

THE ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

www.amp.org

Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council

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Leadership: AMP's current President is Dr. Timothy O'Leary and its President-Elect is Dr. Iris Schrijver. Dr. Mark Sobel is the Executive Officer. Led by a Steering Committee sub-Committee of its Council, AMP began a new strategic planning process in the fall of 2010.

Membership: At the end of 2010, AMP's membership was approximately 1,975; an increase of approximately 7.5% over 2009.

Annual Meeting: The 2010 Annual Meeting was held in San Jose, California, November 17-20, and had an attendance of 1,265 scientific registrants, an increase of ~18% over 2009. The exhibits program continues to grow; 115 entities exhibited in 174 booth spaces. AMP again held a Molecular Pathology Outreach Course the day before the annual meeting, which had an attendance of approximately 90. AMP celebrated its 16th annual meeting with a social event that was very well received by attendees. This year, AMP will hold its 17th annual meeting in Grapevine (near Dallas), Texas, November 17 - 19. The Molecular Pathology Outreach Course will be held on November 16.

Awards: Dr. Patrick O. Brown was the keynote speaker at the 2010 annual meeting and the recipient of the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics. Previous recipients include Francis Collins, Edwin Southern, Henry Erlich, Bert Vogelstein, Craig Venter, Sir Alec Jeffreys, Leroy Hood, Mary-Clare King, Janet Rowley, Carl Wittwer, and Kay Davies. The AMP Leadership Award, which honors a member who has contributed significant leadership to benefit the mission and goals of the society, was presented to Dr. Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez in 2010. Previous recipients include Jeffrey Kant, Mark Sobel, Daniel Farkas, Karen Kaul, and Debra Leonard. AMP also provides Young Investigator Awards and Technologist Awards based on abstract submissions and poster presentations at the annual meeting. In addition, several awards to support travel to the annual meeting are provided, one of which was sponsored by ICPI, which was given to two recipients in 2010.

Publications: AMP's official journal, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*, is now in its 13th year. It is co-published with ASIP is published bimonthly. Dr. Timothy O'Leary is the Editor-in-Chief. In 2010, AMP published two manuscripts: AMP Position Statement on population carrier screening for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (Muralidharan, *et al.*) and Laboratory Guidelines for Detection, Interpretation and Reporting of Maternal Cell Contamination (MCC) in Prenatal Analyses: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Nagan, *et al.*). The CME program, in which readers can earn 50 credit hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award, is growing. *JMDxpress* is the journal's online prepublication vehicle.

Clinical Practice: AMP's active Clinical Practice Committee continues to work on numerous clinical practice issues. A new Working Group, focused on Whole Genome Analysis, was established in 2010.

Economic Affairs Committee: AMP's committee responsible for reimbursement, coding, and economic policy issues is very active. The Committee continues to make significant progress in educating and influencing third party payers. AMP is a member of the CAP Pathology Coding Caucus (PCC) and a number of Committee members are active participants in the AMA CPT Editorial Panel Workgroup which is considering CPT Code reform for molecular testing related to oncologic and heritable disorders. In addition, the Committee has been coordinating AMP's participation in a coalition of professional organizations seeking legislative recognition for PhD laboratory

scientists having appropriate molecular training as ‘qualified healthcare practitioners.’ Qualified healthcare practitioners can bill for professional component reimbursement for relevant molecular CPT codes on the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS).

Membership & Professional Development: AMP’s MPDC manages effective volunteer and liaison management systems. In 2010, the committee launched a new International Affairs Working Group.

Professional Relations: AMP’s active Professional Relations Committee continues to work on licensing and regulatory issues for molecular tests. AMP has been very active in advocating for its members with FDA regarding laboratory developed tests (LDTs), cytogenetic arrays, and barriers to market for molecular diagnostic tests; with NIH regarding the Genetic Test Registry (GTR); with NIST regarding the need for Standard Reference Materials (SRMs); and, with Congress regarding LDTs, SRMs, and gene patents. AMP presented to the Secretary’s Advisory Committee for Genetics, Health & Society (SACGHS) at each of their meetings on topics that include genetics education and training, whole genome sequencing, and gene patents.

Training & Education: AMP’s education initiatives continue to grow. The T&E Committee presents webinars and the Outreach Course at the annual meeting.

AMP Test Directory (www.amptestdirectory.org): The online Directory is organized into sections for Hematopathology, Solid Tumors, and Infectious Diseases. Only Laboratory Directors who are AMP members can list tests; however, the Directory is available to the public without restriction. An extensive redesign of the database is ongoing that includes a specimen source field, a streamlined list of infectious agents, a Google-style search function, and a function that will allow the easy identification of labs who have not updated their listing in the past year so they can be inactivated.