



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

PRESS RELEASE

DATE:

3RD FEBRUARY 2009

Clinical Biochemistry is the clinical science of examining blood and other fluids to diagnose and monitor disease and inform therapy.

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB), founded in 1953, is a professional body dedicated to the practice and promotion of clinical science and laboratory medicine and has medical and non-medical members in all major UK healthcare laboratories, many university departments and several commercial companies. It has a relationship with the clinical diagnostics industry through links with its Corporate Members. The Association liaises with, and is consulted by, many national and international organisations on issues relating to Clinical Biochemistry. It was instrumental in establishing accreditation for clinical scientists in all disciplines and administers accreditation in all disciplines through the Association of Clinical Scientists. It also plays a significant role in the training of Clinical Scientists in the Biochemistry discipline and its training framework is used by other disciplines.

Broadening the Membership of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry

Full membership of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry is now open to “Any health professional with an interest in Clinical Biochemistry”.

Since its foundation in 1953 the Association for Clinical Biochemistry has become the leading professional organisation representing doctors and scientists in the laboratory medicine discipline of Biochemistry. Membership was limited to medical and science graduates in biochemistry or a related subject working, or in training, as clinical biochemists. Last year the members voted to broaden the membership and the change came into effect on the first of January 2009.

The Association has progressed with the changing times. Originally titled “The Association of Clinical Biochemists” it changed its name in 2005 to “The Association for Clinical Biochemistry” reflecting a foundation in the science rather than its practitioners. The broadening of the membership base is a further step in that direction. It recognises the welcome trend towards the breaking down of inter-disciplinary boundaries in science in general and in laboratory medicine in particular.

The Association’s President, Dr. Ian Watson welcomed the change: “*The recognition by the current membership that engagement with others who practice or engage with*

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our discipline is very welcome. I believe a broader membership will enable us to more effectively promote the profession and practice of Clinical Biochemistry.”

The President Elect, Dr. Julian Barth, added: *“The internal boundaries of traditional clinical laboratories are being broken down by technological advances which are common to all disciplines. The Association needs the flexibility to be able to move into the developing structures of laboratory medicine”.*

For further information contact:

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