

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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*Articles, announcements, and news briefs are welcome and will be edited and published at the discretion of the editors.*

#### Editors:

Teresita Cuyegkeng Redondo, MD  
[tredondo@sbhcs.com](mailto:tredondo@sbhcs.com)  
 Marlene Sabbath-Solitare, PhD  
[msabbath@sbhcs.com](mailto:msabbath@sbhcs.com)

Association for Molecular Pathology  
 9650 Rockville Pike  
 Bethesda, MD 20814-3993  
 Tel: 301-634-7939 Fax: 301-634-7990  
 e-mail: [amp@asip.org](mailto:amp@asip.org)  
[www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

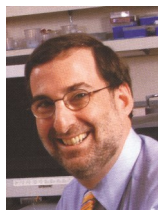
Angela M. Caliendo, MD, PhD  
 AMP President, 2004  
 e-mail: [acalien@emory.edu](mailto:acalien@emory.edu)



Reflecting on the past decade of AMP, I find it remarkable how we have grown from a relatively small group of colleagues with a common interest to an organization that is leading the molecular revolution in medicine. AMP members are intimately involved with all aspects of molecular pathology including test development, clinical application, research and development, regulatory and reimbursement, and education. One of the organization's major strengths is the diversity of our membership, in our training, as well as our interests and expertise. While our membership hails from industry, government, medicine, and diagnostics, we share a common vision: applying molecular techniques to improve patient care. I feel it is this shared vision that has allowed AMP to accomplish so much in such a short period of time. Ten years ago molecular testing was primarily performed in a few sophisticated clinical laboratories in order to identify a handful of infectious pathogens. Today, it is impossible to imagine the practice of medicine without molecular methods. Personally, I have witnessed molecular diagnostics revolutionize the practice of infectious diseases. At times it's difficult to remember having no op-

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### CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY!



Daniel H. Farkas, PhD, HCLD  
 AMP President, 2003  
 e-mail: [dfarkas@tmh.tmc.edu](mailto:dfarkas@tmh.tmc.edu)

You'll note that I congratulated *us* because *we* are AMP. It's the members that make AMP the great organization that it is. I tout AMP every chance I get and I find I consistently say something along the lines of

- "an organization made up of committed, dynamic, energetic professionals"
- "the best way to get involved in molecular diagnostics"
- "the only meeting I'd go to if I could afford to only go to one meeting a year"
- "Why not post it on CHAMP?"
- "If you're interested in molecular diagnostics you simply have to be at the AMP meeting."
- "AMP always makes me miss a key Jets game in November" (oops, sorry; don't know how that one slipped in there).

I'm sure many of you have uttered these and other such phrases to your colleagues. AMP's a great society (with apologies to LBJ). What makes our Association great?

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## AMP — ITS ORIGINS



Frances Pitlick, PhD  
AMP Executive Officer 1995 - 2001  
e-mail: [fpitlick@asip.org](mailto:fpitlick@asip.org)

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, the UAREP (Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology), an organization represented by some 25 to 30 academic pathology departments, met every three months focusing on publication and grant issues. Dr. Peter Ward was President of UAREP and Dr. Ramzi Cotran was Vice President from 1988 to 1990. One of the recurring topics of their sidebar conversations was what was happening in their institutions about the use of molecular diagnostic tests as well as the issues they were facing regarding the use of these tests. When Ramzi Cotran was ASIP President in 1987, he initiated ASIP's popular course, Concepts in Molecular Biology; Lance Liotta, Peter Howley, and Mark Sobel organized the course which continued another 12 years. Dr. Cotran and Dr. Ward were also members of the American Board of Pathology and therefore in a position to influence developments that would impact the practice of Pathology in the future. By 1991, the circle of interest in these discussions widened, drawing in several other UAREP members, especially Dr. Dorothy Bainton, Dr. George Michalopoulos and Dr. Leo Furcht. Dr. Bainton was particularly interested in gathering information about how molecular tests were being used in other departments. She sent a letter to fellow Chairs of Pathology requesting they attend the Association for Pathology Chairs (APC) meeting in Snomass, Colorado the evening of July 28 for a small workshop titled "Molecular Probes in Diagnostic Pathology-Development of Network for Communication between Pathologists". Prior to this workshop, she had set up two very small working groups of people who were using molecular test to meet in Bethesda, and then later in Anaheim, to discuss their current activities in the area of molecular diagnostics, in order to identify their needs in this area. From Dr. Bainton's perspective, she wrote: "For some time, I have felt a need for a resource to help us understand the utility of new molecular probes as they are developed and begin to move into the diagnostic arena. So many new probes are developed each

year that, unless you are at the very center of the process, it is difficult to know their true potential, to understand the appropriate criteria for application, and, most of all, to realize what questions have not yet been addressed about its clinical application". Thomas Frank and Jeffrey Kant were speakers at the Snowmass workshop discussing probes for genetic diseases, unanswered questions about new probes, considerations to starting a service, the role of pathology in clinical application, and opportunities for information exchange. Each department Chair in attendance was invited to complete a form identifying the person in their Department who was most familiar with this subject.

Over the next six weeks, Dr. George Michalopoulos organized a one-day workshop held on October, 28, 1992 in Bethesda, Maryland titled: "Pathology and Molecular Diagnostics: Issues of Structure and Organization". The focus was on the role of Pathology in the use of molecular technology, and included residency training, licensing and accreditation, institutional commitment, standardization of tests, and communication amongst laboratories. Invited were those individuals identified by the Chairs who attended the July workshop, Department Chairs and others interested in this technology. In all, there were 68 participants.

At this point in time, the pathologists using these tests in their institutions faced two obstacles to their ability to apply these tests in the Departments. The first obstacle was external to Pathology in that unless pathologists organized and staked their claim soon for certification for clinical application of molecular diagnostic tests soon, it could be limited to individuals certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics. The other obstacle was an issue closer to home: to demonstrate the validity and utility of these newer techniques relative to current, widely used diagnostic methodologies in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

Some 14 individuals (speakers and Chairpersons) from the one-day October workshop worked over the next several months to organize a larger workshop for the Fall of 1993 (November 12-14 to be exact). The results was an intensive three day meeting titled: "Molecular Diagnostics in Pathology 1993". It was here that the Working Group meetings started - Hematopathology,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## AMP — ITS VISIONARIES



Dorothy Bainton, MD



Ramzi Cotran, MD



Leo Furcht, MD



George Michalopoulos,  
MD, PhD



Peter Ward, MD

*AMP—Its origins (Continued from page 2)*

Solid Tumors, Genetic Diseases and Identity, and Infectious Diseases. Each group was invited to discuss the state of testing in their specialty, their organizational and billing issues, their routes of communication, and provide recommendations to the audience and the organizers about their 10 hottest issues. Nine general recommendations for future discussion emerged: 1) training requirements; 2) development of protocols and standards; 3) forum to discuss regulatory issues; 4) national network for sample sharing; 5) financial issues; 6) integration with complementary technologies; 7) need for mechanism to organize; 8) subspecialty certification; 9) topics and date for next workshop (which was to be November 11-13, 1994). There were over 250 people who attended this workshop.

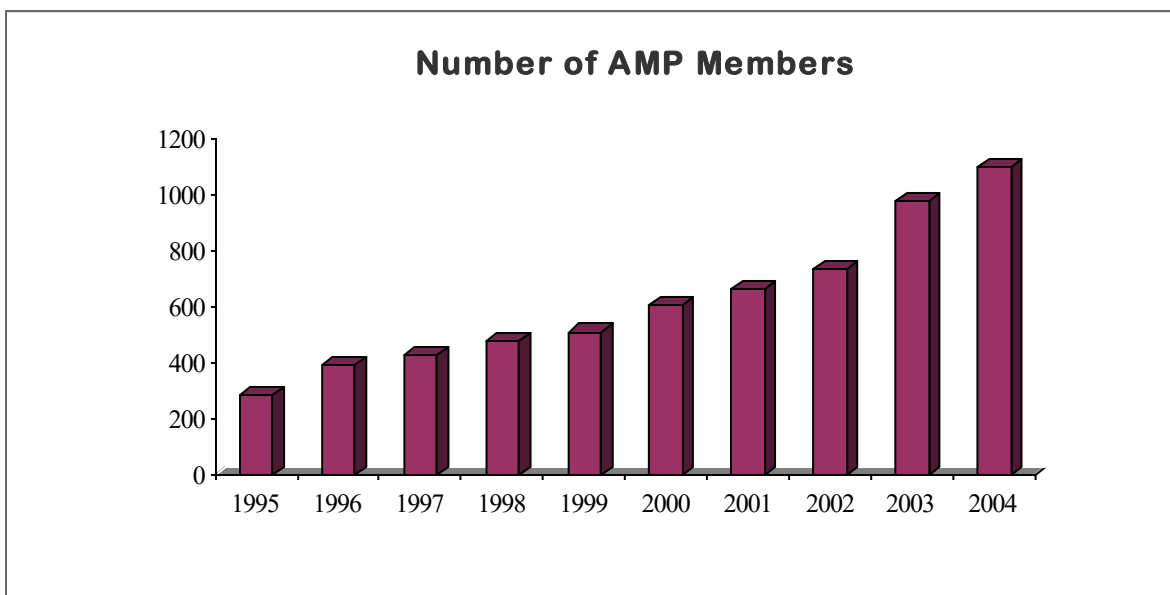
"Molecular Pathology 1994" met three full days with lunchtime breakout groups each day plus an additional session Saturday afternoon to focus on the four specialty areas. In addition to general sessions, abstracts had been invited for poster presentation (whether or not they had been previously published) so that those who wished could freely convey their work to others. Dr. Michalopoulos served again as the Chair of the organizing committee and sent letters and program announcements to each of the major Pathology organizations inviting them to send representatives and/or to publicize the meeting. At this meeting, the 215 participants agreed with a proposal to organize into a society and that the meeting organizers, with a few changes, would provide interim leadership as the AMP Action Committee until bylaws could be approved and elections could be held.

The 1993 and 1994 meetings established patterns that continue to this day - general sessions, breakout groups over lunch to discuss specialty issues, poster presentations, and informal exchange of information. Members of the AMP Action Committee were involved in related activities that appealed to future members, including the MxDiag-L Listserv that facilitated

communication prior to CHAMP and quickly became an opportunity for disseminated communication. Members of the Action Committee were communicating with members of the American Board of Pathology and the American Board of Medical Genetics in the hope that they would pursue mutually agreeable routes of certification that would not exclude Pathology. At the first Annual Meeting in 1995, the Action Committee presented a bylaw proposal to the membership and a slate for election of new officers for the organization. The rest, as they say, is history.

#### *A personal note*

I have been proud to serve as AMP's first Executive Officer, to nurture the society and to see it grow and mature. When it was organized, most of the members were at the Assistant/Associate Professor/Research Assistant end of the professional curve. While many of you have moved to greater levels of responsibility, you are still ready to share your experiences and offer guidance to those who are following in your footsteps. I do believe that AMP's greatest strength has been the freedom of communication among the members and your respect for each other - those attributes served you well in some of your major achievements and should not be forgotten.



## ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY 1994 — 2004

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> UAREP-sponsored Molecular Diagnostics Workshop held in Bethesda, Maryland in November 1994, AMP was founded. An Action Committee was set up to formally establish the Association and create a framework for the future growth and development of AMP. The members of the Action Committee were: David Cooper (Chair), Carleton Garrett (Vice-Chair), Jeffrey Cossman, Tom Frank, Jeffrey Kant, Anthony Killeen, Mark Lovell, Ronald McGlennen, Mark Sobel, Steven Thibodeau, Cheryl Willman with Frances Pitlick as the liaison with UAREP.

“At that time, none of the large pathology societies had much interest in promoting molecular pathology, so we decided that a free-standing society was preferable to affiliation with an established group. Although we were all Americans, we chose the name Association for Molecular Pathology so that it specifically did not contain the words "national" or "American" and would thus represent an international effort, and an organization without borders.

Mark Sobel, Jeff Kant, Cheryl Willman, Jeff Cooper, Ron McGlennen, and colleagues mapped out the organizational chart for the society and asked people to sign up for any of several committees that would develop bylaws and establish structure for the society. I remember signing up for several of these committees. To facilitate sign-up, huge pieces of white paper were ripped from one of those easel-based flip charts, and the about 8 of these huge white papers were taped to the wall of the hotel corridor outside the meeting room. At top of each paper was a committee name, such as "Bylaws Committee." Many of us scrawled our names to these papers and we were thus immediately put to work and then later recruited to run for office once the bylaws and mechanisms for voting were established. Thus was born the Association for Molecular Pathology.” (Peggy Gulley, Personal Communication, 2002)

1994

**Chair of Action Committee:** David L. Cooper, MD

**Program Committee Chair:** Ronald McGlennen, MD

**Annual Meeting:**

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, MN, November 10 - 12, 1995

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Society Bylaws adopted November 12, 1995.
- "Youthquake" for those who were there.
- Social event at Speakeasy Cave in St. Paul where "Guido" (aka David Cooper) was the star.

**Society Highlights:**

- The association's Listserv *bit.listserv.mxdiag-l* facilitated internet communication prior to CHAMP.
- Ron McGlennen, Editor of the first *AMP Newsletter*.
- Fran Pitlick, Executive Officer of UAREP and ASIP, AMP's first Executive Officer.
- Maricel Herrera joined the AMP office.

1995

**President:** Jeffrey A. Kant, MD, PhD

**Program Committee Chair:** Margaret Gulley, MD

**Annual Meeting:**

Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, MD, November 14 - 17, 1996

**Meeting Highlights:**

- "Even with the best planning there always seems to be the odd thing that's overlooked. This year it was thumb-tacks for the posters! Thanks to Tim O'Leary for accompanying me to the local Kinko's to purchase 600 of these at 9PM the night before the conference began!" (Tony Killeen, AMP Newsletter Jan 1997)
- The Saturday evening dinner was at the B&O Railroad Museum, organized by Jeff Kant and Fran Pitlick.
- Bomb scare at Baltimore Washington International Airport.

**Society Highlights:**

- CHAMP (CHat AMP) was launched in May 1996 and administered by Jeff Kant.
- Year of the first *Test Directory* and *Membership Directory*.
- *Ad hoc* committee (Chair, Peggy Gulley) established to evaluate possible journal affiliation.
- Dan Farkas succeeded Ron McGlennen as Editor of *AMP Newsletter*.

1996

**President:** Margaret Gulley, MD

**Program Committee Chair:** Rita Braziel, MD

**Annual Meeting:**

Wyndham Emerald Plaza Hotel, San Diego, California, November 13-15, 1997

**Meeting Highlights:**

- First special session for medical technologists.
- First corporate workshops.
- Meeting program expanded to 2 workshops per subdivision.
- First Welcome Reception.

**Society Highlights:**

- AMP logo was adopted.
- AMP went electronic - home page, <http://www.pds.med.umich.edu/users/amp> managed by Tony Killeen.
- Jeff Kant spearheaded corporate sponsorship of the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics.

1997

**President:** Cheryl Willman, MD

**Program Committee Chair:** Carleton Garrett, MD, PhD

**Annual Meeting:**

Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Crystal City, VA, November 5 – 8, 1998

**Meeting Highlights:**

- First recipient of Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Visible Genetics, Inc.): Francis Collins, MD, PhD.
- First session on "Technical Topics".
- Additional Plenary Session featured the best abstracts.

**Society Highlights:**

- Major goal of AMP accomplished: new specialty of Molecular Genetic Pathology created and approved by American Board of Medical Specialties.
- *AMP Test Directory* updated.
- AMP signed Memo of Understanding with the American Society for Investigative Pathology to create *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics (JMD)* as part B of *The American Journal of Pathology*; the Joint Journal Oversight Committee was formed.

1998

**President:** Mark Sobel, MD, PhD

**Program Committee Chair:** Karl Voelkerding, MD

**Annual Meeting:**

Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis, MO, November 4-7, 1999

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Visible Genetics, Inc): Edwin Southern, PhD.
- Abstracts from meeting published in the first issue of *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics (JMD)*.

**Society Highlights:**

- First issue of AMP's official journal, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics, American Journal of Pathology Part B*.
- Appointment of Karen Kaul as Senior Editor of *JMD*.
- Official financial separation from UAREP (Articles of Incorporation of AMP filed in Maryland).
- Launch of AMP website, [www.ampweb.org](http://www.ampweb.org), including Membership Directory accessible by members of AMP only.
- AMP's first published paper, "Association for Molecular Pathology Statement: Recommendations for in-House Development and Operation of Molecular Diagnostic Tests" *American Journal of Clinical Pathology* 1999;111:449-463.
- AMP co-sponsored overseas molecular diagnostics meeting in Zwolle, The Netherlands.

1999

2000

**President:** Debra Leonard, MD, PhD

**Program Committee Chair:** Linda Wasserman, MD, PhD

**Annual Meeting:**

Denver Hyatt Regency Hotel, Denver, CO, November 9-12, 2000

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Visible Genetics, Inc.): Henry Ehrlich, PhD.
- Dan Farkas spearheaded corporate sponsorship for trainee awards (Young Investigator Awards).
- First Young Investigator Awards (sponsored by Clinical Micro Sensors, a division of Motorola).

**Society Highlights:**

- *JMD* now on-line.
- AMP plays a role in new efforts to bring oversight to genetic testing through Secretary Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (SACGT), CDC Forum and the FDA.
- Jeff Kant organized AMP's application for a Companion Meeting at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) Annual Meeting.

2001

**President:** Karl Voelkerding, MD

**Program Committee Chair:** Richard Scheuermann, PhD

**Annual Meeting:**

Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, November 15 - 18, 2001

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Visible Genetics): Bert Vogelstein, MD.
- Discussion Group on Connexin 26 testing meets.

**Society Highlights:**

- Two *ad hoc* committees established:
  - AMP Policy Committee (Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, PhD as first Chair).
  - Technical Topics Committee.
- Inaugural AMP Companion Meeting at USCAP, organized by Marc Ladanyi, Standing Room Only!
- *JMD* fully indexed in *MEDLINE* and *Index Medicus*.
- *JMD* no longer listed as Part B of *AJP*.
- Mark Sobel succeeded Fran Pitlick as AMP's Executive Officer.
- CHAMP server moved from Pittsburgh to yahoogroups.
- Terry Dunn succeeded Jeff Kant as CHAMP Moderator.
- AMP and ASIP signed a new Memo of Understanding, effective January 2002, to continue publishing *JMD*.
- Karen Kaul "promoted" to Editor-in-Chief of *JMD*, effective January 2002.

2002

**President:** Karen Kaul, MD

**Program Committee Chair:** Mark Lovell, MD

**Annual Meeting:**

Adams Mark Hotel, Dallas, TX, November 14 - 17, 2002

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Visible Genetics): J. Craig Venter, PhD.
- First AMP Technologists Awards (sponsored by Third Wave Technologies, Inc).
- First College of American Pathologists Inspector Training Session.
- First workshop on ACGME Accreditation for Molecular Genetics Pathology: A Workshop and Discussion for Fellowship Program Directors.
- Amendments to Bylaws passed.
- Establishment of Professional Relations Committee as a standing committee (formerly the *ad hoc* AMP Policy Committee).

**Society Highlights:**

- Establishment of *AMP Web Library* (Editor: Jan Nowak).
  - First audio conference (Topic: Cystic Fibrosis), organized by Karl Voelkerding.
  - Creation of position for Junior Member in Training and Education Committee.
  - Tom Frank, AMP Founding member, passed away.
- 

**President:** Daniel H. Farkas, PhD**Program Committee Chair:** Rita M. Braziel, MD**Annual Meeting:**

Wyndham Palace Resort &amp; Spa Orlando, FL, November 19 - 23, 2003

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Clinical Micro Sensors, a Motorola Co.): Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys.
- HSV and CMV working groups formed.

**Society Highlights:**

- *Ad Hoc* Strategic Planning Committee established (Chair, Jeff Kant) and presented recommendations to AMP Council.
  - Debra Leonard appointed to Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society.
  - *Test Directory* online: Infectious Diseases, Solid Tumors and Hematopathology.
  - CHAMP moved from yahoogroups to new listserv, *CHAMP@lists.asip.org*. No more commercial advertising!
  - Audio conference on HPV, organized by Vivianna VanDeerlin.
  - *JMD* ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 64 Pathology journals.
  - Teresita Cuyegkeng Redondo and Marlene Sabbath-Solitare succeeded Dan Farkas as Editors of the *AMP Newsletter*; *Newsletter* acquired a new look.
  - Roche Diagnostics Corp. agreed to sponsor the AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics, beginning in 2004.
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**President:** Angela M. Caliendo, MD, PhD**Program Committee Chair:** William P. Bennett, MD**Annual Meeting:**

Century Plaza Hotel and Spa, Los Angeles, CA, November 10 - 14, 2004

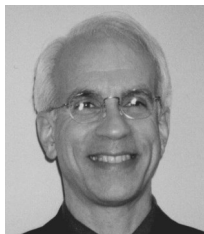
**Meeting Highlights:**

- Recipient of AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Roche Diagnostics Corp): Leroy Hood, MD, PhD.
- First time online Abstract Submission.
- New AMP award: Minority Trainee Travel Awards sponsored by ASIP.

**Society Highlights** – up to time of press!!!

- AMP has Director of Scientific Programs - Mary Williams.
  - AMP office moved to expanded quarters - we are growing!!!!
  - AMP gets a new logo.
  - AMP invited to participate in a CAP sponsored conference on the Future of Pathology.
  - AMP acquired two new website domains, *www.moleculopathology.org* and *www.amp.org*.
  - Election of officers now done online.
  - Karen Kaul appointed to a second term as Editor-in-Chief of *JMD*, effective January 2005.
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## REMEMBRANCES OF AMP PAST: PERSONAL MUSINGS OF AN ORGANIZER, PAST PRESIDENT, AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mark E. Sobel, Md, PhD  
AMP Executive Officer 2001 - present  
e-mail: [mesobel@asip.org](mailto:mesobel@asip.org)

I remember, many years ago, reading a touching passage in Marcel Proust's series of autobiographical novels "Remembrance of Things Past" in which the author recalls his childhood and actually re-experiences eating a madeleine with marmalade. Those of you who know me will not be surprised that my earliest recollection of AMP (or its antecedents) is also associated with food (grilled portobello mushrooms with parmesan cheese—mmmmm, I can taste them now!) and dates back to April, 1992. I was invited to join a small group at a dinner held at the Anaheim White House restaurant organized by Dorothy ("Dee") Bainton to discuss the utility of new molecular probes. The meeting took place during the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Pathologists (AAP, now the American Society for Investigative Pathology). Dee was Past-President of AAP at the time and was also planning a Molecular Probes Workshop on behalf of UAREP (Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology) to take place during the APC/GRIPE/PRODS (Association of Pathology Chairs/ Group for Research in Pathology Education/ Program Directors Section of APC) summer meeting in Snowmass in 1992. Quite a lot of alphabet soup (more food!), but significant because it demonstrates that AMP was developed out of the concerted effort of several pathology organizations that recognized the need to develop an interest group in molecular pathology. During that dinner in Anaheim, which was also attended by Tris Parslow and Fran Pitlick (and I am pretty sure one or two others, however my memory of the people is less vivid than of the topic of conversation and the food), we discussed how important the impact of molecular diagnostics would be on the future of pathology.

After that dinner and the Snowmass meeting in July, 1992, UAREP asked George Michalopoulos, with the administrative assistance of Fran Pitlick, to organize a workshop "Molecular Diagnostics in Pathology" in Bethesda in October, 1992. Over 60 people attended that workshop. I was unable to participate since at that time I was eating my way through the restaurants of Pisa, Italy (ostensibly attending a breast cancer conference), enjoying the local cheese, bread and wine, and of course, portobello mushrooms were in season! I recently discovered the registrant list for the 1992 workshop. Several future AMP presidents were in attendance (Peggy Gulley, Jeff Kant, Debra Leonard, and Mark Lovell), as well as others who eventually were on the AMP Council (Carlton Garrett, Jan Nowak, and Rick Press).

The 1992 workshop was so successful that UAREP committed to organizing future annual molecular diagnostic workshops, with co-sponsorship from other pathology organizations, including ACLPS (Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists), ASIP, APC, CAP (College of American

Pathologists), ASCP (then called the American Society of Clinical Pathologists), and USCAP (United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology). I was invited to speak at the 1993 workshop, chaired for the second year in a row by George Michalopoulos, on the topic of education in molecular pathology. I was then in my seventh year of directing ASIP's Concepts in Molecular Biology Course. Already in 1993, the program was organized around working groups for hematopathology, solid tumors, infectious diseases, and genetic diseases (the latter combined with the identity testing group). I helped organize the 1994 workshop (along with 14 others and again George as Chair), which had over 250 participants and included 49 abstracts (and a budget, by the way of under \$8,000 in contrast to the 2004 budget of nearly \$300,000). Everyone at that meeting recognized that the growing needs of molecular diagnosticians called for the formation of an organization to promote clinical practice, basic research and education in molecular pathology. And thus, the Association for Molecular Pathology was unofficially formed. Many of the members of the organizing committee of the 1994 workshop were asked to serve as the AMP Action Committee. There were sign up sheets that were posted on the walls of the meeting room at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Rockville, Maryland and many of the attendees signed up to volunteer for committees on governance, finance, meeting program, professional practice/regulatory affairs, and networks (electronic and newsletter). From its early beginnings, AMP's success has been based on the spirit of volunteerism.

At George Michalopoulos' suggestion, Dave Cooper, who was then in George's department at the University of Pittsburgh, volunteered to serve as the Chair of the AMP Action Committee. Other members of the committee were Jeff Cossman, Tom Frank, Carleton Garrett, Jeff Kant, Tony Killeen, Mark Lovell, Ron McGlennen, Steve Thibodeau, Cheryl Willman and me. We met over the next few weeks by phone, sent many faxes (email was not yet in common use), and agreed to meet at the Admiral's Club Executive Center at O'Hare Airport on February 4, 1995 to crystallize our plans for AMP. Fran Pitlick and I were planning to fly out of the Baltimore Washington International Airport together on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> to get to Chicago on time for the meeting. On the evening of February 3, the Washington DC metropolitan area was hit by a blizzard. I remember Fran picking me up at my house in her station wagon at 4:30 in the morning on February 4 and driving through blinding snow at a snail's pace on the only (one) open lane of the Washington Beltway on our way to BWI. At the airport we waited to find out if our flight would be canceled. We finally boarded and our plane taxied out onto the runway, where we sat, looking out the window at the ice building up on the wings. The wings were de-iced three times, the pilot warned that we would either have to take off or return to the gate permanently. I remember that Fran and I pondered whether discretion (to cancel the flight) might not be the better part of valor. However, just as we were about to bolt from the plane, we took off and finally landed safely in Chicago two hours late. It was at the Chicago meeting that AMP began to take on its current

*(Continued on page 9)*



*Remembrances of AMP Past (Continued from page 8)*

reality. We dined sumptuously on sandwiches (choice of turkey, ham & cheese, club, and vegetarian) and potato chips. It was decided that the next meeting would not be a Workshop in Molecular Diagnostics, but would rather be the First Annual Meeting of the new organization (to be organized by Ron McGlennen, who also was Editor of the first AMP Newsletter). Fran and I were assigned the task of forming Bylaws for the organization, and Tom Frank was asked to chair the committee to select the first AMP Council.

In November, 1995, those in attendance at AMP's first annual meeting approved the Bylaws and voted for the first AMP Council. Dave Cooper "inherited" the position of Past President (as Chair of the AMP Action Committee), and Jeff Kant was our first President. I was the first in a long line of Secretary-Treasurers who have had the responsibility of taking the minutes of the (too long) monthly AMP Council conference calls (Helen, if you think it is tough now, you should have been around from 1995 through 1997 when they lasted on average two hours each). Some of my best moments of serving on the AMP Council include taking responsibility as President-elect in 1998 for Francis Collins as he received the first AMP Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics, and for hosting Ed Southern in 1999 when he received the same award-- AMP's first Nobel prize winning awardee, and I had the honor to fill his lunch plate from the buffet table that Maricel Herrera had organized (believe it or not, I was so pre-occupied with Ed that I didn't eat anything myself)!

In 2001, I succeeded Fran Pitlick as AMP's Executive Officer. AMP has been a large part of my life since 1995, and it has

been a joy for me to work with the AMP leadership over the years. As we praise the many hard working volunteers of AMP that have promoted AMP's growth and success through its first ten years of annual meetings, we must not only remember Fran Pitlick, who worked both behind and in front of the screens to organize and guide AMP, but also Maricel Herrera. Maricel was hired by the joint UAREP/ASIP office soon after that fateful Chicago meeting of the AMP Action Committee in February, 1995 and began to concentrate on AMP activities. Although she was not in attendance at the First Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in November 1995, she has been instrumental at every annual meeting since. Maricel was promoted to Director of AMP Meetings and Membership Services in 2002 in recognition of the central role she plays in the organization. Now that Maricel and I are joined by Mary Williams, now AMP's Director of Scientific Programs, we all raise our glasses of wine (and our chocolate truffles) and salute AMP!

*Preident's Message (Continued from page 1)*

tions but empiric therapy for viral CNS infections, or relying only on the CD4 cell count to manage HIV-1 infected individuals, or trying to guess which patients were at high risk for CMV disease. Now all of these clinical decisions are made in a much more definitive and rational manner, which is due in large part to molecular testing. Similar changes are under way in genetics, hematopathology, oncology, and the management of chronic diseases.

As we move forward, it is important to remember our humble beginnings, and the power of passion and a common vision, for these virtues have brought us a long way. So often our greatest accomplishments arise from the devotion of just one member or a small group of members. AMP, as an organization, will undoubtedly increase in complexity over the next decade; the

dedication of our membership will take us through the challenges of ensuring the appropriate use of molecular testing, adequate availability of testing, as the development of high quality products. As our field continues to evolve it is essential that AMP take the lead in educating healthcare providers, government officials, including those setting public policy, as well as the general public regarding the tremendous potential and inherent challenges of molecular methods. It's a tall order, but after serving as president of this outstanding organization, I have every confidence that with involvement from our talented membership that we are up to the task!

*Congratulations (Continued from page 1)*

Well, for one thing we've got a cool acronym which plays off the double entendre of the fact that so much of what we do is based on amplification (but you knew that). We've got a cool listserv name (CHAMP; but you knew that too). We've got an easy to remember URL and a highly useful Test Directory. More seriously, we have a high impact (in all of pathology, not just Molecular Pathology) journal with a dedicated Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board. We have a Program Committee that is populated with hard-working, dedicated professionals, year in and year out, determined to bring us the best possible molecular diagnostics science and practicalities. (One anecdote demonstrating dedication is that of Tony Killeen and his program committee colleagues venturing cautiously into the dank and seedy Baltimore night at our second annual meeting in search of pushpins for our poster boards; success was theirs at Kinko's.) We have a dedicated Executive Officer who is also a member and accomplished molecular pathologist, ably assisted by a highly professional central office staff. We have a dedicated Newsletter Editorial team who bring you timely information three times a year (and this special edition). We have an ecumenical nature welcoming and benefiting from domestic and international members in academia, community hospital settings, industry, government, reference laboratories, consultants and more. We have a dedicated membership who do not shirk from the responsibilities of professional volunteerism. Over ten years, my rough calculation shows that, conservatively, at least 20% of us have served on one committee or another. That's a fantastic rate of service.

Why is everyone so involved? I think it's because of the word I purposely used so redundantly in the preceding paragraph: "dedicated." So many in AMP have "grown up" professionally in the field. To a greater or lesser extent, AMP has paralleled our careers and given us a venue for our growth. AMP has been a forum for help; I for one have hesitated once in a while to hit the "send" button on a CHAMP posting that I feared might be a stupid question. I always get back 5-10 useful (and kind) responses almost instantly. (And that's due in no small part to the dedication of our two hard working CHAMP moderators over the years, Jeff Kant and Terry Dunn). AMP has provided a venue for exchange of ideas, education and catching up with our friends and colleagues each year. Hearing the Point/Counterpoint at the D.C. meeting on gene patents between Debra Leonard and David O'Bryan, the representative from

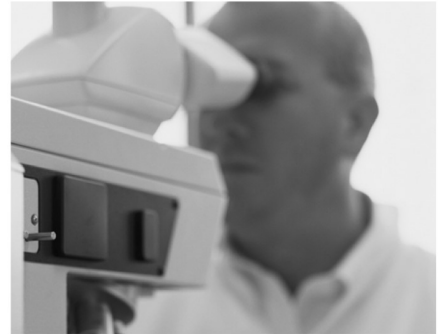
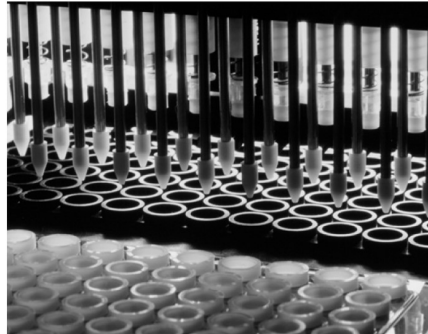
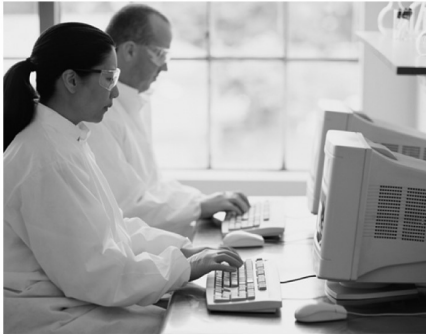
Smithkline Beecham; witnessing the excitement of the debate on genetic testing between the late (and much missed) Tom Frank and Tony Holtzman; feeling the palpable buzz in the crowd as people wondered if Francis Collins would show up on time to deliver the first "Award for Excellence" lecture—he showed up exactly on time and delivered a stirring keynote address. There are countless other examples each of you could elaborate.

What a great meeting we have every year—from the newness and thrill of the Minneapolis meeting where our first Past President, David Cooper, was roasted as "Guido" in a wonderful social event (and officially announced the "birth" of AMP, on behalf of the first organizing committee, the next morning in an emotional address) to the attendance record setting meeting in Orlando last year where Alec Jeffries continued the fine tradition of opening the meeting with the "Award for Excellence" talk. AMP provides a forum for professional growth as so many of our volunteers have experienced over the years. As I learned from several of my mentors early in my career, professional volunteerism is a recipe for success. Those of you new to AMP should consider opting into service very strongly; it'll pay off in dividends many fold the effort you invest.

Our membership has grown by an average annual rate of nearly 17%. That's impressive. Clearly, AMP is the place to be for molecular diagnostics. Our many generous corporate sponsors realize that and are a vital part of AMP. We've enthusiastically paid our dues by providing great science, great collegiality and great education. It's no coincidence that national organizations like the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (and its subcontractors), CDC, FDA and others look to AMP for assistance in crucial practical and scientific matters.

It's the people that make AMP great. It's that simple. Congratulations to all of us on a great, and fun, first ten years.





# ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

## MISSION

*The Association for Molecular Pathology is a not-for-profit scientific society dedicated to the advancement, practice, and science of clinical molecular laboratory medicine and translational research based on the applications of genomics and proteomics.*

**The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP)** is committed to the advancement of clinical molecular diagnostic and prognostic medicine through education and training of practitioners, physicians, laboratory and industrial scientists, and health care professionals involved in patient care and management. AMP supports the development of new technologies in molecular biology to be used in laboratory medicine, including diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of genetic disorders, cancer, infectious diseases, identity and histocompatibility. AMP members and supporters participate in basic and translational research aimed at broadening the understanding of gene/protein structure and function, disease processes, and molecular diagnostics. AMP aims to inform and educate its members of advances in, and applications of, DNA-, RNA-, and protein-based diagnostics through its annual society meetings, publications (*The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics* and the *AMP Newsletter*), website ([www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org)), listserv (CHAMP), and other venues.

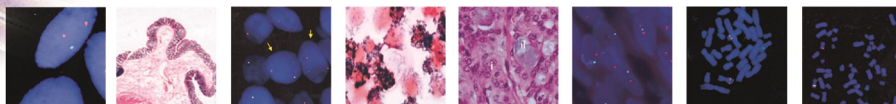
Individuals interested in educational, medical, scientific, economic, and regulatory aspects of molecular diagnostics, including but not limited to pathologists, clinical laboratory scientists, clinicians and other health care personnel, government employees, especially those involved in regulation of the field, and professionals in the in vitro diagnostics industry, are invited to participate.

**Association for  
Molecular Pathology**  
9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Tel: 301-634-7939  
Fax: 301-634-7990  
Email: [amp@asip.org](mailto:amp@asip.org)  
[www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org)



Association for Molecular Pathology

# Celebrating 10 Years!



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of Continued  
Growth and Excellence*



**AMP 2005 Annual Meeting  
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa  
Scottsdale, AZ  
November 10-13, 2005**

**AMP 2006 Annual Meeting  
Orlando, FL  
November 15-19, 2006**

**AMP 2007 Annual Meeting  
Westin Century Plaza Resort  
& Spa  
Los Angeles, CA  
November 7-10, 2007**

