THE PALMETTO SCOPE
A Publication of the S.C. State Society of American Medical Technologists

AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health.

Mark Your Calendar

AMT 72nd Educational Program and National Meeting
Summerlin, Nevada
July 12 - 17, 2010

SCSSAMT Fall Board Meeting
Beaufort, South Carolina
September 18, 2010

National Medical Assistants Week
October 18 - 22, 2010

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District Councillor's Comments - Spring 2010

I will be glad when spring finally gets here, because I am tired of the cold weather. Well, with spring around the corner, it looks like the Council will have another busy year. Today marks one year from the miracle on the Hudson and it was so entertaining to have Jeffery Skiles to attend our National convention last year. He talked about how important teamwork, along with training and following procedures, made the miracle that took place on January 15th into the Hudson River. Speaking of National, it will be at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort Spa at Summerlin on July 12 - 17, 2010. Make plans to attend now. I must commend Dianne Powell and the home office staff for selecting this beautiful site for our 2010 National Convention. I promise you that you will not be disappointed with this selection. The grounds are beautiful and the views from your rooms are spectacular. While I'm telling you about the resort, I urge all attendees to visit the "Rewards Counter" located in the casino. Get a "Rampant Rewards" card. Even if you don't gamble, this card will get you discounts on meals every day, plus other advantages.

Diane reported to the Council that the program is 90% complete. There will be 2 workshops taking place on Monday. The Friday night entertainment will be a dinner show with some excellent impersonators "The Ratpack is Back". The leadership conference held on Thursday of that week promises to be very educational for the State officers. The Council has obtained the services of three speakers which I believe will be of much help to all the officers of each state. There will be a shuttle service from the airport for $32.00, which is cheaper than $60.00 one way for a taxi. Look for details in the current AMT Events publication. They have selected Miami, Florida for the 2011 convention site. It will be a joint meeting with CAGMET. I hope you observed National Dental Assisante week in March and National Medical Laboratory week in April - you have earned the kudos.

Chris Damon reported to the Council that AMT has hired, on a part-time basis, Camille Murray as Education Manager. She will be working to develop online CEU opportunities along with different ways to obtain CEUs. Kathy Cilla, our Marketing Manager, has been very busy spreading AMT around the world. She urges AMT members to go to the AMT website and view the different web home sites from various states. Home office is waiting to help any state wanting to set up individual state websites. I plan to attend the Magnolia and the Carolinas Clinical Connection this spring. I can't wait to see my old friends and look forward to meeting new ones. I look forward to seeing you at National.

Thank you.

Shannon H. Newman, BSMT (AMT)
Southern District Councillor

President's Message

We have just returned from the Carolinas Clinical Connection which was held at the Crowne Plaza & Golf Resort in Asheville, North Carolina. It was a very good meeting. The hotel was excellent and the food was good. I think everyone that attended had a great time. There was plenty of time for continuing education classes and time to have fun. There was a total of 25 vendors and recruiters who participated this year. The vendors and recruiters played a major part of making this meeting a success and they are very much appreciated. Without these vendors and recruiters, we would not be able to have these meetings. The attendance was down a little this year, but that was to be expected with the state of the economy. Overall, this was a successful meeting and we look forward to next year in North Charleston, South Carolina. It is scheduled for March 23-25, 2011 at the Embassy Suites near Charleston International Airport and Tanger Outlet Malls and 20 minutes from historic downtown. I hope you all will begin making plans to attend this meeting. This is a good time to get those CEU classes that you all need.

Our National Meeting this year is being held at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa at Summerlin, NV July 12-17, 2010. This will be the (continued p 4)
72nd Educational Program and National Meeting. South Carolina has one member who will receive an award at the National Meeting. Dr. Gerald Boe will receive the GEM Award. We are very proud of him and all that he has accomplished. If you have never been to a National Meeting, you should try to make plans to go. If you do, you will definitely want to go again. It is an experience that all members should have at least once. It is so important for all of you to get involved in the AMT Society on the state and national levels. There is so much work to be done. Please contact me if you would like to get involved.

Your President,
Peggy

Peggy McCutcheon, MT
SCSSAMT President

Membership Milestones!

30 Years
Cathy Cordell - Anderson
Mel Chassereau Francie - Walterboro
Carol Grabb - Dalzell
Jerry E. Levi - Edisto Island

Keep up-to-date on Legislative Issues!

Go to www.amt1.com

Look for the Legislative link on the left...
Welcome New Members!!

MT:
Dionne Webb - Port Royal

MLT:
Courtney Duggins - Lake City
Pinque Singleton - Columbia
Roxanne Thomas - Port Royal

CMAS:
Jennifer Grove - Travelers Rest

RMA:
Lisa Anderson - Wellford
Matthew Barnaby - Summerville
La Tasha Brown - Charleston
Samantha Charles - Marion
Tiffany Cleveland - Simpsonville
Deborah Cole - Fort Mill
Whitney Cornwell - York
Louise Craig - Columbia
Jeri Lynn Daigle - Gilbert
Valerie Dennis - Greenville
Rita Edge - Duncan
Linda Edwards - Spartanburg
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Pamela Green - St. Matthews
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Gloria Wingate - Cheraw
So You Have a High Potassium
by John W. Sherer, MT(AMT)

Have you ever had a doctor call your laboratory complaining that they didn't believe the high potassium results from your lab on one of his/her patients? Over the years while working for CompuNet Clinical Labs in Dayton, Ohio, from time to time we'd have such a call, and it was always difficult to suggest reasons why. Recently I read an article in the Mayo Clinic Health Letter that would be very helpful in responding to such inquiries.

To begin with, Potassium is an electrolyte that's especially important for controlling the electrical impulses that sustain normal heart rhythm. Factors that may elevate potassium include:
* Diminished kidney function. This can occur with kidney failure or chronic kidney disease, especially when related to diabetes. Patients with diabetes often use a salt substitute because the doctor has told them to reduce their salt intake. Guess what? That salt substitute contains potassium.
* Adrenal gland problems such as Addison's disease can interfere with potassium regulation.
* Numerous medications. Some of the most prominent include angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), which are classes of blood pressure drugs that are also important for slowing the progression of kidney disease. Diuretic spironolactone (Aldactone, other), often used in combination with ACE inhibitors or ARBs, may cause one's body to retain potassium. Other diuretics that may cause higher potassium include amiloride and triamterene, which is found in combination products such as Dyazide and others.
* Some other drugs that may cause elevated potassium are beta blockers and other drugs used to treat high blood pressure, glaucoma, and migraines. Further, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, and others) and naproxen (Naptosyn) may cause elevated potassium.

We have always known that a hemolyzed specimen can cause erroneous elevated potassium. What we may not have considered is large scale cell destruction, such as from trauma, burns, or a major seizure. Tumor destruction can also result from chemotherapy.

For more information on flushing the system, reducing potassium consumption, adjusting medications, eliminating excess potassium, and signs and symptoms, go to the Mayo Clinic Health Letter of February 2009 at www.HealthLetterMayoClinic.com

Mr Sherer is Chair of the Federal Government Affairs Committee for National AMT and is a member of the National AMT State Legislative Committee. We thank him for his permission to reprint this article.
Mark Your Calendar

AMT in Las Vegas
July 12–17, 2010
72nd Educational Program and National Meeting

Las Vegas offers visitors much more than gambling: big-name entertainers and shows, fine dining provided by world class chefs, and sightseeing unlike any other place in the world. Casinos are more than a place to gamble. The themes and artistry of their designs can take you to the cobblestone streets of Paris, the skyscrapers of New York, or the pyramids of ancient Egypt. Enjoy the dancing fountains of the Bellagio, the erupting volcano at the Mirage, or the pirate battle at Treasure Island. Walk through the Fremont Street Experience, an enclosed pedestrian mall with 12 million lights in the Viva Vision canopy and 550,000 watts of concert quality sound. Shopping for every taste and budget abounds. The Fashion Show Mall, the Forum Shops of Caesar’s Palace, the Boulevard Mall and the Grand Canal Shoppes are just some of the unique shopping venues. There’s always something to do in Las Vegas!

JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa at Summerlin

FEATURES:
- Resort is set against the dramatic backdrop of the Spring Mountain range and Red Rock Canyon
- 541 spacious guestrooms with walk-in closets, ceiling fans, marble bathrooms with Jacuzzi tubs and separate marble showers with raindrop showerheads
- Hotel restaurants include an authentic Irish pub and buffets
- Adjacent casino with gaming activities and entertainment
- Located in the heart of southern Nevada's premier golf neighborhood within minutes of the resort's front door
- Red Rock National Conservation Area offers hiking, biking, rock climbing, horseback riding, and Hummer tours
- Famous Las Vegas “Strip” — with world-famous dinning, shopping, and entertainment — is 15 minutes away by complimentary resort shuttle

Room rate: $129.00 single/double (rate valid from July 7 to July 20)

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Members attend Spring Business Meeting

Spring Business Meeting

President Peggy in Downtown Asheville
Charles, Joyce, Peggy & Suzie enjoy the Past Presidents Luncheon

Suzie having fun in Asheville

The Fun Bus
Downtown Asheville
Think On These Things.....

Winning isn't always finishing first.
Sometimes, winning is just finishing.

Manuel Diotte