

THE ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

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Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council
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Leadership: AMP's current President is Dr. Jan Nowak and its President-Elect is Dr. Karen Mann. Dr. Mark Sobel is the Executive Officer.

Membership: AMP's membership increased again in 2008 and now exceeds 1,500.

Annual Meeting: The 2008 Annual Meeting was held in Grapevine (Dallas), Texas, October 29 – November 2, and had an attendance of just over 1,000 scientific registrants. A pre-meeting symposium, "Clonality Assessment in Hematopathology: European and North American Perspectives," was held on October 29. AMP experienced a 61% growth in the number of exhibitors - 99 companies exhibited in 125 booth spaces. AMP again held a Pathology Outreach Program the day before the annual meeting, which had record attendance of approximately 90. This year, AMP will hold its 15th annual meeting in Kissimmee (Orlando), Florida, November 20 – 22. The Pathology Outreach Program course will be held on November 19.

Awards: Dr. Carl Wittwer was the keynote speaker at the 2008 annual meeting and the recipient of the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics. Previous recipients include Francis Collins, Edwin Southern, Henry Erlich, Bert Vogelstein, Craig Venter, Sir Alec Jeffreys, Leroy Hood, Mary-Clare King, and Janet Rowley. The AMP Leadership Award, which honors a member who has contributed significant leadership to benefit the mission and goals of the society, was presented to Dr. Karen Kaul in 2008. Previous recipients include Jeffrey Kant, Mark Sobel, and Daniel Farkas. AMP also provides Young Investigator Awards and Technologist Awards based on abstract submissions and poster presentations at the annual meeting.

Journals: AMP's official journal, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*, is now in its 11th year. It is co-published with ASIP and publishes six issues per year. In the past year, AMP published two manuscripts: BCR-ABL Mutation Guidelines (Jones, *et al.*) and CMV Sample Exchange (Wolff, *et al.*). The CME program, in which readers can earn 50 credit hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award, is growing. *JMDxpress* is the journal's online republication vehicle. Dr. Karen Kaul will complete 10 years as Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2009. A joint ASIP-AMP search is underway for Dr. Kaul's successor.

Clinical Practice: AMP's active Clinical Practice Committee continues to work on numerous clinical practice issues. The AMP manuscripts published in JMD in 2008 were produced by working groups of the Clinical Practice Committee.

Economic Affairs Committee: In January, the CPT Coding subcommittee of the Professional Relations Committee became a standing committee, reporting directly to AMP Council. AMP is a member of the CAP Pathology Coding Caucus (PCC). The EAC is refining a proposal originally submitted to the PCC in 2008 regarding organism identification by sequencing. The EAC has made significant progress in educating and influencing third party payers. Working closely with CMS medical directors, the EAC recently achieved a retirement of a local coverage decision that incorrectly limited many molecular tests to once per lifetime. The EAC is currently developing a new model for coding molecular pathology tests.

Membership & Professional Development: AMP's MPDC has developed an effective volunteer management system and has initiated an international chapter effort.

Professional Relations: AMP's active Professional Relations Committee continues to work on licensing and regulatory issues for molecular tests. In mid-2008, AMP engaged the services of government relations consultants to assist in drafting policy statements and other communications and in the development and implementation of a proactive public policy strategy. AMP participates with the National Pathology Organizations group organized by the CAP.

Training & Education: In 2008, this committee launched webinar and online case studies programs and presented the Outreach Program course at the annual meeting.

AMP Test Directory (www.amptestdirectory.org): The online Directory is organized into sections for Hematopathology, Solid Tumors, and Infectious Diseases. Only Laboratory Directors who are AMP members can list tests; however, the Directory is available to the public without restriction. New features in the final phases of design include the addition of a specimen source field, a streamlined list of infectious agents, a Google-style search function, and a function that will allow the easy identification of labs who have not updated their listing in the past year so they can be inactivated.

Molecular Genetic Pathology (MGP) Review Course: For the second time, AMP will hold a Review Course, which is designed to assist those seeking MGP certification (as well as other molecular certifications), this year, April 30 – May 3 in Rockville, MD. This course was not endorsed by the American Board of Pathology or the American Board of Medical Genetics. An online self-study version of the course will be available by the summer.

Molecular Pathology Essentials: Diagnosis and Targeted Therapy Course: This 2-day course, to be held October 1-2, 2009 in Copenhagen, will feature presentations on the essential knowledge and current practice of clinical molecular pathology, with an emphasis on diagnosis and targeted therapy. A wide range of topics will be presented by the experts, including molecular diagnostic testing for genetic disorders, cancers, complex diseases, and hemoglobinopathies. Other topics to be covered include pharmacogenetics, laboratory management, regulations and a glance into the future of molecular testing. These presentations will give the audience an increased knowledge base, enabling them to adapt to and lead the integration of molecular testing into the clinical laboratory. The course is intended for laboratory directors, scientists, industry professionals, supervisors, technologists, trainees, and others who seek a better understanding of

molecular methods and their clinical applications. It is jointly presented by AMP and The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC).