

Fall 2007

Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

TACLS News

Education Special Edition

TACLS Education Update

Dave Falleur, TACLS News Editor

For the past four years, the Fall issue of the TACLS News has been dedicated to clinical laboratory science education, educators, students and graduates. Texas has 21 accredited clinical laboratory technician and 17 clinical laboratory scientist educational programs. There are also 2 accredited phlebotomy programs, 5 histologic technology programs, 2 cytogenetics programs, 2 cytotechnology programs, and 2 molecular science programs. Texas has the largest number of accredited laboratory professional programs in the U.S. The students graduating from these programs represent the future of our profession. This newsletter highlights some of the programs TACLS and ASCLS provides to support clinical laboratory science educators and students. We also want to recognize the accomplishments of our future laboratory professionals in the classroom and their community.

Every year TACLS and CLS/CLT program faculty organize the annual student bowls during the state meeting. We encourage both CLT and CLS students to participate in the competition at next year's meeting in Austin. The new format for the games was well received and enhances the education value of the Student Bowl. I have also included information about Student Posters and a submission form for poster presentations at the 2008 meeting (see page 7). There is also a form for papers and posters by faculty and laboratory practitioners on page 6. The deadline for submissions for speakers is

January 15. The deadline for student poster submissions is February 15.

The ASCLS and TACLS websites have information for graduates, current students and educators about programs, scholarships and employment opportunities. There are more than twenty new educational offerings at the ASCLS website, www.ascls.org/education/index.asp

We encourage all CLT/CLS professionals to come and join us in one or more of these activities. These programs not only offer CE but an opportunity to meet and network with professionals with similar interests. As an ASCLS member you enjoy discounts to these meetings and if you are not a member, now is a great time for you to join and participate. With the ASCP and NCA requirements for continuing education for certification maintenance, your membership and active participation in your professional organization is vital.



Joanna Ellis and Melissa Tucker, President and Vice President of the TACLS Student Forum.

Texas Clinical Laboratory Educators Meeting

This meeting was held on Saturday, August 4, at the Austin Airport La Quinta Inn and Suites in Austin, Texas. After a catered lunch from the Salt Lick BarBQue we discussed the following topics.

ASCLS

Some of the highlights at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in San Diego, included the recognition of Shirlyn McKenzie as President of ASCLS and the ASCLS Scientific Research Award presented to Rodney Rohde, a CLS faculty member at Texas State University-San Marcos. The ASCP has issued a statement in support of licensure and is interested in future collaborative activities with ASCLS and AACC which may include joint meetings. Most of the ASCLS program handouts were available on-line from ASCLS and were also given to each registrant on a CD.

NCA and ASCP

There has been continued discussion about the possibility of having a single certification agency for clinical laboratory graduates.

Student Bowl

There was discussion about the CLS Student Bowl. The new format moves the games along more quickly and as a result there is a need for more questions, especially 20 point questions. Educators can send their questions to Peter Hu (pchu@mdanderson.org).

State Licensure

There was discussion about the importance of educators in reaching grassroots members and informing them about the need for licensure in Texas. TACLS has developed a coalition with other laboratory organizations to bring a licensure bill to the 2009 state legislature. There will be another Texas Capitol Day for Laboratorians during National Medical

Laboratory Professionals Week. We have chosen Thursday, April 24, 2008, as our primary date.

Recruitment

Most of the educational programs that were represented at this meeting, are not having problems recruiting students. Retention in the profession after they graduate seems to be more of an issue. Low salaries and lack of recognition continue to be a major reason why many new graduates do not stay in the profession very long.

Molecular Diagnostics

CLS and CLT are incorporating more molecular diagnostics in their curriculum. At Austin Community College the CLT Program works very closely with the Biotechnology Program, sharing equipment and laboratory space. The CLT faculty at ACC have been attending workshops and training sessions to teach these techniques.

Labs Are Vital

Two CLS programs in Texas received new laboratory instruments from the instrument donation grant program from Abbott Laboratories. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the University of Texas Health Science Center were two of the 15 recipients to receive these equipment grants.

Leadership Academy

Chris Einspahr is in the Leadership Academy of ASCLS and will be working with other TACLS members to set up a Leadership Academy for Texas. If you are interested in more information, contact Chris (ceinspahr@yahoo.com) or SandieTijerina (sltf9aa@utpa.edu).

Our next Texas Educators meeting will be at the TACLS 2008 Annual Meeting at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark. The preliminary program should be available on the TACLS website in January. The meeting dates are April 2-4. For more information about the TACLS Annual Meeting, go to the TACLS website, www.tacls.org.

Licensure Update

Dave Falleur, TACLS News Editor

At the TACLS Fall Business Meeting in Dallas there was a presentation of the draft licensure bill and attendees had an opportunity to review and revise the proposed bill. The final revision was presented to the Texas Clinical Laboratory Coaliton for Quality (TCLCQ) at their October 29 meeting and has been approved for distribution. If you would like a copy of the bill, send an email to dfalleur@txstate.edu

Here are some major elements of the bill:

1. The bill includes all non-licensed clinical laboratory personnel with the exception of Phlebotomists. Phlebotomists were excluded due to the expected opposition by medical and hospital groups.
2. The bill has a grandfather clause which allows current personnel to be licensed if they have been practicing at the level that they are seeking to be licensed.
3. The bill uses Clinical Laboratory Technician and Clinical Laboratory Scientist as the primary title for generalist laboratory testing personnel.
4. The bill includes Cytology and Histology testing personnel as well as "Clinical Laboratory Specialists", i.e. Clinical Laboratory Specialist in Cytogenetics.
5. The bill does not apply to personnel who are performing waived testing
6. The bill does not apply to licensed personnel who are performing Point of Care testing, as long as that testing is under the direction of a CLIA approved director.
7. The bill exempts persons licensed in Texas who are engaging in the practice for which they are licensed (i.e. respiratory therapists performing blood gas analyses).
8. Individuals who are performing laboratory testing and do not have the educational or certification requirements for licensure will have two years to file an application to the Licensure Board for their review. The Board will determine the type of licensure awarded.
9. The Licensure Board will operate under the direction of the Texas Department of State Health Services and includes four laboratory professionals, a pathologist, a physician, and a public member.
10. The Board will develop the rules and regulations and maintain the database of licensed personnel. The Board will also have the power to enforce the regulations and revoke licenses.
11. The Board will collect data that can be used by hospitals, laboratories, and educational programs to determine current staffing patterns, levels of personnel, and other critical workforce issues.

We will be seeking Senate and House sponsors of our bill. Now is the time to discuss this important legislation with your representative and senator. Letters, emails, personal visits and a commitment by laboratory professionals across the state, are what it will take to make this happen in Texas. For more information, go to the TCLCQ website, www.tacls.org/TCLCQ/indexQ.htm

Online Blood Bank Technology Program

The UT Southwestern Medical Center Online Blood Bank Technology Program (BBT) is provided in collaboration with Blood Systems Laboratories. The program is now a two-year part-time Web-distributed program designed for the working technologist. There are 7 didactic online courses and 5 clinical based courses that have some online information. The online didactic courses include modules and fully illustrated units which incorporate reading assignments, case studies, animations, computer interactive learning activities, discussion boards, chat and other assigned activities. All of the didactic units have been written by the faculty and other content experts and reviewed by national and international experts in the field of transfusion medicine. All of the online course material is provided through The University of Texas TeleCampus (UTTC). UTTC provides technical support to the students 24/7.

The SBB students select a mentor and clinical instructors to guide them during the clinical practice courses. Mentors and clinical instructors are approved by The UT Southwestern faculty. During the serology laboratory course, samples are sent to the students for practice and for their practical exam. The unknown samples are prepared by Blood Systems Laboratories' AABB Accredited Immunohematology Section (IHS).

The UT Southwestern BBT program has had many successful graduates from the traditional onsite program and this Fall graduated the first online SBB class. All of the online graduates who have taken the SBB exam to date have passed the exam successfully.

For more information about this program visit <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/mls>



Teri Emerson, Specialist in Blood Bank
Technology graduate

Molecular Genetic Technology Program at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

The Program in Molecular Genetic Technology is a three-semester, highly intensive course of study that integrates classroom lectures, laboratory demonstrations, and technical experience to prepare each student for national certification as a molecular genetic technologist. For more than 15 years M.D. Anderson has ranked among the nation's top two hospitals in cancer care, according to the "America's Best Hospitals" survey published annually since 1990 in U.S. News and World Report. One of the models for federally designated comprehensive cancer centers, M. D. Anderson is internationally recognized for its exceptional strength in patient care, research, and educational programs.

Molecular Genetics Technologists study the role of genetics in medicine, Mendelian genetics, multifactorial inheritance, DNA structure, chromosome structure, population genetics, mutation rates, ethnicity of disease, and genetic mapping. They have a comprehensive knowledge of cell cycle, mitosis, meiosis, and pedigree analysis. They study inherited disease through examination of genetic mutations in the hemoglobinopathies, enzymopathies, and various structural proteins. They learn the latest and newest methodologies and topics in genetics. Current topics include: DNA microarrays, Human Genome Project, transgenic animals, cloning, gene therapy, forensic medicine, DNA sequencing.

Molecular Genetics technologists have a wide range of career options. They are employed in cancer centers, pediatric and genetic counseling clinics, chemical industries, biotechnology companies, research laboratories, molecular genetic laboratories, computer

imaging sales and development, pathology labs and in research and teaching institutions.

The program conforms to the *Standards* published by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). This is a twelve-month program in which students receive education through classroom lectures, laboratory demonstrations, and hands-on experience. Lecture and laboratory experience include, topics cytogenetics, hematology, immunology, infectious diseases, forensic science, oncology, paternity, and transplantation immunology.

The M.D. Anderson Program charges tuition. The fees vary slightly from year to year; however expenses generally are in the \$5,600.00 range for the 12-month program for in-state and \$18,000 for out of state. Required textbooks and protective equipment are provided for the students. Students are responsible for school supplies, meals, lodging, on campus parking and other personal items. Direct Loans are available to qualified applicants. There are several scholarships available through the institution and several from professional societies. Twelve scholarships, in the amount of \$1000.00 each, are awarded to incoming BS students in the School of Health Sciences. Please contact the Program Director if you are interested in a loan or competing for a scholarship.

For more information, please contact Peter Hu, MS, CLS(NCA), CLSp(CG), CLSp(MB), MP(ASCP), MT(ASCP) at pchu@mdanderson.org. Telephone: 713-563-3095.

**TACLS 2008 CALL FOR PAPERS/POSTERS
Laboratory Professionals & CLS/CLT Faculty**

Laboratory professional poster and paper submissions are invited for presentation at the TACLS 2008 Convention scheduled for April 2-4, at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, in Austin, Texas.

Submissions are invited for original research, method evaluation, case presentation, or technology demonstration. Submit one copy of the abstract (limit 1 page) and a cover sheet that includes:

The title of the presentation _____

Whether you desire to be considered for: circle your choice(s)

Oral presentation AND/OR Poster

Name of first/presenting author: _____

Highest degree of author: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Phone number: _____

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2008
Notice of acceptance will be e-mailed to author by January 31, 2008

Send or e-mail abstract and cover letter to:

David Falleur, TACLS 2008 Conference Committee Chair
dfalleur@txstate.edu

TACLS 2007 CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS

Student poster submissions are invited for presentation at the TACLS 2008 Convention scheduled for April 2-4, at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, in Austin, Texas.

Submissions are invited for topics of your choice. Submit one copy of the abstract (limit 1 page, 12 point font) and a cover sheet that includes:

The title of the poster. _____

Name of first/presenting author: _____

Author list: _____

Mailing Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Name, phone number and e-mail address of Program Director or Faculty Sponsor:

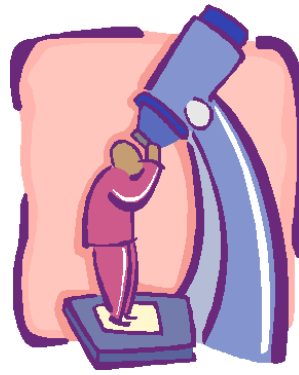
Submission Deadline: February 15, 2008

Notice of acceptance will be e-mailed to author by March 1, 2008

Send or e-mail abstract and cover letter to:

David Falleur, TACLS 2008 Conference Committee Chair
dfalleur@txstate.edu

Quest for Quality
TACLS Annual Meeting
April 2-4, 2008
Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark
Austin, Texas



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