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Dear Academy Fellows,

It is a great honor to serve as President of the Academy of Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine and Chair of the Academy Council for 2025–2026. As we begin this new term, I am inspired by the remarkable progress made over the past year and energized to build upon this momentum to further advance the Academy's mission in alignment with the [ADLM Strategic Plan 2024–2025 Accomplishments](#)

Under the leadership of Dr. Qing H. Meng and the Academy Council, last year was marked by significant achievements:

- **Content Development:** Published guidance documents on [Laboratory Diagnosis of Respiratory Virus Diagnosis](#) (endorsed by the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology), and the [Measurement and Reporting of Lipids and Lipoproteins](#), with additional documents in development on ED Toxicology, Autoimmune Neurology, Data Analytics, and Alzheimer's Biomarkers. The Content Development Committee, which oversees these documents, established new standard operating procedures for topic selection, peer review, and publication. All the published guidance documents and scientific shorts can be found on the Academy's web site at myadlm.org.

- **Collaborations:** Strengthened partnerships with the Science and Practice Core Committee on Test Utilization initiatives and Data Analytics Steering Committee on content development. Expanded external collaboration with the College of American Pathologists, American Society for Microbiology, American Society for Clinical Pathology and Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists

- **Rebranding and Fellowship Growth:** Continued promotion of our updated fellowship criteria and increased awareness through presentations, social media, and video campaigns, providing a clear pathway for early-career members to advance to full fellowship.

- **Member Engagement:** Advanced the [Implementation Stories Contest](#) concept to showcase the real-world impact of Academy documents.

2025–2026 Priorities

Looking ahead, our goals for this year include:

- Publishing at least four new guidance documents and advancing new topics such as Direct-to-Consumer Testing, Laboratory Change

Management, Thyroid Malignancy, Monoclonal Gammopathies, and Hemoglobinopathies.

- Officially launching the *Implementation Stories Contest* to highlight innovative applications of Academy content in clinical practice.
- Expanding internal collaborations and strengthening external partnerships to continue increase external collaborations and endorsements of Academy documents to increase visibility and impact of our content, including American Society of Microbiologists on Outcome Studies White Paper, American Society of Clinical Pathologists on Test Utilization Initiatives and Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists on Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers Guidance Document.
- Launching a Post Publication Content Taskforce to develop digital content, such as video walkthroughs or live webinars based on our published guidance documents. This pilot initiative will determine the feasibility of establishing a permanent content committee.
- Updating the Awards Committee's charge to become the *Awards and Recognition Committee*, which will also develop a program to recognize Academy achievements throughout the year.
- Creating new opportunities for fellows to engage in Academy work, including a Guidance Document Proposal form for topic submission and targeted calls for volunteers to participate in the guidance document process.

Acknowledgments

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Qing H. Meng for her exceptional leadership over the past year, to our Academy Council for their dedicated service, and to Stefanie Kleinman and Krisna Patel for their diligent work behind the scenes. I would also like to recognize the members of all Academy Committees for their tremendous efforts and accomplishment during the past year including Awards Committee chaired by Gyorgy Abel; the Content Development Committee Chaired by Zahra Shajani-Yi; the Membership Committee Chaired by Hong Kee Lee, the Scientific Shorts Editorial Board Chaired by Sean Campbell; the Nominating Committee Chaired by Jennifer Colby; the Test Utilization Committee Chaired by Alison Woodworth. Your contributions have been invaluable to our success.

Welcome to New Leadership

I am pleased to welcome our new Academy Council members, whose perspectives and energy will help shape the next chapter of our work: Dr. Patrick Kyle, Academy President-Elect, Dr. Christina Pierre, Academy Secretary, Dr. Sarah Hackenmueller, Council member, and I look forward to your contributions.

Finally, to all Academy Fellows: thank you for your commitment to advancing laboratory medicine and patient care. Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and demonstrate the critical value of our profession worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the Chinese characters '赵真' (Zhao Zhen).

Zhen Zhao, PhD, DABCC, FADLM
Academy President