

TEXAS CLINICAL LABORATORY EDUCATORS MEETING NOTES

This meeting was held at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas on Friday, August 13, 2004 at 11:30. 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, Dallas
John Wentz, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Carol Creech, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Grace Taylor, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Eric Hoy, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Muneeza Esani, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Joan Aldrich, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Dave Falleur, Texas State University–San Marcos, San Marcos
Christie Thompson, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Vicki Freeman, UTMB, Galveston
Jane Finley, UTMB, Galveston
Lynda Gunter, Tarleton State University, Fort Worth
Karen McClure, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Shirlyn McKenzie, UT Health Science Center-San Antonio
Alisa Petree, McLennan Community College, Waco
Lori Holmes, Hillcrest Medical Center, Waco
Carolyn Ragland, Austin Community College, Austin
Terry Kotrla, Austin Community College, Austin
Evelyn Glass, Navarro College, Corsicana
Jerri Reynolds, St.Philip's College, San Antonio
Kimberly Murray, M.D. Anderson, Houston
Brandy Greenhill, M.D. Anderson, Houston
Kirk Newport, Delmar College, Corpus Christi
Duncan Samo, Delmar College, Corpus Christi
Theresa Spain, Houston Community College, Houston
Karen Chandler, University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg
LeAnne Hutson, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Daniel Spencer, Tyler Junior College, Tyler
Kele Johnson, Hillcrest Medical Center, Waco
Diane Schmaus, McLennan Community College, Waco

Upcoming Meetings

NAACLS Futures Conference, Chicago, October 1

Texas Society of Allied Health Professions, Children's Cancer Research Institute, San Antonio, September 30-October 1

Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference, February 24-26, Williamsburg, Virginia

ASCLS Legislative Symposium, March 21-22, Washington, D.C.

Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science, March 30-April 2, Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Omni Hotel

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, July 26-30, Orlando

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

Joan Aldrich

Joan Aldrich is retiring from UT-Southwestern Medical Center after _____ years. John Wentz presented Joan with a gift certificate

TACLS Newsletter

Shirlyn McKenzie presented Dave Falleur with a certificate for the Outstanding Newsletter in the Web from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Vicki Freeman was also recognized for her work with the TACLS website.

Agenda Items:

Immunization Requirements for Students Enrolled in Health-Related Institutions of Higher Education

Terry Kotrla discussed the new immunization requirements which became effective this year. All allied health students who have patient contact will be required to be immunized against Hepatitis B and document other immunizations before they are allowed to be placed in a patient care facility. A copy of the state requirement is included on the last page of this report. You can also access the statute at this website: <http://tinyurl.com/4cfds>

There is a process that a student can get a waiver from immunization via their personal physician.

Student Bowl Update

Karen McClure is still working on a Power-Point type method of presenting questions for the CLS Student Bowl. The CLT programs are interested in using the same format, once it has been developed.

Book Lists for CLS and CLT Programs

Dave Falleur asked that CLS and CLT programs e-mail their textbook lists so that a common listing could be developed. Send your list to dfalleur@txstate.edu

Student Lab Fees/How to Keep Student Labs Running?

Shirlyn McKenzie and others discussed laboratory fees and tuition increases and their impact on student laboratory expenses. Other methods for generating revenue were discussed including contracts with state agencies for testing.

Molecular Testing on Campus and at Clinical Sites

Most of the programs are incorporating molecular testing in their lectures, student labs, and clinical rotations. Problems with microbiology rotations and the quality of experience in microbiology were discussed.

Enrollment Trends

Most of the CLS and CLT programs are experiencing an increase in applicants and higher retention rates. Factors include the increased visibility of the laboratory from TV shows like CSI, interest in using a CLS degree as a pre-professional degree as pre-med/pre-physician assistant degree, and increased recruitment efforts.

The Core Curriculum and its Effect on Articulation

John Wentz discussed the impact that a common core curriculum will have on the CLS program at UT-Southwestern.

SACS Accreditation and Faculty Credentials

Terri Kotrla discussed the problems at Austin Community College when more than 300 faculty were found to have deficient credentials for teaching. One of those who had a problem was Cecile Sanders, former TACLS President, and Dean of the Allied Health Sciences did not meet the requirement for 18 hours of graduate credit in the discipline in which she was teaching (Medical Laboratory Technology). Cecile's undergraduate degree was in Biology and her Master's degree is in Education. In spite of her many years as an educator and laboratorian, she was not going to be allowed to continue teaching in the MLT program. Fortunately, ACC officials have interpreted her background and experience appropriate and have given her an exemption. This development may create a significant problem not only for clinical laboratory faculty, but all allied health faculty, who do not have graduate degrees in the fields that they teach.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. Our next meeting will be at the TACLS Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi. The date and time will be announced in the preliminary program.

Dave Falleur
Recorder

Texas state law requires allied health students to be immunized against hepatitis B and other common viral and bacterial pathogens. Students may be exempt from the immunization requirement if they can provide a physician's written statement explaining why they should not be immunized. The state-mandated immunization requirements are as follows:

RULE §97.64

Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education

(a) This section applies to all students enrolled in health-related courses, which will involve direct patient contact in medical or dental care facilities. This includes all medical interns, residents, fellows, nursing students, and others who are being trained in medical schools, hospitals, and health science centers listed in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's list of higher education in Texas; and students attending two-year and four-year colleges whose course work involves direct patient contact regardless of the number of courses taken, number of hours taken, and the classification of the student. Subsection (i) of this section also applies to veterinary medical students whose course work involves direct contact with animals or animal remains regardless of number of courses taken, number of hours taken, and the classification of the student.

(b) Students may be provisionally enrolled for up to one semester or one quarter to allow students to attend classes while obtaining the required vaccines and acceptable evidence of vaccination.

(c) Students cannot be provisionally enrolled without at least one dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period.

(d) Polio vaccine is not required. Students enrolled in health-related courses are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis.

(e) One dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years.

(f) Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968.

(g) Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of rubella vaccine.

(h) Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of mumps vaccine.

(i) Students shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus.

(j) Students enrolled in schools of veterinary medicine shall receive a complete primary series of rabies vaccine prior to the start of contact with animals or their remains; and, a booster dose of rabies vaccine every two years unless protective serum antibody levels are documented.

(k) Students shall receive two doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age.