

TEXAS CLS/CLT EDUCATORS MEETING NOTES

This meeting was held at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas on Friday, August 15, 2003 at 1:00 PM. Special thanks to Dr. Lynn Little and the staff and faculty of the UT Southwestern Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences for making arrangements for the meeting.

Meeting Participants:

Lynn Little, UT Southwestern Medical Center
John Wentz, UT Southwestern Medical Center
Carol Creech, UT Southwestern Medical Center
Grace Taylor, UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dave Falleur, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos
Christie Thompson, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Vicki Freeman, UTMB
Karen McClure, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Peter Hu, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Sally Lewis, Tarleton State University
Shirlyn McKenzie, UT Health Science Center-San Antonio
Alisa Petree, Hillcrest Medical Center, Waco
Lori Holmes, Hillcrest Medical Center, Waco
Joyce Nantze, Wadley Regional Medical Center, Texarkana
Terry Kotrla, Austin Community College, Austin



Upcoming Meetings

Texas Society of Allied Health Professions, San Luis Resort & Spa, Galveston, October 2-3

Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference, February 26-28, Milwaukee

ASCLS Legislative Symposium, March, Washington, D.C.

Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science, April 1-3, Houston, West Chase Hilton

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, July 27-31, Los Angeles

Updates:

ASCLS

Vicki Freeman is looking for speakers in clinical chemistry for the ASCLS meeting in Los Angeles. If you are interested, please contact Vicki, vfreeman@utmb.edu

CLEC

Shirlyn McKenzie announced that the 2006 national CLEC meeting will be in San Antonio in late February or early March. Shirlyn will be asking for help from educators across the state. If there are others who were not at the meeting but would be willing to help, they should contact Shirlyn at mckenzie@uthscsa.edu

Agenda Items:

Where Have the CLSs Gone?

Shirlyn McKenzie presented information about the number of accredited CLT and CLS programs and graduates from CLT and CLS programs and the anticipated shortage of laboratory workers in the future. She discussed causes for decreased enrollment and strategies for increasing enrollment.

Entry-Level Masters Degree

Dave Falleur distributed a group of handouts from the ASCLS Meeting. There was extensive discussion about the benefits and problems of an entry-level Masters requirement. We will have to create a market for a Masters Level laboratory professional. One name that has been discussed for the MS CLS professional is CLP, Clinical Laboratory Practitioner. This topic will be discussed in future meetings.

Student Bowl Update

Karen McClure demonstrated two electronic versions of the CLS Student Bowl. One uses PowerPoint slides and one is written in HTML. The HTML version is more efficient and was recommended. Karen will ask for support from TACLS to pay for conversion of the current questions to this format. This will cost approximately \$1000. This will pay for an MD Anderson computer specialist to develop the database and create the final product. Dave Falleur recommended that we solicit a contribution from Olympus, Nikon, and other vendors for support. Karen also needs more 20 point questions in all categories. Please send your questions with references and the correct answer to Karen McClure (kmclure@mdanderson.org). Karen will pilot test the new format with some of her former students.

Clinical Rotations – Time Based or Competency Based?

NAACLS does not require a specific amount of time for a clinical rotation, and a survey of programs at the meeting, indicated clinical rotation periods from 15 weeks to 54 weeks. Some programs have a problem when the student has developed entry-level competency but still has time left in that department. At the UT Health Science Center-San Antonio, these students are given an opportunity to work with a laboratory manager on a management rotation.

Reducing Laboratory and Administrative Costs/Increasing Funding for Educational Programs

Clinical laboratory program directors are frequently reminded that their programs are more expensive than other allied health programs. Our programs are capital and supply intensive. Many of our students come from historically disadvantaged groups and need financial assistance.

Changing Human Resource Terminology from MT/MLT to CLS/CLT

Shirlyn McKenzie discussed the problem of employers not using the appropriate title for position announcements. Also many employers list only one certification (ASCP) as required for a particular position. When you encounter this problem, please notify the HR department of the importance of using the correct title (or multiple titles), and the appropriate certification organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Dave Falleur
Recorder