

Dear Member of ACM

As you will know following our Annual General Meeting in 2009 we put forward a proposal to dissolve the ACM and reform the Association as a Special Interest Group within the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB). You voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal. We are pleased to announce that the ACB Council and the Annual General Meeting at Focus in Glasgow have now agreed that we may form the Special Interest Group and as a result ACM will be dissolved during June 2010. ACM members will become Ordinary members of ACB from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

All ACM members who have paid their ACM membership fees by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 (the time when ACM accounts will be closed pending dissolution of the Association) will become Ordinary members of ACB from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. They will have full rights of membership in 2010 and will pay no extra fees in 2010. Those who have not paid their ACM membership by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 will need to pay the full ACB fee in 2010 and will not benefit from the subsidy of the ACB fees in future years.

Those members of ACM who are already Federation members of ACB will receive a 50% refund of their ACB Federation membership fee for 2010 on joining ACB as Ordinary members from July 1<sup>st</sup>.

In 2011 the full ACB members fees will become payable but the residual assets of ACM will be transferred to ACB and used to provide a fixed subsidy of membership fees during the first three years\*. The ACB membership fee varies according to your Agenda for Change banding. Thus a fixed subsidy provides most support for those least able to pay. ACB retired members do not pay a membership fee currently, but do pay to receive publications at a reduced rate, although there is a rule concerning the length of membership prior to retirement concerning this benefit. As most of our retired members are long standing ACM members they will all become ACB retired members with full benefits.

After joining ACB in July the present ACM Council will reform as the Microbiology Professional Committee within ACB for a transitional period of 6 months. Elections will then be held for all of the posts on the Microbiology Professional Committee. The form of the elections will be discussed with the ACB Executive as ACB's method of election to committees is usually through appointment of regional representatives. It is anticipated that the Chair of the Professional Committee will sit on the ACB Council to provide continuity. The lead for training will sit on the ACB Education Committee and



The Association of  
**CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS**  
The professional body for microbiologists



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**Clinical Biochemistry**

other members will sit on other ACB committees as required. The trainees representative will sit on the Trainees committee. We will still need to maintain our representation on the Royal College of Pathology Committees and on the Association of Clinical Scientists Board. All Microbiologists will be encouraged to sit on the regional ACB Committees. ACM News will be subsumed within the ACB News and we will have regular microbiology slots as required. Annals of Clinical Biochemistry will welcome articles for the journal on microbiological topics. As members of ACB all microbiologists have the right to be nominated or to put themselves forward for any of the offices within the organisation. Last but by no means least we will have a functional website within the ACB's website and the excellent support of the ACB office – stand by for more efficiency in dissemination of information and of alerts on deadlines etc!

The major benefit will be in the professional support for your profession. At a time of major change in our profession with the implementation of Modernising Scientific Careers, and at a time of great economic uncertainty, the joining of ACM with ACB is going to be an enormous benefit for Clinical Scientists in microbiology. I hope you will view as I do, the future as being much more secure and hopeful as a result of this new association.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

Dr Julian Barth  
President ACB

Dr Paul Klapper  
President ACM

*\*Among the various models proposed for use of the residual assets of ACM in subsidizing future ACB membership the fixed rebate method was considered by ACM Council to provide the most pragmatic and fair system for subsidy of membership. The fixed subsidy will be £55 in 2011, £35 in 2010 and £25 in 2013.*