Max Q. Arens, Ph.D.
2011 PASCV Diagnostic Virology Award
Sponsored by BD Diagnostics

Max Arens, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. He is also co-director of their Retrovirus Laboratory and co-director of the St. Louis Children’s Hospital Clinical Virology Laboratory. In 1979 Dr. Arens had the good fortune to join the Department of Pediatrics at St. Louis University Medical School and began working with Dr. Ella Swierkosz. There his interests and training emphasis changed from basic research on viruses to clinical and diagnostic aspects of virology. These were the early years of the use of new methods such as fluorescent antibodies for rapid detection and identification of viruses in clinical specimens and molecular techniques such as restriction enzyme analysis.

In 1988 Dr. Arens had a unique opportunity to join the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis and set up a new lab that specialized in testing for HIV. Over the past 23 years the Retrovirus Lab has been co-directed by Gregory Storch, M.D., and more recently also Richard Buller, Ph.D., and has become a high-tech lab of three main activities: (1) support for the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at Wash U, (2) clinical testing for HIV, HCV and HBV, and (3) various research projects, mainly development and testing of new molecular assays for viruses (and occasionally other microorganisms).

Dr. Arens is a long-time member of the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology and served as a Councilor from 2004-2008. He has served on volunteer committees for the writing of consensus standards for the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, has written many review articles and book chapters and has published more than 75 peer-reviewed papers. He has been on the editorial board for the Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Journal of Clinical Virology (JCV) and for the past 5 years he has been an Associate Editor for JCV.