

TUMOR MARKERS AND CANCER DIAGNOSTICS DIVISION NEWS

AACC

Better health through
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TMCDConnect, Summer, Issue IV, August 31, 2020



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THIS ISSUE'S FOCUS:

AACC ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2020

As the historic pandemic hit the human civilization, the [AACC annual scientific meeting](#) was postponed from its regular summer time to winter and now to happen with a virtual only event during [December 13-17, 2020](#).

Stay safe and be grateful for being healthy and productive!

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Message from the Chair

Dear TMCD Division Members,

Greetings, everyone!

I hope you all are in good health and high spirits!

I would like to congratulate and welcome all the new board members: Dr. Lakshmi V. Ramanathan (Past Chair), Dr. Zhen Zhao (Chair Elect), Dr. Raouf Guirguis (Secretary), Dr. Damodara Rao Mendu (Treasurer), and member-at-large: Dr. Lance Liotta, Dr. Katie Thoren, and Dr. Mustafa Barbhuiya. Their term started on January 1, 2020. I look forward to working with you all. I am very grateful to all the founding committee members Drs. Lakshmi Ramanathan, Zhen Zhao, Josh Hayden, Sarah Hackenmueller and Tina Lockwood for their tremendous efforts and diligent works in building the foundation of TMCD division. Special thanks goes to Dr. Lakshmi Ramanathan for her leadership and dedication as the founding chair of the TMCD division.

This is an unusual year with this unprecedented pandemic. All of a sudden, our lives and plans had to change. The division originally plan to organize several events including the Division Member Meet-and-Greet and Board Meeting, Division Networking Event, Joint Division Luncheon during the AACC annual meeting scheduled on July 26-30, 2020. Now things have changed due to the threat of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The AACC President, [Dr. David Grenach has announced on August 19, 2020](#) that [the 2020 AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo will be held entirely as a virtual event](#), rather than a live meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The meeting will still occur from **December 13-17, 2020**, so please continue to hold those dates on your calendar. The AACC Annual Scientific Meeting aims to provide scientific conference and expo on an innovative digital platform built for learning, collaboration, networking and technology exploration. Most importantly, a virtual meeting ensures the health and safety of our global audience while providing greater accessibility and flexibility for our attendees to consume world-class scientific content in the way that is most convenient for them.

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

We hope to see you at our virtual conference.

Sincerely,

Qing Meng, PhD, DABCC, FAACC

Chair, Tumor Markers and Cancer Diagnostics Division of AACC

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From the Editor's Desk

**"I wish I had the voice of Homer
To sing of rectal carcinoma,
Which kills a lot more chaps, in fact,
Than were bumped off when Troy was sacked."
— [J.B.S. Haldane](#) (November 5, 1892 – December 1, 1964)**

The lines above are from a poem, 'Cancer is a Funny Thing' published in 'The New Statesman' (21 Feb 1964). Dr. Haldane, a British-Indian biochemist succumbed to colorectal cancer on December 1, 1964 in Bhubaneswar, India. He was describing experience with his own colostomy. The life and works of JBS Haldane as a profound biochemist inspired me as a young biology student to pursue biochemistry as a subject of my graduate studies.

Six decades later, cancer continues to kill a lot more chaps. Progress has been made. We have sequenced human genome. We sequenced majority of the tumor genomes that are [publicly available](#). Many scientists argue that our knowledge of driver mutations and expansion of discovery of driver oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes are saturated now. Early diagnostic biomarker discovery remained a sham for decades while innovations continued to shape the future of tumor marker and diagnostics field positively impacting patient care. The latest liquid biopsy test approved by FDA is FoundationOne [Liquid CDx assay](#) that interrogates [311 genes as companion diagnostic tool](#) in cell free DNA from plasma samples.

The Tumor Markers and Cancer Diagnostics Division newsletter, ***TMCDConnect*** will continue to bring exciting news, innovations and latest practice guidelines around use of tumor markers for our division members and larger community.

Mustafa A. Barbhuiya, PhD
Editor, *TMCDConnect*

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Division Leadership Roster

Please visit TMCD page in [AACCC website](#) and connect with us in Artery

Chair	Qing He Meng	Past Chair	Lakshmi Vulimiri Ramanathan
Address	University of Texas/MD Anderson Cancer Center Laboratory Medicine 1515 Holcombe Blvd Unit 37 Houston, TX, 77030-4000	Address	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Laboratory Medicine 327 East 64th Street, Room 525 New York, NY, 10065
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Chair-Elect	Zhen Zhao	Secretary	Raouf Albert Guirguis
Address	Weill Cornell Medicine Pathology and Laboratory Medicine 525 E 68th St # F-701 New York, NY, 10065-4870	Address	BiotechPharma Corp. Admin P.O. Box 710989 Herndon, VA, 20171
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Treasurer	Damodara Rao Mendu	Member at Large	Mustafa A. Barbhuiya
Address	4934 Webbed Foot Way Ellicott City, MD, 21043	Address	Penn State University College of Medicine 81 University Mnr E Hershey, PA, 17033-2812
Contact	Phone: 1 410 231-1147 Email	Contact	Phone: (443) 540 - 9072 Email

Member at Large	Lance Liotta	Member at Large	Katie Thoren
Address	George Mason University - Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine Department of Pathology 10920 George Mason Circle, MS 1A9 Room 2005 Manassas, VA, 20110	Address	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center 327 East 64th St New York, NY, 10065
Contact	Phone: 703-993-9444 Email	Contact	Phone: 6466081391 Email

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Virtual AACC ASM 2020



Due to the threat of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, AACC's Board of Directors has made a pivotal decision: the [2020 AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo](#) will be held entirely as a virtual event, rather than a live meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The meeting will still occur from December 13-17, 2020, so please continue to hold those dates on your calendar.

Please check the meeting website for the latest updates and answers to frequently asked questions. For additional questions, please contact AACC's customer service team at custserv@aacc.org or 1.202.857.0717.

Please check the message for David Grenache, PhD, DABCC, FAACC
AACC President in [AACC Artery](#)

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Best Abstract Awards for AACC ASM 2020

Tumor Markers and Cancer Diagnostics Division has selected the following two Best Abstract Awards for the **2020 AACC Annual Scientific Meeting**.

The Division has received many well-written, high caliber abstracts this year, and the selection process was extremely competitive. We are pleased to announce that the winners for the 2020 TMCD division best abstract awards are:

Abstract B-353: Feasibility Study of NuProbe VarTrace AML Multi-Gene Panel

Dr. Durga Prasad Dash

Director, Molecular Oncology & Genetics (MOGL)

Versiti Wisconsin (Formerly Known as Blood Center Wisconsin)

Milwaukee, WI

Email: dpdash@versiti.org

Abstract B-325: Early Detection of Tumor Specific Protein 70 Positive Circulating Tumor Cells in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Dr. Yuexinzi Jin

Department of Laboratory Medicine, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University

No.300, Guangzhou Road, Nanjing

Nanjing 210029, China

Email: jinyuexinzi@foxmail.com

Please join us in congratulating them for their outstanding research work and achievement.

Congratulations

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Future of the TMCD Division Newsletter

Dear Division Members,

I propose forming an Editorial Board. I am volunteering as an Editor to start with. We plan to publish four newsletters in a year in January (Winter edition), April (Spring edition), July (Summer edition), October (Fall edition).

Items for the newsletter that I have in mind:

- Brief commentary on a seminal paper from the preceding quarter on tumor marker/liquid biopsy/soluble markers in oncology
- Comment on guidelines on use of existing tumor markers
- How does the CMP14 behave in cancer? One cancer, one analyte at a time! This will be a regular feature in coming issues
- Regular items, announcements and achievements of division members

Collect materials to compile from both TMCD members and sometimes from outside experts. Please let me know if you have ideas and comments or want to be on editorial board.

Thank you Dr. Rivakraj Punchoo, Chemical Pathologist, University of Pretoria, Arcadia, South Africa for your interest in *TMCDConnect*.

Thank you and stay safe!

Sincerely yours,

Mustafa A. Barbhuiya, PhD
Editor, *TMCDConnect*