Delays of Publication of Papers until Their Presentation at Meetings

It is accepted in some circles that papers cannot be presented at meetings if their content has appeared in print. The usual rationale for this approach is that no one will come to the meeting if only published information is presented. As a result of the rules from meeting organizers, editors are asked by authors to delay publication of accepted papers until the time of a meeting. I believe it is time to examine this approach.

Times have changed: Information in journals such as this one is now more up-to-date in many cases than information presented at meetings. The interval from a typical meeting abstract deadline to the date of the meeting is now longer than the interval from submission of a manuscript to its publication as a complete, peer-reviewed and edited paper. This is a new fallout of the electronic age.

Meetings have two major purposes related to the papers presented at them: rapid dissemination of information and discussion of findings. Dissemination of information is delayed by the policy that only unpublished information can be presented; thus, this policy is counterproductive. Similarly, it is doubtful that the ability to discuss findings and ideas at a meeting is hurt by the prior publication of results—in fact, it can be argued that prior publication would be a boon to intelligent discussion of papers.

As an editor who has worked for many years to speed the transmission of information to our readers, I am reluctant to withhold information to please meeting organizers. I suggest that meeting organizers should make exceptions to their “rule” about prior publication. One exception that might be well received would be for papers that are accepted for poster presentations. Another exception might be made routinely when the presenter must pay not only a registration fee for the meeting but also a fee to submit an abstract. I remind authors that this journal imposes neither a manuscript submission fee nor page charges, nor any other charges, and that we add more value than most meetings by virtue of expert peer review and tough editing (which typically are nonexistent for meeting abstracts), not to mention wide dissemination.

Our subscribers pay for the Journal, and I believe we should give them our best and provide the most up-to-date information. In view of these considerations, requests to delay publication of papers will need to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. We will no longer honor such requests automatically.

Dr. Gerald R. Cooper Celebrates his 90th Birthday

Dr. Gary Meyers sent the following account of a celebration honoring Dr. Gerald Cooper:

On Friday, November 19, 2004, Dr. Gerald R. Cooper turned 90 years of age. Turning 90 is in itself a milestone, but to do so and be actively employed is remarkable. For Dr. Cooper, the day started out just like so many other days in his more than 52-year career at CDC. However, this Friday was special, and at 2:30 in the afternoon more than 150 of his co-workers, family, and friends surprised the rarely speechless Dr. Cooper with a wonderful birthday celebration.

Dr. Cooper was born November 19, 1914, in Scranton, SC. His family moved to Durham, NC in 1925. He attended Duke University where he received his BA, MA, PhD, and MD degrees. Dr. Cooper moved to Atlanta in 1950 to intern at Lawson VA Hospital. He started his distinguished career at CDC on June 18, 1952. Indeed, he is one of the pioneers and guiding forces behind the agency’s rise to worldwide renown. Fifty years ago, Dr. Cooper had the foresight to recognize the growing potential of cholesterol measurement as a predictor of risk for heart disease. Through decades of dedicated effort and scientific leadership, Dr. Cooper developed analytical benchmarks to improve the accuracy and precision of laboratory measurements of cholesterol and other lipids. This critical work established the CDC Lipid Standardization Program nationally and internationally and became a model for similar efforts to ensure comparability in the measurements of other important clinical analytes.

Dr. Cooper has received many awards to honor his achievements in clinical chemistry and public health. Some of these are the Hektoen Award from the American Medical Association in 1954, a Commendation Medal from the Public Health Service in 1964, the AACC Fisher Award in Clinical Chemistry in 1975, the Assistant Secretary of Health Award for Exceptional Achievement in 1984, the Atlanta Federal Scientific/Professional Employee of the Year for outstanding laboratory contributions in heart disease in 1989, the AACC Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry in 1992, the Department of Health and Human Services Award in Biomedical Research in 1993, the CDC Charles C. Shephard Award for Lifetime Scientific Achievement in 2002, and the Duke University School of Medicine “Distinguished Alumnus Award” in 2004.

Dr. Cooper has served the AACC in a number of capacities, including as Chair of the Board of Editors of Selected Methods in Clinical Chemistry, member of the Board of Editors of Clinical Chemistry, and member of the Board of Directors. In 1984, he served as AACC President.

At 90, Dr. Cooper remains dedicated and busy. He currently serves as Medical Research Officer in the Clinical Chemistry Branch, Division of Laboratory Sciences. With a twinkle in his eye, Dr. Cooper will tell you he does not want anyone to think he is sitting around waiting to retire.

In Memoriam: Bernard E. Statland

Dr. Ralph Ito sent the following memoriam:

Dr. Bernard Statland died on October 19, 2004, from a brain tumor
He received his BA in chemistry summa cum laude (1963), MD (1968), and PhD in biochemistry (1970) from the University of Minnesota. His PhD thesis was entitled *Role of Calcium in Heart Muscle Metabolism*. He went on to complete an internship in internal medicine at the University of California, San Diego (1970). In 1999, he entered the University of Minnesota Law School and received his JD in May 2003.

Dr. Statland spent his professional life as a clinical pathologist, clinical chemist, researcher, professor, government servant, and attorney. After his internship, he assumed positions as the Director of Toxicology and Drug Metabolism, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1975); Director of Clinical Chemistry at the University of California, Davis (1978); Director of Clinical Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center (1981); Chairman of Clinical Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Methodist Hospital (1987); CEO/President, National Health Laboratory (1991); Medical Director, Roche Diagnostics (1996); CEO/Medical Director, Consolidated Laboratory Network, North Shore-Long Island (1997); and then Director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration (FDA; 2000). Before working at the FDA, he entered law school at the University of Minnesota in 1999, graduating in May 2003. In September 2003, he started his practice at Arent Fox Law Firm in Washington, DC, working in FDA law and in healthcare law.

During his career, he published numerous books and articles in a variety of journals. He authored or coauthored 11 books, 36 chapters in books, and more than 150 articles in journals, 44 of which were published in *Clinical Chemistry*. The articles covered a broad spectrum of themes such as intraindividual variations, means to predict fetal lung maturity, analytical assay assessment, new laboratory instrument evaluations, coagulation assays, decision levels, and patient reference intervals, to name a few.

Dr. Statland was a deeply religious individual who practiced his own faith but also studied and practiced other religions and philosophies. He had a library of books on philosophy and studied the works of the classical philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, and many others.

Bernie, as he was known to many of us, will be deeply missed and will always be remembered for his contributions to clinical chemistry, the practice of laboratory medicine, his work at the FDA, and his wish to practice healthcare law.

During his postsurgical therapy, Bernie donated much of his time and support to the Brain Tumor Society, raising funds for brain tumor research. Those who wish to send condolences are asked to contribute to the Brain Tumor Society, c/o Lionel Chaiken, PO Box 107, Middletown, MD 21769, in Dr. Statland’s name.

Dr. Joseph A. Knight Receives Pathology Award for Distinguished Service

Dr. Joseph A. Knight received the Ward Burdick Award for Distinguished Service to Clinical Pathology on October 8 in San Antonio. The award recognizes an American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) member who has made a significant contribution to pathology through sustained service to the profession and ASCP.

Dr. Knight has had a long and exceptional teaching career. He served as instructor of pathology at the University of Utah from 1966 to 1967 and associate clinical professor at the University of Texas-San Antonio from 1975 to 1976. In 1977, he returned to teach at the University of Utah Medical School, where he is currently professor of pathology and head of the division of education. In addition to administrative responsibilities, he teaches programs in medical technology, laboratory medicine, and biological science.

“In addition to influencing a generation of pathology residents,” said Phil Barney, MD, FASCP, “his textbooks published by ASCP Press are standard laboratory texts and widely used as instructional material at all lab levels.” Textbooks written by Dr. Knight include *Body Fluids: Laboratory Examination of Cerebrospinal, Synovial and Serous Fluids, A Textbook Atlas and Laboratory Medicine and the Aging Process*.

Born in 1930 in Provo, UT, Dr. Knight grew up during the Depression, overcoming much adversity to get where he is today. The third youngest of nine children, he dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade to join the Navy, where he worked as a laboratory technologist from 1948 to 1952.

After serving in Japan and Korea during the Korean War, Dr. Knight
returned home to work his way through college. He received his BS in chemistry in 1955 and his MS in organic chemistry in 1957, both from Brigham Young University. It was during this time that Dr. K. LeRoi Nelson, organic chemistry professor, convinced Dr. Knight that he could be a successful chemist or scientist.

Dr. Knight completed his MD at the University of Utah in 1963, where he also interned and served his residency from 1963 to 1967. He became board-certified in pathology in 1968. In addition to teaching, he also served at area hospitals in Provo and Salt Lake City during the early 1960s and 1970s.

Dr. Knight is passionate about his work: “There are new challenges every day. It never gets boring.”

**AACC Election Results Announced**

Robert Christenson, AACC’s Secretary, announced the following election results on September 13, 2004.

President-Elect: John E. Sherwin
Secretary: Robert L. Murray
Board of Directors:
- J. Rex Astles
- Steven H. Wong
Nominating Committee:
- Joseph D. Artiss, Chair-Elect
- Amitava Dasgupta
- Carol R. Lee
- Elia M. Mears

Dr. Christenson commented that this was AACC’s first election conducted via the Internet and that the majority of members who completed the survey included in the ballot were very satisfied with the online voting experience.

**Meetings**

The 40th Annual Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) Meeting will be held June 9–11, 2005, at Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA. Information: Alan Wells (telephone 412-647-7813; fax 412-647-8567; e-mail wells@upmc.edu); Bill Pasculle (telephone 412-647-6610; e-mail pasculleaw@upmc.edu); or Jorge Sepulveda (telephone 412-647-6138; e-mail sepulvedajl@upmc.edu). Web: www.aclps.org.

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