

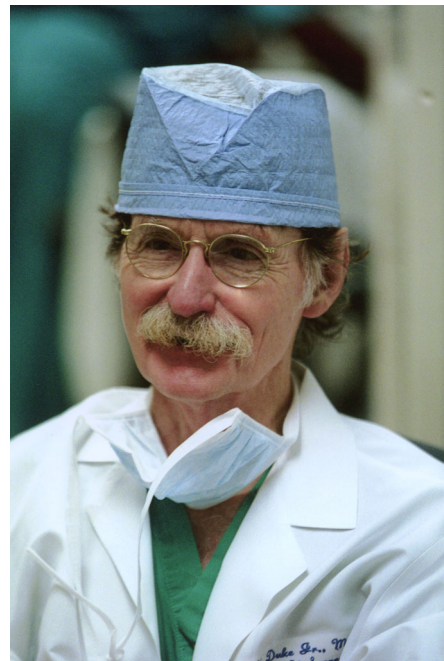
Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

TACLS News

TACLS Develops Public Service Announcement

Christina Thompson

On February 28, TACLS members Becky See, Cherri Jennings, Karen Mc Clure and Christina Thompson, met with David Franklin and Dean Nava from WebShark. The meeting was the beginning of discussions regarding the development of a Public Service Announcement on the clinical laboratory personnel shortage and career opportunities. The PSA features Dr. Red Duke with views of laboratories at the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. A second Spanish version will also be produced. TACLS plans to distribute the tape to all television stations in Texas. Currently, members are distributing the tapes to stations in Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, McAllen, Corpus Christi, East Texas, Houston and Austin. In addition to the tapes for television stations, the PSA will be available on video streaming and wallet CDs. Additional plans include “drop screens” for movie theaters, national sales of the tape, and the development of a second tape on the



Dr. Red Duke

Photo copyrighted by ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

importance of certified laboratory personnel and quality health care. Members who are interested in helping with this project or have questions should contact Christina Thompson online at: cthomp@falcon.tamucc.edu. If you are interested in looking at some of WebShark’s projects, go to their website, www.webshark.com.

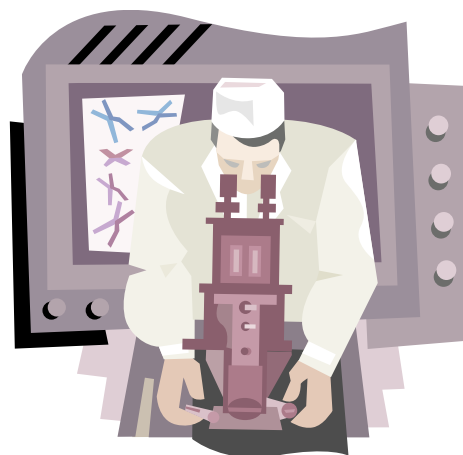
TACLS Awards Scholarship to Kari LaPoint

David Falleur

The TACLS Scholarship Committee awarded its annual scholarship for a CLS/MT student to Kari LaPoint. Kari is a junior, CLS major at Southwest Texas State University. Kari has demonstrated excellence in her academic work as a Clinical Laboratory Science major and currently has a 4.0 grade-point average. Kari is an active member of the Non-Traditional Students Association at SWT. Kari served in the U.S. Air Force as a weather analyst for four years. After her military service, Kari moved to Central Texas and chose CLS as her major. Kari worked as a volunteer at the TACLS conference in Austin, and received her scholarship check at the meeting. Congratulations to Kari and thanks to the members of the Scholarship Committee who reviewed this year's applications.



Kari LaPoint, TACLS Scholarship Winner



A Comprehensive Review in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences - Now On Line

Karen McClure

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Program in Clinical Laboratory Science has just launched an on line review course for individuals preparing to take a national certification examination. A highly qualified and experienced faculty participated in the development of these internet based modules. The course is extensive; covering more than 500 pages, which includes an outline of each subject area, case studies, charts, diagrams, interactive tables, pre and post module questions and other helpful material. Most of the modules have case studies to help you analyze information as it may appear in the clinical setting. In addition, there is a set of math problems to practice within the areas of Hematology and Chemistry. Finally there are, 3-100 question simulated computer certification exams for practice with explanations to the answers.

Course participants may choose from one of the following options:

1. On line course only: \$200.00
2. On line course and Book: \$325.00
3. Book only: \$150.00

Participants will have access to the course for one year from date of enrollment.

To learn more about the course visit our web page at www.mdanderson.org/healthsciences or call 1-800-551-9503.

Focus on Laboratory Professionals

**Annie Limmer, Medical Technologist
MD Anderson Veterinary Sciences - Science
Park, Bastrop, Texas**

In this and future issues we will report on interesting career paths for laboratory professionals in Texas. This month we will take you to the beautiful “Lost Pines” of Bastrop, Texas, and the MD Anderson Veterinary Science Department at Science Park. M.D. Anderson's Department of Veterinary Sciences is located on a 374-acre research complex in rural Bastrop County that houses 3,100 animals, representing 12 different species. The facility, which provides specialized veterinary services, animal models and biologics for biomedical research, employs about 90 faculty and staff members from the Central Texas area. The facility provides special care for primates and has a colony of 155 chimpanzees. The mission of the Department of Veterinary Sciences is to further the understanding and prevention of cancer and allied diseases that are significant national health problems by providing specialized veterinary services and unique animal models for comparative research. The Department satisfies needs not currently met by another source. The facility performs and promotes education in basic and applied research in the veterinary, comparative, and laboratory animal sciences. Some of the research programs include: Behavioral enrichment; infectious diseases (hepatitis, HIV, SIV, leprosy); vaccine development; SPF primates; synthetic peptide technology to investigate the immunopathology of HIV-induced AIDS; and gene therapy for cervical cancer.

Annie Limmer completed her MT degree from Southwest Texas State University in 1991. After working for several years in a large hospital in Austin, Annie applied for a position at the clinical pathology laboratory at MD Anderson Science Park. In the well-equipped clinical



Chimps at MD Anderson Science Park (photo courtesy of MD Anderson Science Park Research Division)

pathology laboratory, tests are performed on research animals that are housed at the site. These include chimpanzees, rhesus monkeys, sheep, cows, horses, goats, and chickens. Animals are tested for infectious diseases and other potential problems. Each chimp receives an annual physical which includes a CBC, chemistry profile, and exam for parasites. Science Park also breeds rhesus monkeys for pharmaceutical research and these animals are tested before they are released to the research laboratory.

Annie enjoys the challenges of adapting her clinical skills to solve veterinary medicine problems. For more information about Science Park and the Veterinary Sciences division, go to <http://sciencepark.mdanderson.org>



Annie Limmer and the Cell-Dyn 3500 hematology analyzer



**DO YOU REMEMBER?
Becky See, TACLS President**

Do you remember when you were beginning your career as a Clinical Laboratory professional? Were you excited, nervous, anxious to make a difference in someone's life?

I remember this time though it has been 20 years. I was feeling excited, nervous and also worried that I would hurt someone. I also wanted to be part of a group that enjoyed their jobs and also had fun. This is when I joined ASMT (now ASCLS). When I first joined the group, I felt alone until 2 techs (George Eustis and Becky Simon from Louisiana where I worked at the time) served as mentors to me and opened the door to a very exciting group and made me feel glad that I had chosen the laboratory profession. It was their kindness and help that started me on the road to where I am today.

If you have not been a mentor, here is your chance. We are looking for people to help welcome newcomers to our profession and to TACLS. Please e-mail a member of the Board if you are interested.

Soon you will be seeing on your local TV a public service announcement asking the public to consider the Clinical Laboratory Profession as their career. The TACLS Board would like to know your thoughts on the PSA.

The TACLS Board would also like to be a mentor. If you are interested in serving on a committee or on the Board, please contact me and I can set you up with someone who will be the

“key” that will open the **door** for you to an exciting time. We really need **you** and, even more important, the profession needs **you**.

COME GET INVOLVED! FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

PRESIDENT **Becky See**, Pearland
email: Bsee@giveblood.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT **Christina Thompson**
Port Aransas, email: Cthomp@falcon.tamucc.edu

PAST-PRESIDENT **John L. Wentz**,
Duncanville
email: John.wentz@utsouthwestern.edu

SECRETARY **Joan Aldrich**, Carrollton
email: Joan.Aldrich@utsouthwestern.edu

TREASURER **Candace Schaper**, San Antonio
email: CCSchaper@aol.com

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Karen Chandler, McAllen
email: kchandler@panam.edu

Updating Information on the ASCLS Website

Did you know that you can access your membership information on the ASCLS website? Just go to www.ascls.org and select Member Section. You will then be asked to set up an account which requires your membership number and a password that you create. After you get through the log-in screen you can update and delete information in the ASCLS database. For example I noticed that my social security number was listed. This



probably came from my NCA certification number which is the same. I deleted that information with a few keystrokes. You can also change or add your scientific assembly, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. It's quick and easy. Since TACLS gets its membership information

from this database, it's essential that the information is accurate and current. Don't miss out on the vital communication and publications your professional society offers.

Correction-TACLS Silent Auction Donors

In the April issue of the TACLS News, two names were left off the list of donors to the TACLS Silent Auction. They were **Shirlyn McKenzie** of San Antonio and **Sandra Tijerina** from Edinburg. We appreciate their contribution to the Silent Auction and regret the omission.



TACLS News
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