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Illicit drug chemists have been modifying structures of abused drugs to circumvent legal restrictions and evade detection. The novel compounds they create have been given the moniker "designer drugs."

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Edited by Drs. Cara Ebbeling, Elizabeth Selvin, Bruce Y. Lee, and Ian Young. Clinical Chemistry, published by American Association for Clinical Chemistry, is the most highly cited forum for peer-reviewed, original research in the fields of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

The purpose of this issue is to highlight the current status of obesity research; global trends, economic burden, implications for chronic disease, and the role of biochemical and genetic markers in understanding the pathophysiology and guiding therapy for obesity. Particular attention will be directed toward recent findings that address well-documented challenges to identifying and implementing effective obesity prevention and treatment strategies.

**Potential topics of interest include:**

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- National and global trends in obesity
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- Obesity policies and population-level interventions

**Translational Research**
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- Molecular and biochemical aspects of obesity
- Microbiome and obesity
- Role of neuropeptides in appetite regulation
- Role of ‘omics in diet and nutrition assessment
- Genetics of obesity

**Association with Health Risks**
- Childhood obesity
- Psychological aspects of obesity
- Cardiometabolic consequences of obesity
- Diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and obesity
- Cancer and obesity

**Clinical Intervention Strategies**
- Lifestyle interventions (behavioral approaches, diet, physical activity)
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**Obesity: Innovative Approaches to Overcome Obstacles**

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Candidates must be a doctor of medicine, a doctor of osteopathy, or hold a doctoral degree in a chemical, physical, biological, or clinical laboratory science and meet requirements for CLIA certification as a laboratory director. Candidates should also have experience in a leadership position that includes laboratory management and active participation in a laboratory accreditation process. Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills are a prerequisite. The successful candidate should have a broad understanding of all major laboratories and a demonstrated track record of collaborative and constructive relationships with other health care professionals. Preference will be given to those candidates with a solid foundation in clinical pathology that includes experience with quality, safety, continuous improvement, and service excellence. National and international recognition in a subspecialty relevant to our practice is preferred. Consideration will be limited to those candidates with an established track record of peer reviewed publications and a demonstrated commitment to education and faculty mentoring and development.

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