President’s Message

Hello Mississippi State Society of AMT,

In preparation for National Professional Laboratory Week 2019, I think back over my career as a laboratory professional and the evolution of laboratory testing that I have experienced.

The Laboratory profession is much more than a career working in a clinical laboratory, specimen collection, and performing clinical pathology tests. The laboratory professional holds an important role in medicine working, behind the scenes. Everyone knows that laboratory test influence medical decisions and are important for providing information about health of a patient to aid in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Yet, not everyone knows how clinical laboratorians add value and contribute to improved outcomes, information resource that enables selection of the right test on the right patients at the right time, with results delivered timely to the right place linked to guidance on agreed action to be taken. The Laboratory professional help clinicians identify the most effective testing protocol and interpret the results accurately and in a timely fashion. Clinical laboratorians can further reduce health care costs by developing new, more precise tests to personalize patient care and creating computerized clinical decision support interventions to aid test selection and interpretation.

Doctors identify an illness then used information and research regarding that condition to treat it. What can we expect from in the future? Expediency, accuracy, transparency related to cost and resulting value toward health outcomes. Laboratories provide value toward outcomes by using real time, data that affect decisions, improve care, increase the workflow, allows provider engagement, which aids the individual patient treatment decisions. (Personalized Medicine) Diagnosing and treating an individual based on what a doctor knows about the patient genetically as well as knowledge of a disease or condition.

The field of laboratory medicine is changing because of advancements in technology, allowing us to see more of a person at the molecular level. Doctors can select a course of treatment for a disease, which will address the specific DNA of an individual. Laboratory professionals of the future will encounter new methods of data recognition and collection to help doctors treat their patients at a more personal level. Although the profession is potentially changing, it is also exciting.

I can only imagine what it will be like to work in the laboratory of the future.

Kathy L. Sutton, MT (AMT)
Mississippi State President
Central District Councillor Message

AMT will be holding their 81st Educational Meeting and Educational Program at the Chicago Hilton Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois from July 1 thru July 5th, 2019. Room rates will be $129+ tax a night for single or double occupancy. If you would like two double beds with two bathrooms, the rate is $159 a night plus tax. Be sure to register early in order to receive the early discount. It is important to be an active member, not only at your state society meetings, but as a delegate from your state at the National Meeting. The 2020 AMT meeting will be held in the Western District. The location will be announced as soon as the site is secured.

Don’t forget to record your continuing education units online with AMTRAX. It makes it easy to keep up with your CEU’s in case you get audited or just to keep up with your education. There is a User’s Guide to AMTRAX that can be downloaded from the website that shows how to record your education in case you need help. If you had rather use your Smart Phone, there is a convenient mobile app.

Did you know that AMT now offers the Reach Certificate Program that is specialty training in the areas of ECG, Point of Care and Immunization? The course is online and takes about 5 hours to complete.

I want to encourage each of you to join us in Chicago.

Thank you,

Taffy K. Durfee, MT (AMT)

Editor’s Message

Greetings Mississippi State Society AMT Members!  As the rain slacks and tornado season comes to close, please take a moment to savor the warm weather, count your blessings and set a goal for 2019 if you haven’t done so already.  Finishing touches are underway for the annual AMT national meeting that is scheduled to take place July 1-5, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois at the luxurious Chicago Hilton Hotel on Michigan Avenue.  Registration fee for members is $495 and $165 for students; see pages 10-11 for more information on the national meeting.  Everyone is encouraged to get involved on the national or state level.  There are several ways to get involved.  Attending the national meeting, which gives you an opportunity to see another part of the country, earn CEU’s, join a committee and network with AMT members and leadership.  If traveling isn’t in your budget, please consider attending the Fall state society meeting (location and date to be determined) or put your knowledge and writing skills to good use; by submitting an scientific article related to your area of certification.  If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.  Many thanks!  Felicia Williams, MPA, MT(AMT)
The 80th National American Medical Technologists Convention was held in Washington, DC at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill July 1-5, 2018. I attended the following sessions:

- Welcome and Keynote Address
- An Overview of the 2018 Influenza Epidemic
- Opioid Epidemic
- Using Real Life Studies to Promote Critical Thinking
- The Cestodes
- Pocket of Time
- Eating Disorders
- Duties and Responsibilities of State Society Officers

Also, I had the opportunity to attend the following meetings:

- Moderators Briefing
- Welcome Reception (I WON the New York State basket)
- Future Planning Membership Committee
- Award Banquet and Convocation
- AMT Central District Meeting
- AMTIE Annual Business Meeting
- Town Hall Session; Annual Reports and Legislative Reports
- AMT Annual Business Meeting

There were two (2) new AMT members elected to the AMT Board of Directors and one RMA.

⇒ Harry Narine (MT)
⇒ Marty Hinkel (MT)
⇒ Francine M. Oran (RMA)

Session #1824 The Most Pocket of Time stood out to me. The speaker; Alice Macomben told us that “Pocket of Time” can be defined as a gap between two (2) tasks that take place at the same time. And by the same token you are told to “work smarter, not harder”.

So pocket of time can help anyone to become more productive and effective with less stress. We learned that one of the key factors when dealing with a pocket of time is for each of us to utilize the ‘Work Smarter, Not Harder’ concept.

In essence, when this timesaving concept is put into action, one can make the most of their work hours on the job.

Two methods of utilizing this concept were provided.

Method 1: Five Minute Pocket of Time
1) You could check your email
2) Communicate a job concern to a co-worker
3) Make a checklist of priority tasks or a To Do List

Method 2: 10 Minute Pocket of Time
1) You could clean off your desk, etc.
2) Take action on an email
3) Organize paper work and/or forms
4) Check in with co-workers to see if any assistance is needed

In conclusion, I really had a great time and learned a lot. Everything was put together very well. The speakers, hotel staff, along with the AMT home office staff did an excellent job.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecil Hunt, MT(AMT)
The 2019 Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC ACLS/CLMA/ASCP/AMT/AGT/NSH came together as one voice to advocate for our profession and the patients we serve. 117 attendees from 6 organizations of laboratory professionals stormed Capitol Hill March 19, 2019 with concerns, and present the Legislators with solutions to these issues.

The three issues discussed were the growing crisis in the clinical laboratory work force shortage, the negative impact Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA), and regulation of laboratory developed tests (LDT).

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

9:30 Congressman Michael Guest (R-MS)
Elizabeth Joseph Legislative Aide
Elizabeth.Josheph@mail.house.gov
230 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5031

10:00 Congressman Benny Thompson (D-MS)
Ty James Legislative Assistant & Press Sec
Tyron.James@mail.house.gov
Alexis M. Williams | Scheduler
2466 Rayburn House Office Building

10:30 Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)
Samantha Helton Elleson,
Samantha_Elleson@wicker.senate.gov
Jen Jett Executive Assistant | Scheduler
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone: 202-224-3750

11:15 Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
Elizabeth Henry Health Policy Advisor
Elizabeth.Henry@hydesmith.senate.gov
702 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-5054

Growing Crisis in the Clinical Laboratory Workforce

Establish a program of scholarships and loan repayment to alleviate shortages of clinical laboratory scientists and other allied health care professionals. The scholarship and loan repayment program should include an obligation service for recipients in designated professional shortage area.

Establish a demonstration program to improve access to clinical education opportunities for allied health professionals under which an eligible hospital may receive payment for reasonable cost associated with the provision of qualified clinical training for clinical laboratory scientists and other allied health professionals.

Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to identify which allied health occupations are significate shortage on an annual basis.

Flawed Attempt to set “Marketing Pricing” Fails and Jeopardizes Access to Quality Care

Make a statutory adjustment to CLFS payments that provides short term relief and allows time to revise the rate-setting process conducted by CMS.

Ensure a valid stratified random data sample is collected by CMS that represents all segments of the laboratory market.

Required data collection requirements streamline collection to reduce the burden on participating laboratories by focusing on data specific to private market.

Revise PAMA statutory requirements to calculate the final CLFS payment rates per code as weighted mean proportionate to laboratory type, market share, and geography.

Laboratory Developed Tests should be Carefully Regulated defied by the FDA

LDTs are test defined by the FDA as diagnostic test that are designed, manufactured and used within a single laboratory. Some test offered for clinical use are not subject to active premarket oversight to ensure they provide accurate measurements and valid claims.

We provided input on a proposal Verifying Accurate Leading-edge IVCT Development ACT of 2018 VALID Act. We look forward to additional dialogue on the issue.

Kathy L. Sutton, MT (AMT), Mississippi Legislative Committee
Tips for developing effective communicators within and outside the lab.

Medical organizations rely on inventive marketing and outreach approaches to appeal to top lab talent, showcase services, and engage the general public. However, many organizations overlook the importance of effective internal communications for these outreach efforts. A difficulty faced by communications staff is staying updated on the latest developments in order to have regular content to share with the public. Organizations could benefit from maintaining open lines of communication and promoting cross talk among staff to ensure information is shared throughout the organization.

Ways to capture content for marketing and outreach efforts

Oftentimes, laboratories operate as single units, which can make it problematic for the rest of the organization to know what everyone is up to. Consequently, it is vital that lab managers make a concerted effort to keep senior staff, program managers and public affairs staff informed of the most recent lab developments and accomplishments. Suggestions for using internal communications to streamline this process:

- Setting up a team that can serve as a portal for internal communication efforts and gathering content from employees.
- Require individual laboratories to submit periodic updates with relevant news and information.
- Maintain a shared calendar where lab staff can add upcoming events (e.g., conferences, in-service calls, outreach events) that they will be attending or sponsoring.
- Facilitate ways for staff to talk and share information about their department in an informal setting.

Training lab employees to be brand ambassadors

Auxiliary staff are the outward extension of any laboratory. They commonly interface with target audiences and can be the best brand ambassadors to positively represent and promote the organization. It is essential to ensure lab staff are delivering consistent messages, equipped with the tools and resources to effectively communicate, and trained in science communication skills. Here are a few tips on how to transform staff into brand ambassadors for the organization:

- Conduct in-house communications training and provide other helpful how-to guides. Topics can range from the art of storytelling and an intro to social media.
- Leverage the networks of staff members to spread the reach of marketing efforts.
- Create a downloadable communications toolkit to supply employees with the tools and resources to promote the organization’s brand.
- Use the onboarding process of new hires as a time to educate employees on standard branding and messaging and internal communication processes.

How to get group buy-in for communications efforts

Laboratory staff are often consumed with the important science required to keep organizations moving forward; therefore, employees may think they don’t have the time or may not see the value in working on communication tasks. Thus, it is important to get group buy-in from employees as a starting point before implementing any new internal communications systems or requirements.

Here are some final thoughts on how managers can work with staff toward a shared goal of being effective communicators within and outside the organization:

- Adopt a company culture that promotes open lines of communication and transparency within the organization.
- Take the time to promote staff (e.g., lab member profiles, employee award announcements) in the organization’s communication channels, and use any potential marketing content that is provided by staff whenever possible.
- Show the tangible results of marketing and outreach efforts to get more group buy-in and acknowledge staff efforts.
- Demonstrate to employees that managers also value communications and staff time spent on these efforts by including related tasks as part of regular roles and responsibilities, allocating adequate time and resources for this work, and directly tying these activities to performance objectives.
- Seek out lab employees who may have special interest in science communications and in gaining skills in this area for career growth opportunities.

Resources:

By Felicia L. Williams, MT (AMT)
What is a Blood Culture?
- Blood cultures are intended to detect the presence of microorganisms in the bloodstream.
- Confirm the microbial etiology (type) of the infection.
- Help determine the source of the infection.
- Provide an organism for susceptibility testing and optimization of antimicrobial therapy.

Blood Culture Contamination

One out of every 23 hospital patients has sepsis and it is the 10th leading cause of death in the US. Rapid and accurate diagnosis is critical because the consequences of septicemia are so serious. A blood culture is the best diagnostic tool for detecting septicemia and it’s absolutely imperative that the blood specimen be collected properly to provide clinically valuable results. Contamination of a blood culture can have a serious negative impact on patient care because the physician treating the patient must make clinical decisions based on the available information. A contaminated blood culture may result in a false positive, which means the patient may be treated with antibiotics unnecessarily. Unnecessary use or overuse of antibiotics is an increasingly serious problem since it can lead to the development of resistant bacterial strains.

What Volume Should Be Collected?
Blood culture requests consist of two separately drawn venous blood specimens.

 Adults: Each set of blood culture bottles contain an aerobic and anaerobic bottle. Each bottle should be inoculated with 10 mL of blood. Minimum sample volume is 5 mL.

 Pediatric: 1 aerobic bottle specifically for children. Inoculate 4 mL of blood into this bottle. Minimum sample volume is 1 mL.

Which Bottle Should Be Inoculated First?
When drawing with a wing blood collection set (butterfly), the aerobic bottle should be filled first to prevent transfer of air in the device into the anaerobic bottle. If a syringe is used, the anaerobic bottle should be inoculated first. Do not force the blood in the syringe by pulling on the plunger, this forces air in and hemolyzes the red blood cells. You should gently pull on the syringe to allow the blood to flow in freely. Force causes the Red Blood Cells to burst causing hemolysis.

Direct Blood Collection (Butterfly)
- Confirm the patient’s identity.
- Have all of the necessary supplies within reach.
- Use the appropriate PPE’s.
- Wash your hands.
- Identify the patient according to Hospital patient identification policy.
- Apply the Tourniquet to locate the vein. Once the vein is located, release the tourniquet.

Cleanse the Site
- Cleanse the vein site to destroy microorganisms on the skin to prevent microbial contamination of the specimen.
- Failure to carefully disinfect the venipuncture site can introduce skin surface bacteria in the blood culture bottles resulting in a contaminated blood culture.

If the skin is visibly dirty, wash with soap and water, then dry. Wipe the area with an alcohol prep pad, allow to dry.

** Poor skin preparation is the #1 cause of BC contamination **

- For patients > 2 months of age, use the Chlorohexidine skin prep.
- Squeeze the applicator once to break the ampule to release the antiseptic. Do not touch the pad.
- Gently press the sponge against the selected site until liquid is visible on the skin.
- Press the sponge against the skin surface to be cleansed, saturating it.

By Debbie Virgil, MT (AMT)  
Continued on pages 8-9
Blood Culture Collection: Instructions to Decrease Blood Contamination

continued from page 7

◆ Vigorously scrub the area for 30 seconds using a side to side motion. This removes loose skin cells and sterilizes the area. The scrubbing should continue for a full 30 seconds.

◆ Allow the area to air dry for 30 seconds.

◆ Do not touch the prepared venipuncture site after it is cleaned.

◆ If the puncture site must be touched prior to venipuncture, the cleansing steps should be repeated. A gloved finger used to palpate just above the puncture site should first be cleansed in the same manner as the site.

For Patients <2 months of age. Triple prep the vein site with Iodine Swabsticks

◆ Using an Iodine preparation, scrub the area thoroughly for 60 seconds in concentric outward-moving circles.

◆ Repeat application with 1-2 Iodine Swabsticks. If the Iodine color interferes, you may remove it with an alcohol pad.

◆ If the puncture site must be touched prior to venipuncture, the cleansing steps should be repeated. A gloved finger used to palpate just above the puncture site should first be cleansed in the same manner as the site.

Maximum Blood Volume Guideline

Pediatric Patients: Maximum blood volume guideline per bottle.

>88 lbs. (>40 Kg) = 10 mL

61-87 lbs. (28 – 39.5 Kg) = 10 mL

30– 60 lbs. (14 Kg–27 Kg) = 5 mL

19-29 lbs. (8.5 – 13 Kg) =3 mL

<19 lbs. (8 Kg) =1.0 mL

Prepare the Blood Culture Bottles

◆ Mark the 10 ml fill volume on the bottle for adults and 4 mL on the Pediatric bottle.

◆ Remove the protective cap from the bottles and cleanse with alcohol prep pad and allow to air dry. Use 1 pad per bottle. Do not apply iodine to blood culture bottle tops. Leave the pad on top of the bottle until the bottle is ready to be used.

◆ Re-apply the Tourniquet being careful not to contaminate the site.

◆ Perform the venipuncture.

Direct Draw

⇒ Assemble the winged (butterfly) collection set by connecting it to the male collection device.

⇒ Insert the needle into the vein.

⇒ Remove the alcohol pad from the top of the blood culture bottle.

⇒ Attach the aerobic Blood Culture Bottle to the sterile collection device.

⇒ Sit the bottle in an up-right position. Fill to the line you previously marked for 10mL. Remove the aerobic bottle.

⇒ Do Not over fill the bottles.

⇒ Once filled to required level, remove and repeat with anaerobic bottle.

If additional tubes are to be collected, insert the tube adapter insert into the adapter cap, and fill the tubes in recommended order of draw. When final bottle or tube is filled, withdraw the needle. Cover the venipuncture site with sterile gauze and apply pressure. Gently invert the bottles and tubes 3-5 times to mix the sample. Discard drawing supplies into sharps container.

Syringe draw is for patients who are hard to stick or have fragile veins. Assemble the butterfly and syringe. Collect the appropriate amount of blood. 20 mL’s to fill both blood culture bottles when drawing from an adult. Attach a transfer device to the syringe.

NOTE: If you need to collect more than one syringe, clamp off the tubing from the butterfly to restrict the blood from flowing out, remove the syringe and attach a new syringe. The second person should attach the first syringe to collection device and dispense the blood into the appropriate tubes.
Syringe draw

- Remove the alcohol prep pad and inoculate the anaerobic bottle first with 10mL of blood.
- Do not allow air to enter the bottle.
- Do not change the needle on the syringe prior to inoculating the bottle.
- Gently invert 3-5 times to mix the sample. If you are collecting 2 syringes, use the second syringe to inoculate the Anaerobic (orange) bottle.

If the patient is a difficult draw and only 10 mL’s is collected. Put equal amounts (5 mL’s) in each bottle. It is still important to fill the anaerobic (orange) bottle first, if using a syringe.

Note: 1) Gently mix all tubes as soon as possible after collection. The blue top, green top, gray top, purple top tubes have anticoagulant in them that will stop the blood from clotting. If the tubes are not mixed the samples will clot and cannot be used for testing.
2) The red and gold top tubes do not have anticoagulant in them and need to clot.

Labeling the specimen

- Label the bottles with Cerner Barcode label or the patient’s chart label, write the date and time of draw and the Cerner ID of the person who collected the samples, being careful not to obscure the bar code labels on the media bottles. This barcode label has the Blood Culture Bottle ID information the analyzer uses when the bottles are loaded on the analyzer.
- The labeled bottles should then be left at room temperature, place in a biohazard bag and send to the Laboratory as soon as possible.

Things to remember

The Blood Culture request consists of two separately drawn blood specimens from two different collection sites. Two Blood Culture Bottles are used per collection site. One aerobic and one anaerobic.

- For adults, 20 mL’s per site divided between two bottles. Dispense 10 mL into each bottle.
- For pediatric patients, 4 mL per site.
- Do not use ChloraPrep on babies less than 2 months old. ChloraPrep can sometimes irritate and pass through a baby’s skin.
- ChloraPrep should not be used on patients with known allergies to chlorhexidine gluconate or isopropyl alcohol.
- Do not use ChloraPrep near eyes or mucous membranes, as it may cause irritation.
- If it does get into the eye or the mucous membranes, it should be washed quickly with plenty of water.
- Do not use on open skin wounds, broken or damaged skin.
- ChloraPrep should not come into contact with neural tissues or the middle ear.
- Be sure the adapter or transfer device needle does not touch the top of a tube that has not been cleaned.

Fill the Aerobic bottle first • Any air in the tubing should go into the aerobic bottle, not the anaerobic bottle. The aerobic bottle is collected first when doing a direct draw.
- Syringe draw fill the anaerobic bottle first.
- When less that recommended volume of blood is obtained, inoculate the aerobic bottle first. Most bacteria recover better in this environment.

If drawing blood culture and other lab test specimens together - Blood culture bottles must ALWAYS be drawn and filled prior to drawing the other lab test tubes so that the adapter or transfer device needle does not touch the top of a tube that has not been cleaned.

It is best practice to draw blood cultures by venipuncture.

Blood cultures should NOT be collected through an IV catheter, whether it is a newly inserted IV catheter or an established IV, unless investigating a possible established IV-line catheter-caused bloodstream infection by drawing simultaneous catheter and venous specimens.
- Over filled Blood Culture Bottles can trigger a false positive result, which means the patient may be treated unnecessarily.
- For an adult patient that is hard to draw and from whom <5 mL of blood is available for culture, a pediatric bottle may be inoculated. A pediatric bottle is suboptimal but acceptable.


By Debbie Virgil, MT (AMT)
# EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FORM

Registration also available online at www.americanmedtech.org.
American Medical Technologists' 81st Educational Program & National Meeting • July 1–5, 2010 • Chicago, IL

## Registrant Information

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For Badge: How should we print your first name or nickname?

Special Needs: ☐ Check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation so fully participate.
If you have a special dietary need, please indicate:

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other

AMT will make every effort to meet your special requirements. This does not include your hotel restaurant meals or accessibility needs. Please inform the hotel directly of any special requirements.

Register before May 1 and your name will be entered in a drawing for a free meeting registration!

## Registration Fees

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### Spouse/Guest Registration

- Full package $175
- Spouse/Guest(s) First Name Last Name $%
- Extra Award Banquet Ticket(s) for guests not registered for convention @ $60.00 per person $%
- Welcome Party tickets for guests not registered for convention @ $10.00 per person $%

## Payment Method — (check one) (U.S. Funds Only)

- Check made payable to AMT $%
- MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ DiscoverCard ☐ American Express $%
- Account # Exp. Date $%
- Account in name of $%
- Billing address same as registration address above? ☐ $%
- If not, provide billing address including zip code: $%
- Signature $%

MAIL TO: AMT 10700 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 150 Rosemont, IL 60018 • (fax) 847/823-0458 Email: mail@americanmedtech.org
2019 AMT Educational Program and National Meeting
July 1–5, 2019 | Hilton Chicago

All sessions provide 1.00 CE Hour unless otherwise noted.

DAY 1 | Monday, July 1

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DAY 2 | Tuesday, July 2

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DAY 3 | Wednesday, July 3

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<td></td>
<td>1937 Leader &amp; Prof Dev</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45–4:45 PM</td>
<td>1938 Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1939 Medical Assisting</td>
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<td>1940 Leader &amp; Prof Dev</td>
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<td>1941 Leader &amp; Prof Dev</td>
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Current as of April 25, 2019
Student Scholarships Information

AMTIE awards one $2,500 and three $1,500 scholarships annually to individuals who have met the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a member in good standing with AMT.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting commission. The program of study should be concerned with disciplines certified by AMT.
- Applicant must provide evidence of financial need and career goals.
- Applicant must file a completed application and all required information prior to April 1 to be considered for the current year’s scholarship.

To Apply http://www.americanmedtech.org/Portals/0/PDF/AMTIE-About%20Us/AMTIE/Member%20Scholarship%203-14-fill%20form.pdf

Why Become a Student Member of American Medical Technology?

- Student Membership is FREE for all those interested in pursuing AMT certification in one of the allied health disciplines. Simply complete the application below and start taking advantage of the many benefits student membership offers:
- Online student forum: Network with your peers and gain access to valuable resources and information. Ensure that you are logged in as a student member in order to gain access.
- Scholarships and other recognition opportunities: AMT offers several $500 scholarships and sponsors the outstanding student and technical writing awards.
- Student lapel pin: Wear it proudly.
- Access to Career Connections: Search for a job in your allied health field and in your specified geographic area, as well as post your resume online and conduct job searches through AMT’s Career Connection
- Discounted registration at state and national meetings.

For More Information Call AMT: 847-823-5169

https://www.americanmedtech.org/Schools/StudentMembership.aspx