



CCLS Connection

"Your partner in health care ... together we make a difference"

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Celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week! April 22-26



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is an annual celebration of the laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care. Since they often work behind the scenes, few people know about the critical testing they perform every day. Lab Week is a time to honor the more

than 300,000 medical laboratory professionals around the country who collect, perform and interpret more than 10 billion laboratory tests in the U.S. every year.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your team!

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Mission Statement

As part of **CentraCARE Health System**,
We are a team of dedicated health care professionals whose mission is to provide quality service, expert consultation and comprehensive medical laboratory information to Central Minnesota.



Members of the CentraCare Clinic – RiverCampus Laboratory Team



Members of the CentraCare Health Plaza Laboratory Team

CENTRA CARE Laboratory Services

Laboratory Legislative Symposium 2013

Submitted by: Cindy Johnson



Laboratory professionals and leaders from across the United States came together during the annual Legislative Symposium March 18-19 in Washington, DC. More than 150 people representing 36 states joined together to bring forth the laboratory community's legislative agenda before Congress. The event was hosted by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA), the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), American Medical Technologists (AMT) and the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT).

On day one of the symposium, leaders and legislative experts from the laboratory professional organizations provided education on the issues affecting clinical laboratories. Through various activities, attendees learned about the current political climate and how health care reform continues to impact the clinical laboratory.

The shortage for Medical Laboratory personnel is of grave concern as approximately 40 percent of the laboratory workforce is expected to retire within 10 years. Unfortunately, the

programs preparing tomorrow's laboratory workforce are only able to educate about a third of what is needed. We are seeking congressional support to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 2013 and to maintain Department of Labor (DOL) workforce funding levels in order to sustain health related workforce programs.

Another key issue facing the laboratory is the continued cuts to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. While less than 2 percent of all Medicare spending, clinical laboratory testing has been subject to significant freezes in payments and cuts during the past two decades. Medicare payment amounts for clinical laboratory services have been reduced by about 40 percent in real (inflation adjusted) terms over the past 20 years.

Our special guest of the day was Representative James McGovern (MA-D) who gave us an overview of what our "hill" visit might be like. Rep. McGovern stated that while he was impressed that so many laboratory professionals made the trip out to Washington, D.C., he said that our dialogue with our congressional leaders should not stop there. He encouraged us to keep in contact with our local legislators through e-mail correspondence, phone calls or even inviting our congressional members to tour our respective laboratories when they are back home in their districts.

We converged on Capitol Hill on day two of the symposium. The seven members of Minnesota Laboratory Delegation (pictured) visited with legislative assistants from the offices of Senators Klobuchar and Franken as well as our respective House of Representative members. We had the opportunity to share with the legislative assistants what we do every single day to impact the care of our patients. We stressed the value of the laboratory even though we usually are the silent partner on the healthcare team. We play a vital role in providing the foundation for the diagnosis and management of many conditions. By opening with this statement about our role, it provided an easy mechanism to invite conversation and ease into our main talking points.

Our experience in Washington helped us realize that we already have made an impact. All of our Minnesota legislative personnel were familiar with the role laboratory professionals play in patient care and were receptive to our message. To preserve momentum, it is our responsibility as laboratory professionals to keep this line of communication open with our congressional leaders as it is an invaluable tool for change. It is important to continue to be the face of the laboratory not only when we are called to action but in our daily interactions. We have the opportunity to ensure that everyone who interacts with us understands who we are and what we do.

CCLS Supports Laboratory Professions

Submitted by: Kristi Enerson



CentraCare Laboratory Services (CCLS) understands the value and impact laboratory professionals have on patient care. As a shortage looms on the horizon, CCLS has responded by supporting the education and training of current and future laboratory professionals.

Each of the CCLS sites support traditional programs throughout the year in many areas of the laboratory by providing clinical internship training sites as well as serving as program board members to better serve our students and the laboratory profession. We currently take students for phlebotomy from several local programs; Histology

Technicians from Argosy University; Clinical Laboratory Technician students from Alexandria Technical and Community College and Rasmussen College; Clinical Laboratory Science students from St. Cloud State University and the University of Minnesota, as well as occasional students from the University of North Dakota.

With many options for online development we also support internship opportunities for current employees as they advance to obtain their CLS degree or other specialized certificate programs from universities throughout the nation.

CCLS values the opportunity to teach students the practice of laboratory medicine through the pre-analytic, analytic and post-analytic phases of testing with a strong focus on patient safety. We aim to provide the best student experience possible with technologically advanced equipment

and supplies, education with correlation of patient results with disease states from high acuity patients, as well as a professional environment. We also realize that as a laboratory we benefit from having students in our organization. Students help keep existing employees "sharp" on their skills, knowledge, and professionalism by following and explaining procedures, utilizing best practice or standard work practices and modeling proper expectations for customer service. CCLS often receives the benefit of retaining a large percentage of our students as employees after graduation which provides a return on our investment in laboratory professionals and the community.

Contact your local laboratory education programs today to determine how you can help prepare laboratory professionals for our future.



Happy Spring!

Transforming the Hematology Laboratory

Submitted by: Matthew Paul

The hematology departments at St. Cloud Hospital and CentraCare Health Plaza recently completed a new instrumentation upgrade replacing the Coulter LH 750 and LH 780 with Beckman-Coulter's newest line of instrumentation, the Unicell DXH 800. The Unicell DXH 800 Coulter Cellular Analysis System is an excellent fit for today's "Lean" laboratory. The DxH 800 is engineered from the ground up for ruggedness and dependability. With an overall smaller size than its predecessors, this platform's throughput of 100 samples per hour offers complete blood cell analysis including WBC, UWBC, RBC, HGB, HCT, HGB, MCV, MCH, MCHC, RDW, RDW-SD, PLT, and MPV. It also performs a white blood cell differential with neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, basophils and nucleated red blood cells (NRBC) differentiation. This analyzer also is capable of performing reticulocyte counts and body fluid cell counts.

The DXH 800 performs its differential, NRBC and Reticulocyte counts utilizing VCS (Volume, Conductivity and Scatter) technology. The VCS module measures laser light scattering from more diverse directions utilizing multi-angle scatter technology. Each cell now has five types of

light-scattering data collected which includes axial light loss, low-angle light scatter, median angle light scatter and upper median angle light scatter. With this advancement in technology, the NRBCs are directly measured and differentiated from other blood cells or debris based on the differences in volume, conductivity and light scatter data collected from these measurements.



The DxH 800 combines the data and measurements to transform and separate the cell populations.

Advanced signal to noise algorithms have been developed to improve the reportable range, especially in the presence of interference. This instrument also features appropriate correction of RBC parameters in the presence of leukocytosis. The MCV, RDW, and RDW-SD are corrected only if there is evidence that the WBC events are negatively impacting the RBC histogram.

Along with the DXH 800 we implemented Beckman-Coulter's newest version of the slide maker/stainer (SMS) in the lab at St. Cloud Hospital. This platform provides reliability, ease of use and quality smears. This instrument offers standard Wright or Wright-Giemsa staining protocols and allows for setup of individualized staining protocols. This gives us the ability to adjust the protocol as necessary to give the highest quality smear. This instrument permits reagents and slides to be loaded while the instrument is still running, minimizing downtime. It also has the capability to make multiple slides at your request. Anywhere from 4 to 12 additional smears can be produced off of one patient sample. This SMS also has a new feature

that is known as the Hemisphere. This application takes into account the blood specimen's hematocrit level, which in turn allows for it to adjust the angle at which the slide is made to help ensure that a perfect smear is made every time.

With this new line of instrumentation our laboratories continue to offer a full line of hematology panels with rapid and quality result reporting while further enhancing the service to our patients.

CCLS CONNECTION

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2013 Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative

“Laboratory Professionals Riding the Wave of Change” is the theme for the 2013 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative taking place April 24-26 at the St. Cloud River’s Edge Convention Center. This annual conference is an opportunity for attendees to participate in a variety of educational sessions, exhibits, blood donor drive, silent auction to raise money for laboratory scholarships and a community fundraising event to support CentraCare Family Health Center (formerly Mid-Minnesota Family Medicine Center).

Visit www.asclsmn.org for more information on this event.

