

# Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Grace M. Kroner  
Cleveland, Ohio

## President's Letter — Angella Charnot-Katsikas

Dear ACLPS Members and Colleagues:

My first ACLPS meeting was 16 years ago when I attended as a trainee and knew almost no one. I have since been a long-time member and Chair of the Education Committee, and I am now honored to write to you as your new ACLPS President. I am delighted and privileged to help lead this wonderful organization with truly exceptional colleagues. Together we strive to continue to advance the field of laboratory medicine.

The 2023 annual meeting was a hit! The University of Virginia did an incredible job of planning and hosting a fantastic meeting. We express our sincerest gratitude to Dr. Jim Gorham and his team for their efforts in completing such a wonderful and well-rounded educational and social event. We eagerly anticipate what Drs. Eldad Hod and Tiffany Thomas, along with their team at Columbia University, have in store for us for our next annual meeting! I look forward to seeing you all in New York from June 6-8, 2024. If we are lucky, we just might get a special appearance by Jerry, Kramer, George, or Elaine!

Abstract submissions from our young investigators are a key feature of our annual meeting and organization. Therefore, please encourage your residents, fellows, graduate students, and other trainees to submit their best research to ACLPS 2024. This year, we are happy to announce that we will also hold a special session (or two) for junior faculty presentations and awards. We are very excited to bring this new feature to our annual meetings and look forward to recognizing the exceptional work of our junior faculty members! Check out our website and be on the lookout for email announcements about the abstract submission process and deadlines.

These will be coming out soon!

ACLPS continues its ongoing grant support for junior physicians and scientists. The Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Grant Program (now in its seventh year) remains a terrific means for early career

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- 2024 Lab Medicine meeting is scheduled for New York City in June!
- Consider submitting a nomination for one of the annual awards or a leadership/committee position
- Trainees and junior faculty (**new!**): Start thinking about submitting an abstract for the annual meeting

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### **President's Letter (continued)**

scholars to gain funding for research related to laboratory science. The deadline for grant submissions closed on December 15. Now begins the difficult task of selecting the grant award winners from the many excellent proposals received!

Initiatives like our grant program and new junior faculty awards will continue to attract young physicians and scientists to ACLPS and keep them engaged as productive, ongoing members of our society in the years to come. In addition, there are other goals we seek to accomplish this year. Among these are a focus on inclusivity and expanding access to ACLPS membership. To this end, we have discussed the removal of the sponsorship requirement for membership, holding a special 'welcome' networking session for new members at the annual meeting, and beginning a Women in Laboratory Medicine mentorship program.

ACLPS also continues to advocate on behalf of laboratory medicine physicians and scientists. In this effort, the Executive Council recently submitted a letter commenting on the FDA's proposed rule regarding the regulation of laboratory developed tests (LDTs).

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to ACLPS in the past year. As an entirely volunteer run organization, we simply could not continue to thrive without the dedication of the wonderful individuals who serve on our Committees and Executive Council – you all have my sincerest gratitude. I would like to especially acknowledge the work done by Dr. Anthony Killeen (Past President), Dr. Chris Tormey (Immediate Past President), Dr. Ronald Jackups (Secretary), Dr. Tatiana Yuzyuk (Treasurer) and Dr. Jonathan Genzen (President-Elect) – I could not have asked for a better group of co-officers and am grateful for all their support. Many thanks also to Dr. Grace Kroner for helping us to edit and publish these newsletters!

Looking forward to another great year together and I hope to see all of you in New York next June! Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Angella Charnot-Katsikas, MD  
Associate Professor of Pathology  
Loyola University Medicine

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## Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**Friday, June 9th, 2023 in Charlottesville, VA**

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM ET by Dr. Christopher Tormey

II. Report from Executive Council – Christopher Tormey

Dr. Tormey welcomed the participants to the Annual Meeting, and he reported on the highlights of the Academy's activities in the last year.

He expressed the gratitude of the Academy to the 2023 hosts at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and especially to co-hosts James Gorham and Lindsay Bazydlo and the planning team.

Dr. Tormey also expressed his gratitude to the members to the Executive Council and Officers during the past year.

III. Young Investigator Award Program Report – Jorge Sepulveda

Dr. Sepulveda presented the update from the YIA award program. ACLPS received 74 abstract submissions from 29 institutions. 29 judges participated in reviews, scoring on a 1-9 NIH-style system, with approximately 4-5 judges per abstract. There were a total of 22 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator awards, including 2 student awards. Six abstracts were considered for William L. Roberts YIA with Distinction, and 2 of them received the award. The final program included 49 oral presentations and 25 posters.

IV. Reports of standing committees:

- *Program and Finance Committee – Angella Charnot-Katsikas*

Dr. Charnot-Katsikas presented the report from the Program and Finance Committee. She informed that the committee met several times in the 2022-2023 period. Discussions primarily focused on planning/updates for the 2023 meeting and strategies to help hosts of 2024 and future meetings.

- *Education Committee – Amit Gokhale*

Dr. Gokhale announced the 4 recipients of the Strandjord Young Investigator

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### Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

Grants: Kayode Balogun, PhD (Albert Einstein School of Medicine), Kai Rodger, MD, PhD (University of Iowa), Nicholas Spies, MD (Washington University School of Medicine), and Cheryl Maier, MD, PhD (Emory University School of Medicine). Dr. Gokhale congratulated the recipients, who will present their findings at the ACLPS 2024 Annual Meeting. Applications for the next cycle of awards will open in October 2023.

Dr. Gokhale also discussed several collaborations of ACLPS with ASCP (American Society for Clinical Pathology), including a joint educational session at the ASCP 2022 Annual Meeting (“Informatics Challenges with Providing Inclusive Care for the LGBTQ Population” by Matthew Krasowski), an AJCP ACLPS series of journal articles, and participation in the ASCP RISE (Resident In-Service Examination) committee.

- *Membership Committee – David Jaye*

Dr. Jaye presented the Membership Committee update. Currently, ACLPS has 268 Active members and 167 Associate members. In the last 12 months the committee received 30 Active member and 39 Associate member applications. New members this year are from more than 30 institutions. Applications are submitted electronically using the Membership portal. The committee members review applications and vote to approve applicants. Dr. Jaye thanked the members of the Membership Committee and the sponsors of new members.

- *Website Committee – Noah Hoffman*

Dr. Jackups presented the report from the Website Committee on behalf of the Chair, Noah Hoffman. He acknowledged the contributions of the committee members in multiple activities, including: website support for the 2023 ACLPS Annual Meeting, announcements for grant opportunities and call for abstracts, a native HTML version of the newsletter, the employment opportunity listings (45 posts in the last 12 months), and the ACLPS Twitter account, @ACLPS\_. Dr. Jackups also stated that there will be a transition to a new Chair of the Website Committee with this year’s elections.

### V. Treasurer Report – Tatiana Yuzyuk

Dr. Jackups presented the Treasurer report on behalf of Dr. Yuzyuk. He informed that the FY23 audit has completed, and no issues were found. Dr. Jackups re-

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### Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

viewed current ACLPS finances and discussed the changes in the balances of investment and bank accounts over time. The ACLPS growing membership and member donations continue to support ACLPS. Active membership dues were increased from \$100 to \$150 in 2022 to continue to support the mission of ACLPS, including funding of Young Investigator Grants.

Dr. Jackups gratefully acknowledged generous donations from the following individuals: Edward Ashwood, Geza Bodor, Jonathan Genzen, David Jaye, James Gorham, Valerie Ng, Petrie Rainey, David Sacks, Jorge Sepulveda, and Tatiana Yuzyuk. He also thanked the 15 sponsors of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

#### VI. Election results – Ronald Jackups, Secretary

The ACLPS 2023 election results were presented by Dr. Jackups. The 2023 ballot and election were conducted electronically using the membership portal. PDF ballots were also sent via email. 102 ballots were submitted online. Dr. Jackups announced that all nominees on the FY23 ballot were elected by >90% of the vote each, and the members voted for the amendments to the bylaws 98 to 2. Elected officers and committee members included:

President-Elect: Jonathan Genzen, MD, PhD (University of Utah)

Treasurer: Tatiana Yuzyuk, PhD (University of Utah)

Executive Council: Carey-Ann Burnham, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis), Roger Bertholf, PhD (Houston Methodist Hospital)

Education Committee: Megan Amerson-Brown, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Nicholas Larkey, PhD (University of Virginia), Yang Cao, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis)

Membership Committee: Jenna Khan, MD (University of Virginia Health System)

Website Committee, Chair: Joseph Rudolf, MD (University of Utah)

Website Committee: Abraham Qavi, MD, PhD (University of California, Irvine)

Nominating and Awards Committee: Khushbu Patel, PhD (University of Pennsylvania)

Congratulations were extended to our 2023 elected officers and committee members.

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### **Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)**

#### VII. Installation of new President

Dr. Angella Charnot-Katsikas was acknowledged as the new ACLPS President as of the end of this Annual Meeting. Dr. Charnot-Katsikas thanked Dr. Tormey and noted that she was honored to proceed in this role.

#### VIII. Adjournment

The Annual Business Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM ET.

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### **2023 Annual Meeting Report — Jim Gorham and Lindsay Bazydlo**

On June 8-10, the University of Virginia Department of Pathology co-hosted the Annual ACLPS Meeting. The conference drew some 200 experts and trainees in Laboratory Medicine from around the country to the DoubleTree hotel in Charlottesville for a series of seminars and cutting edge abstracts in the field, covering a wide variety of topics in clinical chemistry, clinical laboratory microbiology, transfusion medicine, informatics, molecular genomics, laboratory utilization and others.

Early birds arriving on Wednesday were able to avail themselves of shuttles to take attendees from the Conference hotel (the DoubleTree by Hilton) to the UVA campus for personalized guided tours of the campus, including the famous Rotunda that oversees UVA's "Academical Village," as well as to downtown Charlottesville.

Thursday was chock-full of exciting seminars given by leaders and experts in Laboratory Medicine, and the day's sessions closed with a short presentation by Columbia's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, to introduce attendees to ACLPS24, taking place in the Big Apple. The Thursday night welcome reception was at the DoubleTree.

Friday morning, the Young Investigator Oral Parallel Abstract presentations took place in breakout conference rooms at the DoubleTree; Young Investigators were also featured at well attended and interactive poster sessions. At noon, the ACLPS Business Meeting (with lunch) took place in the DoubleTree ballroom. In the afternoon, attendees heard from UVA's own Dr. Amy Mathers, this year's awardee of the Ernest Cotlove Award Lectureship, with a timely and exciting talk "The 'next' pandemic: antibacterial resistance".

Shuttles left DoubleTree in early evening to bring attendees to the Cocktail Hour and Awards Banquet at Montalto (the "high mountain") that is part of Thomas Jefferson's historic estate, Monticello. Repose, the 11,000-square-foot house atop Montalto, is a gracious 1908 American Country house restored by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in 2011. The event was memorable, with sweeping views of Charlottesville and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Featured at the event were signature Blue and Orange Cocktails, representing the colors of UVA, founded by Mr. Jefferson. At the awards banquet, young investigators received their awards, and the evening was highlighted by Dr. Jorge Sepulveda receiving the Evans Award.

Saturday morning's sessions opened with the Ellis Benson Award and Lecture, delivered by Dr. Sarah Wheeler of UPMC, who spoke on "Using data to improve laboratory medicine for special populations." After additional morning sessions in laboratory medicine, the ACLPS meeting was adjourned.

UVA Pathology would like to thank the many sponsors and other contributors to ACLPS, as well as the ACLPS Program and Finance Committee for wonderful input this past year. We especially want to acknowledge and thank our partners, Custom Management Group, a full-service Association Management Company, without whom ACLPS23 would not have been nearly as successful.

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### 2023 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awardees

| First Name                       | Institution                  | Sponsor                |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Awards with Distinction</b>   |                              |                        |
| Joshua Lewis                     | Brigham and Women's Hospital | David Jaye             |
| Joseph Lownik                    | Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  | David Gibb             |
| Taylor Takasugi                  | Yale School of Medicine      | Henry Rinder           |
| <b>Student Awards</b>            |                              |                        |
| Travis Jebackumar                | Baylor University            | Esther Soundar         |
| Anabel Miller                    | Columbia University          | Tiffany Thomas         |
| <b>Young Investigator Awards</b> |                              |                        |
| Benjamin Andress                 | Mayo Clinic                  | Maria Alice Willrich   |
| Friederike Antonia Arlt          | Berlin University            | Mark H. Wener          |
| Mohammad I. Barouqa              | Cleveland Clinic             | Morayma Reyes Gil      |
| Hannah Brown                     | Washington University        | Christopher Farnsworth |
| Robert Frick                     | Washington University        | Chang Liu              |
| Ria Fyffe-Freil                  | Mayo Clinic                  | Maria Alice Willrich   |
| Stephen Hung                     | George Washington University | Jorge Sepulveda        |
| Sarrah Lahorewala                | Houston Methodist Hospital   | Roger Bertholf         |
| Timothy Miller                   | University of Washington     | Joshua Lieberman       |
| Hiroto Nakahara                  | Emory University             | Sean R. Stowell        |
| Jonathan Pham                    | University of Utah           | Mark Fisher            |
| Nicholas Spies                   | Washington University        | Mark Zaydman           |
| Patrick Vanderboom               | Mayo Clinic                  | Maria Alice Willrich   |
| Casey Vieni                      | New York University          | Ronald Jackups         |
| Sithara Vivek                    | University of Minnesota      | Bharat Thyagarajan     |
| Maxwell Weidmann                 | Columbia University          | Eldad Hod              |
| Rebecca Wilson                   | University of Washington     | Hsuan-Chieh Liao       |



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### Education Committee Update– Amit Gokhale

#### Strandjord Young Investigator Grant Program

The application cycle for the 2023-2024 Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Grant program is now closed for the year. These grants are for research relevant to clinical laboratory science, clinical pathology, and laboratory medicine. Proposed research may be clinical, translational, basic science, quality improvement, and/or regulatory. Grant recipients must either be in training (residency and/or clinical or research fellowship) OR less than 3 years after their first faculty appointment (any level) at the time of application. Funding for individual grants is limited to \$7,500. This past year, we had an excellent crop of grant applications and four award winners were selected: Cheryl Maier, M.D, PhD, Kayode Balogun, PhD, Kai Rogers, M.D, PhD, and Nicholas Spies, M.D. Huge congratulations to our four winners! They will be presenting their research findings at the 2024 ACLPS Annual Meeting from June 6-8 in New York, NY.

For further questions regarding the grant program, please contact Amit Gokhale (amitgokhale01@gmail.com).

#### AJCP-ACLPS How Do I Series

ACLPS had initiated a series of review articles titled “ACLPS Critical Reviews” published in AJCP to review relevant topics in the field of laboratory medicine. To keep pathologists more abreast with the rapid advances in the field and to better target the general pathology audience, we have decided to relaunch and rename it to a “How Do I... “series. The revamped and reformatted ACLPS series will continue to be published in AJCP and will discuss a challenging contemporary topic in the field through a case-based format. The subject matter will be applicable to any pathologist involved with clinical pathology and also serve as an education resource for pathology residents and fellows. For anyone interested in contributing to this series, please contact Amit Gokhale (amitgokhale01@gmail.com).

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### Education Committee Update (continued)

#### **RISE & RISE-First Exams**

The Resident in Service Exam (RISE) committee met on September 22-23, 2023 in Chicago, IL to vet and review questions for the RISE and RISE-First examinations. As a member of the RISE First Clinical Pathology section, we vetted questions for the Clinical Pathology portion of the exam. We will be able to review the preliminary version of the exam in Spring 2024 and receive feedback on the questions after the exam is administered in Fall 2024.

The ACLPS Education Committee is recruiting volunteers to serve as question writers for the RISE/RISE-First/PRISE Questions. ACLPS is a collaborating society for the RISE examination, and ACLPS members have been outstanding question writing contributors. This is a great way for members to contribute to resident education. For anyone interested in submitting questions, please contact the ASCP RISE staff member Jay Wagner ([jay.wagner@ascp.org](mailto:jay.wagner@ascp.org)).

#### **ASCP-ACLPS Companion Session**

The ASCP-ACLPS companion session is held at the ASCP Meeting every year. It is usually a one-hour session highlighting educational topics and/or innovative research in the field of laboratory medicine. Ellen F. Foxman, M.D, PhD gave an excellent presentation at the 2023 ASCP Annual Meeting, which was held October 18-20 in Long Beach, California. For anyone interested in being a speaker at the 2024 ASCP-ACLPS session, please contact Amit Gokhale ([amitgokhale01@gmail.com](mailto:amitgokhale01@gmail.com)).

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### **Request for Nominations– Benson and Evans Awards**

ACLPS is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Ellis Benson Award and the 2024 Gerald T. Evans Award.

The **Ellis Benson Award** is presented annually to a young physician and/or scientist (member or non-member of the Academy) in recognition of meritorious accomplishments in the field of Laboratory Medicine. Nominees must either be under 45 years of age by July 1, 2024, or within 10 years of completion of clinical training.

The **Gerald T. Evans Award** is presented annually to an ACLPS member for outstanding leadership and/or service to the Academy. Names of past awardees can be found on the ACLPS website at [www.aclps.org](http://www.aclps.org).

Please submit the name of your nominee(s), a current CV, and a detailed letter that explains why the individual deserves the award to:

Christopher Tormey, MD

Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee

[christopher.tormey@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.tormey@yale.edu)

Please put the words “ACLPS Nomination” in the subject line.

Award nominations are due by January 15, 2024.

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### **Request for Nominations– Leadership and Committee Positions**

ACLPS requests nominations for leadership and committee positions.

The positions available are:

#### **President-Elect**

The elected individual will serve a four-year term as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, and Past-President.

#### **Executive Council**

Member-at-Large (2 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

#### **Nominating and Awards Committee**

Member-at-Large (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

#### **Membership Committee**

Chair (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

#### **Membership Committee**

Member-at-Large (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

#### **Education Committee**

Chair (1 position): The elected individual will serve a three-year term.

#### **Education Committee**

Member-at-Large (3 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

#### **Website Committee**

Member-at-Large (2 positions): The elected individuals will serve a three-year term.

Nominations for these positions are due on January 15, 2024. Submit the name of your nominee(s) along with a current CV to:

Christopher Tormey, MD

Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee

[christopher.tormey@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.tormey@yale.edu)

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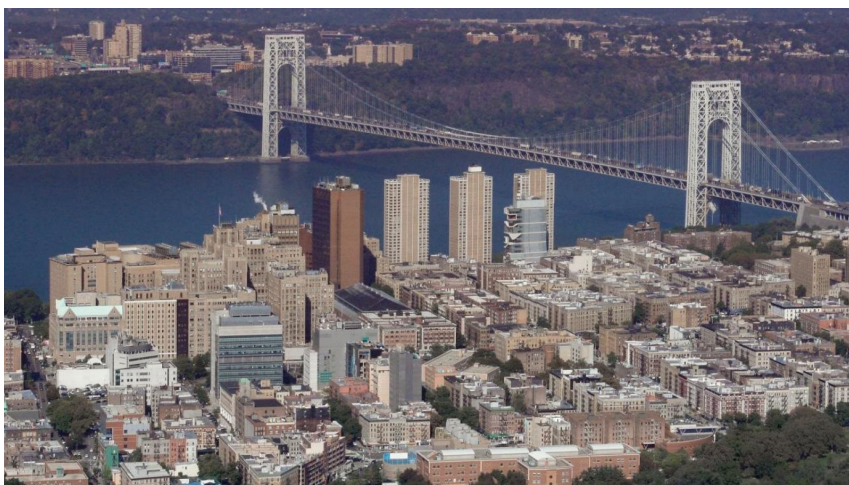
### 2024 Lab Medicine Meeting Update

The Department of Pathology and Cell Biology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center is hard at work planning the ACLPS 2024 meeting, which will be held at the Columbia University Faculty House from June 6-8, 2024.

If you are interested in sponsoring the meeting or have an industry contact for someone who might, please reach out to the Columbia organizers (Eldad Hod and Tiffany Thomas: [eh2217@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:eh2217@cumc.columbia.edu), [tt2254@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:tt2254@cumc.columbia.edu)). We also welcome all suggestions or special requests so that we can host an unforgettable meeting.

### Call for Abstracts

We are soliciting abstracts from trainees and junior faculty (new!), which may be presented as posters or selected for oral presentations. Abstracts should be submitted through ExOrdo (<https://aclpsconf2024.exordo.com/>) by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, Monday, February 5, 2024. The Executive Council has authorized up to 20 Young Investigator Awards for trainees and 2 Junior Faculty Awards this year. Up to 2 additional awards may be granted for undergraduate, MD, PhD or MD/PhD students. Please see the ACLPS website for details (<https://www.aclps.org/aclps-2024>).



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### **Membership Updates**

We welcome Mark Girton, MD (University of Michigan) who was appointed to the Membership Committee.

We also welcome our new active and associate members!

### **New Active Members**

Megan Amerson-Brown

Saja Asakrah

Maryam Asif

Adina Badea

Lori Bourassa

Jeffrey William Craig

Saswati Das

Rebekah Dumm

Jinbo Fan

Daniel Green

Shiu-Ki Rocky Hui

Evangelos Ntrivalas

Ifeyinwa Obiorah

Melinda Poulter

Abraham Jaleel Qavi

Christine G. Roth

Jansen N. Seheult

Emily A. Snavely

Arthur H. Totten

Eli Williams

Shelly M. Williams

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### Membership Updates

#### New Associate Members

Robert Achram  
Adeolu Adegoke  
Benjamin Andress  
Friederike Antonia Arlt  
Ejas Palathingal Bava  
Timothy Bell  
Hannah Marie Brown  
Tatiana Coverdell  
Ronald Devera  
Lisa Friedman  
Mari B. Ishak Gabra  
Emily Gardner  
Tappy Gish  
Jack Logan Harbert  
Zita Hubler  
Stephen Hung  
Timothy Isaac  
Sylvia Jang  
Daniel Montelongo Jauregui  
Travis Abel Jebackumar  
Subhashree Mallika Krishnan  
Sarrah Lahorewala  
Erving T. Laryea  
Xu Li  
Preeti Malik  
Adwait Marhatta  
Patrick Morse  
Andrew T. Nelson  
Lily Olayinka  
Lucas Osborn  
Lalit Patel  
Megan Pater  
Jonathan Pham  
Arjun Tudi Reddy

Ansley Scott  
Conrad Shebelut  
Fahad Nawaz Sheikh  
Nicholas Charles Spies  
Caroline Stanek  
Giannoula Tansarli  
Casey Robert Vieni  
Qian Wang  
Laura Warren  
Homayemem Weli  
Bettie Yeboah  
Christopher Zarbock  
Selveras Anwar Moustafa Zayes



## **Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists**

Our academy was founded in 1966 and currently has active affiliations with 70 of the approximately 150 academic and community training centers that train pathology residents in clinical pathology.

From its origin, it has followed the mission statement of being dedicated to the advancement of teaching and scholarship in laboratory medicine.

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Email: [ACLPS@ARUPLAB.COM](mailto:ACLPS@ARUPLAB.COM)