

The Curious Chemist

The Curious Chemist is the semi-annual e-newsletter created by the New York Metro Section of the American Association of Clinical Chemists for its members. To comment or propose an article for the newsletter, please e-mail nym.aacc@gmail.com.

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2010 Van Slyke Award Presented to

Michael F. Holick, M.D., Ph.D.

By
Danyal Syed, Ph.D., DABCC

On a cold evening on December 9, 2010, the members of the AACC New York Metro Section and their guests gathered to a warm welcome, reception and dinner hosted by Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Tarrytown, New York. The event was the Annual prestigious Van Slyke Award Presentation and Lecture.

The Van Slyke Award is the highest award presented by the AACC New York Metro Section and has been presented annually since 1957 to honor the memory of Dr. Donald Van Slyke who laid the foundation of the modern Clinical Chemistry over three decades in the early 20th century. This award acknowledges outstanding contributions to science of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

This year's recipient of the

Van Slyke Award, Michael F. Holick, M.D., Ph.D, is a well-known expert on Vitamin D research, pioneering a clinical assay and ground breaking studies that have linked the wide array of disorders that afflict up to 200 million Americans and a wide range of populations around the globe. Dr. Holick speaks worldwide about the benefits of Vitamin D and has been featured in numerous media, including The New York Times, Forbes, Time Magazine, Newsweek, and Scientific American.

The Van Slyke Committee, comprised of Dr. Arthur Karmen, Dr. Danyal Syed and Dr. Martin Fleisher, recognized Dr. Holick as the 2010 Van Slyke Award recipient for his seminal contributions to laboratory medicine and

elected to honor his contributions.

The Executive Board of the AACC New York Metro Section and its members thank the staff and the management of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics for arranging such a beautiful evening. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and keep up the great tradition.

Photos of the event and an abstract for Dr. Holick are located on our webpage at:

www.aacc.org/members/local_sections/nymetro.



A Note from the 2011 Chair: Lakshmi Ramanathan



I wish to thank all members of the New York metro section of AACC for their support and confidence in me to serve as the 2011 Chair. I look forward to your support for a year filled with exciting educational and informative lectures. The

Executive Committee deserves a note of thanks for putting together an excellent selection of educational sessions for the first half of the year. Please come forward with topics of interest that we can cover in the second half of 2011.

Like all other areas in the country, the New York metropolitan area is faced with a shortage of medical technologists. Last year, we were encouraged by the attendance from students enrolled in med tech schools. We hope to reach out to

more med tech programs in New York City to encourage them to send their students to attend our events, to further spark interest in the field of Laboratory Medicine. 2011 promises to be an exciting year for the New York Metro section of AACC.

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2010 Ezra Levy High School Science Awards Dinner

By
Dalia Green

On June 17th the AACCC New York Metro section hosted the 12th Ezra Levy Memorial High School Science Award at the Mount Sinai Hospital auditorium.

The NY Metro Section High School Award Committee reviewed projects presented at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF) and the New York State Science and Engineering fair (NYSSEF). Members of the committee included: Dr. L. BJORINSON, Dr. S. LEVY, Dr. D. SYED and Dr. D. GREEN. The committee reviewed projects in Biochemistry and Medicine and selected four students to receive the NY Metro section high school award named after the late Dr. Ezra Levy.

The finalists presented their projects at the section's monthly meeting in June. The winning students received a plaque recognizing their achievement and a monetary award.

The following is a listing of the four award recipients for 2010, their project titles and a brief biography:

Eric Brooks - *Transition from Indolent to Metastatic Prostate Cancer Characterized through the Health Disparity between African American and Caucasian American Men*. Eric is graduating from G. W Hewlett High School in Hewlett and is planning to attend Yale University next year. He also received the 2nd prize at LISEF and 5th place at the Intel Science Talent Search competition and was named semifinalist at the Siemens competition.

Pragya Kakani - *The Novel Use of Fluorescence Energy Transfer (FRET) to Observe Apoptosis in Oligodendrocytes*. Pragya is graduating from Jericho High School and is planning to attend Harvard University next year. She received 1st place in LISEF and won 3rd place at the prestigious Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). This year 1611 students from 49 countries participated in the competition that took place in San Jose, CA.

Jessica Lovett - *Caspase Dependent Apoptotic Pathways in HCT-116 Colon Cancer Cells*. Jessica is graduating from the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns (HAFTR) and is planning to attend the University of Pennsylvania next year. She received the 1st place award in LISEF.

Samantha Brooke Halpern - *Expression Profiling of Putative microRNA in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer*. Samantha is graduating from Roslyn High School and is planning to attend Princeton University next year. She received the 2nd grand prize at ISEF in CA.

The evening concluded with a lecture given by Nancy Haley, PhD, senior clinical specialist, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics on "The Epidemic of Heart Disease in Women".

We would like to thank the students for their time, energy and enthusiasm for scientific advancement and wish them well in all of their future endeavors. In addition, we would like to thank Siemens Diagnostics for sponsoring the event and providing awards for the student winners.

The next science awards dinner and presentation will be held on May 18th, 2011 at Mount Sinai NYU Health Center. Keep an eye on your e-mail for more information.



For more photos from the event, please visit our web site:
www.aacc.org/members/loc_sections/nymetro/awards

NYSSEF & LISEF: Call for Judges

The deadline for registration of judges in NY High School Science Fairs is fast approaching. All volunteers who would like to participate in this rewarding educational activity will have three different opportunities to do so.

Monday, April 4th – NYSSEF

The New York State Science and Engineering Fair (NYSSEF) will be held at the NY Hall of Science. The fair will begin at 8:30 am. Judges should arrive by 8:15 am for a light breakfast, followed by a judging orientation. Judges will receive lunch, a modest NYSSEF gift and a \$25 travel voucher to defray travel costs.

To find out more information about the fair, please go to the [NYSSEF website](http://www.nyssef.org). To register as a judge, please fill out the form found at the [Judge's Registration Link](http://www.nyssef.org/judges).

Mon, Feb. 14th & Tues, March 22nd - LISEF

The Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF) events will take place from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury.

For more information about LISEF and to register as a judge, please visit www.lisef.org or call (631) 871-6375.

If you are interested in serving as a judge for any of these fairs, please e-mail Dalia Green at dalia_green@bd.com.



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Congratulations

Denise Geiger!

Special Congratulations to NYMS member Denise Geiger on winning the 2010 Distinguished Abstract Award for the AACC Annual Meeting.

Her abstract, listed below, was selected by a group of National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) Fellows for their scientific excellence from a pool of 820 abstracts accepted for the AACC Annual Meeting.

Winning abstracts will display the NACB blue ribbon during the AACC Annual Meeting poster sessions in Anaheim, CA.

Be sure to check out her award winning presentation at the next meeting.

Denise L. Uettwiller-Geiger,
Mather Memorial Hospital,
Port Jefferson, NY

"The clinical laboratory's critical role in decreasing Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) hospital acquired infection (HAI) by implementing a rapid screening program in a community hospital."

AACC Government Affairs Update

By Lauria Lindesay,
NYMS Government Affairs Liaison

CMS Publishes Crosswalk Decisions for New Codes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released its update for the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule for 2011, specifying the crosswalk that CMS is using to set payment rates for the new codes. These rates, along with the codes, take effect on January 1, 2011. The document with all the coding changes is available on the CMS web site: www.cms.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Downloads/CY2011-CLFS-New-Test-Codes.pdf.

CMS Announces Formation of New Innovation Center (IC)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently implemented a provision of the new health reform law to establish an Innovation Center to explore improvements to the existing payment system. A key goal of the Center will be to promote the use of "bundled payments" that pay a single payer for an episode of care across providers. Among the different delivery models to be examined are: advanced primary care; home health care; and accountable care organizations. The IC plans to create "open innovation communities" that serve as information clearinghouses for best practices of health care delivery reform." More information about the agency initiative is located on the web site: www.innovations.cms.gov/blog/introducing.shtml.

The Curious Questions:

Question #1

An alternative to clearance testing, the glomerular filtration rate can be estimated by which method?

- A. Determining 24 hour urinary protein concentration
- B. Calculation based upon plasma creatinine, age, race, and sex
- C. Measurement of 24 hour urinary urea nitrogen
- D. Measurement of 24 hour urinary sodium concentration

Question #2

The study of pharmacogenomics involves which type of testing?

- A. Family studies to determine the inheritance of drug resistance
- B. Testing drugs with cell cultures to determine the minimum toxic dosage
- C. Testing for single nucleotide polymorphisms known to affect drug metabolism
- D. Comparison of dose response curves among family members

For the answer to this question and an explanation of the result, please visit the AACC website: http://www.aacc.org/members/loc_sections/nymetro

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AACC New York Metro Section Annual Report 2010

The New York Metro Section had a very successful year in 2010. We would like to thank all of our sponsors and members for a very successful year, and look forward to even greater success in 2011.

The 2010 lectures were as follows:

February 4

"Latest Developments in Cardiac Markers"

Dr. Michael Farkouh
Cardiovascular Institute,
Mount Sinai Medical Center

March 18

"PCT: A Biomarker of Sepsis"

Dr. Katherine Soreng
Senior Manager,
Siemens Healthcare, Inc.

April 22

"Diagnostic Tests used in HIV Infections"

Dr. Deeptha Nedunchezian, FACP
Division of Infectious Diseases,
Brookdale University Hospital

May 13

"Review of the CDC commissioned National Report on Laboratory Medicine"

Barbara Goldsmith, PhD, FACB
Past President, AACC
Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
Vice President, Marketing and Business
Development

June 17

"The Epidemic of Heart Disease in Women"

Nancy Haley, PhD
Senior Clinical Specialist,
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

NY Metro Section 2011 Schedule

Date	Organizer/ Sponsor	Topic
Feb 9 th	L. Ramanathan f. Dr. Vassalotti	Lab Measurement in Chronic Kidney Disease
March 16 th	S. Green/ BD	Preanalytical Variables in Laboratory Testing
April 27 th	J. Lashley/ N. Lafontant/ Ameritox	Pain Management
May 18 th	D. Green	Ezra Levy Awards
June 15 th	D. Green/ Siemens	CDiff
July 24-28 th	AACC Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA	
Sept	TBA	TBA
Oct	S. Levy/ Siemens	TBA
Nov	TBA	TBA
Dec	TBA	Van Slyke Awards

September 22

"Sigma Metrics for Quality Assessment"

Sten Westgard
Director, Client Services and Technology,
Westgard QC, Inc.

November 17

"Recent Advancements in Detection and Monitoring for Monoclonal Gammopathies"

Richard O'Hara, Ph.D.
Senior Technical Director,
The Binding Site, Inc.

December 9

Van Slyke Awards and Presentation:
"The Forgotten Vitamin D: A D-Lightful Story"

Michael F. Holick, Ph.D., M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Physiology, and
Biophysics, Boston University Medical Center



Upcoming Webinar:

AACC & BD Diagnostics Preanalytical Systems presents

Preanalytical Variables in Laboratory Testing

Presented by Lakshmi Ramanathan, Ph.D.

April 13, 2011 • 1:00 pm est

Efforts to reduce errors and improve patient safety continue to be challenges of increasing concern. This webinar will focus on Sample quality, the impact of Preanalytical errors, Efficiency and the effects on Patient Safety. Join us as we discuss effective methods to help drive consistent, reliable results that ensure proper patient management and learn about how the cost of poor quality affects your bottom line.

Register at: www.bd.com/vacutainer.