



PARTNERSHIP for the ACCURATE TESTING of HORMONES

STEERING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER December 16, 2020

PATH UPDATES

PATH Educational Curriculum – We are pleased to announce the launch of the PATH 4-part course Accurate Hormone Testing designed to educate fellows and endocrinologists on the importance of, and methods to ensure, accurate hormone testing. This course focuses on different aspects of accurately testing and reading hormone assays. Each module will include a didactic lecture, examples, and case-based questions to test your knowledge. Module 1, The Importance of Hormone Measurements and Assay Standardization, with Alvin M. Matsumoto, MD focuses on focuses on the importance of hormone measurements and assay standardization and is eligible for 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. This activity will be available as part of the Endocrine Society’s Fellows Training Series, as well as the Society’s public catalogue. [Register here!](#)

Module 2 is planned to release in March 2021 and will focus on hormone types and the characteristics of an ideal hormone assay. Module 3 is planned to release in July 2021 and will focus on methods used to measure hormones and validity and judging the quality of hormone assays. Module 4 is planned to release in November 2021 and will focus on factors affecting interpretation of hormone concentrations, specifically for use in diagnosing endocrine disorders.

We encourage PATH members to help promote it to their organizations and colleagues.

PATH New Member - We are pleased to welcome Avalon Healthcare Solutions as a new member of PATH. Avalon is a laboratory benefits manager that serves insurance companies, including several BlueCross BlueShield affiliates. Avalon is the only comprehensive laboratory benefits manager in the industry and provides specialized expertise to ensure laboratory testing is carried out in a way that is grounded in science. Its mission is to deliver the right test, at the right time, in the right setting. We have been working with Avalon to develop a research study on the impact of policy language and education on the use of standardized testosterone tests and have been impressed with their expertise and commitment to patient health. Avalon Healthcare Solutions will be represented by Dr. Tatiana Souslova, Vice President, Medical Policy.

PATH Initiative with Payors - PATH co-chairs Drs. Alvin Matsumoto and Hubert Vesper, along with CDC, NACDD, and ES project staff, have continued to collaborate with Avalon Healthcare Solutions, our newest PATH member. In December, Avalon's Clinical Advisory Board approved adding a note within two of the organization's policy statements strongly recommending the use of standardized assays for testosterone testing. Plans are underway for providing education to Avalon's network of laboratories and providers regarding standardized testing for testosterone. A protocol to study the impact of the policy language and accompanying educational outreach is close to being finalized.

UPDATES FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AACC –

- **Pediatric Reference Intervals** - The [effort to improve pediatric reference intervals](#) (PRIs) - one of AACC's top priorities - has grown considerably throughout 2020. With the support of a number of new groups, AACC and its partners are poised to bring greater visibility to this important issue and will be well positioned to secure funding for the initiative in 2021. AACC's work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create an implementation plan has steadily progressed, ensuring the agency can quickly commence efforts to improve PRIs once money has been appropriated.
- **Harmonization** - AACC continues to advocate for [harmonizing clinical laboratory test results](#). The association, with the support of its partners, has succeeded in obtaining \$2 million for CDC to advance this effort each year since 2018. The House of Representatives has retained this amount in its fiscal year 2021 budget package. AACC is continuing to work with its allies in Congress to secure additional money in the next budget package.

If your organization has news to share about what it is doing related to hormone testing, please send to mbecker@endocrine.org so we can post it on the PATH website, forward to the PATH Steering Committee and/or include in our next newsletter.

VISIT THE PATH WEBSITE WWW.HORMONEASSAYS.ORG

2021 Meeting Dates for Steering Committee Organizations

Organization	2021 Annual Meeting Date	Registration Link
American Association for Clinical Chemistry	2021 - September 19–23 Anaheim, CA	
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research	ASBMR 2021 Annual Meeting Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada October 1 - 4, 2021	
American Thyroid Association	Annual meeting September 29 – October 3, 2021	
American Urological Association	Annual meeting September 10 – 13, 2021 in Las Vegas	https://www.aa2021.org/
Androgen Excess and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Society	Info coming soon	http://www.ae-society.org/sub/meetings.php
Association of Public Health Laboratories	May 4–20, 2021 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12:00– 5:00 pm ET	https://www.aphl.org/conferences/annualmeeting/Pages/default.aspx
College of American Pathologists	Annual meeting September 25-28, 2021 in Chicago	
Endocrine Society	ENDO 2021: March 20-23, 2021	ENDO Registration
International Society of Andrology	Virtual annual meeting April 24-27, 2021	
Mass Spectrometry Applications to the Clinical Laboratory (MSACL)	Date and location pending	https://www.msaccl.org/index.php?header=Events&tab=Future&subtab=MSACL 2021 US
North American Menopause Society	September 22-25, 2021 in Washington, DC	
Pediatric Endocrine Society	Virtual Annual Meeting, April 30th– May 3rd, 2021	https://pedsendo.org/education-events/pes-annual-meeting/