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**Figures:**
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- Figure (b): Glucose 247 mg/dL
- Figure (c): Glucose 483 mg/dL

(a) Mean glucose difference (meter glucose-reference glucose) and (b) and (c) mean glucose percent difference [(meter glucose-reference glucose)/reference glucose \(\times 100\)] as a function of hematocrit at glucose concentrations of (a) 54 mg/dL, (b) 247 mg/dL, and (c) 483 mg/dL. Each point represents the mean ± standard deviation of the mean glucose difference or mean glucose percent difference (n=6).

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Clinical Chemistry is pleased to announce a special upcoming theme issue on Molecular Diagnostics edited by Drs. Carl Wittwer and Dennis Lo entitled "Molecular Diagnostics: At the Cutting Edge of Translational Research”.

The purpose of this issue is to highlight the latest technological advances and clinical applications of nucleic acid diagnostics. New technology in microarrays and sequencing has enabled genome-wide association studies that provide new molecular correlates of health and disease, while nanotechnology and microdevice integration promise personalized medicine. Advances in amplification and detection methods continue to simplify molecular diagnostics for the clinical laboratory.

Clinical Chemistry invites authors to submit original articles in molecular diagnostics to be considered for publication in this special issue.

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Dr. Roy Vagelos

The pharmaceutical industry is a dynamic partner in medical care. When high cholesterol levels were correlated with heart disease, "statin" drugs were successfully commercialized to inhibit cholesterol synthesis. Another example is ivermectin, an antiparasitic drug distributed free of charge to cure millions in developing countries of “river blindness”. Long-term investments in research can benefit society. Basic research in the metabolism of fats allowed the pharmaceutical industry to respond to the threat of high cholesterol by developing HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, commonly known as "statin" drugs such as lovastatin and simvastatin. A prime demonstration of corporate social responsibility is the provision of ivermectin without charge as an effective cure for river blindness in Africa. The potential power of the health sciences is just at the beginning of what might be accomplished for human disease. New developments in genomics and proteinomics are sure to lead to effective drugs for cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and other chronic diseases in the future.


TELOMERASE AND TELOMERE BIOLOGY  

Dr. Elisabeth Blackburn

Telomerase is an enzyme made up of RNA and protein that builds and stabilizes telomeres, the ends of chromosomes. During aging, telomere length decreases, an effect that is slowed down by telomerase. Most cancer cells have high telomerase activity. Our goal is to understand the mechanism of telomerase action. Telomerase and telomere length are correlated to many human diseases. Telomerase is a promising target for cancer therapy, as it is highly active in many human malignancies. Women with the highest levels of perceived stress have telomeres shorter on average by the equivalent of at least one decade of additional aging compared to low-stress women.

**DIAGNOSTICS FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**  
**Dr. Mark Perkins**

New technical opportunities exist for the creation of improved diagnostic tests in developing countries. Exploiting these technologies to control tuberculosis worldwide is an urgent priority. A substantial public sector effort is under way to work in partnership with the biotechnology industry to accelerate progress toward that goal. There is an urgent need for more accurate and cost-effective diagnostic technologies, particularly for diseases of the developing world. While the biotech revolution has yielded important progress in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect affluent societies, these advances have not been applied to diseases that kill millions each year in developing countries. As a result, many diseases go undetected and untreated in the developing world, accelerating their spread. For example, tuberculosis is a highly contagious bacterium that infects one-third of the world’s population. Next-generation diagnostic products for tuberculosis can help mitigate the enormous global impact of this disease. The technology and know-how is there, but it must be applied to the fight against infectious disease. A focused and coordinated effort that puts these technical advances to use for the public good can ensure the speedy development of high-quality and affordable tools.


**APPETITE, OBESITY AND THE LIMIT TO HUMAN LIFE SPAN**  
**Dr. Stephen Bloom**

Appetite, obesity and human life span are related and mediated by hormones. Gut hormones have an important role in appetite and satiety, and their signaling systems are good targets for anti-obesity therapy. Prolonged dietary restriction increases the life span. Continued research will provide new environmental and pharmacologic options. The obesity epidemic shows no signs of abating. There is an urgent need to reverse the increasing weight gain in the population. Existing medicines to combat the problem are disappointingly limited in number and effectiveness. Fortunately, mechanistic study of the neuroendocrine regulation of body weight provides an expanding list of molecular targets for novel, rationally designed anti-obesity pharmaceuticals.


**GENETICS AND RACE: BIOMEDICAL IMPLICATIONS**  
**Dr. Lynn Jorde**

Most human genetic variation is found within populations, not between them. The proportion of human genetic variation due to differences between populations is modest, and individuals from different populations can be genetically more similar than individuals from the same population. Medical decisions based on race have limited genetic support. Caution is indicated when using population labels in biomedical settings, including pharmacogenetics and personalized medicine.

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• providing oversight of policy and procedure development with inclusion in technical manuals and user manual
• interacting with the LIS Specialist with respect to Information Management issues
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