

Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists

Fall 2020 Newsletter

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Cleveland, Ohio

President's Letter — Elizabeth Frank

Dear friends and colleagues,

In Utah, it turned cold in mid-October and snowed. For many Utahns an early snow prompts thoughts of skiing. Backcountry skiing – out of ski area bounds – carries with it an incredible feeling of freedom and potential for endless powder turns for those willing to work to gain the altitude in untracked terrain. With snowfall, though, comes the threat of avalanches. Backcountry skiers and riders “exist with uncertainty.”

This year we have all begun to live with the uncertainty of natural events – not as sliding snow and avalanche, but as the result of the deadly pandemic that has changed lives worldwide. Daily, we face the challenges of uncertainty in the form of an epidemic viral disease that has altered our personal and professional lives.

It is a different world and changes to practice are required. The choices have been difficult, unsought and undesired, but necessary. After considered evaluation, our organization was forced to cancel our annual meeting, scheduled to be held at the University of Iowa in Iowa City last May. In the face of uncertainty, a dynamite team of ACLPS members volunteered to host a virtual meeting – one of the first of the professional societies to do so – and we met online for scientific talks, Young Investigator oral and poster presentations, and the ACLPS Annual Business meeting the afternoon of June 25th. The trivia game hosted through the effort and generous donation of Wesley Long was a hit that night. And so ACLPS persevered in this tumultuous world of uncertainty. We do not know what our 2021 ACLPS meeting will look like, but I have no doubt that ACLPS members, led by our President-elect and the Program and Finance Committee, will construct a vibrant and engaging virtual event for Lab Medicine 2021 next spring.

My personal experience with ACLPS has been positive and long. With support from my mentors at the University of Utah – Owen Ash, Ed Ashwood, Ron Weiss, and Bill Roberts – I attended my first meeting in Birmingham in 1999, followed by memorable events at the University of Washington in Seattle and Cornell University in New York City.

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Special points of interest:

- 2021 Lab Medicine meeting will be virtual!
- 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)

As Secretary-Treasurer, I helped coordinate President David Bruns' initiative to create and fund the Ellis Benson Award, named for the first President and founding member of ACLPS. We were fortunate to host Dr. Benson at the 2007 meeting in San Diego, where the award was presented to a young faculty member. I am honored to serve the Academy as President this year and I look forward to a valuable experience with you all.

On behalf of the organization and its members, I express appreciation to the members who have served the organization in various roles and are completing their terms: Jon Genzen, as Secretary-Treasurer; Kamisha Johnson-Davis, who has produced the newsletter for many years; our outgoing President, Stacey Klutts; and our past-Presidents, Neal Lindeman and Alex McAdam; as well as members of the Executive Council and several committees. I am especially grateful to the 2020 Virtual Meeting Committee – Chair Amit Gokhale, Richard Francis, Zara Herskovits, Ron Jackups, Grace Kroner, Wesley Long, Melissa Pessin, Enrique Terrazas, Tanya Yuzyuk, and Jorge Sepulveda. I welcome our new Secretary-Treasurer Tanya Yuzyuk, Newsletter editor Grace Kroner, President-elect Tony Killeen, and all newly elected and appointed committee and Council members. Thank you in advance for your service to this organization, which depends on your commitment and time for its success. With your help this year, we will support the initiatives enacted by ACLPS leadership and we anticipate a future conducive to our in-person meetings and service.

This newsletter includes a report of the annual meeting and minutes from the ACLPS Business Meeting, recognition of the YIAP awardees who presented their work in June, an update from the chair of the Education Committee, the annual call for nominations for leadership positions and awards, announcement of the 2021 Lab Medicine meeting, and a remembrance of ACLPS Past-president, Peter Jatlow.

As you all know, ACLPS focuses on educating and mentoring trainees in laboratory medicine. We plan to maintain the fundamental work of our organization despite the current world challenges. Eventually we will gather in Iowa or Seattle or somewhere. For now, keep practicing clinical pathology; we can effect change to improve our world. Do stay safe.

As the backcountry skiers and avalanche forecasters say, I'll look for you on the uptrack and hope for a glorious ride downhill – we'll get there together.

{e.frank@aruplab.com}

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual Business Meeting was conducted as part of the 2020 Virtual Meeting on June 25, 2020. Presentations were broadcast as pre-recorded videos and hosted by our outgoing president (Dr. Stacey Klutts) and incoming president (Dr. Elizabeth Frank). The meeting began with a virtual call to order by Dr. Klutts.

I. Report from the President and Executive Council – Stacey Klutts

Dr. Klutts was proud to announce that a new ACLPS gavel has been obtained. It has been mailed to Dr. Frank as our incoming president. Dr. Klutts noted that setting up all Executive Council meetings for the year at the beginning of the term facilitated coordination of schedules for the various council members. He noted that ACLPS continues to support Training Residents in Genomics (TRIG) and will support Training Residents in Patient Safety (TRIPS). Our TRIPS representative will be Dr. Ron Jackups, and we anticipate a new ACLPS educational module on safety will be developed by the 2021 annual meeting. Dr. Klutts also highlighted our continued participation as a clinical pathology voice in a variety of organizations, including ABP and the ICPI/IPC and APC Roundtables. A new relationship is being developed with the American Physician Scientist Association (APSA), a student-run organization for trainees. Dr. Stowell and Dr. Klutts were to attend the Annual Meeting in Chicago, which was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. We will participate in future meetings. ACLPS has also signed on to two letters to Congress regarding resources for development of pediatric specific reference ranges, and an AAMP letter to advocate for lab staff to be considered as front-line COVID staff/hazard pay issues.

As we were all aware, the in-person 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled in March. This was an incredibly difficult decision but a necessary one. All venue reservations were cancelled without significant financial loss. The plan has been to host the 2021 Annual Meeting in Iowa City, with all other host sites pushing back one year. All original venues in Iowa City were rebooked. Content for the 2021 meeting will be refreshed to include experiences gained over the last year.

The entire Virtual ACLPS 2020 Meeting Organization Committee (Dr. Gokhale, chair), the abstract reviewers, and the YIA Program Director (Dr. Jorge Sepulveda) were acknowledged for their incredible contribution in making the virtual meeting happen. The meeting would not have been possible without their incredible dedicated efforts.

II. Secretary-Treasurer Report – Jonathan Genzen

The Secretary-Treasurer report was presented by Dr. Genzen. The FY19 audit conducted by Bountiful Peak Advisors was completed with no significant issues to report. ACLPS account and investment balances were reviewed.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

It was noted that many of these funds are designated for young investigator purposes. ACLPS investments are managed relatively conservatively, therefore despite decreases early with the pandemic our overall investments remained stable. ACLPS prioritizes maintaining sustainable investments in support of our long-term trainee-oriented activities (e.g. YIA program and grant activities) through responsible use of funds, investment management, sustaining and enhancing membership, and donations from membership. ACLPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Dr. Genzen acknowledged all individuals who made donations to the academy over the prior year. He also thanks all ACLPS executives and officers that he had the opportunity to work with during his time as Secretary-Treasurer.

III. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Membership Committee – David Jaye

The Membership Committee update was presented by Dr. Jaye. ACLPS has 272 total Active members, and 238 Associate (trainee) members have joined since 2016. The new members were acknowledged and thanked as we look forward to working with them as new members. Over 50 pending applications for Associate membership were also received through the abstract submission process. Graduating Associate members were encouraged to please provide us with their new contact information and to join us as Active members. Dr. Jaye thanked the members of the Membership Committee (Drs. Jo El-Khoury, Ellinor Peerschke, Ila Sing, and Jonathan Genzen) for their participation throughout the year. Lastly, it was noted that a new membership brochure has been developed by the Membership Committee (under the efforts of Dr. El-Khoury), along with the Enhancing Membership Ad Hoc Committee over the prior few years (Drs. Jim Gorham, Sean Stowell, Boris Calderon, Obi Nnodu). The brochure can be deployed for use by our membership to share with trainees and colleagues.

B. Program and Finance Committee – Elizabeth Frank

The Program and Finance Committee update was presented by Dr. Elizabeth Frank. She acknowledged the committee members (Drs. Jonathan Genzen, Jorge Sepulveda, Matthew Krasowski, Stacey Klutts, Theresa Nester, James Gorham, and Mark Cervinski). The 2020 Local Hosts developed an outstanding program for our Iowa City meeting. The decision to cancel the meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis was difficult, and a decision to move to a virtual meeting was made. A call was made to ACLPS committee chairs to assist in meeting development. The 2020 ACLPS Virtual Meeting committee was chaired by Dr. Amit Gokhale. Committee members included Drs. Richard Francis, Elizabeth Frank, Zara Herskovits, Ron Jackups, Grace Kroner, Wesley Long, Melissa Pessin, Jorge Sepulveda, Enrique Terrazas, and Tanya Yuzyuk. Dr. Frank also acknowledged our platform team from Ex Ordo, including Paul Killoran and Roseann Dunne. The ACLPS meeting was conducted as a beta conference for Ex Ordo and ACLPS.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dr. Frank also acknowledged Dr. Wes Long for putting together the trivia event that will follow the conference program. Lab Medicine 2020 plans to be rescheduled for 2021 in Iowa City.

C. Education Committee – Angella Charnot-Katsikas

The Education Committee report was presented by Dr. Angella Charnot-Katsikas. An ACLPS-ASCP co-sponsored education session was held at the 2019 ASCP Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Drs. Jonathan Genzen and Christopher Tormey presented as session titled “Defining the Practice of Laboratory Medicine: Reimagining Clinical Pathology in a Regulatory Era”. A 2020 co-sponsored education session has also been planned for the 2020 ASCP Annual Meeting given the pandemic titled “Modern Molecular Microbiology-Improving Patient Care by Leveraging Rapid Diagnostics and Bacterial Genomics” by presenters Drs. Scott W. Long and Randall Olsen.

There were 20 applications for the 2020 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Grant Program, and 3 grants have been awarded funding. Details on these grants will be shared with membership in future updates. ACLPS continues to coordinate “ACLPS Critical Reviews” in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology. Please contact the Education Committee chair if you are interested in contributing an article. The ACLPS Education Committee also helps to recruit questions for the RISE/RISE-First/PRISE examinations, as a collaborating society. Information on RISE can be obtained from the ASCP RISE Committee Chair (jonathan.genzen@aruplab.com) and/or ASCP RISE staff (jay.wagner@ascp.org). The ACLPS Education Committee is also recruiting volunteers for the AACC Pearls of Laboratory Medicine presentations (<https://www.aacc.org/clinical-chemistry-trainee-council>). Please contact the Education Committee chair (acharnot@hotmail.com) for more information.

D. Website Committee – Noah Hoffman

The Website Committee update was provided by Dr. Noah Hoffman. The new ACLPS website was launched in 2019. The objectives were to update content and format, and to use a platform that was easy for the committee to maintain. Dr. Hoffman thanked the members of the website committee over the past few years, including Drs. Ron Jackups, Wesley Long, Enrique Terrazas, Jeffrey Jhang, Zara Herskovits, Joseph Wiencek, and Joseph Rudolf. Each year much website content is oriented around the Annual Meeting. Angela Briggs and Gabriella Young were acknowledged for their work in planning content for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Drs. Terrazas and Long were acknowledged for updates related to the 2020 Virtual Meeting. The website also hosts information about News and Events and Employment Opportunities. Dr. Joseph Rudolf was acknowledged for his work in these efforts and for responding to website feedback. 2020-2021 goals will include support for the 2021 Annual Meeting, continued maintenance, electing a website committee chair, and soliciting feedback and suggestions.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

IV. Young Investigator Award Program Report – Jorge Sepulveda

The Young Investigator Award report was presented by Dr. Jorge Sepulveda. There were 89 abstract submissions from 31 institutions. 34 were withdrawn due to the COVID-19 crisis and potential presentation at future meetings. Of the remaining 55 abstracts, there were 23 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigators, with 6 receiving Awards with Distinction which would present during the Virtual Meeting. Remaining abstracts were presented the opportunity to present virtual posters, with 14 being presented. Dr. Sepulveda acknowledged the reviewers who graciously participated in the program despite the many clinical and service obligations during the pandemic. Content areas of abstract submissions were reviewed along with roles of submitting authors as graduate students (1), medical residents or clinical fellows (44), medical students (6), post-doctoral research fellows (3), and faculty (1).

V. Election results

The ACLPS 2020 election results were presented by Dr. Jonathan Genzen. The 2020 ballot and election was conducted electronically from May 11 to June 15, 2020, announced greater than 30 days prior to our Annual Business Meeting. It was conducted using Google Forms. 99 ballots were completed using Google Forms, and an additional 3 ballots were received as scanned .pdfs. Elected officers and committee members included: President-Elect, Anthony Killeen, MD, PhD; Secretary-Treasurer, Tatiana Yuzyuk, PhD; Executive Council, Charles Eby, MD, and James Gorham, MD, PhD; Nominating and Awards Committee, Harvey Rinder, MD; Education Committee, Maximo Marin, MD, Morayma Reyes Gil, MD, PhD, Jacob Rand, MD; Membership Committee, Sarah Hackenmueller, PhD; Website Committee Chair, Noah Hoffman, MD, PhD; Website Committee, Joseph Rudolf, MD. Congratulations were extended to our 2020 elected officers and committee members.

VI. Installation of new President

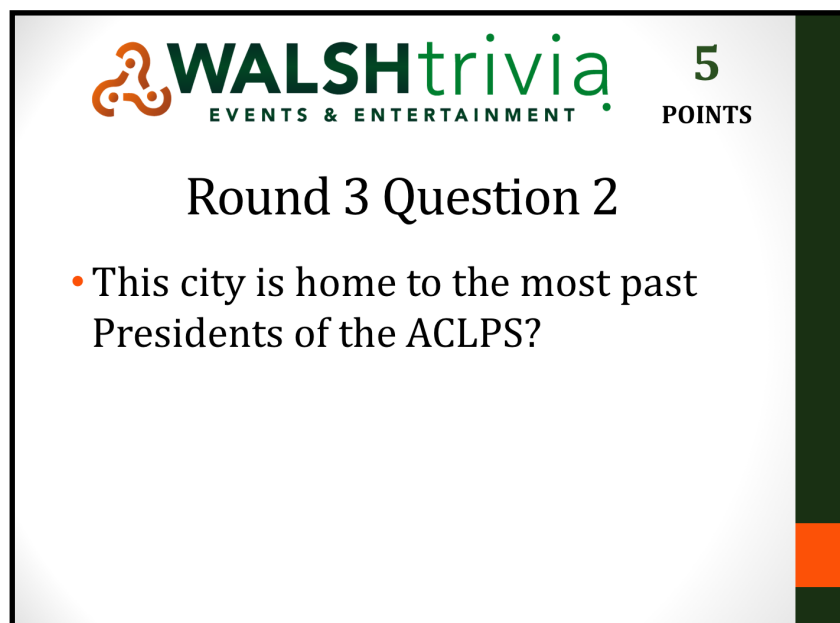
Dr. Elizabeth Frank was installed as the new ACLPS President. Dr. Frank thanked Dr. Klutts for his leadership and acknowledged her gratitude in accepting this position. She expressed that she looks forward to leading ACLPS during the challenging year ahead and to seeing everyone when our next in person meeting is possible. Dr. Klutts passed the official ACLPS President's Gavel (inscribed with "Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists - The President's Gavel") to Dr. Frank by mail, who used it to close the 2020 Business Meeting.

The Annual Business Meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the videos and presentations.

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2020 Annual Meeting Report– Amit Gokhale

The first ever virtual annual conference was held on June 25th, 2020. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, unfortunately, the scheduled conference in Iowa City, Iowa had to be cancelled. In spite of the different setup, there was an incredible response with over 300 individuals attending the conference and over 40 posters being presented. Congratulations to the six Strandjord YIA with Distinction awardees and their excellent presentations. The two keynote speakers, Esther Babady, PhD and Eldad Hod, MD, gave pertinent talks on the challenges of molecular and serologic testing of SARS-CoV-2. The Ellis Benson award was awarded to Jeanne Hendrickson, M.D. and she gave an excellent talk on red blood cell alloimmunization. The outgoing ACLPS President, Stacey Klutts, M.D. welcomed the new President, Elizabeth Frank, PhD. After the conference, a virtual mixer and trivia event was held in the evening. The virtual conference was a unique and interesting experience. Thank you to all the planning committee members and Ex Ordo for successfully making this conference happen at such short notice.



Example trivia question from the trivia event–

Do you know the answer? Look to the back-cover to find out.

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2020 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awardees

Name	Institution	Sponsor
Award with Distinction		
Mohammad Barouqa	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Nicholas Borcharding	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	Matthew Krasowksi
Robert Chen	Emory University School of Medicine	David Jaye
Gaurav Gupta	Yale University	Christopher Tormey
Christina Pierre	University of Virginia	Lindsay Bazydlo
Emily Snavely	University of Utah	Marc Couturier
Ibrahim Abukhiran	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	J. Stacey Klutts
Nadia Ayala-Lopez	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Zahra Shajani-Yi
Ridin Balakrishnan	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Stephanie Carnes	University of Washington Medical Center	Andrew Bryan
Daniel Casa	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Morayma Reyes Gil
Bradley Drumheller	Emory University School of Medicine	David Jaye
Erica Fatica	Mayo Clinic	Maria Alice Willrich
Emily Garnett	Baylor College of Medicine	Ila Singh
Christopher B. Hergott	Brigham and Women's Hospital	David Dorfman Neal Lindeman
Drew Hughes	Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine	Carey-Ann Burnham
Robert Humble	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	Matthew Krasowksi
Jeffrey Kubiak	Weill Cornell Medicine	Lars Westblade
Nicholas E. Larkey	Mayo Clinic	Maria Alice Willrich
David Manthei	University of Michigan	Lars Westblade
Eric Ransom	Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine	Carey-Ann Burnham
Jason Schenkel	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Neal Lindeman
Maroun Sfeir	Massachusetts General Hospital- Harvard Medical School	Jonathan Genzen
Mark Zaydman	Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine	Ann Gronowski

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Education Committee Update- Angella Charnot-Katsikas

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 30, and the deadline for submissions will be January 15, 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 participants to apply.

Additional information (including eligibility requirements, applications, and a promotional poster) can be found on the ACLPS website at:
<https://www.aclps.org/training-grants>

“ACLPS Critical Reviews”

The ACLPS Education Committee is recruiting new articles for the *American Journal of Clinical Pathology (AJCP)* “ACLPS Critical Reviews” series of review articles. These are excellent educational review articles on a wide variety of topics in Laboratory Medicine. If you or a colleague is interested in contributing to this series, please contact the Education Committee Chair (Angella Charnot-Katsikas; acharnot@hotmail.com) for more information and article guidelines.

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Request for Nominations– Benson and Evans Awards

ACLPS is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Ellis Benson Award and the 2021 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, 2021 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 society. Names of past awardees can be found on the ACLPS website at <https://www.aclps.org/previous-award-winners>.

Please submit award nominations by December 14, 2020 with the name of your nominee(s), a current CV (if available), and explanation with the reasons why they deserve the award to: Stacey-Klutts@uiowa.edu

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Request for Nominations– Leadership and Committee Positions

In addition, we are requesting nominations for ACLPS leadership and committee positions. Self-nominations are welcome. 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

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

Young Investigator Award Program Director

- The elected individual will serve a four-year term.

Education Committee

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

Website Committee

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

Nominations for the above positions are due on December 14, 2020. Send the name of your nominee(s) along with a current CV (if available) to Dr. Stacey Klutts, Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee at Stacey-Klutts@uiowa.edu.

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2021 Lab Medicine Meeting Update

THE 2021 ACLPS GENERAL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL!

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the low likelihood that our members will be able to travel freely this spring, Lab Medicine 2021 will be held using a virtual format. The online event will include Young Investigator Awards Program oral and poster presentations, research presentations by Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Grant recipients, and lectures from the Cotlove and Benson awardees. Please reserve May 27th-29th - the same two days in late May that had been scheduled for our in-person meeting - for a virtual meeting!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need your help to design this virtual meeting. Drs. Klutts and Krasowski from the University of Iowa have agreed to share their planned 2021 program as a guide. However, ACLPS member volunteers are needed to help plan this virtual gathering of laboratorians. If you are interested in serving on a dynamic, cutting-edge meeting organization committee, contact Dr. Tony Killeen, Chair, ACLPS Program and Finance Committee, at kille001@umn.edu.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission of abstracts for the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards (YIA) Program will be accepted online soon. The deadline for submission will be Monday, February 22nd, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET. Additional information will be posted on the ACLPS website www.aclps.org.

Abstracts will be considered for oral or poster presentation during the 2021 ACLPS Annual Online Meeting in May 2021.

Questions related to the YIA Program may be directed to the YIA Program Director, Dr. Jorge Sepulveda, at jsepulveda@mfa.gwu.edu.

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Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we share with ACLPS membership the passing of Dr. Peter Jatlow, who served as professor and chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine from 1984-2006. Dr. Jatlow served as ACLPS President from 1983-1984, and he was awarded the Ernest Cotlove Lectureship from ACLPS in 1990. More details on his life and career contributions can be found at: <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/25235/>



In Memoriam: Peter I. Jatlow, MD
1936–2020

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

Trivia question answer: Minneapolis