



# Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

Glenn W. George, D.Sc., M.B.A., Editor

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## 2026 ACS ANNUAL MEETING HOSTED BY NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL

Tuesday–Friday, May 19–22, 2026 ❖ Chicago, Illinois

By Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., and Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., M.B.A.

The Association of Clinical Scientists will hold its 2026 Annual Meeting (147<sup>th</sup> meeting overall) May 19-22 in Chicago, Illinois. Hosted by the Department of Pathology of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, this meeting will follow the ACS typical format of 2.5 days of scientific sessions with a cultural tour on the middle afternoon. However, due to Chicago traffic, the meeting days are Wednesday through Friday rather than the usual Thursday through Saturday.

There are three meeting themes: *Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders I: Neoplasia, Understanding of Brain Disorders II: Neurodegeneration, and Advances in Digital Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Informatics.*

The Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture will be delivered by **Daniel J. Brat, M.D., Ph.D.**, Magerstadt Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, titled, “A Contemporary View of Diffuse Gliomas: Two Decades of Data-Driven Evolution.”

Wednesday evening will feature a new special event for ACS—a Vendor Night. There will be a concurrent welcome reception of hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Short talks will be presented by several participating vendors including Roche Diagnostics, Abbott Diagnostics, Beckman Coulter, and Fujirebio. **These talks will not have any CE associated with them.**

The banquet speaker at the Annual Awards Reception and Banquet will be **Lance Shaner, Ph.D., J.D.**, Co-Founder of Omega Yeast Labs, LLC, who will talk about his career and his founding of a craft yeast company, Omega Yeast Labs, LLC. Dr. Shaner’s presentation will be titled, “The Science of Suds: GMO Yeast in Beer.”



*Tulips in downtown Chicago*

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## CHICAGO MEETING ▶ continued from page 1

The cultural tour on Thursday afternoon will include Chicago deep dish pizza at the famous Gino's East and a Chicago River architectural boat tour. Friday's program will include the Annual Members Business Meeting. The Annual Meeting will conclude with the typical Musicales and Art Show on Friday evening.

The hotel for the 2026 Annual Meeting is the fabulous Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, in downtown Chicago. Details can also be found in the Accommodations section of the ACS website at <https://clinicalscience.org/> and click the "Meetings" tab. The hotel is downtown, within walking distance to many attractions (Magnificent Mile, Navy Pier, Riverwalk, etc.), and directly across the street from Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

The members of the Program Committee are **Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D.**, Program Committee Chair, **Sam Weinberg, M.D., Ph.D.**, Dept. of Pathology, **Lucy Fu, M.D., M.Sc.**, Department of Pathology, **Tina Siebenaler**, Feinberg School of Medicine, **Christy Lopez**, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, **Jonathan B. Hoynes, Ph.D.**, Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, **Erica Fatica, Ph.D.**, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and **Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., M.B.A.** (*ex officio*).

### ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotel for the 2026 Annual Meeting is the fabulous **Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile**, 633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, IL 60611 (telephone: 833-314-5693).

With newly renovated guestrooms, a stay at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile creates an unforgettable downtown Chicago experience where you'll feel the electric energy of the Windy City with a coveted address just off Michigan Avenue. Explore all the city has to offer—from noted attractions like Navy Pier, a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, high-end shopping along the Magnificent Mile, and don't forget the tasty restaurants and fun night spots just steps from our hotel. At the end of your day, return to relax in a fashionable guest room or suite, where you can recharge in style and plan your next Chicago adventures. The Hyatt Centric is owned by Northwestern University and the hotel is connected via an enclosed second-floor bridge to the hospital where we will have sessions and a tour on our second day.

The contracted rate for the Annual Meeting is an excellent \$249 plus tax per night, single or double. Call the hotel

reservations desk at (877) 803-7534. Because we are past the hotel's original cut-off date, those desiring reservations should call the hotel's front desk for reservations which may still be available at our guaranteed rate.

Cancellations must be made at least 72 hours prior to the arrival date. Those who wish to extend their stays for sightseeing or other purposes can do so at the guaranteed rate by speaking with the front desk. All guestrooms will have basic internet service and guests will have complimentary access to the fitness center and pool area.

### TRANSPORTATION

Chicago can be accessed by air through either Chicago O'Hare International Airport or Chicago Midway International Airport. An Uber or similar rideshare from Midway to the hotel is approximately \$40 and from O'Hare approximately \$75. Public transit is also available to the city on the Blue Line and Orange Line from O'Hare and Midway, respectively, transferring to the Red Line after arriving in the "loop."

Chicago can also be accessed by Amtrak from various midwestern cities, arriving at Chicago Union Station, a short \$14 or \$15 Uber or taxi ride to the hotel. 



# Invited Guest Speakers for 2026 Annual Meeting



**Dr. Daniel J. Brat**, a neuropathologist and brain tumor investigator, is the Magerstadt Professor and Chair of Pathology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Healthcare. He received his M.D., Ph.D. from the Mayo Medical and Graduate Schools, then completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology and a fellowship in Neuropathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. 🏠

The Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecturer:

**Daniel J. Brat, M.D., Ph.D.**



**Dr. Lance Shaner** is the co-founder and co-owner of Omega Yeast Labs, operating since 2013. Lance received a Ph.D. in microbiology and molecular genetics from the University of Texas–Houston. He has 14 years of laboratory experience, including 5 years of original research on the stress response of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (a.k.a. brewer's yeast). 🏠

Awards Reception and Banquet Speaker:

**Lance Shaner, Ph.D., J.D.**



# Awards to be Presented at 2026 Annual Meeting

At the annual Business Meeting in Providence, the Awards Committee, chaired by **Myra Wilkerson, M.D.**, announced that the following awards will be presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

## Clinical Scientist of the Year

Past Awardees

### Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc

**Dr. Crutchfield** has had an extensive engagement in the Association of Clinical Scientists since joining the Association in 2017. Following a year on the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large in 2019, he assumed the role of Vice President in 2020. In this time he assisted the Association in navigating the impact of the pandemic on scientific associations, including the development and execution of two “virtual” symposia and a “hybrid” meeting at the Louisville Annual Meeting in 2022. **Dr. Crutchfield** received the Early Career Professionals travel grant award and FW Sunderman Jr. Diploma of Honor from the Association in 2019 and 2023, respectively. He is now preparing to help host the 2026 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois through his home institution, the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.



**Dr. Crutchfield** received his PhD in chemistry from Princeton University, followed by a Research Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health and a Fellowship in clinical chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Cincinnati in 2015, serving as the Technical Director for Clinical Chemistry, Toxicology, and Point-of-Care, as well as Medical Director of the UCMC Ridgeway Tower Clinical Laboratory. He joined Northwestern Pathology in 2021 as the Associate Medical Director for the Laboratory and Section Medical Director for Clinical Chemistry. In 2023, he assumed the role of Scientific Director, Clinical Laboratories, to provide broader oversight to the 11 hospital-based clinical laboratories within the Northwestern Medicine system. **Dr. Crutchfield** is board-certified in clinical chemistry by both the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and the American Board of Bioanalysis.

**Dr. Crutchfield's** academic interests include clinical applications of mass spectrometry, quality control, and leadership. In addition to the Association of Clinical Scientists, he is an active member of the Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine, serving as the president for the Ohio Valley Local Section from 2018-2019.



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# Awards to be Presented at 2026 Annual Meeting

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## F.W. Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor

Past Awardees

## Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc

**Jonathan B. Hoyne** has been actively involved with the Association of Clinical Scientists since 2014, beginning with his role on the organizing committee for the Annual Meeting in Amelia Island, Florida. His contributions to the organization include serving as the Secretary on the Executive Committee from 2019 to 2023, Vice President in 2023, President-elect in 2024, and President in 2025. Additionally, he chaired the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting and the 2023 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. In 2022, he was honored as the ACS Clinical Scientist of the Year.

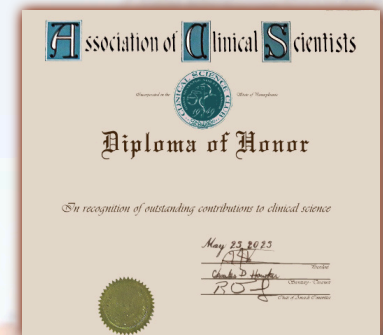
**Dr. Hoyne** earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences–Molecular Biology from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in 2006 and completed a fellowship in Clinical Chemistry at the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in 2008. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (FADLM) and is board certified in Clinical Chemistry (DABCC) by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry.

Since 2008, **Dr. Hoyne** has been an Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology and the Director of Clinical Chemistry at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. His previous roles include Director of Chemistry Point-of-Care, and Director of both in-patient and out-patient Chemistry, including Automated Chemistry and Automated Immunoassay. Currently, he oversees the Respiratory Blood Gas laboratories, Lung Bioengineering perfusion gas testing, Clinical Mass Spectrometry, and the Protein and Autoimmune Testing Laboratories.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, **Dr. Hoyne** has been the Director of the Targeted Biomarker Core Laboratory in Rochester, Minnesota since 2023. This laboratory offers researchers testing through various methods including automated chemistry and immunoassay, ELISA, MSD, Luminex, Olink, NULISaseq, and mass-spectrometry-based biomarker testing in a CLIA-certified facility. His research focuses on therapeutic drug monitoring and biomarker discovery, with current investigations into orthogonal biomarker evaluation using affinity-based and mass-spectrometry-based methods.

**Dr. Hoyne** has held several positions within the Southeast Section of the ADLM (formerly AACC), including Chair in 2022, host of the annual meeting in 2022, and member of the nominating committee in 2021 and 2024.

Before his scientific career, **Jonathan** served in the US Army, initially on active duty as a combat medic in an Evacuation Hospital, and later in the US Army Reserves as a Transportation Officer. His roles included Observer/Controller, Battalion S4, Executive Officer, and Company Commander of an Army Junkyard unit at Ft. McCoy, WI. He is a graduate of the US Army Transportation School and has been deployed in support of multiple overseas actions.



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# Awards to be Presented at 2026 Annual Meeting

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## Young Clinical Scientist Award

Past Awardees

### Rivka (Rita) Hayes, M.D.

**Rivka Hayes, M.D.**, attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate degree in Biology and Psychology: Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience. She subsequently attended medical school at the Technion American Medical School in Haifa, Israel. She is currently a senior resident in anatomic and clinical pathology at Case Western Reserve University / University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center in Ohio.

**Dr. Hayes** will be pursuing a fellowship in pediatric and perinatal pathology at the Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island / Brown University which she intends to follow with fellowship training in forensic pathology. These fellowships will enable her to reach her dream of serving as a medical examiner with a specialization in pediatric and perinatal autopsy.

With that career goal in mind, it is not surprising that **Dr. Hayes's** research interests are in the fields of toxicology and forensic pathology. She has published *Fibrosis of the Intestines in Response to Foreign Objects: A Case Report* and she presented *Four-week intranasal oxytocin vs. placebo administration modulation of amygdala and accumbens volume* at the annual OHBM meeting. Her work on *Evaluation of a screening assay for high-intensity drug trafficking area designer benzodiazepines* is what brought her to The Association of Clinical Scientists Annual Meeting in 2025. **Dr. Hayes** enjoys teaching and education with additional scholarly activity including contributions to pathology outlines on the subject of secondary parathyroid hyperplasia.

Outside of medicine, **Rivka** enjoys tying together eclectic fields of knowledge, and loves a good story.



# 147<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association of Clinical Scientists, Chicago, IL – May 19-22, 2026

## Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders and Advances in Digital Pathology and Clinical Laboratory

Tuesday and Friday sessions: Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, 633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
Thursday sessions: Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 303 E. Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611

**CME Sponsor: College of American Pathologists (CAP)**  
**ACCENT Sponsor: Association for Diagnostic and Laboratory Medicine (formerly AACC)**

### Tuesday, May 19

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel

- 2:30 pm Registration (Grand Ballroom Prefunction)  
3:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting (Ontario Room)

### Wednesday, May 20

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel, Grand Ballroom AB

- 7:00 am Complimentary Breakfast (Grand Ballroom C)  
7:00 am Registration (Grand Ballroom Prefunction)

#### Session A Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders I: Neoplasia

Chairs: Shuko Harada, M.D. and John Hicks, M.D., Ph.D., D.D.S.

- 8:00 am **Welcome Remarks:**  
Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., ACS President, and Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., Annual Meeting Program Chair
- 8:15 am **Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture**  
[1] Daniel J. Brat, M.D., Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*A Contemporary View of Diffuse Gliomas: Two Decades of Data-Driven Evolution*
- 9:15 am [2] Lawrence J. Jennings, M.D., Ph.D. and Lucas Santana dos Santos, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*The Next Generation of DNA Methylation Classification*
- 10:15 am **Refreshments**
- 10:45 am [3] Marina Ayad, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*AI-based Prognostication of Meningiomas*
- 11:15 am [4] Miriam A. Bornhorst, M.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Beyond Point Mutations: Harnessing Structural Variant Detection for Improved Pediatric Brain Tumor Characterization*
- 11:45 am [5] Nitin R. Wadhvani, M.D.  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, IL  
*Managing Newly Diagnosed CNS Tumors When Systems Go Offline*
- 12:15 pm **Adjournment**

### Wednesday, May 20 - continued

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel Grand Ballroom AB

#### Session B Luncheon with Scientific Presentation

Chair: Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D.

- 12:30 pm Adam Goodman, Ph.D.  
[6] Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering, Chicago, IL  
*Adaptive Leadership*
- 1:30 pm **Adjournment**

#### Session C Advances in Digital Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Informatics

Chairs: Hunter Miller, Ph.D. and David Berger, M.D.

- 1:45 pm [7] Steven M. LoBue, M.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Informatics Perspectives on Interfacing Clinical Laboratory and Ambulatory Medicine*
- 2:15 pm [8] Shannon Haymond, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Practical Applications of AI in Pediatric Lab Medicine*
- 2:45 pm **Refreshments**
- 3:15 pm [9] Jeffrey A. Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Implementation of Digital Pathology in the Clinical Lab: Experiences of an Academic Health System*
- 3:45 pm [10] Lee A. Cooper, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*The Current State of Artificial Intelligence in Pathology*
- 4:15 pm **Adjournment**
- 4:30 pm **Welcome Reception** (open to all participants & accompanying persons)  
Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel  
Grand Ballroom Prefunction
- 5:15 pm **Vendor Night Presentations**  
Grand Ballroom AB  
Platinum Sponsors: Abbott Diagnostics, Roche Diagnostics  
Gold Sponsors: Beckman Coulter, Fujirebio
- 8:00 pm **Young Fellows Event**  
*meet at hotel lobby 7:45 pm*  
Address: Ramen-San Deluxe Streeterville, 165 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
(open to all participants age ≤ 45 and accompanying persons)  
Hosts: Jessica Claus, M.D., Chair, Young Fellows Section  
Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., ACS President

**Thursday, May 21**

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
SQBRC Simpson-Querrey Auditorium  
303 E. Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611

**Session D Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders II: Neurodegeneration**

**Chairs: Joshua Bornhorst, Ph.D. and Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D.**

- 7:00 am Walking guide from the hotel to the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine
- 7:00 am Breakfast at Simpson-Querrey Auditorium
- 8:00 am Robert J. Vassar, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
[11] *Northwestern's Mesulam Institute of Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease*
- 8:30 am Tamar D. Gefen, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
[12] *An Introduction to Clinicopathologic Heterogeneity in Neurodegenerative Dementias*
- 9:00 am Rudolph J. Castellani, M.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
[13] *Neuropathological Phenotyping of Major Neurocognitive Disorders and the Aging Process*
- 9:30 am Refreshments
- 10:00 am David M. Gate, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
[14] *Mechanisms of Amyloid Clearance in Immunized Alzheimer's Disease Patients*
- 10:30 am Stephanie Cologna, Ph.D.  
University of Illinois Chicago College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
[15] *From Discovery to Translation: Mass Spectrometry-based Proteomics in Niemann-Pick type C*
- 11:00 am Laboratory Tour of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Clinical Laboratories
- 12:00 pm Adjournment

**Tour: Cultural Tour (ticket required)**

- 12:00 pm Depart for Gino's East
- 12:15 pm Lunch at Gino's East
- 1:15 pm Load Bus and Depart for Navy Pier
- 2:15 pm Boat Departs for Architecture Tour from Navy Pier
- 3:45 pm First Bus Departure for Return to Hotel
- 4:45 pm Second Bus Departure for Return to Hotel
- 5:00 pm Bus Arrives to Hotel

**Thursday, May 21 - continued**

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel Grand Ballroom AB  
633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, IL

**Annual Reception and Awards Banquet (black tie optional)**

- 7:00 pm Cocktails before the Banquet  
Grand Ballroom Prefunction
- 7:30 pm Awards Banquet and Presentations  
Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc  
ACS President and Banquet Toastmaster
- Awards Presentations  
Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D.  
ACS President Elect
- Young Clinical Scientist Award presented to:  
Rivka (Rita) Hayes, M.D. (Cleveland, OH)
- F. W. Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor presented to:  
Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc (Jacksonville, FL)
- Clinical Scientist of the Year Award presented to:  
Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc (Chicago, IL)
- Banquet Address Introduction:  
Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., Program Chair
- Banquet Address:  
Lance Shaner, Ph.D., J.D.  
Omega Yeast Labs, LLC  
*The Science of Suds: GMO Yeast in Beer*

**Friday, May 22**

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel, Grand Ballroom AB

- 7:00 am Complimentary Breakfast (Grand Ballroom C)
- 7:00 am Registration (Grand Ballroom Prefunction)

**Session E Advances in Clinical Pathology**

**Chairs: Erica Fatica, Ph.D. and Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D.**

- 8:00 am Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D.  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
[16] *Implementation of Alzheimer's Disease Blood Biomarkers in Clinical Practice*
- 8:20 am Joshua Bornhorst, Ph.D.  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
[17] *Quantitative Assessment of the Effect of Chronic Kidney Disease on Alzheimer's Disease Blood-based Markers*
- 8:40 am Annalara G. Fischer, Ph.D.  
University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
[18] *Clinical Implementation of Biomarkers for Renal Delayed Graft Function*
- 9:00 am Amitava Dasgupta, Ph.D.  
University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS  
[19] *When a Toxicology Report is Negative in a Suspected Overdose Patient: Date-Rape Drugs and the World of Designer Drugs*
- 9:20 am Sarrah Lahorewala, Ph.D.  
Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX  
[20] *Optimized Whole Blood Phosphatidylethanol Extraction for Efficient Automatable Detection of Alcohol Consumption*
- 9:40 am Refreshments

**Friday, May 22 - continued**

**Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel Grand Ballroom AB**  
633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, IL

**Session F Advances in Esoteric Testing**  
**Chairs: Jessica Claus, M.D. and Neda Zarrin-Khameh, M.D.**

- 10:10 am [21] Shuko Harada, M.D.  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL  
*Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Harboring Atypical BCR-ABL1 Fusion—Pitfall of RT-PCR assay*
- 10:30 am [22] Yijie Liu, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*MRD Detection in B-ALL: Comparison of Flow Cytometry, ClonoSEQ and RT-PCR*
- 10:50 am [23] Stanislav Fridland, M.D.  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Variant Allele Frequency Thresholds Enable Triage of Multi-Driver Lung Adenocarcinoma*
- 11:10 am [24] Hunter A. Miller, Ph.D.  
University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
*Longitudinal Immunophenotyping for Characterizing Acquired Resistance During Immune Checkpoint Therapy in Melanoma*

11:30 am **Adjournment**

11:45 am **Lunch and ACS Business Meeting (Grand Ballroom AB)**  
*Note: all attendees are invited to attend the ACS Business Meeting, although only members of the Association may vote*

1:15 pm **Adjournment**

**Session G Advances in Anatomic Pathology**  
**Chairs: Nina Tatevian, M.D., Ph.D., and Rivka WangJie Hayes, M.D.**  
**Note location: Lakeshore Ballroom West**

- 1:30 pm [25] M. John Hicks, M.D., Ph.D., D.D.S.  
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
*Common Variable Immunodeficiency Initially Presenting as Granulomatous Interstitial Nephritis*
- 1:50 pm [26] David M. Berger, M.D.  
Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA  
*Polymorphous Low-grade Neuroepithelial Tumor of the Young (PLNTY): a Cautionary Tale*
- 2:10 pm [27] Neda Zarrin-Khameh, M.D.  
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
*Intracranial Meningioma Presenting as a Midline Forehead Mass Diagnosed by Fine Needle Aspiration*
- 2:30 pm [28] Jessica Claus, M.D.  
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI  
*Markers of Accelerated Vulvar Skin Aging and Cellular Senescence Diagnosed by Fine Needle Aspiration*
- 2:50 pm [29] Bushra Al-Tarawneh, M.D.  
Mutah University, Alkarak, Jordan  
*Beyond Morphology: New Immunohistochemical Markers in Placental Mesenchymal Dysplasia: A Series of Three Cases*

3:10–4:00 pm **Poster Viewing and Refreshments**

**Session H Advances in Laboratory Management**  
**Chairs: Roger Bertholf, Ph.D. and Sarrah Lahorewala, Ph.D.**  
**Note location: Lakeshore Ballroom West**

- 4:00 pm [30] Emily L. Ryan, Ph.D.  
Atrium Health, Navicent, Macon, GA  
*Barriers to Retrospective Hematology Reference Range Verification Studies*
- 4:20 pm [31] Rivka WangJie Hayes, M.D.  
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, OH  
*Retrospective Review Post Reference Laboratory Outpatient Acquisition: a Microbiology Laboratory's Perspective*
- 4:40 pm [32] Emily Cobb, M.D.  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL  
*Clinical Evaluation of ACR and PCR Agreement in Proteinuria Assessment*

5:00 pm **Adjournment**

7:00 pm **Musical and Art Show at Thorne Auditorium** *with wine and hearty hors d'oeuvres reception*  
**Northwestern Campus, 420 E. Superior St., Chicago, IL 60611**  
**Organizers: Mark Ball, Ph.D. and Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., Program Chair**

**Poster Session**  
**Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel Grand Ballroom Prefunction**

- poster [P 1] Bushra Khalaf Al-Tarawneh, Mutah University, Alkarak, Jordan  
Waheed Al-Jabary, Specialty Hospital, Amman, Jordan  
*Mucinous Lesions in Ovarian Mature Cystic Teratomas: Case Report of an Appendiceal-Type Mucocele and Literature Review*
- poster [P 2] Rongyi Chen, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago, IL  
Lucy Fu, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Do Routine Doctor Visits Correlate with Health Outcomes? A Community-level Study*
- poster [P 3] Ilaria Tarozzi, Elena T. Puscasiu, Dragos C. Luca, Diana O. Treaba  
Brown University Health, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI  
*Large B-cell Lymphomas of the Brain—an Institutional Experience*
- poster [P 4] Tara O'Shea, Madina Sukhanova, Lucy Fu, Kristy Wolniak,  
Juehua Gao, Yi-Hua Chen, Qing Ching Chen, and Hamza Tariq  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
*Immunohistochemistry Markers of Secondary Central Nervous System Involvement by Large B-cell Lymphoma*
- poster [P 5] Kassydy Felsing and Carolyn Banister, Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
*Salivary MicroRNA Biomarkers in Sports-related Concussion*
- poster [P 6] Richard G. Lahr, David Eaton, Jenni Kemp, Sandip Chavin,  
Paul J. Jannetto, Joshua Bornhorst, Stefan Grebe, Tony Maus  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
*Comparing ICP-MS vs. HRMS Methodologies for Thyroid Carcinoma Identification in Serum Samples*
- poster [P 7] Wenping Li, Zachary Goldberg, Dariusz Kunecki, Nicole M. Yanjanin,  
Hajwa Kim, Elizabeth Berry-Kravis, Forbes D. Porter, Stephanie M. Cologna  
University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*CSF Proteomics Alterations in Individuals with Niemann-Pick Type C1 Treated with Intrathecal 2-Hydroxypropyl-beta-Cyclodextrin*
- poster [P 8] Amir Mahmoodzadeh, Feinberg Cardiovascular & Renal Research Institute  
and Department of Medicine (Cardiology), Northwestern University, Chicago, IL  
*Mitochondrial Hexokinase-1 Regulates Acetyl-CoA Production and IFN-γ Output in CD8+ T Cells*
- poster [P 9] Roland Jones, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
*Novel Analysis of Volatile Biomarkers in Breath with Diagnostic Utility*

# 147<sup>th</sup> ACS Meeting in Chicago, IL, May 2026





# Association of Clinical Scientists

## Registration for 147<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, May 19-22, 2026

Online Registration

**ATTENDEE INFORMATION**

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Degree(s)
Street Address		Institution(s)	
City	State	Postal/Zip Code	Country
Telephone/Mobile Number	Fax Number	Email Address	

Please record the number of persons attending for all No Charge items	Unit Price (\$ US)	Number of Persons	Amount Charged
<b>Full Meeting Registration (Regular)</b> For all Fellows of the Association and non-members attending the full Meeting; includes luncheons, one banquet ticket, and continuing education credits, if desired.	\$500	x _____	= _____
<b>Full Meeting Registration, Emeritus, Associate Fellows &amp; Trainees and Invited Speakers Attending Full Meeting</b> For all Emeritus or Associate Fellows of the Association and all trainees, residents and Fellows and invited speakers attending the full Meeting; includes luncheons, one banquet ticket and CE/CME, if desired.	\$200	x _____	= _____
<b>Meeting Registration, Complimentary – day of invited lecture</b> For invited speakers attending the Meeting for the day of their lecture on Wednesday, May 20— includes luncheon, but <b>excludes</b> Banquet.	No Charge	_____	<u>No Charge</u>
<b>Single Day Registration</b> For either Wednesday or Friday; includes luncheon, and continuing education credits, if desired.	\$200	x _____	= _____
<b>Wednesday, May 20</b>			
<b>Luncheon Seminar</b> Open to all meeting registrants. Indicate number attending for headcount.	No Charge	_____	<u>No Charge</u>
<b>Welcome Reception and Vendor Presentations–Evening</b> Open to all meeting registrants and accompanying persons. Indicate number attending for headcount.	No Charge	_____	<u>No Charge</u>
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>			
<b>Cultural Tour: Chicago River Architecture Cruise</b> Includes bus transportation and lunch (Chicago’s famous deep-dish pizza at Gino’s East)	\$60	x _____	= _____
<b>Extra Tickets to Annual Awards Banquet and Reception</b>	\$95	x _____	= _____
<b>Friday, May 22</b>			
<b>Luncheon &amp; Presentation of Travel Grant Awards</b> Reserved seating for all young scientists, age 45 and under; included with full or single day registration. Please indicate number attending for headcount.	No Charge	_____	<u>No Charge</u>
<b>Musicale with Wine and Hors d’oeuvres Intermission</b> Complimentary for all attendees—please indicate number attending for headcount estimation.	No Charge	_____	<u>No Charge</u>
<b>Include Renewal of Dues - Fellows</b>	\$250	x _____	= _____
<b>Include Renewal of Dues - Associate Fellows</b>	\$50	x _____	= _____

For Payment Options, see next page

Total Payment Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

# Association of Clinical Scientists

Registration for 147th Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, May 19-22, 2026

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## PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cancellation with full refund will be accepted until **May 7, 2026**.

1. Register securely online: **Online Registration** or
2. Complete and mail this form (**print both pages of the form**) with a check, payable to Association of Clinical Scientists, or with credit card information, to Association of Clinical Scientists, P.O. Box 690853, San Antonio, TX 78269
3. To charge using American Express, Visa, or MasterCard, call the ACS office at (210) 535-2247, Mon–Fri, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time.

## CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

**Credit card type**  
(check only one)

Visa

MasterCard

American Express

**Card number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration (mo/yr)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Security Code (CVV)  
No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name on the card** \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State (Province)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal (Zip) Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_



# 2027 Association of Clinical Scientists Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas

By Roger L. Bertholf, Ph.D., FACSc

The 148<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association will return to the Texas Medical Center in Houston for the fourth time May 8–10, 2027. Previous meetings in Houston were in 1995, 2004, and 2018. The meeting will be hosted by the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital.

“Global Medicine” will be the theme for the Thursday scientific session, and the Abraham J. Gitlitz Memorial Lecture will be delivered by noted author, pediatrician, and vaccinologist **Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.**, of Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital.

The Friday afternoon activity will most likely involve the Houston Museum of Natural Science or the Houston Zoo.

The banquet speaker will be **Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H.**, Texas Medical Center historian and author of “Houston Methodist: The Hospital with a Soul.”

The Saturday night Musicale will feature Hopera, a performing group of local opera singers.

Members of the organizing committee for the meeting are **Roger Bertholf** (chair), **Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich**, **Amitava Dasgupta**, **Awdhesh Kalia**, **Charles Hawker**, **Chris Crutchfield**, **John Hicks**, **Jonathan Hoyne**, **Neda Zarrin-Khameh**, **Nina Tatevian**, **Peter Hu**, and **Sarrah Lahorewala**.



*Dr. Bertholf*



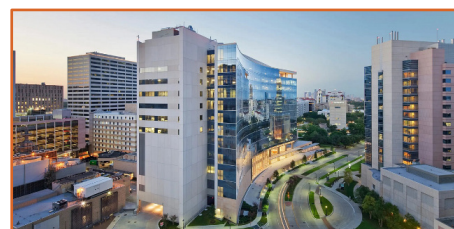
*Dr. Hotez*



*Dr. Boutwell*



*Houston skyline*



*Houston Methodist Hospital*



*Houston Methodist Hospital's modular laboratories*

# President's Corner

My year as steward of the Association is nearly complete. This has been a year of major structural changes for the Association.

Our Journal's editor-in-chief position has been filled by **Chris Crutchfield, Ph.D.**, a former President of the Association. **Dr. Crutchfield** has endured a baptism by fire as he is negotiating a multi-year publishing agreement which assures continuity while minimizing cost increases over the next several years.

Our Journal is challenged further by the changing landscape of scientific publication, from AI-generated fake papers to federal requirements for immediate open access publication of papers funded with federal money. These headwinds present a significant risk for the long-term stability of our Association as well as perhaps an opportunity for improving the visibility of our Journal in the wider scientific community. In selecting **Dr. Crutchfield**, the search committee particularly valued his long service to the Association, his attention to detail and his familiarity with emerging IT tools that may help us navigate these novel times.

**Dr. Crutchfield** has been particularly busy this year as, in addition to his Editor-in-Chief duties, he is hosting our annual meeting in Chicago in a month. He has put together an exciting program including sessions on "Advances in the Understanding of Brain Disorders" and "Advances in Digital Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Informatics". The Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture is titled "A Contemporary View of Diffuse Gliomas: Two Decades of Data-Driven Evolution" by **Daniel J. Brat** from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Other meeting highlights include a boat tour of Chicago architecture, an Awards Banquet lecture on the science of beer making, and - in a first for the Association—an evening with industry partners discussing latest offerings.

Our business manager position is still being transitioned from **Anara [Baimetova]** to **Samal [Shaikenova]**. **Samal** assumed the business manager position duties in March, but they continue to work together for the benefit of the Association. Meanwhile, as she returns home to help with family, **Anara** will continue to do the yeoman's work required to ensure the smooth functioning of the Journal—acting as the third triumvir alongside **Chris [Crutchfield]** and **Nina [Tatevian]** to ensure the continued smooth publication of our Journal.

I'd like to thank those who have dedicated so much of their time and talents to the continuation and thriving of our Association and I wish **Dr. Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich** luck as she takes the gavel. I will see everybody in Chicago.

**Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D., DABCC, FADLM, FACSc**  
President, Association of Clinical Scientists 2025–2026



*Dr. Hoyne*



*Dr. Crutchfield*



*Dr. Algeciras-Schimmich*



*Anara Baimetova*



*Samal Shaikenova*

# Young Fellows Section Update

## Join the Young Fellows Section and Take the Next Step in Your Professional Journey.

The Young Fellows Section provides a dynamic platform to advance your career through meaningful networking, collaboration, and the exchange of knowledge with fellow professionals.

As a young professional, my involvement with the Association of Clinical Scientists has offered valuable opportunities to present my work through both poster and platform presentations, while fostering an intellectually engaging and supportive environment through mentorship and peer connection.

The Association also presents awards to acknowledge individuals and exceptional achievements. We invite young fellows to consider submitting case reports, review articles, or original research manuscripts for potential publication in the *Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science*, the official journal affiliated with ACS. Detailed author instructions can be accessed at: [clinicalscience.org](http://clinicalscience.org).

If you are attending our upcoming annual meeting in Chicago, join us for our Young Fellows Section Dinner Event! It's a great opportunity to meet people from the Association and get involved with our work.

### Young Fellow Section Dinner

**Date:** May 20th, 2026

**Time:** 8:00 PM CST

**Location:** Ramen-San Deluxe Streeterville  
165 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Please don't hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you and having you on board!

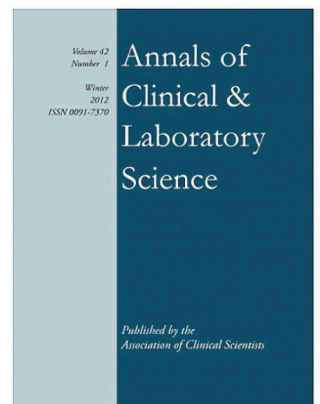
### Jessica Claus, M.D.

Chair, Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee  
PGY-5 Women's Pathology Fellow  
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

email: [jessica\\_claus1@brown.edu](mailto:jessica_claus1@brown.edu) 



*Dr. Claus*



*The ACS journal*



*Chicago*



*Ramen-San Deluxe Streeterville: Streeterville is a high-energy, upscale neighborhood on Chicago's Near North Side, positioned between the Magnificent Mile and the shores of Lake Michigan.*

# Senior Fellow Interview: Dr. Keri Donaldson

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. This interview of **Keri Donaldson, M.D., M.S.C.E.** was conducted by **Jessica Claus, M.D.**, Chair of the Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee.

**Editor's Note:** Dr. Donaldson served as President of ACS 2020-21 and was awarded the Clinical Scientist of the Year Award in 2021.

**Jessica Claus:** Please tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?

**Keri Donaldson:** I grew up in a small town in central Pennsylvania (Robertsdale), in Wood Township in southern Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, United States. I attended the local elementary and high schools (Tussey Mountain), then Penn State University for my undergraduate studies, followed by Johns Hopkins (molecular studies), Temple University (M.D.), and the University of Pennsylvania (residency and M.S.C.E.).

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

**Donaldson:** I was a Howard Hughes Undergraduate Scholar at Penn State; this program provided research funding and training in the sciences.

**Claus:** Tell me about your career progression. Did your career progression exceed your expectations?

**Donaldson:** I have been fortunate to have had many opportunities presented to me throughout my professional development. Early on, I didn't take full advantage of everything available. However, later in medical school, I began saying yes to positions and opportunities. I am happy with where I am in terms of my professional and business careers.

**Claus:** How did mentorship influence your professional career? How did you get involved with the Association?

**Donaldson:** Mentorship, both past and present, has been the single most impactful factor in my career. I was nominated to the Association by one of my mentors, **Laurence Demers**.

**Claus:** What unexpected turns did you have in your career?

**Donaldson:** I have had several turns in my medical career:

- I sustained a spinal fracture that ended my surgical career before it began.
- I went to the University of Pennsylvania for an AP/CP residency and then switched to CP only.
- I completed a degree in pharmacoepidemiology at Penn (something I didn't even know existed).
- My wife and I chose to take a job to be near our families.

**Claus:** How has ACS helped you in your career?

**Donaldson:** Some of the best mentorship and relationships have come through connections made within the Association of Clinical Scientists.



Dr. Keri Donaldson

continues on page 17 ►

## Interview: Dr. Donaldson (continued)

▶ *continued from page 16*

**Claus:** Did you have any instances where mentors influenced your professional career? How did they influence you?

**Donaldson:** Yes. Overall, the value of mentorship has been in gaining an external perspective and reflecting on choices and situations through another lens.

**Claus:** Describe the importance of faculty being involved in national/international organizations and having administrative responsibilities outside of their current institution.

**Donaldson:** Leadership roles in national and international organizations provide numerous advantages for career and professional development. In addition to the skills and opportunities gained in these roles, being known, and respected on a national or international stage is often required for promotion.

**Claus:** How did you develop your network of colleagues over the years? How critical has this been to your success?

**Donaldson:** Building a network comes from shared interests, transparency, asking for help or feedback when needed, and being willing to provide help or feedback when others ask.

**Claus:** What advice would you give to someone starting out in a career in clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine?

**Donaldson:** Focus on developing competency in the fundamentals, then build subspecialty expertise.

**Claus:** What advice would you give someone at the Associate Professor level?

**Donaldson:** This is when mentorship and networking can really broaden opportunities. I would encourage joining professional societies like ACS that facilitate these activities.



## The Grapevine

### Accomplishments

**Sarrah Lahorewala, PhD, FACSc** completed her training at Houston Methodist Hospital and has taken a position as Director of Clinical Chemistry at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. **Dr. Lahorewala** also has an appointment as Assistant Professor, Pathology and Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine and she is a Member of the ACS Executive Committee. Congratulations, Sarrah! 🍷



*Dr. Sarrah Lahorewala*

### New Members

#### FELLOWS

**Alexander C. Mackinnon, Jr., MS, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACSc**  
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University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

**Zhimin Tim Cao, MD, PhD, DABCC, FADLM, FACSc**  
Director, Clinical Chemistry Laboratory  
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Syracuse, NY

# ACS Announces Travel Grant Winners

The Awards Committee, chaired by **Myra Wilkerson, M.D.**, has announced the winners of this year's Travel Grants. The Travel Grants are based on the quality of the submitted abstract. Young scientists, age 45 or younger are eligible for consideration. The grants consist of \$2000 which can be applied to travel, hotel, meeting registration and other travel expenses to attend the Annual meeting. The *Alexander Z. Feldman Travel Grant* is awarded to the abstract judged overall to be of the highest quality of those submitted.

The winner of the 2026 *Alexander Z. Feldman Travel Grant* is **Stanislav Fridman, M.D.** of Northwestern University. The winners of the other four travel grants to be awarded are **Hunter Miller, Ph.D.** of the University of Louisville, **Yijie Liu, Ph.D.** of Northwestern University, **Jessica Claus, M.D.** of Brown University, and **Sarrah Lahorewala, Ph.D.**, of Baylor College of Medicine.

The Travel Grant winners will be honored at the Association's annual Business Meeting on Friday, May 22. Congratulations to these awardees.



## On the lighter side...

### LAB COAT STYLES



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## Newsletter Trivia Question

Edited by Glenn W. George, D.Sc., M.B.A.

If you would like to serve in this capacity as Newsletter Trivia Editor (ideal for a Young Fellow), ACS would be delighted. Utilize your knowledge of clinical lab science! Simple Q/A or multiple choice. Email me!

The first person to email the correct answer to the current question will have their name mentioned in the following newsletter. You will be satisfied you won! Please email your answer and a new question to:

[glenn.w.george@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.w.george@gmail.com)

### Previous Question (January, 2026)

(submitted by Glenn W. George, D.Sc., M.B.A.)

Which Nobel Prize-winning discovery laid the foundation for modern clinical immunoassays such as ELISA and radioimmunoassay?

### Answer

Roger Bertholf, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical Pathology & Genomic Medicine was the first to answer the previous question. Congratulations Roger!

The correct answer was:

Berson and Yalow's discovery of radioimmunoassay, which they used to measure insulin, resulting in the classification of diabetes mellitus into types 1 and 2. Yalow received the 1977 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for the discovery. Berson would have shared the prize, but he died in 1972 and Nobel Prizes are never awarded posthumously.

Glenn = 1, ACS Members = 1

### Current Question (May, 2026)

(submitted by Roger Bertholf, Ph.D.)

In 1965, neuropathologists Igor Klatzo and Henrik Wisniewski accidentally made a discovery that would influence research into the pathological mechanism that underlies Alzheimer's Disease for decades. Their collaborator, Robert Terry, would comment: "Serendipity appears to be moderately common in the history of science, but is rarely experienced by individual investigators. We can only be grateful for it."

What was their discovery, and what was the experiment that that led to their accidental finding?

### Answer

The answer will appear in the next *Clinical Science Trumpet*. The person submitting the first correct answer will have the chance to write the trivia question for the subsequent newsletter.

Email your answer and question to:

[glenn.w.george@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.w.george@gmail.com)

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## Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

The Clinical Science Trumpet Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists and is published three times per year. Back issues may be viewed at: <http://clinicalscience.org/news>.

Announcements, commentaries, and news/photos of members are welcome. Please send to the Editor at: [glenn.w.george@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.w.george@gmail.com).

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