\$164,054.79
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$37,084.86
Other Income	
4500 Other Investment Income	22,368.14
Total Other Income	\$22,368.14
NET OTHER INCOME	\$22,368.14
NET INCOME	\$59,453.00

Annual Publications Committee Report

by Nina Tatevian, MD, PhD,
Chair, Publications Committee

The Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science is celebrating its Golden Anniversary, marked by 50 years of publication of this outstanding and well-recognized journal. The *Annals* continues to reflect the mission of ACS, with respect to research, education and clinical practice. The *Annals* publishes six issues per year with articles across the full spectrum of laboratory medicine and anatomic pathology, and includes basic, translational and clinical science research. During 2018, 576 manuscripts were submitted for review with 121 manuscripts accepted for publication (acceptance rate of 21%). The number of submitted manuscripts in 2019 increased to 618 with 120 manuscripts accepted (acceptance rate of 19%). The number of manuscripts submitted is projected to be within the 600 range for the calendar year 2020. Manuscripts are being submitted from across the globe, including 5 of the 7 continents of the world, encompassing 32 countries. The remarkable number of manuscripts submitted to the *Annals* and the international nature of the manuscript submissions reflect the high regard with which the journal is held.

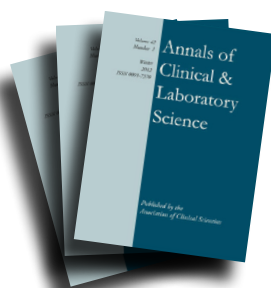
The *Annals* contributes greatly to the financial stability of ACS. During the calendar year 2019, the *Annals* generated \$145,825.62 in revenue, with expenditures to support the publication being \$118,705.44. The expenditures included publication costs (HighWire Press), copy editing charges, and editorial staff support. ACS benefited from the resulting net income of \$27,120.18 in 2019.

The Editor-in-Chief (**Dr. Nina Tatevian**) and **Dr. Kyle Kurek** (Senior Associate Editor) are actively working toward reorganization of the Editorial Board into various scientific subsections. This will allow for each subsection of the Editorial Board to triage reviews to appropriate Editorial Board Members and streamline manuscript reviews with more rapid reviews and decrease in time to publication.

The Publications Committee wishes to recognize the exceptional abilities and dedication of the Managing Editor, **Ms. Anara Baimetova**, who also provides administrative assistance on a day-to-day basis for the Association of Clinical Scientists.



Since 1971...



Interview: Dr. Robert L. Hunter

The Young Fellows Section arranges interviews between Young Fellows and more senior Fellows. Young Fellows can obtain scientific and career advice from a senior member who may offer valuable guidance. Below is an interview between Alex Feldman, MD (Young Fellow) and Robert L. Hunter, PhD.

Editor's Note: *Dr. Robert Hunter served as President of ACS in 1988 and currently serves on the Executive Committee as the Director of Scientific Sections. He received the Association's Gold Headed Cane Award in 2015 and the Clinical Scientist of the Year Award in 1989.*

Alex Feldman: Please tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?

Bob Hunter: I grew up on the south side of Chicago in the neighborhood of the University of Chicago. I attended inner city public schools during a time when the local environment was rapidly changing. As such, I was lucky to be exposed to a diversity of people and experiences when other areas of the country were more segregated. When I went to college at Harvard, my schooling was considered "diversity," as many others had gone to private or suburban schools.

Feldman: How did you develop an interest in science and medicine?

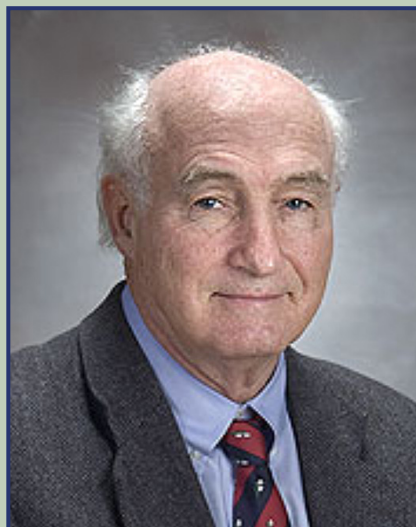
Hunter: In high school and college, I was always fascinated by research. The thought of discovering new things and seeing sights under the microscope that no one had seen before was exciting! I didn't know how to find research opportunities in college. However, in my first year of medical school at the University of Chicago, a pathologist, Dr. Robert Wissler, got me working on a project studying the histology of immune responses in newborn rats.

I fell in love with research immediately and subsequently spent all my elective time and most vacations in medical school on research in pathology. I always enjoyed seeing what my colleagues were doing with their research and adapted their questions and methods to my work. It was exciting to learn things in science that no one had known before. These endeavors allowed me to graduate medical school with a masters degree as well as an MD.

Knowing I wanted a career to that combined research and clinical medicine, I pursued post-graduate training at the Boston City Hospital (internship in Internal Medicine) and University of Chicago (pathology residency) with an additional 2 years for research in the Immunology Laboratory at the NIH where I completed research for a PhD thesis.

Feldman: Tell me about your career progression. How did mentorship influence your professional career?

Hunter: I began my career as an assistant professor at the University of Chicago where I started a clinical immunology laboratory, conducted research and advised MD/PhD students. I was there for about 7 years, when circumstances evolved such



Dr. Robert Hunter

that I had to choose between research and medical practice in pathology. Since I wanted to do both, I chose to leave for Emory University where I was offered an opportunity to run a clinical immunology laboratory, do basic research and be director of a PhD program in Experimental Pathology.

Mentorship was always very important in my career. My mentors were outstanding role models. They set good examples, showed dedication to their work and gave sound advice as I pursued my combined clinical and research career. I also thoroughly enjoyed being a mentor of young people beginning careers in academic medicine.

Feldman: Did you have any unexpected turns in your training or career?

Hunter: I struggled some in medical school, especially at the beginning. The father of the girl I was dating in college told me medical school would be one of the hardest and dullest things I ever did. He was correct.

However, when I got involved in research, I loved it. It gave a sense of purpose to the work I was doing. The prospect of combining research and clinical medicine to address medical problems was exciting! Thus, my internship, residency, NIH fellowship and junior faculty years at Chicago all had this dual focus.

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Robert Hunter

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Feldman: How did you get involved with the Association? How has ACS helped you in your career?

Hunter: A senior technologist I worked with introduced me to the ACS. I attended my first meeting in Charlottesville, VA in 1982 and haven't missed a meeting since.


Right from the start I was drawn by the focus on scholarly aspects of pathology practice. The membership was and is still very eclectic, but everyone shares a common interest in advancing clinical science. There's a lot of networking at these meetings. You really get to spend dedicated time getting to know people from all over the country, which contrasts with some of the larger pathology meetings.

Looking at the membership over the years, many careers were advanced by connections through the organization. You have the opportunity to show off your work and get to know influential people outside of your immediate specialty. The combination of dedicated science in an array of disciplines in a congenial setting is unique. The opportunity to visit and tour institutions, not just hotels and conference centers, in many parts of the country has much value. People who know you well are willing to write letters of recommendation and help with advancing your career. In fact, it was through ACS connections that I was recruited as Chairman of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UT Houston. This was not an isolated incident.

Feldman: Describe the importance for faculty to be involved in national/international organizations and to have administrative responsibilities outside of one's home institution.

Hunter: By getting involved in organizations like the ACS, you learn that many of the problems you're trying to tackle are shared by your colleagues. It could be navigating promotion and tenure, personnel issues, adding new laboratory tests or research questions. There is comfort knowing others are dealing with these same issues, and value in sharing ideas of how to solve them. When you take on leadership positions, you really get to become friends with people in the organization while also getting the opportunity to tackle problems affecting the profession.

Feldman: What advice would you give to someone starting out in their career in clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine?

Hunter: Find something you enjoy doing and work hard. Get involved in organizations like ACS so you're not isolated. This will give you new opportunities and open up the breadth of possibilities in our profession, as opposed to just your particular focus. Things are changing rapidly in the practice of both anatomic and clinical pathology as well as research. This is going to continue to be an exciting profession! 

*Dr. Roger Bertholf (left) presenting the
Gold Headed Cane Award in 2015 to
Dr. Robert Hunter (right)*



The Young Fellows Section

The Young Fellows Section aims to foster career growth by providing opportunities to network and build relationships with other professionals in the field, give presentations and receive awards at our annual meeting and receive mentorship from more experienced members. If you are interested in establishing a mentor from within our organization, please contact me via email.



Alex Feldman

We encourage young fellows to submit a case report, review article or original research manuscript for publication to the *Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science*, the journal for ACS. The instructions for authors can be found at:

www.annclinlabsci.org.

It would be great to see a young fellow or trainee submit an article each quarter for publication. The editorial board also encourages trainees to serve as reviewers for the journal, wherein you can be paired with senior reviewers to receive hands-on guidance in the reviewing process. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please contact me via email.

Sincerely,

Alex Feldman, MD
Chair, Young Fellows Section - Association of Clinical Scientists
Neuropathology Fellow, Northwestern Memorial Hospital

YOUNG FELLOWS SECTION CHAIR:

Alex Feldman, M.D.

email: alexander.feldman@northwestern.edu



The Grapevine: Member News

PROMOTION

Henry S. Oh, EdD, FACSc henry.oh@msn.com received a promotion.

Dr. Oh is now the Department Chair and Clinical Professor of Health Occupations (10 programs) at Idaho State University. His new mailing address is: 1110 Yellowstone Ave. #248, Pocatello, ID 83201.

Dr. Oh has also shared a couple of press releases:

<https://www.aarc.org/nn20-good-press-01-2020/>

<https://www.isu.edu/news/2019-fall/health-occupations-chair-henry-oh-achieves-national-recognition-and-society-presidency.html>

Congratulations to Dr. Oh.

New Members

ACS welcomes these new members who have joined since April 2019:

FELLOWS

Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D.

Department of Laboratory Medicine
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Krishna Mohan Baradhi, M.D., FACP, FASN, FNKF.

Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine
University of Oklahoma, Tulsa, OK

Shivani Kaushik, M.D.

Department of Dermatology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY

Laim C. Lee, Ph.D.

Medical Affairs, Amgen
San Diego, CA

Denene Lofland, Ph.D.

Department of Medical & Molecular Sciences
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Kiran Panuganti, M.D., M.B.A.

Department of Medicine, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital
Frisco, TX

Dipli Sagar, M.D.

Department of Gastroenterology, Ventura County Medical
Center, Ventura, CA

Mamoun Younes, M.D.

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Houston, TX

Yusheng Zhu, Ph.D., M.S.

Penn State University Hershey Medical Center, Department of
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Hershey, PA

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

Mustafa Barbhuiya, Ph.D.

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Penn State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA

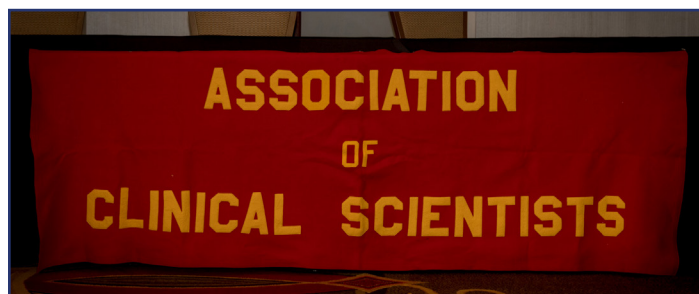
Faysal Fedda, M.D.

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

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Zaed A. Asiri, B.S.

Prince Military Medical City, Central Military Laboratory and
Blood Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



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Newsletter Trivia Question

Edited by Stephen M. Roper, Ph.D., FACSc

The first person to email the correct answer will have their name mentioned in the following newsletter and the satisfaction of knowing they won. Please respond to, or if you have a trivia question you would like to submit, please email to Stephen M. Roper at: smroper@wustl.edu.

No one attempted to answer the February, 2020 Trivia question provided by **Dr. Stephen M. Roper**, which was:

PREVIOUS QUESTION

The Friedewald equation is a widely used method for estimating LDL-cholesterol. The equation is $\text{LDL cholesterol} = \text{Total cholesterol} - \text{HDL-cholesterol} - (\text{Triglycerides}/5)$, where "Triglycerides/5" is a surrogate for VLDL cholesterol. One limitation of this equation is that it should not be used when triglycerides exceed 399 mg/dL. What happens to Friedewald calculated LDL-cholesterol levels in specimens with hypertriglyceridemia (>399 mg/dL)?

ANSWER

Overestimation of VLDL-C resulting in underestimation of LDL-cholesterol

CURRENT QUESTION (SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN ROPER)

Measurement of plasma total homocysteine has utility for detecting defects in cobalamin (B12) absorption, transport, and metabolism. In these conditions, increased plasma total homocysteine is thought to result from decreased remethylation of homocysteine by methionine synthase, which requires cobalamin as a cofactor. What other enzyme requires cobalamin as a cofactor? (Hint: the acidic form of the substrate for this enzyme is also monitored to detect defects in cobalamin absorption, transport and metabolism).

ANSWER

Answer will appear in the next *Clinical Science Trumpet*. The individual with the first correct answer will have the honor of writing the trivia question for the next newsletter.

Submit your answer by email to Dr. Stephen Roper at: smroper@wustl.edu.



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Announcements, commentaries, and news/photos of members are welcome. Please send to the Editor at: charlie@charlesdhawker.com

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Louisville, KY,
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