

ASMS workshop report for the Clinical Mass Spectrometry Interest group.

The clinical mass spectrometry interest group held a workshop on Tuesday June 5th entitled "Reporting of Multi-Analyte Assays in Clinical Analyses" that was co-chaired by Timothy Garrett of the University of Florida and Don Chace of Medolac. We have approximately 100 attendees. The workshop began with a short introduction by Tim Garrett on the format of the workshop and a review of the clinical based sessions that we had at ASMS this year. Dr. Garrett asked for ideas for next year's program and suggested that individuals with ideas visit the interest group forum page to suggest ideas and encouraged anyone who had not registered for the forum to register.

The workshop then began with a short presentation from Don Chace on reporting multi-analyte assays with a perspective from newborn screening and how it could translate to larger analyte assays as we are seeing with the growth of metabolomics. After his short presentation, we had a lively discussion about validating assays with more than one analyte and a discussion on the implementation of high resolution instrumentation in clinical settings. Following this discussion, Tim Garrett presented initial work on the use of high resolution in clinical research and the need for sample types that are more reflective of the clinical phenotypes expected in diagnostics. Following that, additional discussion was held. Discussion topics included instrumentation again and that validation is the key to ensuring the method is acceptable as well as suggested ways to validate multi-analyte assays. New quality control samples are needed that have include multiple metabolites for validation and programs for this are beginning to arise as one attendee mentioned. The workshop was then concluded with suggestions for next year including a quality control component. The workshop was attended by approximately 100 individuals representing clinical laboratories and research laboratories.