

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON  
CANCER CENTER

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Dear Fellow Biochemistry Chair:

As Treasurer of the Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry (AMGDB), I am writing to current members to remind them to renew their 2007 membership, and to non-members to enthusiastically encourage their participation. As most of you know, the AMGDB is the only organization whose membership is comprised solely of Biochemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and allied Department Chairs in the US, Canada and Mexico. Our well-attended annual AMGDB meeting in January serves as a unique venue in which members share valuable information on cutting edge research, current directions and issues in science policy and research funding, and graduate and medical education. Invited guests include key figures in government agencies concerned with science policy, science advocacy leaders, and science educators. The AMGDB is an influential advocate for biochemical and molecular biological research and education at a number of important national meetings such as the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. The AMGDB also supports a website for distributing timely information of interest to its membership. Over the years, the AMGDB has proven to be a great forum for establishing and sustaining contacts, interactions, and collaborations with outstanding colleagues who share common interests as chairs of biochemistry departments.

It is now the time to remit the annual dues for your department, which this year have been set at \$150. The checks should be made out to AMGDB and sent to me at the address shown on the attached registration form (please do not make them out to me personally). To register as a continuing or new member, simply fill out the attached form (updating any information if necessary) and return it with your check by mail. Unfortunately we cannot accept credit cards or electronic deposits.

You should also note that you have the option to link your department's website to the AMGDB website for an annual fee of \$200. This option provides your department with high priority visibility for online searches via Google. If you choose this option, please

submit your link information by completing the Web Participation Information Form online at <http://www.amgdb.org/membership.htm>. If you have questions about this service, contact Paul-Weigel@ouhsc.edu.

The AMGDB uses its membership dues to pay for the costs of invited speakers at the annual meetings, to conduct surveys on biochemistry department activities, to maintain the website, to reimburse elected member's expenses for pre-trips associated with establishing a venue for the annual meeting, to conduct the auditing of our accounts, and many other items that benefit us all.

As I've mentioned, we are especially interested in enlarging our membership by attracting new members and re-engaging previous members who have participated in the past but are not currently active. Virtually all of our current members realize the great value of the AMGDB and the uniqueness of the organization relative to other scientific societies focused on specific research areas or broadly defined agendas. I strongly encourage active members to contact fellow chairs who are not current members and also new chairs who have recently been installed to inform them of the advantages of AMGDB membership.

Many thanks for your cooperation. If you have any questions about the payment process, please contact my administrative assistant, Ms. Debra Scarberry ([dascarbe@mdanderson.org](mailto:dascarbe@mdanderson.org) or 713-834-6315), who is handling the remitted payments. I hope very much to see you at the 2008 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sincerely yours,

William Klein, PhD  
Professor and Chair