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AMT Mission Statement

AMT is a global, member-led, allied health certification organization that promotes and supports its member-certificants.

AMT Vision Statement

THE CHOICE for allied health professional certification.

AMT Core Values

INTEGRITY  EXCELLENCE

ADAPTIVE  MEMBER  TRUSTED
TO CHANGE  FOCUSED

AMT Standards of Practice

The American Medical Technologists is dedicated to encouraging, establishing, and maintaining the highest standards, traditions, and principles of the disciplines which constitute the allied health professions of the certification agency and the Registry. Members of the Registry and all individuals certified by AMT recognize their professional and ethical responsibilities, not only to their patients, but also to society, to other health care professionals, and to themselves.
Hello, Western District state societies, hope everyone is doing great and staying dry. California has had its share of rain and snow this winter. I do believe we are finally out of the drought.

The National BOD and Councilor meeting was held on February 16-19th of February in Tucson Arizona. This meeting is always filled with information.

This year the National meeting will be in Kansas City Missouri, July 9-13, 2017. The format of the program will be the same as last year. All educational programs are at the beginning of week, leadership on Wednesday and the AMT business meeting at the end of week. The convention will start on Sunday and end on Friday; there are several workshops on Sunday. It is always wonderful to visit different places of the country. Kansas City has much to offer, especially their famous KC barbeque sauce. I hope many of you can attend. It’s a time to learn, do our business and reconnect with our AMT family.

Don’t miss out on the early bird registration fee; pay only $225.00 for the full package, this offer ends May 1, 2017 after that it will double.

Councilor’s will be holding two Leadership training workshops

*What are you doing with our money?
*CEU’s are your responsibility
*Driving threw AMT website

Look for a message on the board at the registration area to find where I can be located. Feel free to contact me if you would like to meet with me. My goal is to meet as many of you as possible, just to reconnect and also to meet new western state society members.

Be sure to track your CCP’s with AMTrax, about 10% of members get audited; don’t lose your membership by not tracking. Remember this is your responsibility to get it done.

Reminder for your state meetings you need to get all your scientific speakers pre-approved through Camille Murray, at least 1-2 weeks to the prior to the meeting.

If you haven’t completed or updated your by-laws in the last 3 years please do so, they must go to Kim Cheuvront, Judiciary Chair, for approval prior to posting them on website. Once approved please send me a copy also.

Congratulations to all Western state societies as we are all on board with the Central Banking, thank you for getting this done so fast.

2018 convention will be held in Washington DC. July 1-6, 2017

If you need to reach me my e-mail address is: Sheryrou@comcast.net.

It remains an honor to be your District Councilor as I start my third year. Thank you for the privilege of working with all of you.

Sheryl Rounsivill RMA, RPT, CMAS, AHI
Western District Councilor
Welcome to the New Mexico State Society (NMSSAMT).

The Spring educational and business meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2017 at Pima Medical Institute West on 8601 Golf course Road NW in Albuquerque. We plan on having registration starting at 0830 with the first session at 0900. The meeting of the State Society will start around 1200, with lunch provided, to go over the business of the state. Remember the state society belongs to you and you have an equal voice on how we conduct ourselves. I hope to see you there.

Join me in congratulating our Dental Assistants as we celebrate their week, March 5 to 11 and the Medical Lab Professionals on April 23 to 29. We appreciate all that you do.

Our National Educational and Business Convention meeting is scheduled for July 9 to 13 in Kansas City. If you have never been to a conference, please make every effort to attend one. It is an experience you will never forget.

Serving the NMSSAMT anyway I can, is my way of showing gratitude to AMT. It never crossed my mind that I will eventually become part of NMSSAMT family. Thank you so much.

This is the first time that I will be taking the responsibility of an editor. I have read the editor’s manual already which helped me a lot. Gretchen, thank you so much for your guidance while I am getting used to this new milestone in my career. If you have any suggestions that will improve our journal and make it more interesting, let me know. All of us should equally share the responsibility of keeping everybody engaged and informed through our state society journal, so I am encouraging everyone to share any article related to your field of specialty. I also have reached out to my Med-tech and Doctor friends all over the world encouraging them to share an article related to their profession. I am looking forward to see you all in our Spring meeting.
NMSSAMT members were very attentive during the session.

2016 FALL MEETING SPEAKERS

Abnormal PAPs/Cytology
Laura Bush, FNP-BC

Medical Error Prevention: Patient Safety
Jojo Naval, MT

Frequently Ordered Laboratory Tests & What They Tell us
Barbara Ware, MT
The Peabody

Downtown Memphis

The famous fountain & ducks

Awards Banquet

Meet the candidates for AMT Board of Directors

AMT Delegates

Oath taking of new officers

AMT Annual business Meeting

Delegates from New Mexico:
L-R: Jojo Naval, Judy Hall, Virgil Marchand, and Barbara Ware

Photography by Jojo Naval
Mark your calendar—

AMT in Kansas City, MO
July 9 – July 13, 2017
79th Educational Program
and National Meeting

Kansas City, Missouri, is the “City of Fountains,” boasting more than any city except Rome. The Crown Center is home of the Hallmark Cards headquarters Visitors Center. The Intercontinental Hotel overlooks the elegant, old-world architecture of Country Club Plaza shopping mall, nestled on the banks of Brush Creek.

The Intercontinental Hotel at The Plaza
- Heated outdoor pool with sundeck
- Marble bath
- Ironing board & iron in each room
- Coffeemaker in each room
- Fitness center
- Terrace gardens and jogging trail nearby
- 18-hole golf course nearby
Special discounted hotel rate: $129.00 + tax – single or double occupancy

For additional information:
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AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health
The medical laboratory workforce plays a vital, but often overlooked, role in the healthcare system. Medical laboratory professionals help in detecting and diagnosing disease or pre-disease states, as well as in monitoring the progress and results of treatment. Much of the health care industry thrives on testing and analyzing medical laboratory data, and jobs for medical laboratory professionals are therefore in high demand as the medical field continues to increase the use of laboratory testing for early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.¹

Technologies are ever advancing, and with these advancements laboratories are growing to accommodate new tests and testing methodologies. Break through changes in science and medicine allows laboratories to be on the cutting edge of medical advancements, and because of this the industry is ever growing. Furthermore, the face of healthcare itself is changing. With the emergence of major legislation such as the Affordable Care Act, more and more people are now insured and seeking medical care. Millions more insured will lead to significantly increased demand for laboratory services at the same time that baby boomer staffs (who have been the backbone of laboratory staffing since 1960’s) are retiring in large numbers, but with fewer schools training replacements.²

The National Employment Data Survey that was conducted in 2014 indicated that there are 322,170 employed medical laboratory scientists and technicians. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects about 30% change in employment for medical laboratory scientists (MLSs) and Medical laboratory technicians (MLTs) from 2012 to 2022. Many hospitals, which have been the primary site of educational programs in the clinical laboratory sciences, closed their programs during the 1970s and 1980s due to both declining reimbursements and enrollments.³ There is growing concern over the significant shortage in the number of clinical lab workers, and this shortage is only increasing. Striving to retain quality staff is a vital part of maintaining functionality of laboratories. Effective staff development and proper management training for supervisors are keys to staff retention.

Adequate training and development equips staff to be successful and instills confidence. It goes beyond simple continuing education, to help cultivate personal and professional development. It builds camaraderie through mentoring and cross-training. Furthermore, it helps employees understand the rationale behind policy and procedure. The benefits of investing in the development of employees are many. Employee retention will increase because employees feel their employer cares about them. Staff will become more positive and motivated. Patients will be more satisfied because staff will be equipped to give them the best possible care. Deficiencies in competencies will be readily identified and corrected, and general day to day operations will run more smoothly and seamlessly.

While employee development is important for staff retention, formal management training for supervisors is also critical. Employees often make the decision to stay with a company or leave based on how they are treated by their supervisor, and how he/she runs the organization. Many supervisors are not given the added support of management training. Although they may have been excellent at their former position (MLT, MLS, etc.) they lack the skills to effectively manage others. It is crucial, therefore, that they receive additional training on how to manage others and the lab.

One excellent resource for helping develop laboratory managers into effective supervisors is ASCP’s Lab Management University (LMU). LMU was developed by laboratory leaders and covers competencies in leadership, personal management, operations, financial management, informatics, and compliance. It is an excellent comprehensive tool for equipping lab supervisors with skills for the day to day operations of the laboratory.

(Continued on page 11)
The shortage of laboratory professionals is a growing problem that will not be solved over night, but staff retention is an important step in the right direction. Utilizing resources like LMU to equip supervisors for management roles, and investing in the training and development of employees are two ways to help boost staff retention. These tools will help create a positive and motivated workforce, build with employees who will be happy to stay for the long haul.

About the author: Rex used to be one of my laboratory intern student at St. Luke’s Medical Center, Philippines. We were able to re-connect again when both of us were invited to speak in a Medical Technologists Conference (PAMET) in Las Vegas, Nevada August 2016. I am a proud friend of Rex.

Rex F. Famitangco, MS, MLS(ASCP)CMQLCCM, MT(AMT), CLC,AHI
Laboratory Administrative Director
Morrill County Community Hospital

MLS Program Director & Lead Instructor
Western Nebraska Community College
New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has released a Health Alert Network (HAN) alert dated February 10, 2017, recommending clinicians prescribe antiviral medications to patients suspected of having influenza regardless of the influenza test results. When the clinical symptoms support the diagnosis, the patient needs to be treated with antiviral medications. This directive also applies to travelers returning from China for H7N9 avian influenza A infection since China is experiencing a 5th annual epidemic with avian influenza A. The article emphasized that immediate treatment can reduce influenza morbidity and mortality.

NMDOH has reported widespread influenza activity across New Mexico, including four suspected adult influenza-related deaths. One hundred nine influenza-related hospitalizations have occurred statewide most of which have been in the last 3 weeks. The majority of the cases reported were in patients aged 65 or older.

Definition of terms

Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) – is defined as fever greater ≥ 100 F and cough and/or sore throat in absence of unknown cause.

RIDT - Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Test. This rapid antigen detection test which uses Immunoassay or immunofluorescence assays technology are believed to have high potential false negative results.

This is what NMDOH has recommended:

1. Clinicians should encourage all patients 6 months of age or older to be vaccinated against influenza.
2. Clinicians should also encourage all persons with ILI and at high risks of influenza complications to seek care immediately to determine if treatment with influenza antiviral medication is necessary.
3. Antiviral treatment should not be withheld from patient suspected with influenza even if the RIDT was negative.
4. Antiviral treatment should be started immediately when indicated and within 48 hours after the onset of signs and symptoms.
5. For patient with confirmed influenza, early treatment with an appropriate neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral drugs is highly recommended.
6. An ill patient with clinical signs and symptoms that matches with influenza even if the patient had been vaccinated does not totally rule out influenza infection. Previous vaccination should not be a delay antiviral treatment.
7. Antiviral treatment for outpatients by the clinicians should be based on a comprehensive approach. The doctor should consider at the patient’s age, other medical conditions, and the severity and onset of signs and symptoms. The doctor should also consider looking at the patient who was previously healthy but symptomatic. The goal is to initiate the treatment within 48 hours of the onset of illness.

For guidelines in the use of antiviral drugs, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm.

Source: New Mexico Department of Health
Global Medical Technologists

(Practicing the Medical Technology Profession in Another Country)

Jojo Naval Jr, MT(AMT)

The shortage of medical technologists around the world and the increasing global demand have given medical technologists from the Philippines an opportunity to work in another country and advance in the field. Most of the medtechs (shortened medical technologists) friends I know are now working in the Middle East, Canada, Singapore, and in the United States. I still communicate with most of them through social media where we share our experiences, ideas, challenges, and at certain times answer questions, issues and referrals. What makes one qualified to work in another country to be able to practice the medical technologist profession? Please allow me to share the journey, process and challenges I have taken to be where I am now.

I have been blessed to be promoted as the Laboratory Supervisor at Los Alamos Medical Center, a 47-bed acute-care hospital located at Los Alamos, New Mexico. My journey was not that simple since I had to take a risk by giving up everything in the Philippines including my managerial position in the laboratory and start my career over from the very beginning. This means that even though I was licensed as a medtech in the Philippines, I had to take another certification to verify that my knowledge and expertise matched the U.S standard. In 2004 I passed the AMT certification through an online testing in the Philippines. Even if everything cost me so much to be certified, the time and investment has paid off. The highlight of my career journey was when I had to face the Consul in the U.S embassy in the Philippines for interview to get the final seal of approval to be allowed to enter and work in the United States.

If you are planning and dreaming to work in another country as a medical technologist someday, specifically in the U.S., I hope my testimony will be able to help you and give you some insights on the long process of paper work, filing, testing and interviews that need to be completed.

1. Employer

A job offer or job opening is the first thing that you have to look for in any hospital/laboratory web site. Match the experience required, certification required, and the job description with your level of expertise and experience. Some hospitals or reference laboratories may also be looking for specialties, like experience in Microbiology or Genetic testing. If you think you are qualified, submit your resume’ online. Applying for a position, especially if you are not residing in the U.S., takes a lot of patience, persistence and sometimes, good timing. Most employers are in dire need of medtechs and a visa application takes more than a year to be processed. Some hospitals now are hiring traveling medtechs through an agency to deal with the medical technologists staffing shortage. Traveling techs usually work in a 3-6 months contract. I also call these travelling techs, global medtechs since they are so versatile in the field and can work anywhere in the United States. I believe that the shortage will be heightened by the retiring workforce, young people, like millennials, are not interested in the field of laboratory science, and lastly, the closing of medical technology schools in the U.S. because of low volume of enrollment.

When an employer from the U.S. wants to hire you as medical technologist, the employer becomes the “petitioner.” An H-1B working visa is the way the U.S. is dealing with shortage in any workforce they call specialty occupation.

Your future employer should justify your petition to the USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) through filing of an application form stating that there is and has been a staff shortage and no local applicant has applied. At the same time, the employer has to prove that they are financially stable to petition you and give you a fair salary.

2. Experience

Three to five years work experience helps prove that you are qualified to work confidently in the laboratory with no supervision if you have to work alone. If the hospital in your home country where you worked is accredited by The Joint Commission or CAP (College of American Pathologists), that is a great help since your practice, policies and procedure are according to international standards. Working at St. Luke’s Medical Center in the Philippines for fourteen and half years has given me the opportunity to use and be exposed to world class laboratory analyzers (instruments) which paved the way to build my confidence as I deal with globalization of medical laboratory practice.

(Continued on page 14)
3. Expertise

Most hospital laboratories expect all medtechs to be a “generalist” meaning that you should have the knowledge and ability to work in all sections of the laboratory. Most hospital laboratories perform routine testing in hematology, urinalysis, chemistry, blood banking, and microbiology. Basic knowledge in reading gram stain is important since you might be receiving stat gram stain and body fluid count from emergency department. My 5-year experience as a senior graveyard shift staff rotating in all sections of a 650-bed capacity hospital was of great help in proving I was highly qualified and could handle the demands of a position in an accredited hospital in the U.S.

4. Evaluation

Your college degree from your country should be evaluated by any accredited credentials evaluation service. My college record was evaluated under the International Education Research Foundation, Inc. Credential evaluation agencies will directly communicate with your school to verify the authenticity of your school records. The process of verification will prevent the use of fake documents, protecting the future employer from liability and fraud.

After reviewing your transcript of record, the agency will verify that your degree is equivalent “in level and purpose” to accredited colleges and universities in the United States and award you with a certification. This certification is one of the requirements when taking AMT certification test.

5. Education

A Bachelor’s degree, which is a four-year college in Science, is required for you to work as medical technologist. A 4-year degree in Medical Technology (Bachelor of Science) in the U.S. is called ‘Clinical Training’ and includes a year of hospital internship training where you rotated and trained in all the sections of the laboratory. A two-year college degree may qualify you to work as MLT (medical laboratory technician) provided you passed the certification for MLT. In Canada you might be required to take refresher courses on your medical technology subjects to be able to take the certification test.

6. Examinations

For the H-1B work visa application by my petitioner, I had to take and pass the following examinations: IELTS, AMT or ASCP. The petitioning hospital hired an immigration attorney to do all the paper work related to the visa application. IELTS is an acronym of International English Language Testing System.

IELTS is an international standardized test for English language for non-native English language speakers as Wikipedia defines it.

The testing is performed on 4 levels: reading, listening, writing and speaking. When I started working in the U.S., even though I knew how to speak English, I still had to work on how the language is spoken and understand the different accents of the people I worked with. A passing IELTS score will be forwarded to the International Commission On Healthcare Professions which is a division of CGFNS. This agency who verifies your transcript of records and diploma (directly from your school/university) will be the governing body to approve if you have met all the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The results of all your examinations will be included in your visa application. Once you passed the U.S. embassy consul interview, you will be granted a work visa which is usually H-1B work visa. This allows you to work a maximum of 6 years to work legally in the United States.

In Canada, CSMLS (Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science) is the certifying body for medical laboratory technologists and medical laboratory assistants. CSMLS’ major function is to set qualification standards in medical laboratory science. To be able to take the certification test, you have to submit all your credentials for assessment namely: academic credential, clinical training and work experience, & language proficiency test.
In the Middle East and in Singapore, a license from PRC (Philippine Regulation Commission) and good work experience will qualify you to work as medical technologists provided you passed the interview and medical screening. PRC regulates and supervise the practice of professional individuals in the Philippines according to knowledge base, specialty and practice. PRC’s other function includes giving local licensure examination for professionals.

My work and experience in the United States has been so rewarding. I have shown my passion and commitment to my job that everything I did to serve did not go unnoticed. My contribution in the field of Medical Technology has been recognized and I am so blessed and thankful. Commitment to quality healthcare service coupled with passion to serve will definitely produce a positive outcome in the lives of the community we serve.

I am happy where I am now and I face the opportunities given to me with positive outlook and enthusiasm and that makes me a global medical technologist. Some say in the future, advancement in technology will replace most of the work of medical technologists. The human element called “human touch,” will always be an integral part of medical laboratory science. Modern laboratory instruments will not function without the heart and a medical technologist that has a passion, vision and mission to serve. The ability of the laboratory healthcare community to deal with the challenges of the changing landscape of healthcare is a positive indication of the resiliency and versatility of medical technologists that makes us all a global medical technologist.

A Story of Love and Heroism

When Georgia police officer Raleigh Callaway who was in stage 5 kidney failure do not know what else to do and where to turn to find a kidney donor, his wife Kristi made a bold move by posting a family picture on Facebook. Kristi was not aware that her simple post will go viral and affect the lives of many more people needing kidney donor.

It was in 2014 when Kristi Callaway used social media as her way of reaching out to the world for help when she found out that Raleigh’s kidneys were failing and needed an immediate kidney transplant. All Kristi did was post a family picture with a sign that says “Our Daddy needs a Kidney.” The post got the attention of everyone including the media and Raleigh has received positive response from people in a span of 10 weeks. One of those who responded was Chris Carroll from Texas who was a perfect match. Raleigh is back to work, appreciative of his new life. There are still 100,000 Americans waiting for a kidney donor. Kristi continues her mission by supporting kidney donation advocacy.

The simple Facebook post has become a ministry and at present has saved at least 23 lives. At the moment, more people needing kidney donors are posting pictures at the Facebook account called “Our Daddy Needs a Kidney – Team Callaway”.

Source: FOX 5 Atlanta
AMT supports the American Kidney Fund (AKF)

The Callaway family
(Source: AJC.com Atlanta Journal-Constitution)
Facts about New Mexico

STATE CAPITOL: Santa Fe
AREA (Sq. Miles): 121,666
RANK BY SIZE: 5th
RANK BY ENTRY: 47th
STATE SONG: O, Fair New Mexico
MOTTO: Crescit Eundo (It Grows As It Goes)
ADMITTED TO STATEHOOD: 1-6-1912
HIGHEST ELEVATION: Wheeler Peak - 13,161 ft
LOWEST ELEVATION: Red Bluff Reservoir - 2,817 ft
Tsankawi is a part of Bandelier National Monument. It is located on State Highway 4, I pass by this historic hiking site on my way to work. At this site, you will see stunning views at the top and petroglyphs. You will be able to walk the trails used by the Ancestral Pueblo people.

Hike: 1.5 mile hike with some ladders to climb to reach the top.

Source: www.nps.gov
IMPORTANT EVENTS AND REMINDERS

- March 5-11, 2017 Dental Assistants Recognition Week
- April 22, 2017 NMSSAMT Spring Meeting
  
  Pima Medical Institute,
  
  8601 Golf Course NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
  
  800-477-PIMA (7462)
- April 23-29, 2017 Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
- May 7-13, 2017 National Hospital Week
- July 9-13, 2017 AMT 79th Educational Program and National Meeting
  
  Kansas City, Missouri
  
  Intercontinental Hotel at the Plaza
- October 16-20, 2017 Medical Assistants Recognition Week
- October 21, 2017 NMSSAMT Fall Meeting

Record CE in AMTrax. Visit americanmedtech.org under “Stay Certified”

This site helps you monitor your continuing education units earned and submit online as a requirement for the renewal of your certification. Let us know if you need some assistance.

Share with us your knowledge, experience and expertise. Send a scientific article to NMSSAMT president or editor for publication at “EL TECNICO.”

About the cover: The front page features the beauty of Los Alamos from the NM 502 west overlook. Los Alamos is also called the Atomic City. Los Alamos is about 35 miles north-northwest of Santa Fe. With an elevation of 7,320 feet, Los Alamos is located on flat Mesa tops separated by canyons. The mystery of the place and inaccessibility in the 1900 has made this the ideal place for the highly classified project called the “Manhattan Project.”

Source: Wikipedia  Photography by JOJO NAVAL