

# AACT ion News & News &

Volume 22, Number 2 June 2012 American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

### Message from the President: Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAACT, FACMT

#### Ready? Set? Go! NACCT Is Coming!

Are you ready for this? Yes! NACCT is what we look forward to and are waiting for every year. The North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) is coming to the Cosmopolitan Resort Hotel in Las Vegas in October and it promises to be a spectacular event! The 'Cosmo' is a uniquely entertaining venue and we expect a record number of attendees this year. Make your reservations now, because the stylish hotel rooms at this resort (a block of which are set aside at a special convention rate) are sure to fill up quickly. And this year we have arranged for two special 'early bird' meeting registration rates spaced a month or two apart. Take advantage of the earliest special rate to save the most money.

The NACCT Planning Committee, led by Elizabeth Scharman. with representatives from AACT, AAPCC, and ACMT, has once again put together a premier educational program that you will not want to miss. There will be so many highlights. Here is just a sampling.

Let's start with the AACT Pre-Meeting Symposium, to be held on October 2nd. Bob Hoffman has again brought together an outstanding faculty to lead a day-long

authoritative discussion of the latest advances in antidotes for a variety of toxic emergencies. Grant Cave from New Zealand will discuss new findings in lipid emulsion therapy, Leslie Boyer from Tucson, Arizona will discuss a new scorpion anti-venom, Silas Smith of NYC will discuss treatments for chemotherapy-related toxicity; Steve Curry from Phoenix will update us on the use of carnitine therapy in certain hepatic diseases; Kirk Cumpston from Richmond, Virginia will review the new agent: icatibant; David Jang



San Diego will review the status of cyanide antidotes; Mark Ghannoum from Montreal will discuss management of contrast-associated nephropathy; and Bob himself will update attendees on approaches to the treatment of excessive bleeding as a side-effect of use of the newer anti-coagulants. What a line-up! You cannot afford to miss it.

NACCT itself will be full of extraordinary events. Just to point out a few highlights. Our keynote speaker this year is James Blumenstock, who is the Chief Program Officer, Public Health Practice for the Association of Public and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). His topic is very timely given the current challenging economic

### Inside this Edition

President's Message 1-2	AACT Presentations as APAMT 20127
Election Results	New Chelation Guidlines Endorsed7
In the News 3	Trustees Meet in Virginia8
Awards Call for Nominations4	2012 NACCT Annual Meeting9
In Memorium: Dr. Picchioni5	Crossword Puzzle10
AACT Inaugural Meeting6	Calendar of Events11

# AACTion

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#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

and political climate our country is facing: "Partnership Opportunities for Poison Centers & Public Health." Barry Rumack will present the lectureship associated with the AACT Career Achievement Award on October 4th. His topic will be "Acetaminophen: a Perspective on the Past, Present and Future". This promises to be an unforgettable presentation by a true champion of clinical toxicology. The AACT Symposium, to be presented on the morning of October 5th, will offer a unique opportunity to hear another giant in the field of heavy metals toxicology, Joseph Graziano review the history of and discuss the latest developments regarding a tragic mass epidemic that has been unfolding in West Bengal over the past 20 years, in his talk "Poison in the well: exposure, consequences, and remediation of arsenic in Bangladesh".

The best in new scientific research is presented in the eight scheduled Scientific Abstract Platform & Poster Sessions. Mark Kostic, Chair of the Abstracts Review Committee, tells me a record number of abstracts of original case reports and investigations were submitted this year. You will see and hear the cutting edge of new directions in clinical toxicology being explored worldwide at NACCT. I always come away from this meeting with about 5 new ideas for research projects, based on the intriguing topics I hear about.

And I haven't even mentioned the incredible perennial events that are so worthwhile, from the Toxicology History Society abstracts presentation, the hands-on toxicology simulation exhibit presented by Medical Education Technologies Inc., the Quiz Bowl competition, the Poison Centers' Public Education 3-day track, 'Articles You May Have Missed', the AACT's Trainees Research Symposium, the 'Year In Toxicology', a variety of symposia sponsored by our sister societies: the CAPCC, AAPCC, ACMT, EAPCCT and APAMT, and on and on and on!

And by the way, stick around on October 7 and 8th to take part in the Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) course co-sponsored by the AACT in partnership with the AHLS Administrative Group, led by Frank Walter and his faculty. Here is a golden opportunity to update your knowledge of topics in emergency preparedness.

Finally you've got to spend at least 5 glorious days in Las Vegas, this American tourist magnet! The Cosmo Resort is conveniently located centrally right on the Las Vegas Strip, steps away from such sights as the Bellagio Resort, the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, and Harrah's. Where else can you rub shoulders with 2-3 Elvis impersonators at any time of day or night, just walking down the street! The gambling is there for those who dare. The shows are terrific, with acts ranging from dancers to magicians to vocalists. And the town has some unique sights and sounds, along with spectacular shopping and world-class restaurants.

So mix a little business with pleasure this year. Come to NACCT and renew old friendships, make new ones, hear all you need to know in clinical toxicology, and enjoy a wonderful time. The meeting brochure and instructions for reservations and meeting registration can be found at the AACT website: www.clintox.org. Ready? Set? Go!

# **AACT Announces Election Results**

The AACT held an election for new officers and board of trustee members in May and had good voter turnout for a field of 4 AACT members for office and 7 members for 4 positions opening on the Board of Trustees. The slate of candidates was offered by the AACT Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The results of the election were as follows:

President-Elect

Karen Simone, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

**Treasurer** S. Rutherfoord Rose, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

**Secretary** Maria Mercurio-Zappala, RPh, MS, DABAT, FAACT

#### **Board of Trustees**

Mark Kostic, MD John Benitez, MD, MPH, FAACT Jeanna M. Marraffa, PharmD, DABAT Jeffrey Nemhauser, MD

The newly elected leaders will assume their posts at the close of the AACT Business Meeting in Las Vegas in October, 2012. We congratulate not only the winners, but all the AACT members who volunteered to run for office and put themselves out there. You are all praiseworthy for the service you contribute to the Academy in ensuring that its members have fair and transparent choices for who will represent them and lead the AACT into achieving its goals for the future.

### In the News...



Harold E Hoffman MD, FRCPC, Scott D Phillips, MD, MACP, FACMT, FAACT, and Robert B Palmer, PhD, DABAT, FAACT are the editors of the recently published <u>The Clinical Practice of Biological Monitoring</u>. The book is available from OEM Press, 2012.

### **AACT Awards Call for Nominations**

#### Distinguished Service Award

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology would like to announce the call for nominations for one of its highest accolades: the AACT Distinguished Service Award. The AACT Distinguished Service Award is given annually to an individual of high moral character, good citizenship, and elevated professional ideals. The recipient must be an active member of AACT for at least 10 years, must be an elected Fellow of the Academy, and must have made outstanding contributions to clinical toxicology and the Academy throughout the candidate's career. This award is reserved for those individuals who have dedicated themselves tirelessly to important activities that benefit the mission and goals of the Academy throughout their professional career. The Distinguished Service Award is intended to recognize those who have made performed extraordinary work on behalf of the AACT.

All AACT members and fellows are invited to nominate individuals to be considered by the AACT Distinguished Service Selection Committee for this award. Past winners have included:

The 2012 award winner will be announced at the Academy's Members & Fellows Reception at the NACCT meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the evening of October 4th, 2012.

Nominations can be sent to the Academy's email address: admin@clintox.org. The call for nominations closes on June 15th, 2012.

AACT Distinguished Service Award Previous Winners	
2011	Maryann Howland
2010	Randy Bond
2009	Donna Seger
2008	Michael McGuigan
2007	Jim Mowry
2006	Greg Gaar
2005	Frank Walter

#### **Career Achievement Award**

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology would like to announce the call for nominations for one of its highest accolades: the AACT Career Achievement Award. The AACT Career Achievement Award is given annually to a distinguished individual of high moral character, good citizenship, and elevated professional ideals. The recipient must be an active member of AACT for at least 10 years, must be an elected Fellow of the Academy, and must have made outstanding contributions to clinical toxicology and the Academy throughout the candidate's career. The recipient has made significant contributions to clinical toxicology, including sustained exemplary service, an outstanding single achievement, or a combination of accomplishments benefiting the profession and public health.

All AACT members and fellows are invited to nominate individuals to be considered by the Selection Committee for this award. Dr. Jeffrey Brent, winner of the 2010 award, will present the Career Achievement Award Lectureship at this year's session of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology.

The 2012 award winner will be announced at the Academy's Members & Fellows Reception at the NACCT meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on the evening of October 4th, 2012. Nominations can be sent to the Academy's email address: admin@clintox.org. The call for nominations closes on June 15th, 2012.

AACT Career Achievement Award	
Previous Winners	
2011	Barry Rumack
2010	Jeff Brent
2009	Ed Krenzelok
2008	Allister Vale
2007	None
2006	Milton Tenenbein (awarded at 2007 meeting)
2005	Mark Thoman
2004	Bill Robertson
2003	Tony Temple
2002	Ruth Lawrence and Howard Mofensen
2001	Walt Decker and Fred Oehme

### In Memorium



**Dr. Albert L. Picchioni Ph.D.**, a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and Founder and the first Executor Director of The University of Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, passed away on April 16, 2012 in Green Valley, Arizona. The Arizona Poison and Drug Information

Center was the first of its kind in the state of Arizona and one of the first Centers in the United States. Dr. Picchioni was a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Researcher, Educator, Pharmacist, and Mentor. His life's work was that of improving the human condition through neuropharmacology research in epilepsy, and toxicology research in poison interventions and poison prevention education. Dr. Picchioni was born August 28, 1921 in Klein, MT to Italian immigrant parents who taught him the work ethic, wisdom, and knowledge he practiced throughout his life as a professor, husband, father and community leader. He earned his B.S in pharmacy, with honors, from the University of Montana in 1943. He served three years (1943-46) as First Sergeant in the U.S. Army as a combat medic pharmacist in the 311th Medical Battalion of the 86th Division in the European and South Pacific Theaters. Subsequently, he worked as a community pharmacist in Harlowton, MT and then completed a residency in hospital pharmacy at the University of Michigan and pursued graduate study at Purdue University where he earned his M.S. in 1950 and Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1952. He was appointed Professor of Pharmacology in the College of Pharmacy at The University of Arizona and for 35 years thereafter, served in multiple capacities of Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Founder and Executive Director of the Arizona Poison Control Program, and Director of the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center. He served on the editorial board of Journal of Toxicology - Clinical Toxicology, was a consulting editor for the American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy, worked on numerous FDA panels for over-the-counter drugs, and for sev-

eral years on the NAS Toxicology Information Program Committee. He received numerous national and regional honors and awards, including the Creative Teaching Award from The University of Arizona, The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy Educator of the Year Award in Basic Sciences, A.H. Robbins Bowl of Hygeia Award for Community Service in Pharmacy, Honorary Bobcat (The University of Arizona), American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy First Place Motion Picture Teaching Award, American Association of Poison Control Centers National Recognition Award for Contributions to Poison Control Center Development and Toxicology, University of Montana School of Pharmacy Award in Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Pharmacy Profession, University of Montana Distinguished Alumnus Award, Findlay E. Russell, M.D., Ph.D. Distinguished Citizen Award (College of Pharmacy), and Tucson Daily Citizen of the Week.

A memorial tribute honoring Dr. Picchioni will be held November 9, 2012 during The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy homecoming week. Gifts can be made to the Albert L. and Theresa M. Picchioni Pharmacology and Toxicology Research and Teaching Endowment in the College of Pharmacy at The University of Arizona. This fund will support the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center and the College of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology for research and teaching. To contribute, please make a check payable to the Picchioni Endowment/UAF and mail it to UA College of Pharmacy, P.O. Box 210202, Tucson AZ 85721 Attention: Picchioni Endowment. You may also contribute online at http://tinyurl.com/ picchioni. Please type Picchioni Endowment in the Comments field of the donation form and indicate Albert Picchioni in the Tribute field.



### Health Policy Corner: What Po You Think? Barbara Kirrane, MD and William Holubek, MD, MPH

#### Should generic drug manufacturers be allowed to control their own labels?

This year, Congressional representatives introduced companion bills (S. 2295 and H.R. 4384) into the Senate and House to amend current generic drug labeling. These bills would permit generic drug manufacturers to update and change warning labels accompanying the medications they manufacture. Current law mandates that the drug information labels of generic drugs to be identical to their brand name predecessor. Recent Supreme Court decisions have upheld an individual's right to seek compensation against brand name manufacturers if they believe they are injured as a result of use of their drug, while those individuals who were harmed by a generic drug may not seek compensation against the generic manufacturer, as generic drug manufacturers cannot control the drug label. These cases have drawn greater scrutiny over the current laws as they stand.

In June 2011, the Supreme Court decided in the case of PLIVA v Mensing, 131 U.S. 2567 (2011). In 2001, Gladys Mensing took generic metoclopramide to treat diabetic gastroparesis, and subsequently developed tardive dyskinesia after four years of use. At the time, the label stated that longer than 12 weeks of therapy had not been evaluated.<sup>1</sup> She sued the manufacturer, PLIVA, for failure to warn adequately of the risks on the drug label, despite accumulating evidence that harm may be caused. Attorneys representing PLIVA argued that they could not change the information contained in the drug labels because the Hatch-Waxman Act requires them to keep the same wording as the brand label. The Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984 is a law that was intended to facilitate a generic drug's entry to the market. Rather than having to conduct expensive clinical trials, the Hatch-Waxman Act required that generics only prove bioequivalence to the corresponding brand name drug. With few exceptions they must keep the label containing the uses, doses and risk the same as the corresponding FDA-approved brand name drug.<sup>2</sup> If problems develop, then the brand-name company is responsible for changing the

label, and the generic company must follow.

In PLIVA, the Supreme Court found by a 5-4 vote in favor of the generic drug manufacturer. This decision potentially affects millions of people, as generic drug consumption is more common than that of brand name drugs. In 2009, approximately 75% of US prescriptions were for generic drugs.<sup>3</sup> More than 40 cases involving generic drug compensation have been dismissed since this ruling.<sup>2</sup>

In the case Wyeth v. Levine, 129 U.S. 1187 (2009), Diana Levine, a professional musician, had her hand and forearm amputated after she developed gangrene and necrosis from intra-arterial administration of Phenergan. She was awarded \$6.8M because she received the brand name drug. A similar case involving the generic drug promethazine and a subsequent arm amputation was dismissed.

Generic drug companies have opposed the legislation introduced by the companion bills. They are concerned that the proposed legislation could create a potentially chaotic situation in which drug companies manufacturing the same drug could have different labels, with different warnings. This would pose a large burden to providers who would now need to be aware of different labels. Furthermore, providers may not be aware that a brand name drug written on a prescription is being substituted by a generic, or which manufacturer has created the drug that is distributed to the patient. Is it now the responsibility of the pharmacy distributing the drug to inform the patient regarding these issues? Increasing competition by supporting generic drug entry into the market has been a major factor in decreasing healthcare costs. Subjecting generic drug manufacturers to the same liability as brand name manufacturers may decrease the affordability and availability of life-saving drugs to millions of Americans. However, patients may be giving up some rights if they choose to take a generic drug.

So we ask you: Should generic drug manufacturers be allowed to control their own labels? What do you think?

1. Thomas, Katie. Generic Drugs Proving Resistant to Damage Suits. The New York Times March 20,2012 http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/21/business/ drug-lawsuits-hinge-on-the-detail-of-a-label.html?\_ r=1 Accessed May 25, 2012

2. Vicini James. Supreme Court rejects generic drug labeling suits Reuters. June 22, 2011 http://www.

reuters.com/article/2011/06/23/us-genericdrugslabeling-warning-idUSTRE75M3RT20110623 Accessed May 25, 2011

3. Grabowski HG, Kyle M, Mortimer R et al. Evolving brand-name and generic drug competition may warrant a revision of the Hatch Waxman Act. Health Aff 2011;30:2157-66.

## Academy to Present 2 Symposia at APAMT Congress in 2012

Two proposals for symposia were recently approved by the AACT Trustees for inclusion in the upcoming Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicologists (APAMT) meeting in 2012. The 11th Annual Congress is scheduled to take place November 29-December 1st and will be held at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Jockey Club Building, in Hong Kong.

One symposium, chaired by AACT president-elect Dr. Bob Hoffman, will review the progress of the international EXTRIP expert work group in defining the status of extracorporeal toxic removal as an effec-



tive management tool for various poisoning agents. A second symposium, reviewing specific foodborne toxins and food safety, will be presented jointly with both AACT and APAMT faculty and is being organized by Dr. Jeffrey Brent. This is the first official collaboration

between the two societies for providing educational content to the APAMT congress.

All AACT members are invited to attend this outstanding international meeting which promises to be a unique learning opportunity. See the APAMT website for further details and to register.

### AACT Endorses New Chelation Guidance for the Public

The AACT has collaborated with the national Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) and the Association of Occupational & Environmental Clinics (AOEC) to issue new guidance intended for the public on the use and value of chelation for children and adults. The primary authors were Drs. Rose Goldman and Alan Woolf, both members of the AACT and Region 1 New England PEHSU. There is much misinformation on the Internet and elsewhere on the role of drugs such as Succimer© (dimercaptosuccinic acid) and calcium sodium ethylenediamine tetracetic acid (edetate or CaNaEDTA) in the management of heavy metal poisoning. And there is also erroneous information on the use of herbal rem-

edies and other products to treat a range of diseases from atherosclerosis to chronic fatigue syndrome to autism. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has also issued warnings periodically concerning the dangers of unsupported promises involving manufacturers of specific herbal products. The AACT recognized its responsibility to alert the public to the hazards of such products and non-evidence based practices such as provocative chelation. For more information, readers can access and download the chelation factsheet at the Toxicology Resources button of the AACT's website at www.clintox.org under the "Public Information" button.

### **Trustees Meet in Virginia**

The Board of Trustees held their mid-year meeting in Alexandria, Virginia on April 16 and 17 to conduct AACT business. Over 25 accomplishments of the Academy over the past two years were reviewed by President Alan Woolf, including such notable events as the joining of the Toxicology History Society and the Food Safety Special Interest Group as two official AACT organizations, the co-sponsorship by AACT of the upcoming NIEHS meeting on Isocyanates in Bethesda, Maryland in November 2012 with discounted AACT member registration, and the securing of AACT representation on the IUTOX congress organizing committees for the upcoming meeting in Seoul, Korea, 2013.

Results of the latest member survey, conducted in December 2011, were analyzed and reviewed by Drs. Sean Nordt and Kennon Heard of the Membership Committee. New recommendations for strategic planning to address voiced member concerns and needs were discussed at length, based on survey results. Strong member support for many AACT current activities, such as the NACCT and AACT Pre-meeting Symposium member discounts and the popular 'Question of the Day', was evident. Sean and Kennon both urged the Board to place member value as the highest priority in determining new AACT services coming on line in 2012 and 2013.



Trustees met with our financial investment advisors, accountant, and management team during the Board meeting to discuss fiduciary responsibilities and duties of Academy leadership. End of year reports for 2011 were discussed and tax filings will be executed on time. Dr. Ruddy Rose presented the Treasurer's report and discussed at length both the 2011 financials as well as budget modifications needed for 2012. Ruddy deserves our thanks for his expertise and close scrutiny of the Academy's financial affairs. A review of all financial transactions of the Academy is conducted annually by an outside auditor. The Board's financial decision-making and budgeting of Academy monies are always carried out with the best interests of the members in mind. The Academy's leadership is committed to careful stewardship of the Academy's resources that have been entrusted to them.

Plans for the upcoming NACCT meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, were discussed. Arrangements for the NACCT meeting venue in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013 were also announced. President-elect Bob Hoffman described an exciting array of educational content that is planned for NACCT 2012, including an interesting pre-meeting symposium on 'Advanced Antidotes' with an outstanding faculty. This promises to be an exceptionally fine event that AACT members will not want to miss.

The latest issue of the AACTion newsletter was reviewed by the Trustees, who went on public record to note with appreciation the fine efforts of our Editor-In-Chief Dr. Barbara Kirrane. New advertising policies and pricing guidance for the newsletter were passed by the Board.

It was also announced at the meeting that the AACT has been re-certified by the ACCME as an accredited CME provider for the next 4 years. The Board went on public record to express its thanks to the co-chairs of the NACCT Education Committee, Matt Sztajnkrycer and Bryan Hayes, for their hard work and the diligence that went into this accomplishment. We are very grateful and appreciative of the efforts of these two volunteers.

There are four Board members whose terms conclude in October 2012, as well as the offices of president, secretary and treasurer; a slate of candidates for those positions was approved by the Trustees. An election will be held in early May and results will be announced at the next AACT business meeting in October.

### AACT Innaugural Meeting: Chicago 1968 Mark Thoman

From the original meeting of the AACT in Chicago in 1968, there was an obvious need for regular communication with its members. As the organization grew, so did the evolution of the Academy news dissemination.

Thanks to the Academy's founder, Eric Comstock, a printed version of the first newsletter was published called the Clinical Toxicology Newsletter. A second version was called the Clinical Toxicology Bulletin which was eventually followed by several versions of AACTion, a name coined by then AACT Secretary-Treasurer Frank Aldrich, who later became one of the Academy's presidents. The volume 1, number 1 issue of AACTion appeared on November, 1973. AACTion passed through several variations from a single free standing publication, which was then incorporated into V & H Tox, ultimately becoming the present on-line version we know today.



THIRD ANNUAL MEETING AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA JACK TAR HOTEL

STMPOSIUM SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1970 CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY OF DRUG ABUSE

ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1970 SELECTED PAPERS ON CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

Clinical Toxicology NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 1970



nal Toxicology AACI, Octoher 21- 23, 1971



# 2012 NACCT Annual Meeting



#### 2012 Annual Meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

October 1-6 The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the American Association of Poison Control Centers are pleased to announce that the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology 2012 and associated pre-meeting functions will be held at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas located in Las Vegas, NV.

This annual conference allows an opportunity for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and scientists from around the world to participate in the sharing of knowledge on a wide variety of clinical toxicology topics and issues. In addition, there will be multiple original research papers presented, a number of symposia, as well as other traditional and novel continuing education sessions.

Click here to **Register** today!

Click here to view the Preliminary Program

Click here for Hotel Reservations

# Calendar of Events

#### June 14-16, 2012

OCUPATOX is a toxicology course and workshop on Occupational Toxicology and Toxic Emergencies, and will be provided in Spanish. Mexico City, Mexico. For more details: www.toxicorp.com/New\_Standard.html

#### **October 1-6, 2012** 2012 Annual Meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV www.clintox.org

# We welcome your Feedback!

Please send us your articles, announcements, ideas, research articles, and contributions. We cannot do this without you! Editor: Barbara Kirrane, MD, FAACT bmkirrane@gmail.com