

Pamet Newsletter

Philippine Association of Medical Technologists-USA, Inc.

1067 North Station Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688
 Www.pametnorcal.org

President's Message *by Dan Dominguez, CLS*

After serving Kaiser Hospital Vallejo for more than 28 years, I'm happy to say that my wife and I moved and transferred to the newly opened Kaiser Hospital Vacaville last October 6, 2009. It's a new beginning!

I would like to report to you about the progress of our activities for this year. As always, we provide review classes twice a year and this has been our main focus... to serve the needs of the

unlicensed medical technologists. What we are experiencing since 2008 when the Laboratory Field Services decided to approve and authorize the ASCP and AAB to provide the examination for California CLS candidates, there has been a reduction of unlicensed med. techs. wanting to take the examination or even taking the review classes. We have not seen growing numbers of foreign med. tech.

graduates arriving. Those who have taken the CLS examination before 2008 and didn't pass have been very reluctant to try again. Truth is, they should take advantage of the opportunity to make it in this profession. The time is NOW.

See pg.3



Dan Dominguez, CLS

CLTAC UPDATE *by Liz Dequinia, MBA/HCM,CLS*

LFS NEWS

- The department is in transition from Dr. Nickel's retirement
- State employees have 15% reduction in pay because of the 3 Fri-days off a month as a part of the mandated furlough
- LFS received over 150 voice mails on weekends on top of each employee's voice mail boxes.

Continue on pg. 7

December 2009

Volume6, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

President's Mes- sage	1
CLTAC Update	1
Continuing Edu- cation	2
Community Ser- vices	4
Fall 2009 Re- view Class	6
Upcoming Events	6
Fall 2009 Picnic	7

Special points of interest:

- Continuing Educa-
tion on a cruise to
Alaska in 2010
- News on Board
Examination for
California
- Changes Applied
with Review
Classes
- Life Uplifted
through Community
Services

Continuing Education *by Letty Acosta, MS, Chairperson*

Dan Dominguez

President

Did you miss the last seminar conducted by PAMET at Kaiser Vallejo last August? Then you missed something very educational and informative regarding Quality Systems, CAP Surveys and Proficiency Testing. The speakers extensively discussed the guidelines to having a successful in-control laboratory.

PAMET is always there on the lookout to help fellow CLS's complete their CE units for 2009. So come Saturday, December 5, 2009, the fourth and last seminar of the year will be held at the Lab.Corp Monogram Biosciences Inc. in South San Francisco.

Presented by the Senior President and General manager of ImmunoConcepts Inc., Mr. Robert Boyes is an international speaker and lecturer in systemic rheumatic diseases. He will present "Detection, Interpretation and Clinical Significance of Autoantibodies in Systemic Rheumatic Diseases". This program will provide a comprehensive review of the methods, interpretation, and clinical significance of autoantibody testing. The techniques and interpretation will be of practical use to laboratory technologists, patholo-

gists, clinicians and rheumatologists. Quality control and troubleshooting as well as case studies will be discussed extensively.

This program will be a whole day session: Morning session—9:00-12:00 PM; Lunch break for an hour, and continue from 1:00- 4:30 PM. A microscope will be set-up for the attendees to look at the different patterns associated with the numerous diseases.

An autoantibody is an antibody (a type of protein) manufactured by the immune system that is directed against one or more of the individual's own protein. It is derived from the Greek "auto" which means "self", "anti" which means "against" and "body". Many autoimmune diseases, notably lupus erythematosus, are caused by such autoantibodies. Disorders due to systemic autoantibodies can be elusive. Although the associated autoimmune disorders are rare, the signs and symptoms they cause are relatively common. Symptoms may include: arthritis-type joint pain, fatigue, fever, rashes, cold or allergy-type symptoms, weight loss and muscular weakness. Symptoms vary from person to person, vary over time, vary with organ involvement, they may

taper off or flare unexpectedly. The diagnosis of disorders associated with systemic autoantibodies starts with a complete medical history and thorough physical exam. Based on the signs and symptoms, the doctor may request one or more diagnostic studies that will help to identify a specific disease. These studies include:

- Blood tests to detect inflammation, autoantibodies, and organ involvement
- X-rays and other imaging scans to detect changes in bones, joints, and organs
- Biopsies to look for pathologic changes in tissue specimens.

Identification of circulating autoantibodies is helpful in establishing the correct diagnosis, indicating the prognosis and providing a guide to treatment and follow-up. Some autoantibodies are included in diagnostic classification criteria for diseases such as anti-Sm antigen and anti-double stranded DNA antibodies in systemic lupus erythematosus, anti-U1 nuclear ribonucleoprotein antibodies in mixed connective tissue disease, and anti-SS-A/Ro and anti-SS-B/La antibodies in Sjogren's syndrome. All these conditions will be discussed in detail with beautiful slides and case studies.

Hope to see you all at Lab. Corp. Monogram Biosciences on December 5, 2009. As always, a delicious lunch will be served to the attendees, through



Letty Acosta, MS, CLS

PAMET is always there on the lookout to help fellow CLS's complete their CE units



Continuing Education in August 2009 at Kaiser Vallejo

President's message continues.... from page 1

I am very concerned about what our profession would be like in the next years to come. MLT program has already been introduced and approved by the Department of Health. At this time, less than a hundred MLT's have been licensed to work in the laboratory. Opening schools for MLT's is in process and ongoing. Due to economic crisis, we don't see any future MT schools opening. The effect is a never ending problem for most of the facilities not only in California, but also throughout the country. It's a reality that we could find ourselves working more than we want to. The idea of retiring maybe put to a halt due to manpower shortages in our profession.

With your support, we have been successful in providing Continuing Education seminars at the highest level and at a minimal cost. We seek for better and excellent speakers and quality topics that would satisfy your participation with us. We built this kind of relationship with you all throughout the year and we value that.

As members of PAMET NOR-CAL, we need for you to

further extend your help to us, that we would like to expand our visibility in the different arena of our profession. Let us all be aware of what's happening in the legislative branch in Sacramento, how bills are being introduced as far as our profession is concerned. As we take part in CLTAC meetings at the Laboratory Field Services, we learn more about certain regulations and issues that are being introduced and discussed. We now have a representation in that body.

The joy of helping newly licensed CLS's in achieving their goals and having the opportunity to work makes us very proud of these accomplishments. These are the new group of CLS's who will continue the legacy of our profession. At the present, we are currently working on some plans and objectives to make adjustments to the needs of our

The joy of helping newly licensed CLS's in achieving their goals and having the opportunity to work makes us very proud of these accomplishments.

membership and unlicensed CLS's as far services is concern.

Current economic situations tell us to be more patient, to enjoy work and to keep our relationship stronger than ever with our family, friends and co-workers. The demand of our daily activities requires us to be more focused on the things we need to do and accomplish. Let's commit ourselves to better serve our profession.

More than anything else, I would like to thank all the officers of PAMET NOR-CAL for doing an excellent job. Your commitment is truly commendable.

Holiday is just around the corner. Let me extend to you our sincere and warmest greetings.

**" Have a Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year!!!"
God Bless Us All!!**

Community Services *by Belle Ocampo*

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance Walkathon – September 19, 2009

By: Belle Ocampo

First of all, I want to thank **PAMET, No Cal** and **PAMET, USA** officers and members for the generous support for TSA. My sixteen year old daughter, Marybelle was diagnosed with congenital disease called TSC at one week old.

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is a devastating generic disease disorder that causes tumors to form in various vital organs, primarily the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, liver, skin and lungs. People with TSC develop epilepsy, autism and learning and behavioral problems. It can affect any or all systems of the body, causing a variety of signs and symptoms. These signs vary depending on which organs are involved. The natural course of TSC varies from person to person, with symptoms ranging from very mild to quite severe. Currently there is no cure.

At this point only one-third of TSC cases are known to be inherited. The other two-thirds are believed to be a result of spontaneous mutation. TSC shows no gender bias and occurs in all races and ethnic groups. At least two children born each day will have TSC. Current estimates place affected births at one in 6,000. Nearly one million people worldwide are known to have TSC, with approximately 50,000 in the United States. TSC is as common as Lou Gehrig's disease but virtually unknown to the general public.



Belle Ocampo, CLS

After five years that PAMET, No Cal volunteered to this event, the team got the second place as Team fundraiser. Our team raised \$5,086.00 out of the total of \$51,000.00. In spite of the recession, I was able to raise this

money not only for my daughter but also for all children afflicted with the disease and finding a cure for TSC while improving the lives of those affected. I would not have achieved this goal without the support of family and friends here, from Australia, England and Philippines.

Thank you to all for your generous help and to my family and friends who came to walk with us on that day especially to Rino, Jela and Lala. See you all next year.

Let's walk again with Marybelle!!

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is a devastating generic disease disorder that causes tumors to form in various vital organs, primarily the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, liver, skin and lungs.



**Supporters of
Tuberous Sclerosis
Walkathon**

September 19, 2009

CLTAC Update continues...

- HAL data system is very antiquated. The department will participate in the Enterprise-
- Wide on Line Licensing System (EOL) which will be in place by 2013. The goal is to provide on line applications, licensing and renewal for both personnel and facilities
- The department had budget drills dealing with contracts. The only contract left is the CPS for personnel licensing which is the application and certification for phlebotomists and application and verification for CLS licenses.
- The BSA audit was completed on time
- The department was able to do 158 validations of accredited laboratories, leverage CLIA surveyors and utilize cytology surveyors to perform surveys of pathology laboratories.
- There are 15 bills for review and most required analysis by section chief. Some of the bills had as many as five different amendments and some were converted into two year bill.
- Stakeholders meeting was very successful... Comments on the process of being reviewed.

FACILITY LICENSING REPORT

- Receives 100 applications per month, 10 for licensure and the rest for registrations with an increase of podiatrist applying for registration
- Licensed new 235 new laboratories since the beginning of the year with a total of 2000 licensed laboratories plus 176 out of state laboratories
- Surveyor went to check on some out of state laboratories in Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Kansas.
- Hepatitis reporting was expanded to include signal to cut off range indicating to make sure that it was a part of the instrument reading that indicated a true positive rather than a waiver.
- There is a new Cal/OSHA standard that became effective August 5, 2009 which is about 5199 aerosol transmissible disease that have several pointers similar to the blood borne pathogens standards that need to be implemented in the laboratories. Please check the link: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/DoshReg/advisory_committee.html



Liz Dequinia
MBA/HCM,CLS

PERSONNEL LICENSING REPORT

Phlebotomy applications received from June to August were 1905, only 1452 were approved

Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS): 212 applications received from June to August, 99 qualified and 69 were licensed.

CLS license will be issued 4 -6 weeks after LFS receive the exam results thru snail mail. Once its entered in the HAL it can be printed and used as a temporary authorization to

work while the hard copy arrives in the mail.

Medical laboratory Technicians (MLT): 22 applications received from June to August, 14 qualified and 3 were licensed. There are 81 licensed MLT's in California

ASCP Board of Registry (BOR) and NCA announced that they formed a single certification agency to be effective on October 23, 2009. The new name is ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). NCA will be dissolved as a corporation and the merger will have an effect on the licensure of California Clinical Cytogeneticist Scientists and Clinical Genetic Molecular Biologists Scientists. LFS has been pro-active to contact both companies and the legal office has been considering possible solutions to minimally affect California licensure applicants.

Fall 2009 Review Class *by Jillian Mendoza, Chairperson*

A second series of review class, being our twenty-ninth, was held from September 26 to November 22, 2009. Once again, precious weekends of the students had been busy compiling and reading their books and lecture notes. One half of the class were newcomers and the other half came back to regain their knowledge and learn more before they challenge the board exam.

This class went through a few group study sessions held at the same site. These sessions had proven to be so

valuable in the past and they still do help and inspire the students to focus deeper in their studies... thanks to our former reviewee and a new CLS, Sadia who willingly contributed her knowledge and time to assist our students.

There is quite a change in the format of the board examination questions. Most questions are being given in the form of case studies. Without delay, Pamet is at its best to implement and update its method by reorganizing the format in delivering lectures and develop-

ing questions for the students.

With this note, we hope that the students learn well, and learn better, retain what was learned, and be the best lab professional in the future. There is pride in us being part of Med Tech community in provid-



Jill Mendoza, CLS

ing the diagnostic tool to help physicians recognize disease and determine the treatment of patients.



Pamet Officers with Sadia Qureshi, who passed the board exam immediately after the review class



Photo of the class with Joy Cruz, our Blood Bank lecturer

Upcoming Events for 2010

January 16, 2010	Casino Trip at Feather Falls and Red Hawk casino for \$30.00
February 6, 2010	CE Seminar at Anderson Hall, Washington Hospital
March 2010	CLS Review Class at Washington Hospital
May 2010	CLS Examination by AAB, sponsored by Pamet-Northern, California to be held at Washington Hospital. ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER.

For more information please call :

Liz Dequinia	510-607-6108	Mila Braganza	650-355-5443
Dan Dominguez	707-372-2993	Jill Mendoza	510-789-5888

Annual Picnic *by Jill Mendoza*

Pamet Northern California held its annual picnic last October 3, 2009. Thanks to Jun and Zita Nepacena, a husband and wife team who were up in the wee hours just to reserve a nice spot for us at Central Park

near Lake Elizabeth Park in Fremont, CA.

Liz Dequinia was in in-charge of the delicious food, a combination of American-Chinese-Filipino cuisine while Joy Barrozo and Mila Bra-

ganza provided various games which generated a lot of participants.

Some of us came all the way from the

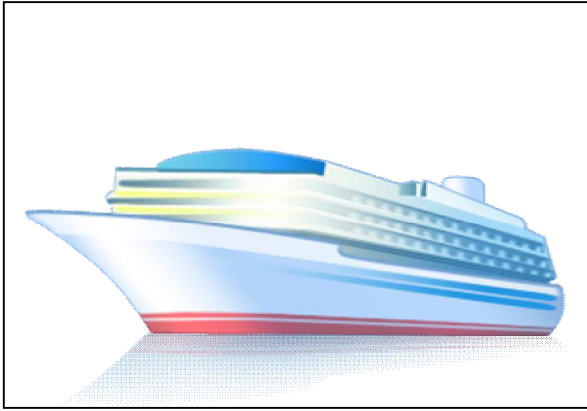
peninsula, brought families and friends, dogs and pets.

We had a few games to play and our energetic membership had so much fun. I, myself had the cross-country skiing as my favorite game although I may not have won if I joined the game.

So, dear Pamet members, for next year's picnic, please remember to sign up to join us and enjoy each other's company. After all, it is Pamet's treat for its membership. See you next year.



Photos during Pamet's Fall Picnic at Central Park in Fremont, CA



PAMET-USA Inc.

holds its

**12th Biennial
National Convention**

on a Cruise to Alaska

in August 2010

For more info:

Dan Dominguez	(707) 372-2993
Mila Braganza	(650)355-5443
Liz Dequinia	(510)407-5678
Letty Acosta	(408)255-6261

**Pamet Nor California
1067 North Station Dr.
Vacaville, CA 95688**