



ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Tel: 301-634-7939 | Fax: 301-634-7995 | amp@amp.org | www.amp.org

**Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council
March 2014**

Submitted by Mary Steele Williams, MNA, MT(ASCP)SM, Executive Director

Leadership: AMP's current President is Dr. Elaine Lyon and its President-Elect is Dr. Janina Longtine. Mary Williams is the Executive Director. AMP is governed by a Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. In 2013, AMP became a constituent member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a member of the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) Pathology Roundtable and a cooperating society of the American Board of Pathology. On January 1, 2014, AMP became an independently managed society and expresses its gratitude to ASIP and its Executive Officer, Dr. Mark Sobel, for nurturing management during AMP's first 19 years. AMP's new office is on the FASEB campus.

Membership: AMP's current membership is ~2,300.

Annual Meeting: The 2013 Annual Meeting was held November 14-16 in Phoenix, Arizona and had an attendance of ~1,710 scientific registrants. AMP again held a Molecular Pathology Outreach Course (co-sponsored by CAP and the Arizona Society of Pathologists) the day before the annual meeting, which had an attendance of ~82. AMP celebrated its 19th annual meeting with a social event that was very well received by attendees. This year, AMP will hold its 20th annual meeting November 13-15 at the National Harbor, MD (just outside of Washington, DC). The Molecular Pathology Outreach Course will be held on November 12.

Awards: Dr. Stephen T. Warren was the keynote speaker at the 2013 annual meeting and the recipient of the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics. The AMP Leadership Award, which honors a member who has contributed significant leadership to benefit the mission and goals of the society, was renamed to honor Dr. Jeffrey A. Kant and was presented to Dr. Jan Nowak in 2013. The AMP Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes significant service given by a member to the Society, was presented to Dr. S. Terence Dunn. 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 is sponsored by ICPI, which was given to two recipients in 2013.

Publications: AMP's official journal, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*, is now in its 16th year. It is co-owned with the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), is managed by ASIP, and is published bimonthly by Elsevier. Dr. Timothy O'Leary is the Editor-in-Chief. In 2013, AMP published three manuscripts: Laboratory Practice Guidelines for Detecting and Reporting *JAK2* and *MPL* Mutations in Myeloproliferative Neoplasms: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Gong, *et al.*), The Role of *MGMT* Testing in Clinical Practice: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Cankovic, *et al.*), and (jointly with CAP and IASLC) Molecular Testing Guidelines for Selection of Lung Cancer Patients for EGFR and ALK Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors: Guidelines from the College of American Pathologists, International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, and Association for Molecular Pathology (Lindeman, *et al.*). The CME program, which for 2013 participants 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 in two manuscripts in 2013: Laboratory Practice Guidelines

for Detecting and Reporting *JAK2* and *MPL* Mutations in Myeloproliferative Neoplasms: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Gong, *et al.*) and The Role of *MGMT* Testing in Clinical Practice: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology (Cankovic, *et al.*). A collaboration of members from the Clinical Practice Committee, the Whole Genome Analysis Working Group, and the Genetics Subdivision Leadership and other invited experts is finalizing a manuscript, "Reporting Incidental Findings in Genomic Scale Clinical Sequencing: A Clinical Laboratory Perspective" (Hegde, *et al.*). 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. A collaboration of members from the Clinical Practice, Economic Affairs, and Professional Relations Committees is drafting a white paper examining various, and often disparate, uses of the term "clinical utility" and a framework for studies that may demonstrate clinical usefulness of categories of molecular test types. A key argument of the paper emphasizes the value of a correct diagnosis to rebut the increasing situations in which regulators, payers, and several groups are narrowing definitions of "clinical utility" to tests that directly lead to improved patient outcomes, *i.e.*, companion diagnostics in oncology.

Economic Affairs: This committee, co-chaired by Drs. Aaron Bossler and Jan Nowak, is actively engaged in reimbursement, coding, and economic policy issues. Coverage and reimbursement for molecular pathology tests continues to be AMP's primary advocacy initiative. AMP continues to work with CAP, ASCP, APC and other relevant professional associations and is very grateful for the support and collaboration from all. Dr. Nowak is AMP's representative to the CAP Pathology Coding Caucus (PCC). The AMA Molecular Pathology Advisory Group (MPAG) is comprised largely of AMP members, including Dr. Bossler, Dr. Roger Klein (Chair of AMP's Professional Relations Committee) and Dr. Elaine Lyon (AMP President).

Membership Affairs: AMP's Membership Affairs Committee manages effective volunteer and liaison management programs. The committee's International Affairs Working Group helps nurture molecular pathology outside of North America. Seven individuals were selected to receive 2013 International Membership Grant awards. During 2013, AMP was pleased to approve the affiliation applications of pathology organizations in Hong Kong, Korea, and India and co-sponsored a conference in Turkey. In 2014, AMP will co-sponsor molecular pathology conferences in India and Hong Kong; additional conferences are under consideration.

Professional Relations: AMP's Professional Relations Committee addresses regulatory and legislative issues that impact molecular pathology. AMP has endorsed SGR and health IT bills that protect physicians that do not have face-to-face interactions with patients. We continue to work with Congress on the negative impact of travel restrictions on federal employees and are seeking to have scientific and medical conferences exempted from proposed legislation. In addition, AMP keeps Congress informed of problems with Palmetto's MoIDX program, as well as coverage and pricing issues. Once administrative options at CMS are exhausted, the joint society coalition will collaborate on any requests to Congress for a fix. An important feature of AMP's advocacy efforts is interaction and coordination with CAP, ASCP, APC and other relevant professional associations. AMP participates each year in CAP's meeting of National Pathology Organizations. In 2013 AMP also participated in the Workforce Summit organized by ASCP, CAP, and APC. A lawsuit regarding one of AMP's signature advocacy issues, gene patents, was decided in June by the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of the plaintiffs. AMP has signed on as an *amicus* in attempts to halt testing prior to judgment in lawsuits following the decision. In addition, AMP and ACLU held a Congressional briefing in July 2013 to inform Congress of the importance of the decision. A collaboration of members from the Clinical Practice, Economic Affairs and Professional Relations Committees are drafting a white paper examining the "perfect storm" of current and proposed regulations and policies, potential results, *e.g.*, consolidation of testing into a small number of laboratories, and concomitant potential impact on patient care, medical training, etc.

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 latter of which has been accepted for publication in *JMD*. The committee presented nine webinars in 2013 with a total of 2246 attendees. 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 2013, AMP planned sessions for the ASCP, CAP, AACC, USCAP, and the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) annual meetings, Cambridge Health Institute Conferences, and regional meetings in Dallas, TX and Newark, NJ. The biennial Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course was held April 4-7, 2013 in Bethesda, MD, and is now currently being offered as an online self-study review course through 2014. The ASCP is AMP's education partner for continuing education credits. AMP also has a volunteer representative to the APC Fellowship Directors Ad Hoc Committee, AACC Lab Tests Online, and the NHGRI's Inter-Society Coordinating Committee.

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 expected to be completed in 2014.