

the CLINICAL Chemist

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS

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EDITORIAL

The appearance of the clinical chemist is a relatively recent occurrence in the long history of medicine. Much of the classical knowledge regarding the composition of body fluids and tissues in normal and abnormal states was obtained by physicians. People forget, however, that many of these early physicians were also chemists. By themselves or with the aid of assistants, who are now called technicians, they endeavored to correlate the results of qualitative and semi-quantitative chemical tests with the clinical condition of their patients. The actual birth of clinical chemistry took place when such chemists as Folin, S.R. Benedict and D.D. Van Slyke, devised quantitative methods for the determination of chemical constituents in small amounts of blood and other body fluids and tissues. Physicians and their technicians were quick to utilize these methods, and medical knowledge was tremendously advanced. The methods used in clinical chemistry gradually became more and more complicated, until at present physicians and their technicians are no longer able to perform them adequately.

There has been a tendency in recent years for the larger hospitals and other organizations to engage clinical chemists who are qualified by training and experience to conduct a modern laboratory in clinical chemistry. These are our members and one of the principal functions of the A.A.C.C. will be to set up standards by which all practicing clinical chemists will produce uniformly reliable results. However, the smaller hospitals cannot afford to employ clinical chemists, and will continue to rely upon technicians to perform chemical analysis. So far, such technicians have been under the supervision of clinical pathologists, who have done their best to cope with modern methods. The A.A.C.C. must help them in every way possible. Until such time when several of the smaller institutions may perhaps jointly engage a clinical chemist to supervise their laboratories, it is our duty to choose adequate methods and set up controls which will ensure reliable results in every laboratory throughout the country.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING for 1950

The A.A.C.C. will hold its annual meeting in Philadelphia during the A.C.S. meeting, April 9th to 13th. The exact date cannot be set since other functions of the Association, including the Annual Dinner, must first be arranged in conjunction with the A.C.S. We regret that the details of these functions cannot be announced until the next issue but we promise an active program of interest to clinical chemists, and we urge all of our members to be present. If possible, the functions of the A.A.C.C. will be arranged for the same day and will comprise one full day and evening.

NEW OFFICERS OF THE A.A.C.C.

The Executive Committee met at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City on Thursday, December 8th, to count the ballots of the election. It was gratifying that 94 ballots were received of which one was blank and 4 others were declared invalid because of major irregularity. It was also gratifying that 73 ballots voted for the regular slate chosen by the Nominating Committee and 16 made at least one change in this slate. The results were as follows:

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
Sobotka (86)	Reinhold (87)	Friedman (85)	Dotti (89)
Friedman (1)	Blatherwick (1)	Benotti (1)	
Sobel (1)	(1 vote for Vice-	Natelson (1)	
Albanese (1)	President was blank)	Reiner (1)	
		Sobotka (1)	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Benotti (86)	Reiner (2)	Sobotka (1)
Gaebler (85)	Reinhold (2)	Somogyi (1)
Blatherwick (84)	Albanese (1)	E. Thomas (1)
Cheney (83)	Bonsnes (1)	(13 votes were
Sobel (82)	Friedman (1)	left blank)

* BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ELECTED OFFICERS *

PRESIDENT

HARRY SOBOTKA - Born August 4, 1899 in Vienna, Austria. Studied Chemistry at the University of Vienna and Munich, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree under Willstaetter. Thesis: "Hydrolytic Enzymes". After post-doctorate research with Willstaetter, and microbiological studies in Copenhagen, he worked with P.A. Levene at the Rockefeller Institute from 1924-1926. The subsequent two years were spent in the Department of Bacteriology of New York University Medical College. Since 1928, he has been in charge of the Department of Chemistry of the Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he has actively participated in the development of modern clinical chemistry. In addition to numerous research papers, reviews, articles and text book chapters in the field of clinical chemistry, enzymes, organic chemistry and colloid phenomena, he is the author of two books on steroids and on bile.

VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN GUNTHER REINHOLD - Born in Milwaukee, he received the Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1924 and Master of Science from Yale University in 1926. During 1926 and 1927, he was Assistant Biochemist under Dr. Walter G. Karr at the Philadelphia General Hospital. In 1927 he was appointed Principal Biochemist. The University of Pennsylvania awarded him a Doctorate in Physiological Chemistry in 1933. While continuing to direct the chemical activities at Philadelphia General Hospital, he held appointments as Instructor and Associate in Physiological Chemistry in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and was appointed Assistant Professor in 1946. He transferred from the Philadelphia General Hospital to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in 1948, where he is now Associate in charge of chemistry of the William Pepper Laboratory of Clinical Medicine. During the recent war he served as chemical consultant to the Commission on Liver Diseases of the Army Epidemiological Board. Publications include about 50 titles.

SECRETARY

MAX M. FRIEDMAN - After completing his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama in 1930, he carried out graduate work at Columbia University and the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the latter Institution. Although he would like to think that he has been a clinical chemist for about 20 years, the fact remains that from 1932-1939 he was engaged as a research biochemist in the Department of Pharmacology at New York University. It was not until 10 years ago that he joined the staff of Fordham Hospital in New York City. At present he is Senior Chemist at Queens General Hospital and Consultant Chemist at Lebanon Hospital, Instructor in Biochemistry at Queens College. His main scientific interest, besides trying to teach clinical chemistry to medical interns, is body water, or more specifically extra-cellular fluids. For the past several years he has divided his time between body fluids and nucleic acid in normal and pathological tissues.

TREASURER

LOUIS BASIL DOTTI - Born August 13, 1903 in New York City.
1929 - B.S. Columbia University - New York City
1931 - M.A. Columbia University - New York City
1936 - Ph.D. Columbia University - New York City
1929 - 1931 Research Assistant, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City
1931 - 1934 Assistant in Physiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City
1934 - 1936 Instructor in Physiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City
1934 - 1938 Summer Investigator, Carnegie Institute of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York
1936 - 1942 Assistant Professor of Physiology and Biochemistry, New York Medical College, New York City
1942 - Chemist, St. Lukes Hospital, New York City
1942 - Lecturer in Physiology and Biochemistry, New York Medical College, New York City

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOSEPH BENOTTI - Born August 31, 1911.
1934 - B.S. in Chemistry - Holy Cross
1935 - M.S. in Chemistry - Holy Cross
1934 - 1935 Teaching Fellow in Chemistry - Holy Cross
1936 - 1938 Chemist in the Thannhauser Laboratories Boot Dispensary
1938 - Director of Clinical Laboratories, Pratt Diagnostic Hospital, Boston
He is Chairman of the Boston Section of the A.A.C.C.
Conducts refresher courses for technicians of the Bingham Associates. These courses are for laboratory technicians of Bingham Affiliated Hospitals in Maine and Western Massachusetts, and comprises a four week refresher course in chemistry, bacteriology and hematology. He acts as consultant to these outlying hospitals in Maine, helping them with some of their technical problems.
In addition, he is also an Instructor of Biochemistry and Nutrition at Tufts College Medical School.

