



Association for Molecular Pathology
Promoting Clinical Practice, Translational Research, and Education in Molecular Pathology
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**Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council
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Submitted by Mary Steele Williams, MNA, MT(ASCP)SM, Executive Director

Leadership: AMP's current President is Dr. Jennifer Hunt and its President-Elect is Dr. Elaine Lyon. Mary Williams is the Executive Director. AMP is governed by a Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. In September, AMP lost one of its founding and most active members, Dr. Jeffrey Kant, to a brief and catastrophic illness. His loss is mourned by many; his leadership is celebrated by a number of members stepping forward to honor him with their increased volunteer service.

Membership: AMP's membership grew ~12% in 2012 to ~2,300.

Annual Meeting: The 2012 Annual Meeting was held in Long Beach, California, October 25-27, and had an attendance of ~1,675 scientific registrants. The meeting was dedicated to Dr. Kant. AMP again held a Molecular Pathology Outreach Course (co-sponsored by CAP) the day before the annual meeting, which had an attendance of ~100. AMP celebrated its 18th annual meeting with a social event that was very well received by attendees. This year, AMP will hold its 19th annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, November 14-16. The Molecular Pathology Outreach Course will be held on November 13.

Awards: Dr. James Downing was the keynote speaker at the 2012 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, Kay Davies, Patrick Brown, and Carlo Croce. 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. Wayne Grody in 2012. Previous recipients include Jeffrey Kant, Mark Sobel, Daniel Farkas, Karen Kaul, Debra Leonard, Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, and Margaret Gulley. The AMP Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes significant service given by a member to the Society, was presented to Drs. Helen Fernandes and Shuji Ogino. 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 2012.

Publications: AMP's official journal, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*, is now in its 15th year. It is co-owned with the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) and is published bimonthly by Elsevier. Dr. Timothy O'Leary is the Editor-in-Chief. In 2012, AMP published three manuscripts: Opportunities and Challenges Associated with Clinical Diagnostic Genome Sequencing: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Schrijver, *et al.*), Certification in Molecular Pathology in the United States: An Update from the Association for Molecular Pathology Training and Education Committee (Mackinnon, *et al.*), and Relevance, Pathogenesis, and Testing Algorithm for Mismatch Repair-Defective Colorectal Carcinomas: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Funkhouser, *et al.*) The CME program, which in 2013 readers may earn up to 48 credit hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award, is growing.

Clinical Practice: AMP's Clinical Practice Committee, chaired by Dr. Loren Joseph, continues to work on a variety of clinical practice issues. The Committee completed the AMP Variant Nomenclature Database to facilitate standardizing nomenclature in clinical reports. A Working Group is completing a Guideline for the detection of JAK2 mutations in myeloproliferative neoplasms. During 2012, the Whole Genome Analysis

Working Group published a white paper. A significant investment in the development of practice guidelines began in 2010. AMP is collaborating with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) to develop practice guidelines for biomarkers in lung cancer. This project has been completed and the manuscript has been accepted for joint publication in the organization's journals. AMP is collaborating with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to develop practice guidelines for biomarkers in colorectal cancer.

Economic Affairs: This committee, co-chaired by Drs. Aaron Bossler and Jan Nowak, is actively engaged in reimbursement, coding, and economic policy issues. AMP is a member of the CAP Pathology Coding Caucus (PCC) and Dr. Bossler is a member of the AMA Molecular Pathology Advisory Group (MPAG). AMP was disappointed that the new molecular pathology CPT codes were not placed on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and is working to ensure that CMS and local contractors understand the significant professional work involved in these tests. Related, AMP is concerned that recently released local contractor fee schedules do not adequately reflect RUC data. AMP continues to work with CAP, ASCP and other relevant professional associations.

Membership Affairs: AMP's Membership Affairs Committee manages effective volunteer and liaison management programs. Seven individuals were selected to receive AMP membership grant awards. During 2012, the Committee's International Affairs Working Group co-sponsored molecular pathology conferences in India, Australia, Sweden, and Slovakia.

Professional Relations: AMP's active Professional Relations Committee addresses regulatory and legislative issues that impact molecular pathology. An important feature of AMP's advocacy efforts is interaction and coordination with CAP, ASCP, and other relevant professional associations. Being an election year, 2012 was not very active legislatively; however, the Committee continued to respond to requests for comments, attend conferences, and recommend AMP members for panel vacancies as appropriate. A lawsuit regarding one of AMP's signature advocacy issues, gene patents, will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on April 15.

Training & Education: AMP's education initiatives continue to grow. The T&E Committee presents webinars and the Outreach Course at the annual meeting. The Committee has two Task Forces that are developing molecular pathology curricula, one for medical residents and one for medical technologist training programs. The committee presented eight webinars in 2012. The Molecular Genetic Pathology (MGP) Program Directors now have a structure within AMP and have launched an MGP Fellow Training in Genomics Task Force to develop a fellowship curriculum. In 2012, AMP planned sessions for the ASCP, CAP and the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) annual meetings. The biennial Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course will be held April 4-7, 2013 in Bethesda, MD. The ASCP is AMP's 2013 education partner for continuing education credits.

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.