



# Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

Kamisha L. Johnson-Davis, PhD, DABCC (CC, TC), FACB, FACSc, Editor

Vol 37, No 3—September 2017

## ACS to Hold Its 2018 Annual Meeting in Houston

May 16-19, 2018

Houston Marriott Medical Center/  
Museum District

*The Association of Clinical Scientists will hold its 138th Meeting in Houston, Texas, on May 16th through 19th, 2018. It is being hosted by the Program of Diagnostic Genetics, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, School of Health Professions. The meeting theme will be **Genomic Medicine**. The Program Committee Co-Chairpersons, Awdhesh Kalia, PhD and Peter Hu, PhD, along with Program Committee members Robert Hunter, MD, PhD, John Hicks, MD, DDS, PhD, and Roger Bertholf, PhD cordially invite you to plan to attend another outstanding Association meeting.*



Houston skyline at night

### HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights feature two distinguished “keynote” lectures plus a distinguished banquet speaker, a Friday half day session at the **MD Anderson Cancer Center**, including tours of various anatomic and clinical pathology laboratories and **School of Health Professions** teaching laboratories, and a special optional bus tour on Friday afternoon for participants and spouses to visit the **NASA Space Center**

*continued on page 2*

### Hurricane Harvey

Dear Colleagues:

*Hurricane Harvey's impact on Houston and the surrounding areas was immense. As far as we know the venues for our Annual Meeting this coming May were not significantly impacted, and although we could learn more later on, there appears to be no concern about the physical facilities for our meeting. However, in the bigger picture, we are aware that some members of the ACS extended family were personally impacted by the flooding. Our thoughts and prayers are with these individuals and their families as they deal with the aftermath of this terrible tragedy.*

Sincerely,

Robert Hardy, PhD  
President, ACS



The MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

Click photo to learn more

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## 2018 in Houston...

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Houston, which will include special tours not normally available to the general public. More information will be provided in the near future.

The Abraham J. Gitlitz Memorial Lecture will be presented by **Andy Futreal, Ph.D.**, Chair and Professor, Department of Genomic Medicine, Robert A. Welch Distinguished University Chair, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture will be presented by **John Mendelsohn, M.D.**, Director Khalifa Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy, and past president, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His talk is entitled *Genomic Medicine: Accomplishments and Next Steps*.

The special speaker at the Annual Banquet will be **C. Thomas Caskey, MD, FACP, FACME, FRSC**, who is Professor, Department of Molecular & Human Genetics–Baylor College of Medicine and Director of Precision Medicine for the Young Presidents Organization, past CEO of Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine at UTHSC–Houston, past senior VP, Human Genetics and Vaccines Discovery at Merck Research Laboratories, and past president, Merck Genome Institute. His presentation, which he assures us will be suitable for the banquet audience, will be *Precision Medicine Reduces Genetics Disease Risk*.

The Annual Banquet will also include the presentation of the Association's awards, as described elsewhere in this newsletter.

### HOTEL FOR THE MEETING

The headquarters hotel for the Annual Meeting is the **Houston Marriott Medical Center**, 6580 Fannin Street, (Driveway Entrance on 1730 Dryden Road) Houston, Texas, 77030.

Situated on the MetroRail and across the street from the largest medical center in the world, the hotel is walking distance to our Friday morning session at MD Anderson Cancer Center and is also incredibly convenient to the other top health care institutions located there including Texas Children's Hospital and Houston Methodist Hospital. The hotel features regionally-inspired cuisine paired with premium libations at its on-site restaurant, **Driscoll's**. It is close to attractions such as the Museum of Natural Science, Houston Zoo, Hermann Park and Rice University, all less than two miles away.

The Association's contracted room rate for the 138th Meeting is \$139.00 Standard Guest Room with 17% applicable state and local taxes. The hotel's phone number is (713) 796-0080 and the website is

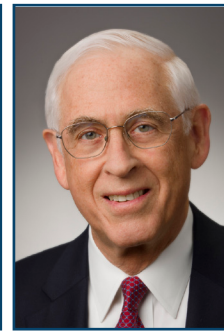
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/houmc-houston-marriott-medical-center-museum-district/>

Be sure to mention the Association of Clinical Scientists meeting when making reservations. 🇺🇸

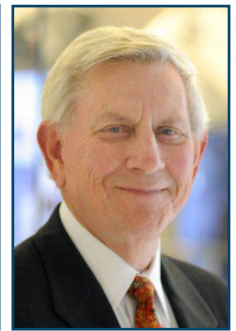
### NASA Space Center Houston



**Andy Futreal, Ph.D.**



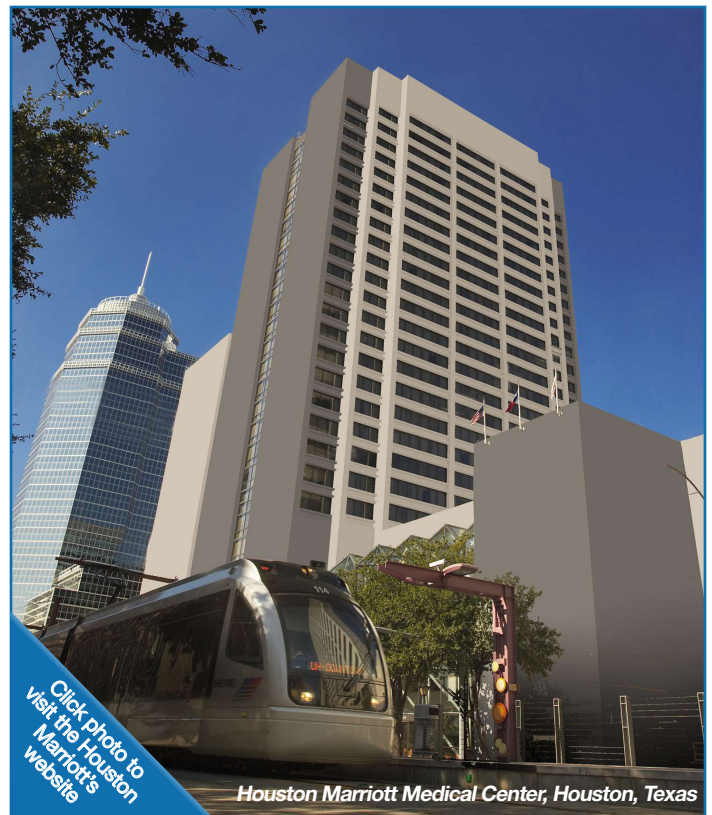
**John Mendelsohn, M.D.**



**C. Thomas Caskey, M.D.**



*Grand Ballroom set up for Conference speakers and attendees*



*Houston Marriott Medical Center, Houston, Texas*

# Awards Committee Announces 2018 ACS Awards

The 2017 Awards Committee, chaired by Consolato M. Sergi, M.Sc., M.D., Ph.D., FRCPC, FACP, FACSc, has announced the following Association Awards to be presented at the Reception and Awards Banquet on May 18 at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Houston.

## Clinical Scientist of the Year

**PETER HU, Ph.D., FACSc**

**Dr. Hu** is a Professor in the School of Health Professions (SHP) and is the founding Director of the Molecular Genetic Technology and the Graduate Diagnostic Genetics Programs. He received his Bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 1990 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Chemistry. Later, he received his Master's degree from Lamar University majoring in Microbiology and subsequently a Doctor of Philosophy from Trident University International (TUI) Healthcare Administration and Molecular Genetics. Dr. Hu also holds 3 specialty clinical certifications in Molecular Biology, Cytogenetics, and Clinical Laboratory Science. He joined MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in 1995 and has worked in both clinical and academic environments.



*Peter Hu*

Dr. Hu has taught over 35 courses within the SHP and has served or is currently serving as Chair or as member on 45 institutional committees. Dr. Hu has published over 180 abstracts, 37 papers, 4 book chapters and edited a textbook. He is on the editorial board for 5 journals and a column editor for another. For his efforts, he has received 42 recognitions and awards during his tenure including the Association's Young Clinical Scientist Award in 2011, the Association for Genetic Technologists Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011, the University of Texas Systems Outstanding Teaching Faculty award in 2012, and Cardinal Health UrEssential Laboratorian of the Year Award in 2016.

Professionally, he has served as President, Board of Directors, and other key leadership positions for various professional societies. In addition, he has served as a clinical laboratory science programs inspector for the past 16 years. Dr. Hu regularly presents at state, national, and international conferences on topics ranging from clinical laboratory sciences to education.



*The University of Texas  
MD Anderson Cancer Center*

## F.W. Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor

**PHILIP R. FOULIS, M.D., MPH, FACSc**

**Dr. Philip Foulis** is an anatomic and clinical pathologist with subspecialty certification in hematopathology and clinical informatics. He is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology at the University of South Florida with appointments in the Department of Internal Medicine and College of Public Health. He received his M.D. degree from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario Canada and a residency at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Later, he received a Master in Public Health in Epidemiology from the College of Public Health, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.



*Philip Foulis*

Dr. Foulis' practice is at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida. His clinical duties include cytopathology, hematopathology and medical informatics. In addition, he teaches medical students, residents, fellows and undergraduate students. Research activities include residents, fellows and graduate students with an emphasis of big data in the evaluation of clinical care.

Throughout his career, Dr. Foulis' major academic and administrative interest has focused on informatics. Currently, he is concentrating on human factors engineering, diagnostic error and big data. To his credit are more than 250 referred presentations and publications. He is a member of local, regional and national committees, most of which emphasize quality and informatics. This interest has resulted in the Association of Clinical Scientists becoming a member in the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis. Currently the ACS is the only laboratory medicine organization in the coalition.

Dr. Foulis has been a member of the Association of Clinical Scientists for many years. In addition to serving as Society President (2016-2017), he has actively served on the Credentials Committee (2007-2009), Membership and Mentoring Committee (2015-present), Music and Arts Committee (2009-present), Nominating Committee (2017-present), Program Committee (2009, 2017), and the Executive Committee (2015-present). Currently, Dr. Foulis is leading the effort to expand ACS' leadership role in Diagnostic Error prevention with the formation of a new Scientific Section.

Dr. Foulis' talents include playing the cello and he has had the privilege of playing in many Musicales. He is also a member of the Ybor String Project, a string orchestra comprised of students from the Hillsborough Community College and community volunteers. He remains committed to promoting the vision and goals of **Dr. Sunderman**.

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# 2018 ACS Awards...

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## Young Clinical Scientist Award

DELU (TYLER) YIN, PH.D., FACSC

**Dr. Tyler Yin** graduated from the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities in 2010 with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics, with a focus on enzyme engineering of perhydrolases. He then completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, CA researching fundamental and applied carbohydrate enzymology.



Tyler Yin

Dr. Yin's work on discovering enzymes for clinical diagnostic applications led him to apply for a clinical chemistry fellowship at the University of Louisville. During his fellowship, Dr. Yin trained and focused in mass spectrometry applications in clinical diagnostics. His work in developing a diagnostic test for obstructive sleep apnea in children led to an NIH SBIR Phase I award. Since completing his clinical chemistry fellowship in 2017, he is now validating toxicology confirmation panels using LC/MS at a private diagnostics laboratory.

Dr. Yin's award was based on his outstanding presentation at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham entitled "A New Role for UCN3 as a Biomarker for PTSD in Adults."



Tyler Yin delivering his presentation at the Annual Meeting held in Birmingham, AL, May, 2017

## Gold Headed Cane

ROBERT E. BROWN, M.D., FACSC

**Dr. Robert E. Brown** was born to Betty and Chay Brown in Barnesboro, a small coal mining town in Pennsylvania. His mother worked in the shirt factory and his dad worked in the coal mines and then as an independent contractor. They saved their money, about \$10,000, to put him through college and then medical school. He was blessed to have a brother, Jan, and a sister, Beta, who completed a sense of family. Bob attended Akron University in Akron Ohio, and graduated in absentia in 1963 with a B.Sc. degree in pre-med. He was accepted into medical school in 1962 at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV), Richmond, Virginia.



Robert Brown

In 1964, he married his soul mate, Dorothy L Cook; and they celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on August 8th, 2017. After medical school, Dr Brown did a fellowship in endocrinology combined with an internship in pathology at MCV, was a research fellow in medicine/biological chemistry at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, and completed a residency in pathology at MCV. He served as a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps during the Vietnam War in 1971-1973 in the Endocrine Pathology Branch at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C.. Bob and Dorothy adopted two sons, Robert Chay in 1970 and Jonathan Lee in 1976. One of his first civilian jobs in 1973 was at JC Blair Hospital in Huntingdon, PA, where he was the medical director of pathology and laboratory medicine. A memorable occurrence happened at JC Blair; one of his clinical colleagues, Dr Beck, asked Bob what he would recommend to work up a patient with liver disease and when Bob gave him an answer, he replied "I ask every pathologist that same question; you know why – because I think the pathologist is the 'doctor's doctor'."

With that challenge and opportunity, Dr Brown became a peripatetic pathologist building laboratories and serving as the first full time pathologist at Arkansas Children's Hospital and Cook Fort Worth Children's Hospital and more recently, serving as Vice Chief of Pathology and Director of Transfusion Medicine at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA, and Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology and now Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UT Health McGovern Medical School, LBJ Hospital. His devoted family accompanied him and now, Robert Chay has a family in Weatherford, Texas and Jonathan is a graduate of the school of architecture in Wisconsin and is a self-employed architect in Los Angeles, California.

In 1976, another family was born for Bob and Dorothy Brown. It was the Association of Clinical Scientists. Membership in the Association as a Fellow and attendance at the annual meetings has afforded Bob and Dot a venue for social, creative, historical, and collegial interaction with the members and their wives. Moreover, it has provided Dr Brown a forum to educate the residents in pathology and laboratory medicine and most importantly, to practice and publish in clinical science so that, as a team, they can define the biology of disease and work with clinical colleagues to better target disease processes to give hope to the patients being served. ❖❖

## 2017 Annual Meeting in Birmingham a Huge Success

The 137th Meeting of the Association of Clinical Scientists was held in Birmingham, AL May 17-20 under the sponsorship of the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine. The Grand Bohemian Hotel in Mountain Brook, Alabama was a delightful choice for the meeting hotel. Chaired by Drs. Robert Hardy and Gene Siegal, the meeting was highly successful both for the scientific presentations and for the camaraderie and social events.

The meeting had two main themes. The first theme, Disruptive Innovations in Clinical and Anatomic Pathology, was presented on Thursday morning, led by the Claude P. Brown Memorial Lecture presented by Long Zheng, MD of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, on Novel Therapeutics for Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. Other speakers in the morning session also presented various examples of disruptive innovations.



**Incoming President Rob Hardy addresses the members attending the annual Business Meeting of the Association after receiving the gavel from outgoing President Phil Foulis.**



**President Philip R. Foulis, MD, MPH and Robert Hardy, PhD pose with Long Zheng, MD, who presented the Claude P. Brown Memorial lecture at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham.**

The program for the second main theme, Advancing the Role of Laboratory Medicine in Preventing Diagnostic Error, was developed by a committee chaired by Dr. Philip Foulis to support the Association's participation in the Coalition on Diagnostic Error. There were nine presenters in this Thursday afternoon session.

Excellent talks were also presented at the Friday morning session at UAB and in the Saturday sessions, which split the attendees into separate groups (anatomic pathology and clinical pathology) on Saturday morning, but merged everyone into one session for Saturday afternoon. There were also two excellent luncheon seminars on Thursday and Saturday.

Other highlights of the annual meeting included the annual reception and awards banquet, which featured the first awarding of the new ACS Fellowship Award (see separate article and photo) as well as the Association's main awards. Lindsay N. Strotman, PhD, University of Louisville and PGXL Technologies, Louisville, KY, received the Young Clinical Scientist Award, which was accepted on her behalf by Dr. Roland Valdes. Myra Wilkerson, MD received the FW Sunderman Jr., Diploma of Honor and John Hicks, MD, DDS, PhD received the Clinical Scientist of the Year award.

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**President Philip R. Foulis, MD, MPH and Awards Chair Consolato M. Sergi, MD, PhD congratulate Myra Wilkerson, MD, recipient of the F.W. Sunderman, Jr. Diploma of Honor.**



**Nina Tatevian MD, PhD and Consolato M. Sergi, MD, PhD flanking John Hicks MD, DDS, PhD, recipient of the Clinical Scientist of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham.**

*continued from page 5*

Following the annual Business Meeting (the minutes of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter), the attendees were entertained by the Association's annual Musicale. 🎵



*The annual Musicale*

## ACS Establishes New Award

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Birmingham, the Association of Clinical Scientists established a new award – the ACS Fellowship Award for “recognition of exceptional merit for scholarship in Clinical Science.” Young faculty, residents, pathology fellows, and Ph.D. post-doctoral fellows at the annual meeting's host institution are eligible for this award.

The selection is made by the Program Chair, Department Chair, and members of the annual meeting program committee. The award consists of a complimentary membership in the Association beginning immediately after the meeting and continuing through the next subsequent full dues year of the Association. The memberships are either at the Fellow or Associate Fellow level, depending on whether the recipient is faculty (Fellow) or still a trainee (Associate Fellow). It includes all benefits of ACS membership, including the journal and the ability to serve on committees or in elected office. It also includes free attendance at the awards dinner at which their awards are announced.

The first recipients of the new ACS Fellowship Award, which were presented at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham, were:

**Allen Bryan, M.D., Ph.D.**, Instructor in Laboratory Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), who will become a Fellow of the Association.

**Elizabeth Staley, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Hemostasis Fellow in Laboratory Medicine at UAB, who will become an Associate Fellow of the Association.

**Joseph Drwiega, M.D.**, who is the Chief Resident for Lab Medicine at UAB and will become an Associate Fellow of the Association.

*Recipients of the new ACS Fellowship Award (l to r): Allen Bryan M.D., Ph.D., Elizabeth Staley M.D., Ph.D., and Joseph Drwiega M.D., along with Robert Hardy, Ph.D., Program Chair for the Annual Meeting in Birmingham*

## Corporate Contributors for 137th Meeting

The Association of Clinical Scientists wishes to thank the following institutions for their generous support of the 2017 Annual Meeting.

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham  
BeckmanCoulter

**SILVER SPONSORS**  
Roche Diagnostics  
Abbott Diagnostics  
Hologic  
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**GOLD SPONSORS**  
The Binding Site

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## Newsletter Trivia Question

The first person to email the correct answer will have their name mentioned in the subsequent newsletter and the satisfaction of knowing they won. Please submit your answer (or if you have a trivia question you would like to submit) by email to Kamisha Johnson-Davis at: [kamisha.johnson-davis@aruplab.com](mailto:kamisha.johnson-davis@aruplab.com)

**PREVIOUS QUESTION** Submitted by Lori Millner, PhD  
**Who are the two pathologists who introduced statistical quality control to the clinical laboratory in the 1950s? (Hint: There is also a type of chart named after them)**

**ANSWER**  
Only one answer was submitted and it was correct (the two pathologists were **Levey and Jennings**). The answer was submitted by Stephen Roper, PhD, newly appointed as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis after completing a Clinical Chemistry fellowship at Texas Children's Hospital.

**CURRENT QUESTION** Submitted by Stephen Roper, PhD  
**Regression analysis is a key component of method comparison studies. Which type of regression makes no assumption about the distribution of data and accounts for error in both the x- and y- variable?**

Submit your answer by email to Kamisha Johnson-Davis at: [kamisha.johnson-davis@aruplab.com](mailto:kamisha.johnson-davis@aruplab.com)



## President's Corner

Welcome to the President's Corner! It is my honor to provide a brief overview on what is happening in the ACS.

### Annual Meeting

The recent ACS annual meeting in Birmingham was, by most accounts, a rousing success. For the first time there were three "Fellowship Awards" presented in recognition of exceptional merit for scholarship in Clinical Science. These awards were initiated to encourage new Associate Fellow and Fellow (young Faculty) members and meant to complement the travel awards also aimed at potential new members. The meeting was fast paced with several cutting edge presentations, a topflight Diagnostic Error session with nationally recognized speakers, a beautiful hotel, an outstanding Banquet speaker and memorable Musicales. Thank you to all who attended and supported the Annual Meeting.



Robert Hardy

Importantly **next year's meeting in Houston** aims to reach even higher heights. The Program Committee Co-Chairpersons, Awdhesh Kalia, PhD, Peter Hu and committee members are planning a top flight meeting focused on "Genomic Medicine", a NASA Space Center tour, a half-day session at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and much more. Information is available on the ACS website. Please mark your calendars for May 16-19, 2018.

### Reorganizing /Revitalizing

These are exciting times for the ACS as our committees are being streamlined and re-energized and leadership positions excel. Dr. Tyler Yin, who is one of our newest members, is now chairing the oversight committee for the Young Fellows Section. He is in the process of starting a YouTube channel for the ACS to showcase the annual meeting in Houston and generate a video in which members highlight their experience as an ACS member.

As you can see *The Trumpet* is in great hands under the guidance of Dr. Kamisha Johnson-Davis as Editor as well as Dr. Charlie Hawker and his son, Michael, who does the graphics layout. *The Trumpet* has literally been transformed over the last two years.

The leadership of the annals has been expanded to include Dr. Nina Tatevian, Editor in Chief, and Dr. Kyle Kurek, Senior Associate Editor. Under their leadership, the review process and function of the Editorial Board will be improved and streamlined, aligning the Editorial Board with the Scientific Sections, with an expanded role for the Chairs of the Scientific Sections as Assistant Editors. We look forward to these and other changes to bring our members closer to the Annals.

Dr. Charlie Hawker has accepted the position of Executive Director for the ACS. In this position he is responsible for establishing and executing major goals and objectives for the organization. He has already made vital contributions to improving the Trumpet and Website with Drs. Robert Hunter and Keri Donaldson as well as creating a manual for executing successful Annual Meetings. The manual is very important to maintain high quality Annual Meetings for our members as the ACS leadership positions change with time.

Dr. Josh Bornhorst, our Treasurer, and Dr. Nina Tatevian, our Annals Editor, have done a wonderful job at improving the financial position

of the ACS. As our financial position improves it will allow the ACS to provide more grants and awards which will attract more abstracts, bring in high quality speakers and give the ACS the means to grow and develop our membership.

Dr. Phil Foulis, our past president, has led the charge to join the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis, make Diagnostic Errors a part of our Annual meetings and is presently working to create a Scientific Section on Diagnostic Error

The Membership and Mentoring Committee under the leadership of Dr. John Hicks will be sending out a survey to determine the wants and needs of our members. Please complete this survey as it will help us direct our efforts to best serve the membership. Also please let me know if you would like to serve on a committee.

If you have any comments, concerns or ideas you can contact me at rohardy@uabmc.edu .

Sincerely,

Robert Hardy

## The Young Fellows Section

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for the opportunity to serve as the Young Fellows Section Chair for the past couple of years. The new chair of this committee is **Dr. DeLu (Tyler) Yin** (delu.yin@louisville.edu). I would like to congratulate him on this new role and as the recipient of the Young Clinical Scientist Award.



Kamisha  
Johnson-Davis

The Association is excited to have many young Fellows and Associate Fellows as new members and to have several already volunteer to serve on committees or contribute to the newsletter by interviewing senior Fellows. If you would like to interview a senior Fellow for a future newsletter, please let me know, and please let Tyler know if you are interested in serving in another capacity.

Finally, I would remind you that our prestigious journal, the **Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science**, will publish case reports and other articles submitted by young members and is also looking for members who wish to serve as reviewers of submitted manuscripts. Please contact the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Nina Tatevian (nina.tatevian@uth.tmc.edu), or the Senior Associate Editor, Kyle Kurek (kyle.kurek@ucalgary.ca).

Sincerely,

Kamisha Johnson-Davis

### YOUNG FELLOWS SECTION CHAIR:

**DeLu (Tyler) Yin**, PhD, FACSc  
email: delu.yin@louisville.edu



Tyler Yin

## Interview: Dr. Vincent DeBari

The Young Fellows Section arranges interviews between Young Fellows and more senior Fellows. Young Fellows can obtain scientific and career advice from a senior member who may offer valuable guidance. Below is an interview between Erik Korte, PhD (Young Fellow) and Vincent DeBari, Ph.D., ACS President (2008-09).

**Erik Korte:** Tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? How did you initially realize you were interested in science and medicine?

**Vincent DeBari:** As a child, I was a very inquisitive, especially about what I guess we would classify as “nature in general”. When I was about nine or ten years old, my dad bought me a book that described, in a manner understandable to a child, what different kinds of scientists (chemists, physicists, biologists, etc.) do. For some reason, I was really drawn to chemistry. I suppose most people are surprised when I tell them that I knew I wanted to major in chemistry by the time I was ten years old.

I went to a very good Jesuit high school (St. Peter’s Prep in Jersey City) and was selected for an honors program in science; it was wonderful! I was, more or less, forced to go to a Catholic college because, back then (1963), the administration wouldn’t give you a recommendation to a non-Catholic college. I couldn’t afford to go away, so I had to stay in the New York metropolitan area. One day, during the summer between my sophomore and junior years, I took the subway to the Bronx, saw the Fordham campus and decided that I was going to go there. It was the only college I applied to and I got accepted in my junior year. I sure took a lot of pressure off during my senior year.

**Korte:** You did not take a direct route from undergraduate training to graduate school. What did you do to fill you time between finishing your MS and earning your PhD?

**DeBari:** When I finished my undergraduate degree, I took a job as a physical chemist with Witco Chemical Corp. doing research in surface chemistry. It was a “plum” job because I got hired into a PhD slot and worked with a fantastic group of chemists and chemical engineers. I took a year off to figure things out and then decided that I wanted to go to what was then called Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT) for my MS. I worked on a biochemical project for my thesis in chemistry and found that I really enjoyed learning about how chemistry influenced living processes.

I married my girlfriend, Peggy, just before I finished writing my thesis (1970) and, “as if by magic”, my first two kids, Michele and Christopher came along. I left Witco in 1973 to work in a lab at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Paterson, NJ directed by a brilliant nephrologist named Mark Needle. In 1976, he sent me to take a summer course in clinical enzymology at MIT; by the time the course finished, I knew I wanted to get a PhD. The following year, I was back in grad school, at first taking a few courses as a non-matriculated student at the Rutgers Newark campus, and finally matriculating in 1978. I finished my PhD in 1981 under Alfred Bennun, a biochemist who came to Rutgers after a post-doc with Ephraim Racker. Alfred is currently retired in his native Argentina and very active doing theoretical work in metabolic regulation.

**Korte:** Tell me about your career progression. What turns did you career take that were unexpected?

**DeBari:** When I finished my PhD, I wanted, very badly, to go somewhere and do a post-doc. However, Mark Needle told me

he would step back so I could take over as director of the lab at St. Joe’s. It came with a joint affiliate Medical Staff appointment in Internal Medicine and Pathology and a hefty raise. By now, my younger daughter, Jillanne, was on the way and I decided that I would post-doc, myself, so to speak. As it turns out, my closest friends at Rutgers all took “real jobs” rather than post-docs.

**Korte:** Zoology degrees are not often seen hanging on the walls of Internal Medicine faculty. How has your training in Zoology influenced your medical practice and clinical research?

**DeBari:** The Department of Zoology and Physiology at Newark was composed of a multi-disciplinary group of professors who had appointments at the main campus (New Brunswick) in their specific disciplines. This was critical in that, in addition to biochemistry under Drs. Bennun, Ethel Somberg and David Goodman, I was able to take an immunology course with Dr. Helen Strausser, Physiology with Dr. Jim Hall, and courses in genetics and molecular biology. In 1980, I had to choose between finishing up my dissertation in Newark or New Brunswick. I chose Newark simply because of its proximity to my home in Pompton Plains. The breadth of these courses in the various biomedical sciences would serve me well in becoming what is now called a “translational scientist”, working at the interface of the lab and the clinic.

**Korte:** A great deal of your research has applied complex statistical modeling to clinical data to define decision levels, risk factors and describe epidemiological patterns. What is the best way for fellows entering the field to tackle the complex statistical methods required in clinical science?

**DeBari:** Biostatistics is, for me, somewhat akin to a hobby. After one learns some of the basic principles underlying statistical methods, all one has to do is read, read and read and play with data; it’s actually fun! Different authors present statistical methods in different ways and looking into various presentations sharpens ones grasp of these methods. Plus, great software sure helps!! One more thing: most people believe biostatistics is somewhere between difficult and impossible, so knowing biostats makes you a bit of a celebrity at work!

**Korte:** You have been very involved with ACS throughout your career. How has it helped you?



*Dr. Vincent DeBari*

*continued on page 10*



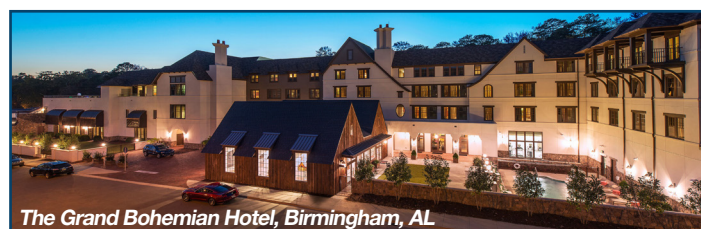
# Association of Clinical Scientists Minutes Annual Membership Business Meeting

## Birmingham, Alabama, May 20, 2017

Dr. Philip Foulis, President of the Association, convened the meeting at 5:03 PM. Officers and members of the Executive Committee present included Drs. Robert Hardy, Joshua Bornhorst, Keri Donaldson, Peter Hu, John Hicks, Robert Hunter, and Nina Tatevian. Other members of the Association present were Drs. Charles Hawker, Consolato Sergi, Juliana G Szakacs, Roger L Bertholf, Roland Valdes, and Amadeo Pesce.

The total of 16 members present constituted a quorum per the Association's bylaws which require a minimum of ten members.

1. There being no corrections or changes, the minutes of the Business Meeting of May 6, 2016 in Hot Springs, Arkansas were declared approved by Dr. Foulis. These minutes were previously published in the *Clinical Science Trumpet*.
2. Dr. Foulis thanked our corporate sponsors: Beckman Coulter, Diagnostica Stago, Hologic, LabCorp, Quest, Roche Diagnostics, The Binding Site, Abbott Diagnostics and the University of Alabama, whose contributions were very important to the success of the annual meeting.
3. Dr. Foulis also shared his thoughts he learned over the last year. He thanked everyone on the Executive Committee for their support and assistance. Although great strides have been made in the last year, he still sees several areas where we can focus our attention. He submitted a detailed list outlining the areas for further improvement to the Executive Committee.
4. Dr. Bornhorst presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that overall our accounts have increased by 53%.
  - JP Chase Morgan Investment Account
    - Balance as of 12/10/2015 \$193,734.00
    - Balance as of 4/17/2017 \$268,885.38 (~36 % increase)
  - JP Chase Checking Account Houston
    - Balance as of 12/10/2015 \$21,822.47
    - Balance as of 4/17/2017 \$59,419.59 (~272% increase)
  - Total reserves
    - Balance as of 12/10/2015 \$218,556.47
    - Balance as of 4/17/2017 \$328,274.97 (~51 % increase)
5. Discussion of Executive Committee and Leadership Tenure and Structure led by Drs. Hawker and Bornhorst with open, active, and lengthy discussion amongst several members including Drs. Foulis, Hu, Hicks, and Hardy. Current Bylaws specify 1 year for Vice President, 1 year as President, 3 years as past President. Several thoughts on changes for future structure of leadership teams were discussed. A focus group will be formed to discuss the options and will make suggestions to the Executive Committee and Bylaws Committee.
6. Dr. Hunter, Chair of Scientific Sections reported that the scientific sections functioned well. No written report submitted.



### Committee Reports

7. *Publications Committee*. Dr. Tatevian passed out a written report on the journal. She reported that during the past few years the Annals has fortunately seen a significant increase in manuscript submissions that encompass the spectrum of laboratory science. The incorporation of strategic changes, including the restructuring of publishing contracts and expansion to a bimonthly publication, has made the Annals financially sustainable; however, additional changes are now needed to streamline the review process and to further boost the impact and diversity of our publication. The proposed organizational changes will establish a basis to move forward in advancing the scientific mission and standard of our journal.

### PROPOSED CHANGES

#### LEADERSHIP

- Nina Tatevian, current Editor, will assume the title of Editor-in-Chief
- Kyle Kurek will be promoted to Senior Associate Editor
- Anara Baimetova, Managing Editor
- Gitanjali Bhattacharjee, Copy Editor

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

- Divided into scientific sections
  - These sections will primarily mirror the Society's current scientific sections (Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, Hematology & Immunology, Therapeutics & Toxicology, Molecular Genetics & Pharmacogenetics, Clinical Informatics, Laboratory Management & Practice, Anatomic Pathology).
- Associate Editors will be selected to direct each of the scientific sections, and will personally review and facilitate the distribution of manuscripts to members within their section as well as to external referees (if required).
- Editorial Board membership will be reviewed. The proposed changes will be circulated and discussed with the Board (via teleconference), and continuing and newly appointed members will be asked for their preference of scientific section affiliation.
- Members of the Editorial Board will be required to maintain an active role.

8. *Membership Committee*. Dr. Foulis and Hardy reported that approximately 12 new members joined the past year.

9. *Constitution and Bylaws Committee*. Dr. Hawker, Committee Chair, presented proposed changes to the bylaws which included:

#### Constitution Article V: Membership

Section 5. All members of the Association, including Fellows, Associate Fellows, and Members, if age 45 or younger, are automatically included in the Young Fellows Section and are entitled to all benefits afforded its members.

#### Article VI: Officers and Standing Committees

Section 3. The co-opted members consist of the Director of Scientific Sections, the Editor of the Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science, and the Chair of the Young Fellows Section Oversight Committee.

#### Bylaws Article II: Duties of Officers

*continued on page 10*

## Vincent DeBari

continued from page 8

**DeBari:** Where do I begin? Prior to joining ACS, I had been very active in the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) but I was becoming mired in local section, divisional and national committees. I was feeling pulled away from science for the sake of “running things”; in other words, I felt like I was no longer learning. At my first ACS meeting, I felt as though I was interacting with a very serious, contemplative group of laboratorians who had as their only interest the serious business of learning. This was around the time that the senior Dr. Sunderman passed away. Bill Jr. took the reins and did everything, so the rest of us could sit back and enjoy the science and the camaraderie!

**Korte:** Did you have any instances where mentors or other people influenced your professional life? What was their impact?

**DeBari:** I count two of my mentors, Drs. Needle and Bennun, among the greatest influences in my career. Both were geniuses with quirky personalities with whom it was great fun to work.

I should mention one more individual who influenced me: Dr. Bill O'Connor who was my organic chemistry professor at Fordham and supervised my undergrad research project. I wanted to try a synthetic route to o, o'- diphenaldehyde that was potentially dangerous. My lab TA, was firmly against my attempting this. Dr. O'Connor told him to outfit me with all the safety gear I'd need and let me try it. The explosion put a hole in the ceiling of the lab but I emerged personally unscathed and a hero to my classmates. I learned, that day, that cojones and safety shields count for a lot in science!

**Korte:** You have taken on a number of important administrative and committee roles in addition to your teaching, research and clinical duties. How would you describe the importance of integrating administrative duties outside of your home department (hospital- or university-wide)? Is this something to be pushed early in one's career or would administrative service be better suited after one's career is established?

**DeBari:** I was very fortunate to have been given some of these opportunities. Although, there were times when I resented how administrative duties kept me away from the business of doing science, I feel that taking on responsibilities somewhat peripheral to one's actual professional duties enhances ones value to the organization. Read: job security and advancement; it's never too early to start!

Teaching is an integral part of what we all do, either formally or through activities such as guidance and mentoring. I see teaching as a responsibility, the task of passing the torch, as it were.

**Korte:** A great deal of your work is heavily integrated into the field of internal medicine, including even your appointment as a full professor within the department. What advice do you have for young people wishing to integrate themselves into a clinical discipline who come from a predominantly research background?

**DeBari:** I'm not sure there is a sharp distinction between research and clinical application. As I mentioned before, biomedical scientists are important purveyors of translational research, bringing discoveries from the bench to the bedside.

**Korte:** Do you have any advice for young people about to embark on a career in the clinical sciences?

**DeBari:** The same advice I give my students and residents: pick an area of science or medicine that you love and work hard at advancing knowledge in that field. That's your best shot at a successful career. 🍀

## Meeting Minutes...

continued from page 9

Section 7. The President appoints the following committees: Awards, Constitution and Bylaws, Historical, Membership and Mentoring, Program, Publications, and Young Fellows Section Oversight Committees.

There was unanimous agreement to the proposed changes.

10. *Music and Arts Committee.* Dr. Foulis reported that the Musicale was all set for this evening and an excellent program is planned.

11. *Awards Committee.* Dr. Consolato Sergi, Chair of the Awards Committee, reported that the committee selected DeLu (Tyler) Yin to receive the Associations' Young Clinical Scientist award for 2018 at our Annual Meeting in Huston, Texas. The committee will complete the selection of the remaining 2018 awards at a later date.

12. *Nominating Committee.* Dr. Hu reported that the recommendations of the Nominating Committee were:

President 2017-2018: Dr. Rob Hardy  
Vice President 2017-2018: Dr. John Hicks  
Treasurer 2017-2020: Dr. Joshua Bornhorst

13. Dr. Foulis asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, Dr. Hawker moved and Dr. Valdes seconded that nominations be closed. The motion carried by acclamation. Dr. Valdes then moved and Dr. Hawker seconded that the announced nominees be elected by acclamation. The members approved this motion unanimously.

14. *Installation of Officers.* These newly elected officers were thus installed into office and Dr. Foulis passed the gavel to Dr. Hardy who took over as President to run the remainder of the Business Meeting.

15. *Future Meetings of the Association:*

- Annual Meeting, 2018, Houston, TX, Dr. Hu presented a PowerPoint update on the Meeting in Houston. The focus of the meeting will be Genomics in Medicine and the optional Friday afternoon tour will be of the Space Center. Advertising will be sent to Anderson Medical Center and College of Medicine, the Texas Society of Pathologists, and Gulf Regional Pathologists among others.
- Annual meeting 2019 or 2020, Banff, Alberta – K. Kurek
- Annual meeting 2020 or 2019, Hershey, PA – K. Donaldson

16. *New Business.* On behalf of the Executive Committee and membership, Dr. Hardy expressed a big thank you to Dr. Foulis for his service as President.

Respectfully submitted,



Keri Donaldson, MD, MSCE  
Secretary



## Officers & Executive Committee

<b>Robert W. Hardy, PhD</b> President (2017-18)	<b>Peter C. Hu, PhD</b> (2016-19)
<b>John Hicks, MD, DDS, PhD</b> Vice-President (2017-18)	<b>Philip R. Foulis, MD, MPH</b> (2017-20)
<b>Keri Donaldson, MD, PhD</b> Secretary (2015-18)	<b>DeLu (Tyler) Yin, PhD</b> Chair, Young Fellows Section
<b>Joshua A. Bornhorst, PhD</b> Treasurer (2017-20)	<b>Robert L. Hunter Jr. MD, PhD</b> Director of Scientific Sections
<b>Kyle C. Kurek, MD</b> (2015-18)	<b>Nina Tatevian, MD, PhD</b> Editor-in-Chief

## 2017-2018 ACS Committees

### ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Joshua A. Bornhorst PhD, Chair  
Robert L. Hunter, Jr., MD, PhD  
Consolato Sergi, MD

### AWARDS COMMITTEE

Myra L. Wilkerson, MD  
Sol Green, PhD  
Jonathan Krauss, MD  
Consolato Sergei, MD  
Patricia Slev, PhD  
Juliana G. Szakacs, MD

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Charles D. Hawker, PhD, MBA, Chair  
Vincent A DeBari, PhD  
Laurence N. Demers, PhD  
Clive R. Hamlin, PhD

### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Manju Vadmal, MD, Chair  
Herbert Derman, MD  
Henry A. Diederichs, MD  
Charles D. Hawker, PhD, MBA  
Jeno E. Szakacs, MD

### MEMBERSHIP AND MENTORING COMMITTEE

John Hicks, MD, DDS, PhD, Chair  
Joshua Bornhorst, PhD  
Keri Donaldson, MD, PhD  
Sidney M. Hopfer, PhD  
Kamisha Johnson-Davis, PhD  
Kyle C. Kurek, MD  
Eric Rosenbaum, MD  
Juliana Szakacs, MD  
Roland Valdes, Jr., PhD  
Myra L. Wilkerson, MD

### MUSIC AND ARTS COMMITTEE

Myra L. Wilkerson, MD, Chair  
Philip R. Foulis, MD, MPH  
Frederick L. Kiechle, MD, PhD  
Kilmer S. McCully, MD  
Jack W. Snyder, MD, PhD

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Philip R. Foulis, MD, MPH, Chair  
Roger L. Bertholf, PhD  
Robert E. Brown, MD  
John Hicks, MD  
Robert L. Hunter, Jr., MD, PhD  
Kamisha Johnson-Davis, PhD  
Kilmer S. McCully, MD  
Lori Millner, PhD  
Juliana Szakacs, MD

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Nina Tatevian, MD, PhD, Chair  
Kyle C. Kurek, MD, Co-Chair  
Robert E. Brown, MD  
Vincent A DeBari, PhD  
Armand B. Glassman, MD  
John Hicks, MD  
Frederick L. Kiechle, Jr., MD, PhD

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE (2018)

Peter Hu, PhD, Co-Chair  
Awdhesh Kalja, Ph.D, Co-Chair  
Roger Bertholf, PhD  
John Hicks, MD, DDS  
Bob Hunter, MD, PhD

### YOUNG FELLOWS SECTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

DeLu (Tyler) Yin, PhD, Chair  
Lori Millner, PhD  
Keri Donaldson, MD, PhD  
Eric Rosenbaum, MD

### OFFICERS OF THE AUXILIARY

President: Becky Hunter  
Past-President: Cynthia Hu  
Secretary: Charlotte Cannon  
Treasurer: Adrienne Hopfer  
Historian: Becky Hunter

## The Grapevine: Member News

**Stephen M Roper, Ph.D.**, who joined in April as an Associate Fellow, just completed his clinical chemistry fellowship at the Texas Children's Hospital and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, Pathology and Immunology, at Washington University in St. Louis. Thus, Dr. Roper has now advanced to being a Fellow of the Association.

## New Members

### FELLOW

**Stephen M. Roper, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Pathology and Immunology  
Washington University at St. Louis

**Alexander Shtabsky, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**Rodney E. Rohde, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.**  
Professor and Chair, Research Dean  
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

**Allen Bryan, MD, Ph.D.\***  
Instructor in Laboratory Medicine  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

### ASSOCIATE FELLOW

**Joseph Drwiega, M.D.\***  
Chief Resident for Laboratory Medicine  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Elizabeth Staley, M.D., Ph.D.\***  
Hemostasis Fellow in Laboratory Medicine  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

\* denotes recipient of Association fellowship

## Individual Annual Donors to ACS

The Association of Clinical Scientists gratefully expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the following individual members for their support of the Association in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

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Juliana Szakacs

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Jonathan Krauss

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## Clinical Science Trumpet

Newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists

The Clinical Science Trumpet Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Association of Clinical Scientists and is published three times per year. Back issues may be viewed at <http://clinicalscience.org/news.html>

Announcements, commentaries, and news/photos of members are welcome. Please send to the Editor at: [kamisha.davis@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:kamisha.davis@hsc.utah.edu)

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# Lift off for the ACS Annual Meeting in Houston, TX, May 16-19, 2018



Ground Control at NASA's  
Space Center Houston



**Association of Clinical Scientists**  
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