ACB
Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The following was written by Professor Donald W Moss (ACB President 1994-1996) and was the preface for ‘The Association of Clinical Biochemists: The First Forty Years’ written by Peter Broughton & John Lines.

‘Scientific societies and associations have played key roles in the development of science and its applications since the seventeenth century. They have stimulated scientific research and disseminated its results. Where a body of scientific principles has had a direct application in, and impact on, daily life, professional associations have codified its practice and provided standards of training and competence for its practitioners, to the public benefit.

The Association of Clinical Biochemists came into being in an age when the application of chemical principles to the study of human disease - a concept with a long scientific pedigree - was beginning to assume the status of a major component of the armamentarium of scientific medicine that it now enjoys. The Association contributed fully to the development of Clinical Biochemistry as an established clinical and scientific discipline, widening the horizons and increasing its impact on healthcare, to the benefit of medical practitioners and their patients. It assisted in this development through its support of the personal contributions of its members, and through its collective contributions to the establishment of high standards of education, training and practice.

Scientific medicine stands today on the threshold of a new age, ushered in by the fundamental discoveries of molecular biology and their applications, and by the striking technical advances in the field of medical imaging. As the Association meets the challenges of the future, it is appropriate to pause to recall those that faced its founders; to record their strongly - often passionately - held views, and to derive what lessons may guide the Association in the future before memories fade.’