



Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Editor: Grace M. Kroner
Cleveland, Ohio

President's Letter — Anthony Killeen

Dear ACLPS Members,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to write as the new President of ACLPS. A special feeling of honor and humility for me comes from the fact that Dr. Ellis Benson was the first President of ACLPS. He was the Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Minnesota when I began my own residency in Clinical Pathology here in 1985. His wonderful passion for academic Laboratory Medicine and his support for residents and fellows in the field were always at the forefront of his professional life and are a guiding compass for so many of us who were fortunate enough to have known him.

As I write, we have now endured nearly two years of the SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) pandemic, and we are currently in the 4th wave, this one largely caused by the delta variant of the virus. Over 700,000 people have died so far in the U.S. from COVID-19. Will this be the final wave before the pandemic finally wanes? Only time will tell.

What there is no doubt about is that clinical laboratory testing for COVID-19 has been a tremendous success in the public response to the pandemic. Many ACLPS members have been involved in this effort in their laboratories. Particularly notable has been the development and deployment of laboratory developed tests (LDTs) which were often the only available tests in the face of severe supply and reagent shortages, especially in the earlier months of the pandemic. The cooperation between clinical laboratories and the FDA was a model of balanced and reasonable oversight of clinical LDTs that made these tests available under clear and workable validation requirements.

The 2021 ACLPS Annual Meeting was held online for the second year because of travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic. I want to express my deep gratitude to all who were involved in developing and presenting the program this year. I especially want to thank the organizing Chair, Dr. Grace Kroner and the team that put the program together and the presenters who made it so successful.

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Special points of interest:

- 2022 Lab Medicine meeting is scheduled for Seattle in June!
- Consider submitting a nomination for one of the annual awards or a leadership/committee position
- Start thinking about submitting an abstract for the annual meeting

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President's Letter (continued)

Several members worked closely with our meeting hosting company to make sure that transitions between presenters went well.

It is never too early to think about ACLPS abstract submissions for the 2022 Annual Meeting which will be hosted by our colleagues at the University of Washington in Seattle. Few things are more encouraging for our residents and fellows than to be engaged in a scientific project, write it up, and present the abstract at a national conference. For me, the abstract sessions are the highlight of the annual meetings. I have already been drumming up future abstract submissions here in Minnesota, and I hope you will do so in your institution.

At an organizational level, we will be looking this year at splitting the role of Secretary-Treasurer into two separate functions. The current combined role would be better divided between 2 people because of the demands of both offices. Such a change would require approval by the membership in the form of revision to the bylaws. A second topic of focus this year will be the academy's website and thinking about how we can make it even more useful to members and non-members. A third area of focus will be to explore the idea of holding a fall meeting in future years, possibly a virtual one, given the success of our 2 virtual annual meetings.

I would like to finish by acknowledging with great gratitude and on behalf of all of us, the contributions of Dr. Elizabeth Frank, our immediate Past-President. She led the organization successfully through a difficult year and was (and remains) a great friend and mentor for me. I am also extremely grateful to Dr. Tatiana Yuzyuk (our Secretary-Treasurer) for her extensive and meticulous work for ACLPS. There are many members who serve on committees whose work is vital to the success and future of the organization and I thank them sincerely.

Be safe!

Anthony A. Killeen, MD, PhD

Ellis Benson Professor of Laboratory Medicine

University of Minnesota

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual Business Meeting was conducted on Friday, May 28, 2021 as part of the 2021 Virtual Meeting.

I. Dr. Elizabeth Frank called the meeting to order.

II. The minutes from the 2020 Annual Business Meeting (included in the Fall 2020 newsletter) were approved.

III. Report from the President and Executive Council – Elizabeth Frank

Dr. Frank thanked Chair Grace Kroner and the entire 2021 ACLPS Virtual Meeting Organization Committee. The meeting would not have been possible without their incredible efforts. She recognized members of the 2020-2021 ACLPS Governance for their hard work and support, especially Secretary-Treasurer Tatiana Yuzyuk. Dr. Frank also congratulated all the 2021 ACLPS awardees.

IV. Secretary-Treasurer Report – Tatiana Yuzyuk

ACLPS account and investment balances were reviewed. It was noted that many of these funds are designated for support of young investigator programs. ACLPS investments are managed relatively conservatively. Therefore, despite a slight decrease early in the pandemic (Spring 2020), our overall investments remained stable, and we saw a quick recovery. Funds are invested to support our long-term trainee-oriented activities through investment management, responsible use of funds, sustaining and enhancing membership, and donations from membership. ACLPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Dr. Yuzyuk acknowledged all individuals who made generous donations to the Academy over the prior year. She also acknowledged all the 2021 meeting sponsors. Dr. Yuzyuk thanked all ACLPS officers and members that have helped her over this last year, especially former ACLPS Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Jonathan Genzen.

V. Young Investigator Award Program Report – Jorge Sepulveda

Dr. Sepulveda presented the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award report. There were 46 abstract submissions from 20 institutions, which is a drop from last year. However, the quality of the submissions was great. There were 22 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigators, with 6 Awards with Distinction and 16 Young Investigator Awards. In addition, there were 2 student awards. Dr. Sepulveda acknowledged the 28 reviewers who graciously participated in the program. Most submissions were in the Clinical Chemistry area.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

VI. Reports of standing committees:

Program and Finance Committee – Anthony Killeen

The Program and Finance Committee update was presented by Dr. Killeen. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Grace Kroner for all her hard work in putting together the virtual meeting on such short notice. There were 209 participants in this year's meeting, which is similar to numbers of participants in past meetings. Dr. Killeen gave a shout out to ExOrdo, the virtual conference platform host company.

Education Committee – Angella Charnot-Katsikas

Dr. Charnot-Katsikas presented the report. The Young Investigator Award Grant Program will again fund three grants this year. Dr. Charnot-Katsikas asked interested members to contact the Education Committee Chair to contribute new articles in the AJCP "ACLPS Critical Reviews" series. The ACLPS Education Committee also helps to recruit questions for the RISE/RISE-First/PRISE examinations, as a collaborating society. Information on the RISE programs can be obtained from the ASCP RISE Committee Chair (jonathan.genzen@aruplab.com) and/or ASCP RISE staff (jay.wagner@ascp.org). The Education Committee also is looking for contributors for the AACCC Pearls of Laboratory Medicine series. These presentations are provided to trainees from around the world. Please contact Angella Charnot-Katsikas for more information. This information will be published in the ACLPS newsletter.

Membership Committee – David Jaye

The Membership Committee update was presented by Dr. Jaye. ACLPS has 333 Active members, and 232 Associate (trainee) members have joined since 2016. A list of new active and associate members was presented, and the new members were acknowledged and thanked. We look forward to working with the new members.

Website Committee – Noah Hoffman

Dr. Hoffman encouraged members to visit the website throughout the year. He highlighted two new areas in the News and Events and Employment Opportunities/Job Board that Dr. Joe Rudolf has been working on. Anyone interested in helping to support the website committee is invited to contact Noah Hoffman.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

VII. Election results

The ACLPS 2021 election results were presented by Dr. Tatiana Yuzyuk. The 2021 election was conducted electronically using Google Forms and electronic mail. A total of 115 ballots were received: 111 ballots were completed using Google Forms and an additional 4 ballots were received as scanned .pdfs via email. Elected officers and committee members are: President-Elect, Christopher Tormey, MD (Yale University); Executive Council, Brenda Suh-Lailam, PhD (Northwestern University), Scott W. Long (Wesley), MD, PhD (Houston Methodist); Membership Committee, (Chair) David L. Jaye, MD (Emory University), Anna Merrill, PhD (University of Iowa); Young Investigator Awards Program Director Jorge Sepulveda, MD, PhD (George Washington University); Nominating and Awards Committee, Marisa Marques, MD (University of Alabama at Birmingham); Education Committee, (Chair) Amit Gokhale, MD (University of Texas, Houston), Susan Fink, MD, PhD (University of Washington), Sean Campbell, PhD (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Bijal Parikh, MD, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis); Website Committee, Hoda Hagrass, MD, PhD (University of Arkansas), Irene De Biase, MD, PhD (University of Utah). Congratulations were extended to our 2021 elected officers and committee members.

VIII. Installation of new President

Dr. Elizabeth Frank added her congratulations to all the new officers and committee members. Dr. Frank installed Dr. Anthony Killeen as the 2021-2022 ACLPS President. Dr. Killeen presented the official ACLPS President's Gavel (inscribed with "Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists - The President's Gavel") that was mailed to him by Dr. Frank. A motion was made to adjourn the 2021 ACLPS Business Meeting; Dr. Killeen adjourned the meeting.

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2021 Annual Meeting Report– Grace Kroner

Our second virtual meeting was held May 27-28, 2021. Despite the virtual set-up, we again had a great response, with approximately 200 individuals registered for the conference. Over the two days, conference attendees enjoyed four scientific sessions, the award lectures from the Cotlove and Benson awardees, presentations from the Young Investigator Award winners and the Strandjord Grant awardees, and a poster session. Our scientific sessions dealt with social media and education, laboratory medicine for LGBTQIA+ patient populations, COVID-19, and race in laboratory medicine, focusing on eGFR equations. The Cotlove Award was presented to Dr. Steve Moore, who gave an excellent talk on Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The Benson Award was presented to Dr. Colin Pritchard, who provided a comprehensive overview of cancer genetic testing in 2021. At the annual business meeting, we heard updates from the ACLPS standing committees, and the outgoing ACLPS president, Dr. Elizabeth Frank, presented the official gavel to the new president, Dr. Tony Killeen. We had the chance to reconnect and meet new ACLPS members at the networking session, ably hosted by Dr. Brenda Suh-Lailam. We also enjoyed an evening of trivia, coordinated by Dr. Wesley Long. While we all look forward to meeting in-person in Seattle next year, we were delighted to be able to connect virtually once more. Thank you to all those who attended.

Thank you to the members of the organizing committee—Sean Campbell, Elizabeth Frank, Amit Gokhale, Gaurav Gupta, Zara Herskovits, Tony Killeen, Matthew Krasowski, Grace Kroner (Chair), Ila Singh, and Tanya Yuzyuk.

In addition, we extend thanks to all our fantastic speakers; Joe Rudolf and Joe Wiencek for serving as the technical hosts; Carey-Ann Burnham, Lisa Johnson, Jorge Sepulveda, and Wenbin Xiao for serving as moderators for the Young Investigator Award Sessions; all our sponsors, and the brilliant team at Ex Ordo.



A snippet from our Special Scientific Session on Race in Laboratory Medicine, featuring Drs. Melanie Hoinig and Lesley Inker, moderated by Dr. Tony Killeen.

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2021 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awardees

Name	Institution	Sponsor
Award with Distinction		
Nick Bevins	University of California-San Diego	Robert Fitzgerald
Nagarjuna Cheemarla	Yale University School of Medicine	Ellen F. Foxman
Joshua Lewis	Emory University	David L. Jaye
Taylor Takasugi	Yale University School of Medicine	Henry Rinder
Hans Verkerke	Harvard Medical School	Sean R. Stowell
Mark Zaydman	Washington University in St Louis	Ann Gronowski
Kayode Balogun	University of Utah School of Medicine	Tatiana Yuzyuk
Mohammad Barouqa	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Nicholas Borcharding	Washington University in St. Louis	Chang Liu
Erica Fatica	Mayo Clinic	Maria Willrich
Christopher B. Hergott	Brigham and Women's Hospital	David Dorfman
Matthew M. Hernandez	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Suzanne Arinsburg
Joseph Laakman	University of Iowa	Stacey Klutts
Hiroto Nakahara	Emory University School of Medicine	Sean R. Stowell
Heather Nelson	University of Utah School of Medicine	Kelly Doyle
Nkemakonam Okoye	University of Utah School of Medicine	Kamisha Johnson-Davis
Vrajesh Pandya	University of Utah School of Medicine	Gwendolyn A. McMillin
Robert Potter	Washington University in St Louis	Carey-Ann Burnham
Eric Ransom	Washington University in St. Louis	Carey-Ann Burnham
Maxwell Roth	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Joseph Sweeney	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Yi Xiao	Children's Hospital of Los Angeles	Edward Leung

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Education Committee Update– Amit Gokhale

ACLPS-ASCP Education Session

We recorded our session for the virtual 2021 ASCP conference as part of their “Path to Boston” initiative. The session (“Use of Social Media in Pathology”) gave insights on how to use social media, especially twitter, in a professional setting and its utility for educational purposes. The speakers were Daniella Hermelin, M.D. (@HermelinMD) and Maren Fuller, M.D (@marenwhymd) with Amit Gokhale, M.D (@amitlabmd) being the moderator. The session will air live on October 3rd at 10:00am - 11:00am EDT.

ACLPS Young Investigator Award Grant Program

We will soon be accepting applications for the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Grant Program. These grants are for research relevant to clinical laboratory science, clinical pathology, and laboratory medicine. The submission site will open on November 1, and the deadline for submissions will be November 30, 2021. Funding for individual grants is limited to \$7,500. Awardees will be expected to present their research at an upcoming ACLPS Annual Meeting. We encourage ACLPS members to apply. Additional information (including eligibility requirements, applications, and a promotional poster) will be forthcoming on the ACLPS website.

AJCP

The ACLPS Education Committee is recruiting new articles for the American Journal of Clinical Pathology (AJCP). To date, the “ACLPS Critical Reviews” has been an excellent series of educational review articles on a wide variety of topics in Laboratory Medicine. If you or a colleague is interested in contributing to this journal, please contact the Education Committee Chair (Amit Gokhale, aagokhal@texaschidrens.org) or Angela Katsikas (acharnot@hotmail.com) for more information and article guidelines.

Question Writers for the RISE and RISE-First Exams

The ACLPS Education Committee is recruiting volunteers to serve as question writers for the RISE/RISE-First/PRISE Questions. ACLPS is a collaborating society for the RISE examination, and ACLPS members have been outstanding question writing contributors. This is a great way for Active Members to contribute to resident education. Information on RISE can be obtained from the ASCP RISE staff Jay Wagner (jay.wagner@ascp.org).

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Request for Nominations– Benson and Evans Awards

ACLPS is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Ellis Benson Award and the 2022 Gerald T. Evans Award.

The **Ellis Benson Award** is presented annually to a young physician and/or scientist (member or non-member of the Academy) in recognition of meritorious accomplishments in the field of Laboratory Medicine. Nominees must either be under 45 years of age by July 1, 2022, or within 10 years of completion of clinical training.

The **Gerald T. Evans Award** is presented annually to an ACLPS member for outstanding leadership and/or service to the Academy. Names of past awardees can be found on the ACLPS website at www.aclps.org.

Please submit the name of your nominee(s), a current CV, and a detailed letter that explains why the individual deserves the award to:

Elizabeth Frank, PhD

Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee

e.frank@aruplab.com

Award nominations are due by December 15, 2021.

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Request for Nominations– Leadership and Committee Positions

ACLPS requests nominations for ACLPS leadership and committee positions.

The positions available are:

President-Elect

The elected individual will serve a four-year term as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, and Past-President.

Executive Council

Member-at-Large (2 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

Nominating and Awards Committee

Member-at-Large (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

Membership Committee

Member-at-Large (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

Education Committee

Member-at-Large (3 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

Website Committee

Member-at-Large (2 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

Nominations for these positions are due on December 15, 2021. Submit the name of your nominee(s) along with a current CV to:

Elizabeth Frank, PhD

Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee

e.frank@aruplab.com OR ACLPS@aruplab.com

Self-nominations will be accepted gladly.

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2022 Lab Medicine Meeting Update

The 57th ACLPS Annual Meeting will be hosted by the University of Washington in Seattle, WA from Thursday, June 23rd through Saturday, June 25th, 2022. The meeting organizers are developing an educational and scientific program that includes interesting and innovative sessions from a wide range of clinical pathology and laboratory management topics. Examples include the latest work with stem cell technology and regenerative medicine, the current state of MLS programs and managing the need for certified technologists, and the prescient issue of patient-centered capitalism.

As always, the ACLPS meeting will highlight the work of early career scientists in the field of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, with sessions that include the Young Investigator Awards abstract presentations, the Ellis Benson Award and Lecture, and research presentations by the recipients of the Paul E. Standjord Young Investigator Grant.

In the spirit of past ACLPS meetings, the local hosts are designing a program intended to leave plenty of time for networking with colleagues and for enjoying the scenic city of Seattle, WA. The Sheraton Grand has been selected as the conference hotel; this will be the location of scientific and educational sessions as well as attendee lodging. This hotel is approximately 30 minutes from the Seattle-Tacoma Airport; and is accessible from the airport by Link Light Rail. The Thursday evening welcome reception will take place at the Sheraton Grand. On Friday evening, the ACLPS Awards Banquet will be held at the Museum of Flight, south of the conference center.

The local hosts and planning committee are working to create a Lab Medicine 2022 website to provide online access to registration, program, and travel information. Visit the ACLPS homepage to find a link later this year. For questions about the meeting, please contact local co-hosts Theresa Nester (tnester@uw.edu) and Wayne Chandler (Wayne.Chandler@seattlechildrens.org).

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List of New ACLPS Members

Active Members

Garrett Booth
Jonathan Brestoff
Yang Cao
Paul Christensen
Arryn Craney
Jayme Dahlin
Allison Eberly
Ashley Eckel
Stephanie Forest
Gaurav Gupta
Hoda Hargrass
Daniela Hermelin
Evann Hilt
Afshan Idrees
Jenna Khan
Grace Kroner
Nicholas Larkey
Li Liu
Cheryl Maier
David Manthei
Rebecca Marerro Rolon
Chihiro Morishima
Zaher Otrrock
Octavia Palmer
Christina Pierre
Geoffrey Smith
Laura Smy
Gabrielle Winston-McPherson
Victoria Zhang

Associate Members

Vishnu Amaram
Simone Arvisais-Anhalt
Nagarjuna Cheemarla
Saurav Chopra
Radwa Ewaisha
Erica Fatica
Thomas Herb
Matthew M. Hernandez
Jennifer Y. Ju
Andrew Laitman
Nicholas E. Larkey
Edward Lee
Joshua Lewis
Li Liu
Fabienne Lucas
Denis Noubouossie
Nkem Okoye
Bremansu Osa-Andrews
Vrajesh Pandya
Meredith Parsons
Robert Potter
Susan Potterveld
Paola Ramos
Alexandria Reinhart
Aryeh Stock
Joseph Sweeney
Taylor Takasugi
Kwaku Tawiah
Rebecca Treger
Hans Verkerke
Ruhan Wei
Yi Xiao
Mark Zaydman

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Obituaries

John A. Smith, MD, PhD, MMMD, DSc (Hon) 1947-2021

With sadness for our loss yet joy in the memory of our colleague, we share with ACLPS membership the passing of Dr. John A. Smith, Professor and former Division Director of laboratory medicine in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Pathology. Dr. Smith was a lifelong member of the Academy. His death was announced in the UAB School of Medicine newsletter: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/pathology/news-events/archive/838-john-smith-professor-and-former-division-director-laboratory-medicine-passes-away>



Dr. John A. Smith with Dr. Petrie Rainey and pathology trainees at the 51st Annual ACLPS meeting in Birmingham, AL, June 2016.



Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists

Our academy was founded in 1966 and currently has active affiliations with 70 of the approximately 150 academic and community training centers that train pathology residents in clinical pathology.

From its origin, it has followed the mission statement of being dedicated to the advancement of teaching and scholarship in laboratory medicine.

Email: ACLPS@ARUPLAB.COM