



Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

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

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HOUSTON 'A GO' FOR 2027 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wednesday–Saturday, May 5–8, 2027 ❖ Houston, Texas

The 148th Meeting of the Association will return to the Texas Medical Center in Houston for the fourth time May 5-8, 2027. Previous Association meetings in Houston were in 1995, 2004, and 2018.

The 2027 meeting will be hosted by the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital and will be held at the Marriott Medical Center Museum District, which is adjacent to Houston Methodist Hospital.

The Thursday scientific session will focus on emerging global pathogens and will feature lectures by researchers in the Texas Medical Center and University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. 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 and Texas Children's Hospital.

The Friday afternoon activity will include lunch and a tour of the exhibits at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The speaker at the Friday evening Awards Banquet at the Marriott will be **Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H.**, Texas Medical Center historian and author of "Houston Methodist: The Hospital with a Soul." The Saturday evening Musicales at the Marriott will feature Hopera, a performing group of local professional opera singers.

The Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday afternoon and the scientific meeting will begin Thursday morning. The Gitlitz lecture will be delivered at noon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The opening reception and social will follow the Thursday scientific sessions and will include sponsor presentations. Arrangements are currently underway to hold the Friday morning session in the conference center at Houston Methodist Hospital, with breakfast provided.

Houston Methodist Hospital



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HOUSTON MEETING ▶ *continued from page 1*

Transportation will be provided to and from the Houston Museum of Natural Science for lunch and the afternoon tour. Saturday will feature a full day of scientific presentations and include breakfast and lunch.

The annual Business Meeting of the Association will be held at the luncheon on Saturday.

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

We look forward to seeing you in Houston!

ACCOMMODATIONS

The accommodations for the 2027 Annual Meeting will be the Houston Marriott Medical Center/Museum District, 6580 Fannin Street (Driveway entrance on 1730 Dryden Road), Houston, TX 77030, telephone (713) 796-0080. This is the same excellent hotel which the Association of Clinical Scientists used for our 2018 Annual Meeting. It is convenient to the Houston Methodist Hospital, indeed the entire Texas Medical Center via a skybridge, as well as Houston's Museum District, Rice University, NRG Stadium, and Hermann Park. The Houston Marriott Medical Center/Museum District is 24 miles from George W. Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and 13.4 miles from William P. Hobby Airport (HOU).

Hotel amenities include a cocktail lounge, restaurant, fitness center, barber, beauty shop, and mobility accessible rooms.

The contracted nightly room rate for our registrants is \$209 plus taxes (currently 17%). Reservations may be made by calling toll-free (800) 228-9290 or (713) 796-0080. A direct link for reservations at the Association's contracted rate will be posted on the ACS Annual Meeting webpage when it becomes available.

TRANSPORTATION

Houston is served by two international airports: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), and Houston Hobby Airport (HOU).



Guest room at Houston Marriott Medical Center/Museum District



Houston Marriott Medical Center front entrance



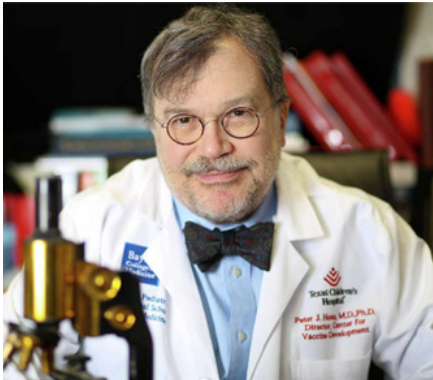
Houston Methodist Hospital's modular laboratories

IAH has 130 gates spread across five terminals, and is a hub for United Airlines, but serves flights on most domestic and international airlines. It is approximately 24 miles from the hotel and Texas Medical Center. Rideshares to the hotel can vary from \$50 to \$100 depending on the time of day and traffic conditions.

HOU has 35 gates in a single terminal and is a hub for Southwest Airlines, but offers a limited number of flights on other major airlines such as Delta, American, and Allegiant. It is approximately 13 miles from the hotel and Texas Medical Center. Rideshares will be \$30-40.

The major rental car agencies serve both airports. 

Invited Guest Speakers for 2027 Annual Meeting



The Abraham J. Gitlitz
Memorial Lecture:

Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Peter J. Hotez is a noted author, pediatrician, and vaccinologist from Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital.

Dr. Hotez will deliver his lecture on Thursday, May 6.

Dr. Bryant Boutwell is the Texas Medical Center historian and author of "Houston Methodist: The Hospital with a Soul."

Dr. Boutwell will make his presentation on Friday evening, May 7.



Awards Reception and
Banquet Speaker:

Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H.



The Houston Museum District is one of the most highly concentrated cultural areas in the world.

Awards to be Presented at 2027 Annual Meeting

Myra Wilkerson, M.D., Chair of the Awards Committee, has announced the following awards which will be presented at the 2027 Annual Meeting in Houston.

Clinical Scientist of the Year

Past Awardees

Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D.

Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich, Ph.D., is a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science and a Consultant in the Division of Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She also serves as Medical Director of the Biopharma Diagnostics Laboratory at Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

Dr. Algeciras-Schimmich received her B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico, and her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (Immunology) from Mayo Clinic. She completed postdoctoral training at Mayo Clinic and the University of Chicago, followed by a Clinical Chemistry fellowship at Mayo Clinic. She is board-certified by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry.

Her work focuses on advancing clinical laboratory diagnostics, with expertise in immunoassays, endocrine biomarkers, tumor markers, and biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. Her contributions have been instrumental in translating emerging technologies, particularly plasma biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and neurodegenerative diseases, into routine clinical practice.

Dr. Algeciras-Schimmich has held multiple leadership roles at Mayo Clinic, including Chair of the Division of Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology and Medical Director for Mayo Collaborative Services Biopharma Diagnostics. She has authored over 170 peer-reviewed publications, with an H-index of 52 and more than 10,700 citations, reflecting the impact of her work in endocrine biomarkers, assay standardization, and Alzheimer's disease diagnostics.



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Awards to be Presented at 2027 Annual Meeting

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F.W. Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor Neda Zarrin-Khameh, M.D., M.P.H.

Past Awardees

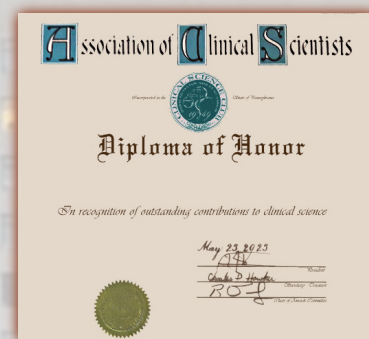
Neda Zarrin-Khameh, M.D., M.P.H. is a Professor of Pathology & Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Houston, Texas. She is Director of the Baylor Cytopathology Fellowship and Medical Director of Cytology Laboratory at Ben Taub Hospital. She is also director of surgical pathology and cytopathology rotation at Ben Taub Hospital for the BCM pathology residents.

She received her MD from Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran/Iran and her Master of Public Health from the University of Texas at Houston. She completed her Pathology Residency at Baylor College of Medicine and received the inaugural "Resident Good Citizen Award", based upon her helpfulness to her resident colleagues.

She completed a Cytopathology Fellowship at BCM and a Surgical Pathology Fellowship at Houston Methodist Hospital. Since becoming faculty at Ben Taub Hospital, she has received "Faculty Award for Outstanding Resident Teaching Anatomic Pathology" three times. She also received "Norton Rose Fulbright Award", "Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care" and "Women of Excellence award."

Although she enjoys all areas of pathology, she has particular interest in GI, Gyn, soft tissue and cytology. She is passionate about teaching. She has published multiple papers, is involved in multiple transitional research projects and has extensive collaboration with other clinicians. Recently, she published "Gross Pathology Atlas: A Guide to Gross Specimens Evaluation" with Elsevier. This atlas is intended to serve as a teaching aid for medical students, residents, and healthcare professionals.

She served as the secretary of the Association of Clinical Scientists for three years. She is currently chair of cytopathology committee for American Society of Clinical Pathology.



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Awards to be Presented at 2027 Annual Meeting

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Young Clinical Scientist Award

Past Awardees

Annalara Fischer, Ph.D.

Dr. Annalara Fischer grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and attended Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, where she earned degrees in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Music. In 2018, **Dr. Fischer** entered the Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Louisville and joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. Under the mentorship of **Dr. Joseph Moore IV**, in the Center for Cardiometabolic Science, her doctoral research focused on mechanisms underlying scar formation and chronic fibrotic remodeling following myocardial infarction, the development of cellular therapeutics for chronic heart failure, and characterizing changes in extracellular matrix organization after myocardial injury.

During her Ph.D. training, **Dr. Fischer** became increasingly interested in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, particularly the opportunity to bridge basic and translational research with direct improvements in patient care. She is currently a second-year Clinical Chemistry Fellow in the University of Louisville Clinical Chemistry Fellowship Program, where her research interests have expanded into cancer diagnostics, biomarker development, and personalized approaches to disease monitoring.

Dr. Fischer has received multiple honors at the 2026 ADLM conference, including first place in the Student Research Awards Competition for her work investigating peripheral longitudinal monitoring of immunotherapy resistance in metastatic melanoma under the mentorship of **Dr. Mark Linder**. Her work seeks to identify changes detectable in peripheral blood during treatment and to better understand the biological mechanisms contributing to resistance to cancer immunotherapy.

Dr. Fischer aims to advance cancer monitoring through the development and clinical implementation of novel laboratory assays while continuing to investigate mechanisms of immunotherapy resistance. Her goal is to help translate emerging biomarkers and molecular insights into tools that can better inform treatment response and patient care.

She is grateful for the professional community she has found through the Association of Clinical Scientists and particularly values the mentorship, collaboration, and friendships she has developed through ACS. A pianist and musician, she has also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the traditional ACS Musicale, showcasing the Association's longstanding connection to music and a reminder of the creativity, discipline, and attention to detail that music and science often share.



Awards to be Presented at 2027 Annual Meeting

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Gold Headed Cane Award

Past Awardees

Roger L. Bertholf, Ph.D.

Dr. Roger Bertholf is Medical Director of Clinical Chemistry at Houston Methodist Hospital, Co-Program Director for the Clinical Chemistry Fellowship in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, Professor of Pathology and Genomic Medicine in the Houston Methodist Research Institute, and Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, the academic affiliate of Houston Methodist Hospital.

He served as president of the Association of Clinical Scientists from 2004 to 2005, president of the AACC Academy from 2019 to 2020, and president of the Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry in 2024 and 2025.

Dr. Bertholf received the 1999 Young Clinical Scientist Award, the 2003 Clinical Scientist of the Year Award, and a Diploma of Honor in 2005 from the Association, and chaired the program committees for its 2006 and 2014 Annual Meetings in Amelia Island, FL. He currently chairs the program committee for the 2027 Annual Meeting in Houston, TX.

The American Society for Clinical Pathology presented him with its 2011 Southeast Regional Member Award, 2014 President's Award, and 2020 Mastership Award.

In 2020 he received the AACC Outstanding Contributions to Education in Clinical Chemistry Award. In 2022 he received the AACC Academy Professor Alvin Dubin Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession and the Academy and was presented with the Richard H. Gadsden Meritorious Service Award by the Southeast Local Section of the AACC.

In 2025, he was presented with the Distinguished Contribution to Education Award by the North American Chinese Clinical Chemists Association.

Since 2012, **Dr. Bertholf** has been Editor in Chief of Laboratory Medicine, published by the ASCP and Oxford University Press.



Northwestern Hosts Outstanding ACS Annual Meeting in Chicago

By Charles D. Hawker, Ph.D., M.B.A., FADLM, FACSc
Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB), DABCC, FACSc

Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine Department of Pathology was our host for a memorable Annual Meeting held May 19-22 in Chicago, IL. Our headquarters hotel was the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, recently refurbished and conveniently located near Northwestern Medicine (which owns the hotel), Navy Pier and downtown attractions, and the renowned shopping along Michigan Avenue's "Magnificent Mile".

The meeting featured three themes: *Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders I: Neoplasia*; *Advances in Understanding of Brain Disorders II: Neurodegeneration* and *Advances in Digital Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Informatics*. The keynote address, The Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture was presented by **Daniel J. Brat, M.D., Ph.D.**, Magerstadt Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology at Northwestern. His presentation was titled "A Contemporary View of Diffuse Gliomas: Two Decades of Data-Driven Evolution."

In a first for ACS, we held a "Vendor Night" during which several diagnostic companies helped underwrite the costs of the Annual Meeting in exchange for being able to make podium presentations about their products. Participants in this new program (which was held outside the regular program and was not eligible for CE or CME credit) included Abbott Diagnostics, Roche Diagnostics, Beckman Coulter Diagnostics, and Fujirebio Diagnostics. The Association also appreciated contributions from Cepheid and PGXL Technologies which helped defray meeting expenses.

Following several scientific presentations on Thursday morning at Northwestern and a tour of the clinical laboratories, attendees were treated to a pizza luncheon buffet at the famous Gino's East featuring Chicago deep dish pizza as well as other options. From there we transferred by bus to our afternoon architectural boat tour which provided an absolutely



fabulous view of Chicago's world-famous architecture. We returned in time to be ready for our Annual Reception and Awards Banquet at the Hyatt Centric. In addition to the presentation of our annual awards, the evening featured an address, "The Science of Suds: GMO Yeast in Beer" by **Lance Shaner, Ph.D., J.D.**, of Omega Yeast Labs LLC.

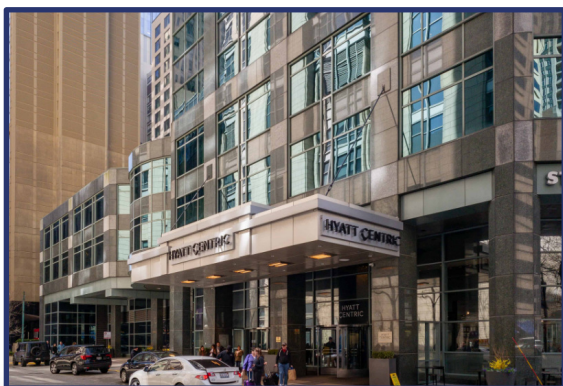
Friday's program included both oral presentations and poster presentations by members, fellows, and students based on submitted abstracts. The luncheon included our annual Business Meeting including Association reports, and the election of new officers and members of the Executive Committee. **Roger Bertholf** also presented a preview of the 2027 Annual Meeting in Houston.

Our newly elected President is **Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich**, President Elect is **Erica Fatica**, Vice President is **David Berger**, Secretary is **Emily Ryan**, and member of the Executive Committee is **Liyun Cao**.

Friday's program concluded with the annual Musicale which featured solos by two members, **Jessica Claus** and **Annalara Fischer**, and a local string quartet of Chicago Civic Orchestra members, featuring:

- Pavlo Kyrlyiuk, violin
- Mona Mierxiati, violin
- Yat Chun Justin Pou, viola
- Buianto Lkhasaranov, cello

The Chicago meeting provided an excellent combination of scientific programming, fellowship, and opportunities to experience the city, and we thank Northwestern University, our speakers, sponsors, organizers, and all who attended and contributed to its success.



Association of Clinical Scientists Minutes

Annual Membership Business Meeting

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois, May 22, 2026

1. **Dr. Hoyne called the meeting to order** at 12:06 pm CDT.
2. **Members present, in addition to Dr. Hoyne, included:** David Berger, Roger Bertholf, Joshua Bornhorst, Jessica Claus, Chris Crutchfield, Amitava Dasgupta, Karen Eldin, Erica Fatica, Annalara Fischer, Charles Hawker, John Hicks, Shuko Harada, Peter Hu, Sarrah Lahorewala, Hunter Miller, Emily Ryan, Nina Tatevian, Roland Valdes, Neda Zarrin-Khameh. These members constituted a quorum per the Bylaws. Non-members present: **Miriam Bornhorst, Dan Brat, Rongyi Chen, Emily Cobb, Jeff Fixhpough, Stass Fridland, Juehua Gao, Roland Jones, Alex Kubanjevic, Richard Lahr and Samal Shaikenova.**
3. **Approval of 2025 Business Meeting Minutes.** The minutes of May 17, 2025 Rhode Island Business Meeting were submitted to the attendees. Following a review by those in attendance, **Amitava Dasgupta** moved that the minutes be approved. **Roger Bertholf** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** The financial report was submitted to the attendees. **Amitava Dasgupta** mentioned that in the past year we had more income than expenses. The net operating income: \$20,726, investment income: \$26,870 which resulted in net income of \$47,596.
5. **President's Report.** **Jonathan Hoyne** reported that we had a successful year. It was challenging with a lot of changes. He mentioned that the Association has been successful because of long-standing champions. **Anara Baimetova**, our Business Manager, transferred some of her responsibilities to **Samal Shaikenova**. She is still helping out, especially with the Journal. Currently, **Chris Crutchfield** is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. The future of publishing is changing.
6. **Membership Report.** As **Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich** was not present, **Jonathan Hoyne** made the following comments: As a lot of key members are retired, we now have fewer paid members. We'd like to have 75 members, which would add to the collegiality of the Association, so we need to replenish our numbers. We need more AP pathologists, so we are not heavy on CP and chemistry. We have that vision for the next few years.
7. **Journal Report.** **Chris Crutchfield** learned from **Nina Tatevian** that he is the first non-pathologist editor. He mentioned that the Association was heavily subsidized by the Journal; he offered thanks to **Nina Tatevian** and **Anara Baimetova**, commenting that he took the role six months ago. Negotiating with HighWire to change, he talked about AI and the example that we had: a reference that did not exist. It is also important to focus on finance and accountability of publishing. We lost a \$17,000 source of income. Currently, our margin is

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Dr. Hoyne



Dr. Dasgupta



Dr. Crutchfield



Ms. Baimetova



Dr. Tatevian

Association of Clinical Scientists Minutes

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\$23,000. We used to have 20 articles per issue, but in the last two issues, we had 18 and 14 articles. If this trend continues, it will mean less income to the Association. We need reviewers. As we all know there are many options for publication, so we need members to help to endorse that effort. If you want to submit a manuscript, review, or become a member, please let **Chris Crutchfield** know.

8. **Nomination Committee.** **Shuko Harada** mentioned that some of the nominations are automatic. Current President Elect, **Dr. Algeciras-Schimmich**, is nominated for President, and **Erica Fatica**, current Vice President is nominated for President Elect. Nominated for Vice President is **David Berger** and for Secretary for a three-year term is **Emily Ryan**. In addition, **Liyun Cao**, who have been serving on the Executive Committee (via an appointment) is nominated for a two-year term.

9. **Awards Committee.** **Charles Hawker**, filling in for **Myra Wilkerson**, who could not attend the Annual Meeting, announced the awards to be presented in Houston in 2027: The Young Clinical Scientist Award will be chosen at the end of the day today and will be announced at the Musicales this evening. The FW Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor will be presented to **Neda Zarrin-Khameh**, the Clinical Scientist of the Year Award will be presented to **Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich**, and the Gold Headed Cane Award will be presented to **Roger Bertholf**.

10. **The 2027 Annual Meeting will be in Houston.** **Dr. Roger Bertholf**, presented a PowerPoint file of the planned highlights, also listing the members of the organizing committee.

11. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 13:02 CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Neda Zarrin-Khameh, M.D., M.P.H., FACSc, Secretary



Dr. Harada



Dr. Hawker



Dr. Bertholf



Dr. Zarrin-Khameh



President's Corner

I am excited to begin my year as President of the Association. As our organization continues to evolve and navigate new opportunities and challenges, I want to begin by thanking **Jonathan B. Hoyne, Ph.D.**, for his leadership during 2025–2026. I look forward to his continued support and guidance as Past President in the year ahead.

I am also grateful to the members who have joined the Executive Committee this year, including **David M. Berger, M.D.**, Vice President; **Emily Ryan, Ph.D.**, Secretary; and **Liyun Cao, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.**, Member, Executive Committee. I encourage all members to consider leadership and committee opportunities within the Association. These roles provide a meaningful way to build new connections, contribute to our shared mission, and gain valuable leadership experience.

Since May, we have welcomed seven new fellow members, reflecting continued interest in our association. In the coming year, my goals are to increase the Association's visibility, continue expanding membership, and support the organization's long-term financial health.

Last November, **Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D.**, assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief of the Association's scientific journal, *Annals of Clinical & Laboratory Science*. Over the past year, **Dr. Crutchfield** has worked to enhance the journal's quality and visibility by securing supporting resources, strengthening practices that reinforce publication integrity, renegotiating the journal's electronic hosting contract, and identifying opportunities to grow and recognize the journal's reviewer community. Members interested in submitting manuscripts or serving as reviewers are encouraged to contact the editorial office at info@clinicalscience.org.

Finally, I thank **Christopher Crutchfield, Ph.D.**, and the Program Committee for organizing a successful and scientifically enriching 147th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The program included themed sessions on brain disorders, neurodegeneration, and digital pathology, as well as a new vendor night highlighting offerings from our sponsors. I also thank everyone who attended, delivered a lecture, presented a poster, participated in a session, or otherwise contributed to the meeting's success.

I look forward to our 2027 Annual Meeting, chaired by **Roger Bertholf, Ph.D.**, at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas, May 5–8, 2027. I hope to see many of you there.

Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich PhD
President, Association of Clinical Scientists 2026–2027



Dr. Algeciras-Schimmich



Young Fellows Section Update

Dear ACS Members and Annual Meeting Attendees,

On behalf of the Young Fellows Section, I am delighted to welcome current and future members and to share a few highlights from our recent Annual Meeting.

It was wonderful to see so many young fellows come together at our recent ACS Annual Meeting in Chicago. Our Young Fellows Dinner gave us a chance to step away from the busy meeting schedule, meet colleagues from different institutions, and have conversations with both fellow trainees and senior members of ACS. We were especially excited to welcome several new members to the group and hope to continue building on these connections at future meetings.

The Young Fellows Section provides opportunities for early-career professionals to connect, learn, and become more involved in ACS. Young fellows can:

- Present research and receive recognition at the Annual Meeting
- Network with peers and senior members of ACS
- Find mentorship and career guidance
- Contribute case reports, review articles, and original research to the *Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science*
- Gain peer-review experience alongside senior reviewers

We encourage young fellows to take advantage of these opportunities and to share their ideas, research, and experiences with the ACS community. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings and continuing to grow the Young Fellows Section together.

Jessica Claus, M.D.

Chair, Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee
PGY-6 Pediatric Pathology Fellow
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School



Dr. Claus



The ACS journal



The Association of Clinical Scientists wishes to thank our corporate sponsors for the 2026 Annual Meeting

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Senior Fellow Interview: Dr. Joshua Bornhorst

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 **Joshua Bornhorst, Ph.D.** was conducted by **Jessica Claus, M.D.**, Chair of the Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee.

Editor's Note: Dr. Bornhorst served as President of ACS 2021-22 and was awarded the Young Scientist of the Year Award in 2013, the (Sunderman) Clinical Scientist of the Year Award in 2019, the Diploma of Honor in 2024.



Dr. Joshua Bornhorst

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

Joshua Bornhorst: I grew up in Minneapolis. I went to school at Grinnell College in Iowa.

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

Bornhorst: I was interested in Chemistry, but an Alum of my college had won a Nobel Prize (Tom Cech), and that helped convince me to start graduate school in Biochemistry at the University of Colorado Boulder.

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

Bornhorst: After receiving my Ph.D. I learned about clinical chemistry, and it was a good field to expand into as a young scientist. After a fellowship at the University of Utah/ARUP, I started an excellent position at the University of Arkansas. Unexpectedly, I then moved to the Mayo Clinic, where I have been able to work on advancing cutting-edge biomarkers.

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

Bornhorst: I think I started around 2011. It was a good sounding board and a community of scientists. I really enjoyed the association's camaraderie and got to know some wonderful people.

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

Bornhorst: I thought I had a solid tenure-track position, and then I started a fast-paced new reference lab position. I may have one or two unexpected turns left in me, as diagnostics becomes more commercially attractive.

Claus: How has ACS helped you in your career?

Bornhorst: The positions and experience I gained from day one has helped me advance my career outside the organization.

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

Bornhorst: Yes, my PhD. Mentor Joe Falke and Ed Ashwood were influential early in my career; since then, the mentorship has been more indirect but immensely useful.

Claus: Describe the importance for faculty to be involved in National/International organizations and to have administrative responsibilities outside of your current institution.

Bornhorst: This builds experience, exposure, and career advancement.

Claus: How did you develop your network of colleagues over the years? How critical has this been towards success in your career?

Bornhorst: Having a cohort of fellows and/or residents that you come up through the ranks with is essential.

Claus: What advice would you give to someone starting out in their career in clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine? What advice would you give someone at the Associate Professor level in their career?

Bornhorst: Be available, but don't take on so much that you get overwhelmed and fall behind. Try to find synergy in disparate concepts. Applies to all stages of a career.

The Grapevine

On the move...

Glenn George, D.Sc., M.S., M.B.A., FACSc, MLS(ASCP), recently joined St. Luke's Health System in Idaho as Sr. Director, Lab Services. In this system-wide leadership role, Dr. George leads laboratory strategy, operations, and integration across St. Luke's multi-site laboratory network, focusing on standardization, quality, growth, and advancing diagnostic services throughout the health system.



Dr. Glenn George

Jessica Claus, M.D., has joined Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School as PGY-6 Pediatric Pathology Fellow. Dr. Claus previously completed fellowship training in Women's Pathology at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island.



Dr. Jessica Claus

Sad news...Dr. Amadeo Pesce

We regret to report the passing on August 25 of **Amadeo (Deo) Pesce, PhD, FACSc**, a long time and loyal member of the Association of Clinical Scientists. Deo became a member of ACS in 1984 and presented papers at ACS meetings nearly every year.

He received the Association's Diploma of Honor in 2014. An obituary will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal. In the January, 2017 issue of the *Clinical Science Trumpet*, a Senior Fellow Interview featured Deo (shown at right).



Dr. Amadeo Pesce

Clinical Science Trumpet
January, 2017 interview

Interview: Dr. Amadeo Pesce

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 excerpt from a recent interview between Erik Korte, PhD (Young Fellow) and Amadeo Pesce, PhD, FACSc.

Erik Korte: Tell me a little bit about yourself; where you grew up, where you went to school, degrees, training and mentors.

Amadeo Pesce: I went to M.I.T. and majored in biology, which at an engineering school is a bit unusual. While at M.I.T., I was influenced by several leaders of the day, including Salvador Luria, who helped define the replication methods for bacterial genetic inheritance using bacteriophages and made findings that eventually resulted in new understanding of the mechanism for the stability of DNA. I also was able to spend time with Vernon Ingram, who showed in 1966 that sickle cell disease is caused by a single amino acid mutation that results in a disease causing mutation. After M.I.T., I got a PhD in biochemistry at Brandeis University working under Nathan Kaplan who has been responsible for producing the Methods in Enzymology series which has been a primary text of biochemistry for 40 years, along with many other texts. After graduating from Brandeis, I completed a 3-year postdoc with Gregorio Weber at the University of Illinois, Urbana, who was a pioneer in fluorescence spectroscopy and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Korte: What was your first professional job?

Pesce: My first job after completing my postdoc was working for Victor Pollak, a prominent nephrologist in Chicago. He was one of the first nephrologists to popularize the current method for renal biopsies. Victor sponsored me to be an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association. Now if you work for a slides, hundreds at some conferences, and so, I quickly learned renal histology and pathology.

Korte: Tell me about your career progression.

Pesce: After six years in Chicago, I moved with Victor to Cincinnati where I became involved in the toxicology program. At the time, toxicology was mostly therapeutic drug monitoring, but we did have overdose cases on occasion. In those days we used some



Dr. Amadeo Pesce

very old technologies like thin layer chromatography (TLC) which was very difficult because it was very subjective and required an incredibly well-trained staff. Then we brought in mass spec in the late 70's and early 80's and that helped to identify what was going on with the TLC. Once the overdose was identified, we would scrape a little off the TLC and throw it on the mass spec to try to create standards for the urine mass spectrometry. In 1997, the labs consolidated and I took a directorship position at Adams County Hospital where I learned microbiology, hematology and coagulation and later added the Drake Center, which was a long-term acute care facility. In 2007 I joined the faculty at the UCSF School of Medicine as a volunteer Diego working for a drug testing company and which meant I had to get a California license, which proved to be rather difficult and it ended up being easier to just retake my boards.

Korte: Did you have any instances where mentors or other people who have influenced your professional life? What was their impact?

Pesce: I worked with Samuel Natelson at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. I was doing research in nephrology, and Samuel Natelson walked up to me and

said, "why don't you get a real job?" Once you have a lab where you know how to look at things clinically you never have to write another grant. The docs will present you with new problems every day and you just have to know how to approach the situation.

Korte: You've been very involved in the ACS. How has it helped you?

Pesce: ACS was especially important early in my career. It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot at their meetings. They fostered a mixing of specialists to spread knowledge and offered different viewpoints and approaches on complex problems.

Korte: What is the future of MS/MS in the clinic?

Pesce: Endocrinology and drug testing will be important because the issues with immunoassay won't go away any time soon. A focus of MS/MS will be key in microbiology. Micro is really the bottleneck for discharging patients... waiting for sensitivity studies, waiting for the bug to die once you have administered the antibiotic, etc. MS/MS has the potential to speed up identification to have a real impact on patient care. Something else to remember is that urine drug screening can be used to monitor for compliance and not just overdose. Compliance is key: 30-40% of patients post-AMI don't take their meds as scheduled.

Korte: Is there any advice you'd give young people interested in entering the field of pathology/clinical laboratory medicine?

Pesce: Mass spec is the right area. Be well-versed in endocrinology and drug testing. Develop skills in microbiology and produce micro libraries for mass spec applications. Be aware that the regulatory environment will get tougher and be prepared for that. Be mobile, take on new jobs, try new things. You will have a lot of skills coming out of your training and you can apply them anywhere you see fit. And remember that one goal of your education is to be able to resolve problems and troubleshoot techniques.

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Thank you to these Individual Donors

The Association of Clinical Scientists wishes to thank the following members who made contributions to the Association this past year:

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John Hicks
Julia Szajacs

CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Hawker
John Parker

On the lighter side...

Maxine



John Wagner



A biochemist walks into a bar and orders some adenosine triphosphate.

The bartender replies 'that's 80p to you'.



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

Previous 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

John Savory, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Pathology, was the first (and only!) to submit the correct answer to the previous question. Congratulations John!

The correct answer was:

Aluminum was found to induce neurofibrillary tangles resembling those seen in Alzheimer disease. Klatzo and Wisniewski made the discovery accidentally while studying immune responses in the rabbit central nervous system; the adjuvant used in their experiments contained aluminum.

Current Question (September, 2026)

(submitted by John Savory, Ph.D.)

What method, developed in 1925, became the standard reliable method for measuring serum calcium?

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

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