

AMT EVENTS

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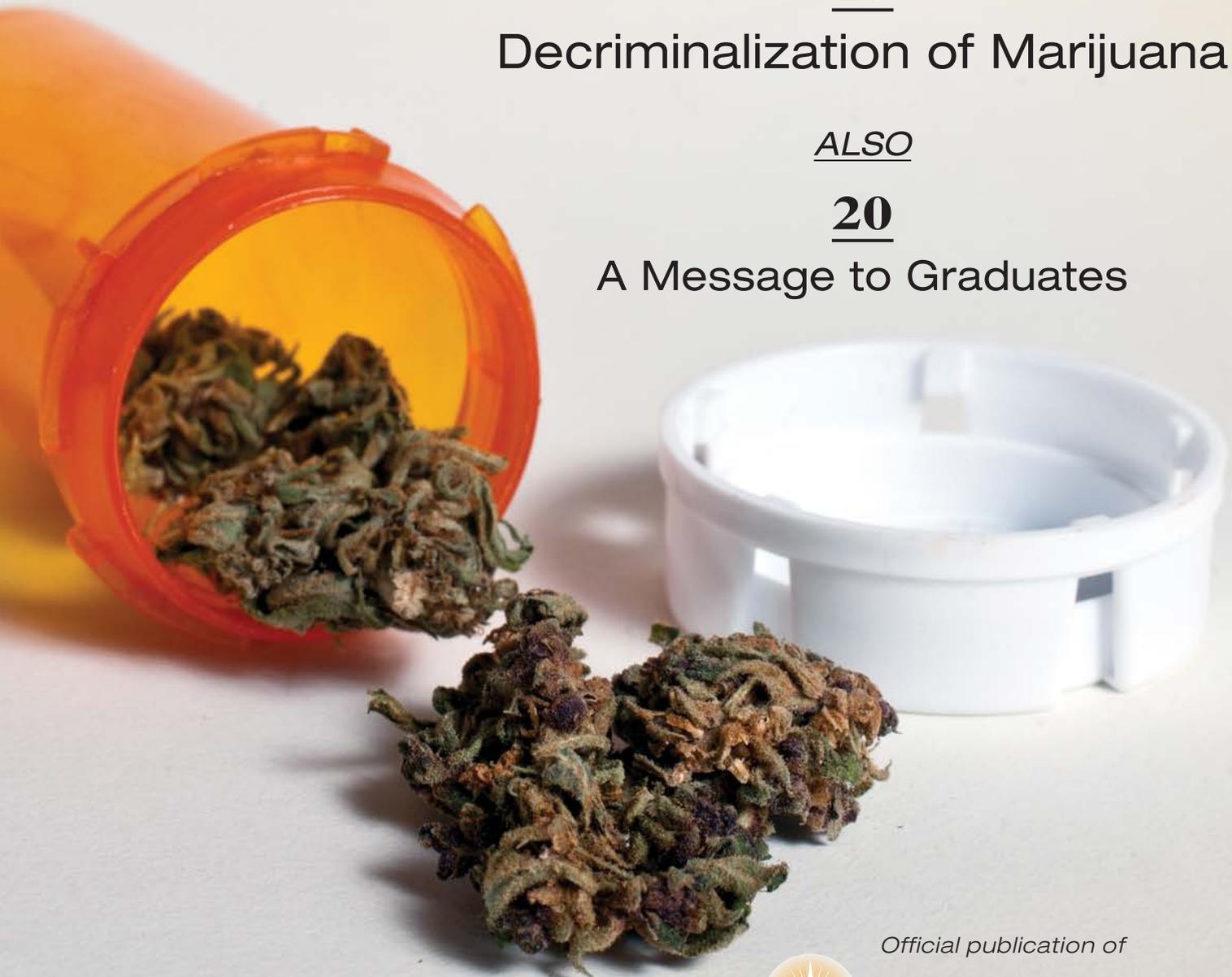
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A Message to Graduates



Official publication of



AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

AMT EVENTS



AMT
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AMT — A National Certification Agency

American Medical Technologists (AMT), established in 1939, is a national, non-profit certification agency for: Medical Technologist, MT®; Medical Laboratory Technician, MLT®; Registered Medical Assistant, RMA; Registered Dental Assistant, RDA; Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant, CMLA; Registered Phlebotomy Technician, RPT; Certified Laboratory Consultant, CLC; Certified Allied Health Instructor, CAHI; Certified Medical Administrative Specialist, CMAS

For information on qualifications necessary for each certification, contact:
AMT, 10700 Higgins Rd., Suite 150, Rosemont, IL 60018—Phone: 847/823-5169.

MEMBER:

Institute for Credentialing Excellence/National Commission for Certifying Agencies
Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute

president's comments



Jeffrey Lavender, MT
President

Greetings to you, my AMT Family:

As I write this, your AMT Board of Directors and Council just completed our Spring meeting in Tucson, AZ. I will highlight some of our workings below, but please know that both your Board and Council work very hard to continuously improve our organization, and to meet our members' needs.

The Board was pleased to welcome two new Non-Voting Board Observers to our ranks this year, selected to represent our newer, younger members: **Kody Karas**, RMA from California; and **Michael Waide**, CMLA, AHI from West Virginia. Both Kody and Michael wasted no time in making significant contributions to the Board's discussions and decisions. Although they didn't have a vote on issues, they both provided very valuable insights, and represented all of you very well. We look forward to having Kody and Michael join us in Kansas City this summer, and in Chicago this fall.

Each fall, the Board selects two new Non-Voting Observers. We are looking to mentor a couple of young, involved members in the higher workings of the organization. If you are interested in joining us in a future year, I encourage you to get involved in your State Society, and then ask your State Society President or District Councillor to formally nominate you for the position.

The Council was also pleased to welcome new Great Lakes District Councillor **Beverly Christiansen**, RMA from Iowa. Beverly also wasted no time in jumping into the job, working with the Council to improve their processes, and work more efficiently with State Society leadership to continue to improve our organization as a whole. Beverly looks forward to developing a relationship with the State Society presidents from the Great Lakes District, and really getting to work.

With the additions of these awesome, hard-working members I just mentioned, we also had to say goodbye to some pretty awesome people in their own right. **Tabitha Jordan** and **Carlo Ledesma** served as the Non-Voting Board Observers this past year. Both also were great contributors to the Board's work, and I have no doubt they will both make excellent future leaders in this great organization.

Clara Boykin left the Council after nine years as the Great Lakes District Councillor. If you're not aware, District Councillors have term limits, just like Board members, and Clara was no exception. Nine years of working as a District Councillor is a lot of work, a lot of travel, a lot of headaches, and a lot of fun with some great State Society leaders. On behalf of the Board, I commend Clara for her many years of hard work in her District. But I know that Clara will continue to work hard for her AMT Family.

government news



by AMT Legal Counsel

Michael N. McCarty

Michael N. McCarty Law Office PLLC, Washington, DC

VA Backs Off Proposal to Let Nurse Practitioners Administer, Supervise and Interpret Lab Tests

Responding to an outcry from the clinical laboratory community, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has dropped a proposal that would have allowed Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs) to perform, supervise, and interpret diagnostic lab tests in VA facilities.

In May of 2016, the VA issued a proposed rule to expand the existing practice scope of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Included among the proposals was a regulatory amendment that would give CNPs the authority to “order, perform, supervise, and interpret laboratory and imaging studies.”

AMT joined several other laboratory and pathology organizations in protesting that aspect of the VA proposal. AMT’s comments noted that: “While . . . CNPs are invaluable members of the healthcare team, their education and training covers a breadth of medical disciplines and does not reach the depths of scientific concepts underlying clinical laboratory testing. Permitting CNPs to serve in a supervisory capacity or as testing personnel for complex laboratory procedures, without first assuring they have the requisite experience, training and skills, could lead to unnecessary medical errors that may jeopardize the health and welfare of our nation’s veterans.”

In December, the VA issued a final rule on the expanded scope of practice for APRNs in VA facilities. The VA acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised by lab and pathology groups, and amended the final rule accordingly. The VA stated:

We agree with the commenter[s] . . . that the proposed language might be construed as allow-

ing CNPs the ability to perform laboratory studies. **It is not VA’s intent to have APRNs take over the role of laboratory specialists.** These specialists perform a crucial role at VA medical facilities and are skillfully trained in performing the various testing techniques that allow health care professionals to properly treat a veteran’s medical condition. **We are amending proposed § 17.415(d)(1)(i)(B) to now state that a CNP may be granted full practice authority to “Order laboratory and imaging studies and integrate the results into clinical decision making.”** [Emphasis added.]

The VA’s change in direction was a big win for the lab community. It remains to be seen whether CMS will similarly pare back its position that nursing degrees are equivalent to a “degree in biological science” for purposes of the CLIA personnel regulations, which is the subject of another campaign by the lab community. But this is a good start, and a valuable acknowledgment by the Government that clinical laboratory diagnostics is a unique profession, and not a subset of nursing practice.

Record Turnout for Legislative Fly-In as Lab Groups Push Further Delay in PAMA Implementation

For the ninth consecutive year, AMT joined as a cosponsor of the spring Legislative Symposium and Legislative Day fly-in in Washington. The event gives volunteer members of the sponsoring organizations an opportunity to learn about current policy issues facing the clinical lab community, then visit the offices of their Congressional Representatives and Senators to advocate the lab community’s interests.

councillor's corner

What does your State Society mean to you?

*By Randy Swopes, MT
Central District Councillor*

If you lost your state society charter tomorrow, how would it impact your life and your livelihood? Let's analyze this a little farther.

When you chose AMT as your certifying agent, you received some big pluses. Plus number one, you joined a certification organization with the highest standards in the laboratory field, one that constantly strives for excellence in education. The second plus is that upon your certification, you joined a group of colleagues and friends who have warm hearts and helping hands. I personally consider my colleagues and friends in AMT as "Family." Every time we meet it is like a reunion. Plus number three: we have a leadership team (that you help select), that constantly strives to ensure that you have the latest technological advances, and also an up-to-date information on laboratory technologies. They keep you informed in a timely manner.

There are many more pluses, but let's get back to the original question: If you lost your state charter, how would it impact your life and livelihood?

In this age of information choices, technically speaking, you have many avenues to obtain those

valuable "CEUs." AMT provides many of these. The state I am in actually provides free CEUs via traveling seminars. So for me to lose my state charter would not affect my livelihood.

But the relationships I have made with my AMT colleagues across this country and the endearing friendships that I hold close to my heart, far surpasses my desire to obtain CEUs.

There are 39 state charters that constitute what we know as the American Medical Technologists. So your state is very important in this group. We collectively are the "Pride of the Profession." Just to lose one state charter diminishes the power we have in the 39. You have a voice in how this organization works. We must strive to keep AMT in the forefront of Laboratory Sciences.

So I plead, please support your state leadership by:

- #1. Attending the state meetings.
- #2. Getting involved by running for any of the various state offices.
- #3. Attending the AMT National Convention, representing your state on the national level. ■

2017 AMTIE Scholarships

April 1, 2017, is the filing deadline for applications and supporting documents in the AMTIE 2017 undergraduate/graduate scholarship program and for grants to high school graduates pursuing medical technology, medical assisting, dental assisting, or phlebotomy studies. Don't wait, apply now!

Up to three \$1,500 AMT Member Scholarships may be awarded annually. Applicants must be members in good standing with AMT and enrolled in a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting commission. The course of study should be concerned with the disciplines certified by AMT. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the AMT Institute of Excellence and scholarship committee based on financial need, career goals, and previous scholastic record.

Up to five \$500 Student Scholarships are awarded annually and available to high school graduates interested in pursuing medical technology, medical assisting, dental assisting, or phlebotomy studies. Appli-

cants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a school accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education, or enrolled or planning to enroll in college, university, or junior college medical technology, medical assisting, dental assisting, or phlebotomy studies. Scholarship recipients will be selected by AMTIE Board of Trustees based primarily on need; taken into consideration are individual goals and motivation, school grades, participation in extracurricular activities, work experience, and personal references.

All scholarships will be awarded during the AMT National Convention.

For information and to receive an application, visit www.americanmedtech.org

Application deadline is April 1, 2017.

Any applications received after April 1, 2017, will be held until next April, 2018.

state societies



SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Alabama	04/22/2017	Prattville AL
California/Hawaii	September TBD	San Jose, CA
CASMET	10/21/2017	Georgetown, Guyana
Florida	02/11/2017	Port St. Lucie, FL
Georgia	04/28/2017	McDonough, GA
Illinois	05/12/2017	TBD
Maine/New Hampshire	04/29/2017	Waterville, ME
Michigan	10/5-7/2017	Frankenmuth, MI
Nevada	09/22/2017	TBD
New Mexico	4/22/2017	Albuquerque, NM
New York	05/06/2017	Flushing, NY
North Carolina	03/29-31 / 2017	Myrtle Beach, SC
Ohio	04/08/2017	Mason, OH
Oklahoma	04/21/2017	Tulsa, OK
Oregon	05/ 19-21 /2017	Newport, OR
Pennsylvania	05/08/2017	Plymouth Meeting, PA
Rocky Mountain	04/01/2017	Pueblo, CO
South Carolina	03/ 29-31 / 2017	Myrtle Beach, SC
Texas	04/ 28-29 / 2017	Fort Worth, TX
Utah	03/18/2017	Salt Lake City, UT
Virginia	04/08/2017	Salem, VA
West Virginia	04/22/2017	Fairmont, WV
Wisconsin	04/ 4-5 / 2017	Middleton, WI

In Memoriam

Jack Beyrau, MT, Newport News, VA, certified in 1986, died August 24, 2016

Nora Devine, RMA, Lebanon, ME, certified in 2009, died June 20, 2016

Darcy J. Finke, RMA, Oak Harbor, OH, certified in 2003, died April 24, 2016

Norman C. Fox, MT, Waddell, AZ, certified in 1958, DOD unknown

Jennifer M. Hoefler, RMA, Marietta, GA, certified in 2003, DOD unknown

Melissa J. Kern, RMA, Wilmington, DE, certified in 2014, died in March, 2016

Rosalind M. Passmore, RMA, Ellenwood, GA, certified in 2012 (recertified in 2016), DOD unknown

Karen Ann Sanzalone, RMA, North Arlington, NJ, certified in 2004, died January 11, 2016

Kevin Thomas Unverzagt, RMA, Howell, MI, certified in 2016, DOD unknown

Decriminalization of Marijuana: Gateway to Substance Abuse?

by Sol Goldenberg

“
Most marijuana users believe that it is not addictive.”

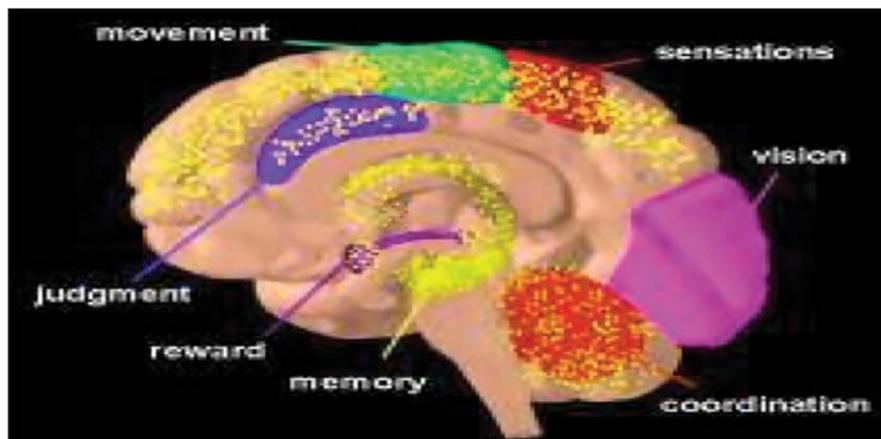
On November 8, 2016, nearly 71.3% of the Floridian voters, or 6,515,964 people, voted "Yes" to The Florida Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative, also known as Amendment 2. A "yes" vote supported the legalization of marijuana use by individuals who suffer from debilitating conditions as determined by a licensed state physician. Amendment 2 required the Department of Health to regulate marijuana production and the distribution centers. It also included issuing identification cards for such patients and their caregivers. The Florida Constitution required that Amendment 2 become effective on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, or on January 3, 2016.

Marijuana is derived from the dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds of the hemp plant, *Cannabis*

sativa. This plant contains a chemical known as *delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol* or THC which has a mind-altering effect. Its use increased among young people during the Vietnam war and increased among veterans and middle and high school students. Until now, it has been considered to be an illicit drug.

People use marijuana by smoking, eating, drinking and inhalation. Marijuana is smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes known as "joints" or in pipes (or water pipes) known as "bongs." It is also smoked in empty cigars known as "blunts." Some people use "vaporizers" to avoid inhaling it. Some people take it in food, such as brownies, cookies or candies known as "edibles." Smoking THC resins is called "dabbing."

Marijuana has short and long-term effects on the brain.



THC acts on numerous areas (in yellow) in the brain.
Image by NIDA