



PAMET Newsletter

Philippine Association of Medical Technologists-USA, Inc.
Northern California Chapter

President's Message by Dan Dominguez, CLS

June 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

With the passing of the new federal health-care law, it has raised the stakes for the need of health care professionals to provide the necessary medical treatment to everyone. Experts believe there won't be enough health care professionals to treat millions of people newly insured under the law.

Where do we as Clinical Laboratory Scientists stand and at what capacity we are capable of making a difference? Statistics show that there will be a need for more clinicians and laboratory technologists. We can all agree that there has been manpower shortage of clinical laboratory technologists or medical technologists all over the country. Even with the emergence of new and advanced technologies and laboratory equipments, we have

found ourselves to be working two or more jobs just to help or meet the needs of other facilities.

The current pool of CLS's has been around too long that even others who retired have come back to help. It is also safe to say that no matter how much we so desire to retire early, it never seems to happen.

Our pay or salary is better than other professionals and we care so much about our job that even if the workload is too much, we manage to co-exist and do our job well. Even with the current economic situation, we feel secured and we still enjoy other things we want to do.

Looking back, after more than 30 years of having PAMET-

NORCAL delivering services to all medical technologists, we have seen the greater accomplishment of what this organization is all about. If we are to evaluate and analyze the significance of what transpired during those times, many of us would say, we are indeed very lucky in this profession.

As your president, I wish to convey to you some significant changes or decisions that we

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Dan Dominguez, CLS

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Special points of interest:

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

CLTAC UPDATE by Marian Castillo, CLS

Department News and Update:

- Furlough for "Special Fund Program" which includes the "Laboratory Field Services" has been lifted. LFS employees who had furlough days were expected to report to work effective 4/1.
- Cumulative effect of the furlough: Turnaround times for license renewals have doubled, so there had been delays in processing.
- Verification of personnel licensing are available at the LFS website:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/lfs/Pages/PersonnelWebsiteLookup.aspx>

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Continuing Education by Letty Acosta

SPRING is here, SUMMER is just around the corner, and it is the time to concentrate on the CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS. PAMET-NOR.CAL is working hard to get good speakers, choose the right topics for the benefit of all the Clinical Laboratory Scientists. As a benefit to all the PAMET members to get free one day seminar per year (0.6 CEU), the next seminar is scheduled for May 22, 2010 at Lab. Corp. Monogram Biosciences, Inc. 345 Oyster Pt. Blvd. So. San Francisco, CA. Flyers have been out since the beginning of April, 2010.

The morning session will discuss ENDOCRINE DISORDERS presented by DR. JAMES FAIX, the Medical Director of Chemistry and Immunology at the Stanford Medical Center. During this session, he will discuss initial diagnosis and appropriate follow-up of diabetes, thyroid and adrenal disease, growth and development disorders; reproductive problems; and a few unusual endocrine disorders. The implication of laboratory testing and accuracy and precision will be presented in light of real patient case histories as well as recent consensus guidelines. After attending this program, participants will be given credits equal to 0.3 CEU. Attendance is mandatory to these seminars before a valid certificate is distributed.

The afternoon session will commence at 1:00 PM, to finish at 2:30 PM (1.5 hrs). You would not want to miss this: "HEMATOLOGY-YESTERDAY & TOMORROW-WHERE IS OUR PROFESSION HEADING". We ask ourselves: "HOW STABLE IS MY JOB?; DO I NEED A SECOND PROFESSION? This should be an eye-opener. Beginning with a historical overview, there will be a presentation of current case studies, and a discussion of the new research in hematology analysis. Discussion will include how our profession is changing and thoughts about what the lab-of the -future might look like.

UTI MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS will start at 2:45 PM, and finish at 4:15 PM. (1.5 hrs).

The Iris UTI Management Solution uses the Iris Urinalysis Work cell to analyze patient samples for five important urine chemistry and urine microscopy results. These results provide the laboratory and the physician a comprehensive understanding of the patient sample to make a clinically relevant assessment if UTI may be present, and if the sample is a candidate for urine culture. The five Iris Work cell bacteriuria indicators are: WBC, Leukocyte esterase, Bacteria, Nitrite and all small particles. Combined

urine chemistry and microscopy results provide a more complete understanding of patient UTI status.

Laboratories use a combination of these five parameters to quickly assess patient samples for possible UTI, providing a faster turnaround time of results, reducing the workload for the Microbiology lab, and improving lab productivity. In Europe, they have demonstrated the effective use of iQ200 as an accurate screening method for UTI.

In addition to these technical and scientific programs, PAMET-USA, INC. will offer seminars during the upcoming CONVENTION AT SEA 2010 from August 15-22, 2010 aboard the PRINCESS SAPHIRE cruising ALASKA. Seven to eight sessions will be offered, with credits of 0.8 CEU. Topics will include: TRANSFUSION GUIDELINES, THE LABORATORY.



Letty Acosta, MS, CLS

Letty Acosta
CE Officer-in-charge



Photos taken at the Continuing Education Seminars, with Speakers Dr. Ed Desmond (left) and Dr Bergen (right)



More photos taken during the seminars held at Washington Hospital, Fremont and At Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo

President's message *continued.... from page 1*

have done to serve the needs of the membership.

To give more assistance to our review class participants, we invited our friends from the Laboratory Field Services namely Zahwa Amad, CLS Program Manager and Nema Lintag, CLS/MLT application examiner. They personally explained the whole CLS application process to our board examination candidates. Our candidates are mostly medical technology graduates who have been out of the field for quite some time and some are returning candidates who wanted to try to tackle the board again. They seek proper guidance and we are there to provide what's best for them. We incorporated a new system, a combination of theory in addition to questions and answers approach to make it easier for the students understand the books and review materials .

We have one major achievement that we are promoting this year as far as CLS licensing examination is concerned. **We have been approved to sponsor a CLS examination to be given by American Association of Bioanalysts this coming August 23, 2010 at Washington Hospital in Fremont, California.** Our adviser, Liz Dequinia made an effort to inquire and request for this plan to happen in our own backyard. We are very

proud of this accomplishment. We made progress and the momentum is on our side to make things available for our members. We want every available unlicensed laboratory technologist to take this opportunity to apply and take this examination. **"This is the right moment."**

As always, by providing four seminars a year held in different locations makes a great deal of satisfaction to our fellow CLS's. We can call this **"Service closer to home"**.

There is no need for anyone to travel far just to obtain CE units. My goal is to expand more, try other cities, with proper planning and hopefully we can make it happen next year. Your satisfaction is our satisfaction.

**CLS examination to be given by
American Association of Bioanalysts
this coming August 23, 2010 at
Washington Hospital in Fremont, CA**

Remember... the more support we get from you as our members, the more we get challenged to bring in new ideas. We may not be as visible as the major clinical laboratory organizations, but surely we try to make an

impact, try to be one of the leaders among all organizations in our profession.

PAMET NOR-CAL is not only about our profession, we make ourselves available to do voluntary work in some community events and that truly is a rewarding part of our activities. We would like to thank those of you who have helped and attended our casino trips and in every fund raising events.

www.pametnorcal.org.

We have increased our membership because of the services we provide, my goal is to reach out to others who are not yet members. I want us to be unified, to have a bigger representation in any arena, dealing with issues and causes for our profession. I seek your help to make this happen. Have a friend or co-worker to become a member and be part of our activities. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website. Lastly, I can only summarize, with great pride, all of our past 2009 planned activities and events as being successful. On a positive note, we would like to do these services again this year and the years to come.

Thank you and God Bless.

Dan Dominguez,
Pamet President



Deb Lial, Hematology Seminar



Iris Speakers at Monogram Seminars



CE speaker Michael Kiser, with Letty



Continuing Education Seminars at Monogram Biosciences Laboratory

ARRAY-BASED CYTOGENETIC TESTING

BASSEM A. BEJJANI, MD, AND MARVIN R. NATOWICZ, MD, PhD

Clinical Chemistry News, May 2010
SUMMARY BY LETICIA M. ACOSTA, MS, CLS

The gain or loss of genetic material causes many human genetic disorders. Today, we also know that most cancers acquire DNA copy number changes during the life of the patient or tumor. These genomic gains and losses may result in congenital anomalies, dysmorphic features, developmental disabilities, or other neurological abnormalities, as well as tumor initiation or progression. Until recently, traditional chromosome analysis was the primary tool for the cytogenetic assessment of patients with these clinical concerns.

For decades, cytogenetics have been limited to visually examining whole genomes with a microscope, a technique known as chromosome analysis or karyotyping. In the 1970s and 1980s, the development and application of molecular diagnostic methods such as PCR, Southern blots, and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) enabled researchers to make many important advances in genetics, including clinical cytogenetics.

The recent development of DNA array methodologies, such as microarray-based comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) arrays and single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays, now allows cytogeneticists to simultaneously examine all loci in the genome with unprecedented resolution. These technical innovations and their clinical applications are transforming the practice of genetic diagnostics in clinical labs and are already playing a key role in revolutionizing the knowledge base and clinical practice in medical genetics.

The earliest chromosomal CGHs compared the relative fluorescent signal intensities of two differently labeled DNAs, a test and a reference, when hybridized to a reference metaphase spread. This scheme identifies relative copy number changes across the genome of the test DNA. In today's aCGH, the reference metaphase chromosome spread is replaced with small segments of DNA (probes) from known genomic regions of interest that have been immobilized on a solid platform, such as a microscope slide, and arrayed in an ordered fashion as targets for analysis.

aCGH: Strengths and Limitations

aCGH has important advantages over traditional cytogenetic and molecular cytogenetic techniques. Key among these is its unbiased ability to simultaneously detect aneuploidy, deletions, duplications, or amplifications at any locus represented on the array. Basically, the technique is equivalent to thousands of FISH experiments. Because its resolution is limited only by the size and spacing of probes, aCGH can detect submicroscopic alterations below the level of the light microscopic resolution in addition to detecting numerical and large structural alterations evident by traditional karyotyping.

Diagnosing Cytogenetic Disease: The Future

Diagnosis of an underlying cytogenetic abnormality as the basis for an individual's disability, congenital anomaly, or other

phenotypic abnormality has significance for both the affected individual and his or her family. It provides an explanation for the individual's physical, developmental, or neurological differences, and an end to what is usually a diagnostic odyssey. More accurate discussions of the natural history and treatment of the clinical condition are often possible once the etiology of the condition is determined. Such knowledge also allows for accurate reproductive recurrence risk counseling and the possibility of antenatal diagnostic testing, if desired.

In the near future, we anticipate that these approaches will replace traditional cytogenetics as the first line method of chromosomal evaluation in most instances. However, the ramifications of the clinical use of these arrays extend beyond their diagnostic importance. These techniques have already revealed new complexities of the architecture of the human genome and the mechanisms for genomic rearrangements. The development and application of still higher resolution arrays and newer nucleic acid sequencing methods, improved algorithms for the analysis of huge amounts of genomic data, and expanded human genomic variation databases portend a new era in the diagnosis and understanding of human genetic disease and hopefully, the associated development of effective therapies.

Letty Acosta, MS, CLS

Spring Review 2010 by Jillian Mendoza

Spring Review Class was a bit challenging due to constructive changes and conflicts of scheduling the lecturers to accommodate the needs and requests of our students.

On the other hand, the consequences paid off. In spite of the confusion changes had caused, the students showed cooperation, trust and patience

but most of all understanding.

Furthermore, we have such a lovely group this season. Determined to pass this board exam come August, they have scheduled sessions of group studies whenever the classrooms are available.

This group is very lucky to be the first batch to have this excellent opportunity

of taking the board exam next to home.

PAMET Northern California is sponsoring AAB (American Association of Bioanalysts) to come to Washington Hospital to conduct California Board Examination. This will be held on August 23, 2010 at 2500 Mowry Avenue, Fremont, CA.

See next page



Marian Castillo
Treasurer

CLTAC Update continues... from page 1

Legislation impacting Clinical Laboratories:

SB744(Strickland) This bill was introduced February 27, 2009 By Senator Strickland. This was signed by Governor 10/11/2009.

Provisions:

- Increases fees for waived labs from \$59 to \$100
 - Fees for PPMP labs – 1 set fee from \$54 - \$100. Clinical Lab fees based on volume testing
 - Increases 2 year certificate fee for phlebotomists from \$ 54 to \$100
 - Labs with multiple sites- \$25 for each additional site
 - Allows for proposal of the state accepting Accrediting Organizations
 - Requires report to the legislature
- Impact on Licensed Labs:**
- Approximately 60% of the labs will see a reduction in fees.
 - Labs with less than 2000 tests will see the reduction.
 - Labs with 10,000 tests and up – graduated fee increase (cap at 15 million tests)
 - Labs doing 15 million tests- fees will be

based on maximum of 15 million. Fees will go to the CLIF fund and not to the general public.

SB 482 (Padilla)

Sponsored by 23&Me (Biological Data Service) a genetic testing company, which interprets genetic laboratory data according to algorithm used to determine risk of certain diseases or genetic makeup. This bill is designed to regulate bioinformatics entities. LFS has not heard of any new amendments. It has not been formally re-introduced as there are several issues involved including privacy issues involved with producing the individual genetic information and its uses and whether or not their interpretation is part of the laboratory tests.

AB 221 (Portantino) HIV testing: skin punctures.

This bill would exempt HIV counselors from the requirements that he or she hold a phlebotomist certificate as long as: (i) *He or she works under the direction of a licensed physician and surgeon;* (ii) *He or she has been trained in accordance with training requirements established by the department, by a licensed physician and surgeon, or by a licensed clinical laboratory bioanalyst in the proper procedures to be employed when conducting the skin puncture, and has a statement signed by the instructing physician and surgeon, scientist, or bioanalyst that the training has been successfully completed.*

Ami Joy Barrozo
External Pro



The Humble Occupation

By Joy Mirador –Barrozo

When patients get so sick
A hospital's no thrill
The doctor tells them what is wrong
And the reason they are ill

They'll be given medication
Go to the lab for a test
Doctor orders "Drink a lot...
Stay home and get some rest!"

Soon they're feeling better
And back up on their feet
Thankful to the doctor
And think he's really neat.

Doctors may get the credit
Or sometimes it's the nurse
But we know it's the "med-tech"
Who always knows it first

We don't get that much credit
Get very little fanfare
We cannot blame the patients though
They really aren't aware

They don't always realize
The importance of our role
It is not only just the doctor
It's the entire team as a whole

Don't feel sorry for yourself
No whining is allowed
Just tell them you're a med-tech
Speak up....you should be proud!

Spring Review 2010 continues...

In conjunction to this, Pamet is conducting a pre-mock AAB in preparation to the upcoming board examination. This exam is geared to the current format and hand-written. It includes theoretical, basic practice in clinical laboratory, troubleshooting,

calibration, quality control and even pre-analytical set-up and practice.

This will be held on July 31, 2010 at the same place 2500 Mowry Ave., Fremont, CA.

A plan of holding another set of review classes is at hand. While this

season is almost wrapped up, the organization is most ready to begin another series to help our colleagues out there.



Jill Mendoza, CLS

For AAB Board Exam, please contact: Liz Dequinia at (510) 608-6107
Dan Dominguez at (707) 372-2993

For review class: please contact: Jill Mendoza at (510)789-5888

Community Services.... By Connie Villaruz

Relay for Life of American Cancer Society at Skyline College at San Bruno was recently held on May 15 and May 16, 2010. It was participated by Vicky Tubig and Mila Braganza. Mila walked the first lap with the cancer survivors. Different bands had continuously played by the hour on the hour. It was amazing to watch the luminaries being lit in honor of friends and relatives stricken with cancer.

Another Relay for Life will be held in Fremont, California on June 26 and 27, 2010, Saturday 10 am to Sunday 10 am located at California School of the Deaf, 39350, Gallaudet Drive, Fremont, CA 94538-2308 Tel. (510) 794-3666.

This event will be headed by Pamet-Fremont group. All members of Pamet are invited to join in. Let's join together to celebrate and honor those people who survived and won their battle against cancer. Let's have a chance to remember our friends and loved ones we have lost. Let's walk and run a mile or two and a few more to help fight back against this horrible disease. To join, please register at <http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pq=entry&fr id=20400>. See you there.

Dear Family and Friends,

My daughter, Marybelle, has a very unusual disease called Tuberous Sclerosis. She had five brain surgeries, three facial laser surgeries and uncontrollable seizures. She will be in her Senior year at Hogan High School, Vallejo CA. In spite of her disability, I'm proud to say that she is a caring, loving, well-behaved and an excellent singer.

Every twenty minutes a child comes into this world with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex and over 67% of these children have no previous family history of TSC. This means that TSC can strike any family, at any time, without warning and for no known reason.

Research funded by the TS Alliance is on the verge of making major discoveries that will have a significant impact on individuals with the disorder. Moreover, the research will assist greatly in the understanding of cancer, epilepsy, autism and mental retardation.

On September 25, 2010, a 10K Trail, 5K Road, 2 Mile Walk, ¼ & ½ Mi Kids Walk will be held at Lagoon Valley Park, 4600 Pena Adobe Rd., Vacaville CA at 8:00 AM. Hope you can join us.

Contact Belle Ocampo at (707) 567-7974 mabel1393@sbcglobal.net or If you wish to make a contribution, you may send a check payable to: Children's Hospital Oakland to our address: 864 So. Regatta Dr., Vallejo, CA 94591 no later done September 20, 2010.

For more information about

TS Alliance, please visit our website at
www.tsalliance.org



*TSC is a genetic disorder causing benign tumors to form in many organs frequently causing epileptic seizures and varying degrees of mental and physical handicap. May cause heart, lung, brain, kidney problems, and skin lesions. Children may develop autism, mental retardation, behavioral problems; every child is different, there is no cure, only hope.

Thank you for your support ...

ATTENTION

FEU

BSMT 1975, 1976, 1977

REUNION

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1977 UST BSMT Grads

REUNION

Date: FEB. 5-6, 2011

Location: Philippines-

Venue: TBA

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CEU BSMT Grads

REUNION

Sept. 5, 2010

Hilton Hotel

39900 Balentine Drive,

Newark, CA 94560

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Nitz Cruz: 408 550-7372

Application Process for California Board Exam

by Nema Lintag

Application Process for CLS and MLT

Online application:

Apply online at https://secure.cps.ca.gov/cltreg/cls_examinfo.asp. Select the correct category by using the dropdown. Pay the fee by debit or credit card. No refund on wrong category. Fill out the application completely. Any problem call (916)263-3624 option 4.

Documents Required for Submission

1. Attestation page. Between 3 to 5 business days after completion of online application, sign, date the attestation page and mail to LFS. Save a copy for your record.
2. Official transcripts. **Official transcripts have to be sent directly to LFS. Applicants must have Bachelor's Degree in Science** course requirement in Analytical or clinical chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics (light and electricity), Hematology, Immunology, Medical Microbiology. Degree conferred must be posted in the official transcript.
3. Verification of clinical training and or work experience. Required are: (1) Signed documentation from the training coordinator or work experience from the laboratory director namely: Facility name, address dates of training and/or dates of employment. (2) Specialty & subspecialty areas of training and/or experience. (3) Length of time in each specialty and subspecialty, such as, number of hours/weeks. 3-5 business days after completion of online application.
4. ASCP, ASCPI, OR AAB certification
 - (a) American Society of Clinical Pathologist (ASCP) www.ascp.org
 - * ASCP & ASCPI approved certifying exam for California CLS applicants.
 - * Request email verification upon successful completion of exam.
 - (b) American Board of Bioanalyst (AAB) www.aab.org

LFS Evaluation

Upon receipt of official documents, they are reconciled in applicant's file. Documents are reviewed for: (a) Completed application form, (b) Signed attestation page, (c) Official transcripts, (d) Verification of training and/or work experience. (e) Examiner will note missing, documents, e.g. course missing. (f) Applicants will receive an email or mail for missing documents, (g) When documents are completed, qualification letter will be mailed to applicants by LFS.

Qualification Letter

Applicants must provide the qualification letter to an approved certifying organization (ASCP, ASCPI or AAB) for identification for CA licensure only. Username and Password for the CA quiz online. Request for certification to be mailed to LFS.

California Quiz

Applicants have to pass a self-administered exam on CA clinical laboratory law (on line Quiz) www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/lfs/pages/OnlineQuiz.aspx

A short tutorial on basic state laboratory law may be accessed through this link; [Tutorial](#). Website is checked once/week.

Issuance of License

License are issued every 2 weeks. Check the website for your name and license number:

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/lfs/Pages/Personnel_WebsiteLookup.aspx

The LPW verification can be printed by potential employers and posted as a temporary license for 90 days from the date of issuance until the printed copy license is received.

License

Printed licenses are mailed 6-8 weeks after issuance. Any change of name or address, notify LFS in writing within 30 days.

Application Time Frame

Your application is in queue on a first come first serve basis. Allow 12 weeks for the processing of your application.

Application is abandoned 6 months after issuance of qualification letter.

Contact information:

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Nema.Lintag, MLT/CLS Program Specialist
(Nema.Lintag@cdph.ca.gov)

Tel: (510) 620-3839 Fax: (510) 620-3822

Address:

California Department of Public Health
Laboratory Field Services

Attn: CLS Program or MLT Program

850 Marina Bay Pkwy

Bldg. P 1st Floor

Richmond, CA 94804-6403

**Summary from Nema Lintag's power point presentation by:
EDD**

PAMET-USA Inc.
holds its

**Biennial National
Convention**



**Alaskan Cruise
via Sapphire Princess**

August 15 to 22, 2010

For more info:

Mila Braganza: (650) 355-5443

Upcoming Events: 2010

- June 26 and 27 Relay for Life Fremont, CA
- July 31, 2010 Pre-Mock AAB in Preparation to AAB Board Exam at 2500 Mowry Ave. Fremont, CA
- Aug 15 to 22, 2010 National Convention on Alaskan Cruise/Princess Sapphire
- Aug. 23, 2010 AAB California Board Exam, 2500 Mowry Ave., Fremont, CA
- Sept. 25, 2010 CE Seminar Kaiser Vacaville
- Oct 2010 Fall Review Class starts
- Dec 2011 Seminar /TBA