



DIVISION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Shortage Worsens, But Number of Graduates Increases

As the baby-boomers approach retirement, and laboratory testing increases and becomes more complex, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has increased its estimate of the number of laboratory professionals that will be needed in the next ten years from 9,000 to 13,800, annually. However, the number of graduates has remained around 4,100 nationally.

In Minnesota, the shortage has many people concerned. A recent report by the Trust for America's Health found that Minnesota was one of the top six states in the country in terms of bioterrorism preparedness. Minnesota was found to be deficient in only two areas, but one of these areas is an inadequate number of laboratory professionals. When the College of St. Scholastica closed their medical technology program in 2002, only two medical technology programs remained in the state, those at Hennepin County Medical Center and the University of Minnesota. Although the number of two-year medical laboratory technician/clinical laboratory technician (MLT/CLT) programs has remained at nine, these programs have only been operating at half capacity.

However, the University of Minnesota's Division of Medical Technology and the laboratory community are working together to improve the shortage. This year, the University of Minnesota's Medical Technology Program increased its enrollment by an additional ten students. This now makes our program the largest baccalaureate degree medical technology program in the United States. We are at the top in other ways as well. Our program has the highest percentage of students of color, 40%, of all programs in the Academic Health Center. The recently released Sullivan Report stated that the lack of racial diversity in the healthcare professions directly threatens the health of at least one-third of the U.S. population, and indirectly hurts millions more. This year's senior class represents students from nine different countries. (You can meet some of them on page 6.) These students are primarily immigrants and permanent residents looking for a way to enter the healthcare workforce, and the Division of Medical Technology offers one of the few baccalaureate programs at the University that provides this option.

The number of clinical laboratory graduates will also be increasing for two other reasons. Fairview Health Systems

started a new CLS program, with its first class scheduled to graduate this spring (see article on page 9). Also, the number of MLT/CLT graduates has increased over 50% in the past five years. North Hennepin Community College has begun to offer evening classes in an effort to allow students who may not be able to give up their day jobs to have the opportunity to continue their clinical laboratory education. St. Paul College is now operating at capacity.

Hospitals have increased their support for the expansion in other ways as well. Fairview and Allina Health Systems are both providing the Division of Medical Technology with teaching specialists to assist in our student laboratories. Clinical affiliates have worked to accommodate an increased number of students needing clinical rotations in their laboratories. Fairview is also offering sponsorships to help students meet the rising costs of tuition.

The challenge now is to determine how to best meet the needs of rural Minnesota. The average age of the current working medical technologist is about 49. Yet, with the closing of medical technology programs in out-state Minnesota, rural hospitals have difficulty recruiting new medical technologists to their laboratories. A recent survey of Minnesota clinical laboratories found that in some rural hospitals, over 78% of the medical technologists are over the age of 50. The Medical Technology Program is working to improve this situation as well. This year, we have expanded our clinical sites to include Willmar, Hibbing, and we're working on Red Wing. Rural hospitals are working with us to find affordable, temporary housing for our students.

As the laboratory community and the Medical Technology Program continue to work together, solutions to the workforce shortage will be developed.

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From the Director's Desk



Several of you have been hearing things about the future of the Medical Technology Program at the University of Minnesota and have requested information from me as to what is happening with the program. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about recent events in the program, the University and the State of Minnesota.

This past year, cuts to University funding resulted in more budget cuts to the Medical Technology Program. As a result of these budget cuts, Ms. Nancy Brunzel was laid-off in the summer of 2004. The loss of this nationally-recognized clinical laboratory scientist from the Division of Medical Technology caused concern among laboratorians and pathologists across the state. Their concern prompted them to request a meeting with Dr. Frank Cerra, Vice-President of the Academic Health Center, to discuss what could be done to stabilize the University of Minnesota's Medical Technology program. During this meeting, held on September 13, 2004, Dr. Cerra stated that the legislature and Governor of the State of Minnesota have mandated the mission of the Academic Health Center, and that allied health professions, including medical technology, are not a part of that core mission. Dr. Cerra also indicated other Minnesota State Universities may be better locations for the Medical Technology Program than the University of Minnesota.

In October, 2004, Medical School Dean Deborah Powell stated that as a result of state funding cuts to the University, the Medical School had to scrutinize programs not central to the core mission of the Medical School, which is to train physicians. In addition to Medical Technology and Occupational Therapy (OT), this included the other two allied health programs located in the Medical School, Physical Therapy and Mortuary Science. Decisions were discussed for both the OT and Medical Technology programs, and the decision was made to ask OT not to accept a new class of students in 2005, essentially closing the program. In addition, the decision was also made to look at partnerships and other creative solutions for the Medical Technology Program. As part of this decision, in December, 2004, Dr. Cerra formed a committee to examine new educational models of allied health, particularly medical technology.

These announcements come at a time when Minnesota is experiencing severe shortages of both medical technologists and occupational therapists.


As you have already read in our cover story, the Medical Technology program has responded to this shortage by increasing our class size to 40 senior students. This now makes us the largest medical technology/clinical laboratory science program in the country. In order to accommodate this number of students, our faculty and staff have had to add laboratory class time without additional staff. Clinical affiliates have increased the number of clinical rotations they can provide, and out-state hospitals are making arrangements so they can begin taking our students for rotations as well. I

would like to take this time to say thank you to our faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work in facilitating this increase in class size. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our clinical affiliates, both old and new, for their commitment to the success of this program. We could not have increased our class size without your cooperation and continued support.

In response to the announcement of the closing of OT and the possible relocation of medical technology, there has been an outpouring of letters from occupational therapists, medical technologists, pathologists, and other professional organizations to President Robert Bruininks, Vice-President Frank Cerra, the Board of Regents, and Minnesota legislators. These letters have resulted in the introduction of legislation to provide direct funding to these essential programs. If passed, Minnesota Senate bill SF0411 and House bill HF0629 would provide funding for the Medical Technology and Occupational Therapy programs to continue these programs for the next two years. Students and faculty from our program recently attended the Senate Higher Education Finance Committee hearing on SF0411, which passed unanimously. However, there are still several legislative committee hearings to go. I strongly ask all of our alumni and friends to write to their legislators asking them to support this legislation.

Let me take one more opportunity to say thank you to our alumni, students, and friends in the clinical laboratory community for your on-going support of the University of Minnesota's Medical Technology Program. Your concern for this program and your generous support continue to overwhelm me. Your efforts on our behalf help us to provide our students with the high-quality education that they have come to expect from the University of Minnesota.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna".

	Editor: Donna J. Spannaus-Martin
	Contributors:
Claire Bjorklund Salli Clysdale Nancy Coley Joanna George	Karen Karni Jan Lorenz Pat Solberg Cheryl Swinehart Mary Jane Yue
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Karen Karni Participates in the 26th Meeting of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

June 13-18, 2004 marked the 26th meeting and 50th anniversary of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (IFBLS) in Stockholm, Sweden. Formerly known as the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (IAMLT), the association currently represents over 40 participating countries. The World Congress drew 700 participants, including approximately 20 from the United States. The theme of the Congress was Public Health and Biomedical Laboratory Science, and co-sponsors were the Swedish Institute of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences and the Swedish Association of Health Professionals.

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science joined this international organization in 1960 and has held a strong presence since that time. ASCLS hosted the international meetings in 1976 in Chicago and in 2002 in Orlando.

The Stockholm meeting was held at the beautiful International Fairs, a modern convention center located two train stops from Central Station. Among U.S. presenters were Karen Karni, former director of the Division of Medical Technology, with co-author Elissa Passiment, who presented the poster "ASCLS: A Brief History of One Nation's Professional Laboratory Organization." In Stockholm, there were 121 poster sessions, and this poster was awarded the third place prize. Assisting Karen in the development of the poster were Donna Spannaus-Martin and Claire Bjorklund of the Division.

Another award winning poster was "Identification of Staphylococci Isolated from Bills and Coins and Their Antimicrobial Susceptibility," by Seung-gu Choi and Young-il Kwon of South Korea. Remember that saying, "dirty money"? These researchers found 10 different species of Staphylococci that contaminated coins and bills, with *S. aureus* showing a contamination rate of 31 percent.

The General Assembly of Delegates (GAD), analagous to the ASCLS House of Delegates, met and carried out the business of the IFBMLS. United States delegates to the GAD included Ellen Hope Kearns, chief delegate; Vincent Gallichio, Karen Karni, Ellen Libby, Beverly Price-DeNard, Victor Skrinska, Kathy Waller and Jerald Edwards.

Stockholm was a beautiful venue for the Congress. Social events included an opening session with awards and ethnic music followed by a smorgasbord buffet. Two days later, participants gathered at the City Hall, where the Nobel Prizes are announced, for a dinner and lecture concerning architecture of this Hall. The Closing Event was held at Skansen, an outdoor heritage center, where dinner and dancing—to a group mimicking ABBA—were enjoyed by all.

Along with participating in the Congress, Karen was able to spend one day with relatives. Her paternal grandparents emigrated from Ramnas, Sweden, in the late 1890s, and she saw the home where her grandmother lived as a child. This was Karen's sixth international Congress, having presented previously in Dublin, Hong Kong, Oslo, Vancouver and Orlando.

Graduate Awarded Walter Judd Fellowship

Anna Abt, a 2002 University of Minnesota Medical Technology graduate, was a recipient of the Walter H. Judd International Graduate & Professional Fellowship award. Abt, who is working on a master's degree in Public Health Administration, was one of 22 students awarded this honor in 2004. The award provides assistance to U of M masters and professional degree students, enabling them to increase their exposure to other cultures while studying and doing research abroad.



Anna's \$2,000.00 award enabled her to travel to Africa, where she worked with the nonprofit organization Pro-link at their headquarters in Accra, Ghana. Between June and August 2004, she completed several projects related to HIV/AIDS. She assisted the only OB/GYN physician working with HIV patients in a large government hospital in Tema, where the leading cause of death was due to HIV/AIDS. The project attempted to increase the number of pregnant women consenting to HIV testing, so that treatment could be given at the time of delivery as well as to the newborn infant in an

effort to prevent transmission. Pregnant women listened to a testimonial from a long term HIV positive woman, with the hope that the stigma of the disease would be reduced. Anna developed a follow-up survey to obtain permission to test. The project was so successful, that the lab ran out of HIV testing kits. The conditions in the laboratory were primitive and sparse. One small centrifuge served the entire lab, and Anna never saw an incubator in microbiology. She witnessed many aspects of patient care, including induction of labor, which she would never have experienced in this country.

In another project, Anna developed a training manual for gong-gong beaters. The traditional manner in which announcements are made to villagers in remote regions of Ghana is through the beating of gong-gong drums. Before HIV/AIDS education could be taught in this manner, the drummers had to thoroughly understand the disease, thus the training manual. Many of them don't read, so an illustrator was brought in to transcribe words into pictures. Anna was also involved in educating junior high students on HIV/AIDS.

Anna has decided to focus her masters on health policy and is currently shadowing a lobbyist in the state legislature. Again, she has made us proud. We look forward to the prospect of one of our own influencing health policies in our state and our country. For more information on the Walter Judd Fellowship and for a list of all recipients, go to: http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/student_funding/judd/juddfellowship.html.

2004 Graduation Ceremony

The twenty-eight members of the 2004 graduating class of the Division of Medical Technology held their commencement exercise at the Student Center on the St. Paul campus on September 18, 2004. Senior class president, Maia Veal delivered the welcome and Kristen Geyer introduced each speaker.

Dr. John McClure, a pathologist from Methodist Hospital who has lectured in the spring hematology course for several years, delivered the commencement address. Rachel Zimmermann, Tiffany Armstrong, Karen Broman and Ryan Ulve created the senior slide presentation. The presentation included slides from their senior year classes, clinical rotations and social events.

Cheryl Swinehart, assistant professor, announced awards and led the Medical Technology Oath, introducing members of the class individually as they signed the Oath. Martha Taft-Ferguson was presented with a special gift in recognition of achieving the highest grade point average in the professional program. Karen Broman was presented with the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards Honored Graduate Award. Donna Spannaus-Martin, Director of the Division of Medical Technology, conferred the degrees. Salli Clysdale from the Medical Technology Alumni Society welcomed the new graduates as alumni of the University of Minnesota. A reception followed on the Student Union Terrace.



Medical Technology Class of 2004

Front row (left to right)

Lien Le, Minneapolis, MN
Tuong Nguyen, St. Paul, MN
Rachel Bjerketvedt, Morris, MN**
Nicole Wagoner, Coon Rapids, MN
Tiffany Armstrong, Detroit Lakes, MN
Timberann Klapper, Kewaskum, WI

Back row (left to right)

Roeun Im, Mankato, MN
Maia Veal, Burnsville, MN
Scott Dvorak, Bloomington, MN
Kristen Geyer, Albertville, MN
Graham Gregorich, Minneapolis, MN

Second row (left to right)

Melissa Chaves, Mankato, MN
Karen Broman, Hastings, MN**
Zea Zimmermann, Minneapolis, MN
Shannon Rich, Oregon, WI*
Jessica Overby, Plymouth, MN
Martha Taft-Ferguson, Maple Plain, MN**
Emily Stratton, Anoka, MN

Not Pictured:

Mark Brotherton, Blue Earth, MN
Amanda Clow, Hudson, WI
Kyle Freeman, Minneapolis, MN
Rolando Gonzalez, Puerto Rico

Third row (left to right)

Ryan Ulve, Albert Lea, MN
Eric Hempstead, Minneapolis, MN
Melissa Gerads, Isanti, MN
Sarah Stanton, Elk River, MN
Stanton Krause, North Mankato, MN
Rachel Zimmermann, Seboygan, WI

* distinction - Cumulative grade point average of 3.75-3.9

** high distinction - Cumulative grade point average of 3.9-4.0

Photograph by :
Anita Sime Jader (Class of 1977)

2004 Major Contributors

The following contributed \$100 or more to the Division of Medical Technology in 2004:

\$100,000 and Above

Carl Rohwer

\$5,000 - \$99,000

Whitney Arcee Foundation (Constance Bakken)

Verna E. Mallek

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Howard & Billie Anne Juni

\$500 - \$999

Lorna H. Canfield

Mary Jane Eaves-Raich and
John Raich

Sally J. Economon
Kathryn Hammer Glen

Karin J. Libby
Ella M. Spanjers

\$300 - \$499

Beckman Coulter Inc.
Elizabeth Bixby
Robert A. Dahl
Margaret A. Gabrik

General Mills Foundation
Becky Green
Julie S. Grudzinskas
Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson

Karen R. Karni
Carol Kelly Johnson
Paul C. Schreckenberger

The Travelers Co. Foundation Inc.
William & Grace Wagnild
Karen Wasson
Verne & Phyllis J. Weiss

\$100 - \$299

David G. Alexander
Anonymous Donor
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Joanne S. and Lee W. Arvid
Marcia L. Bell
Ellis & Ann C. Benson
James A. Berger
Cheryl A. Bertz
Jo Borgerding
Karen E. Bowman
George & Ruth Brauer
H. Isobel Brown
Joseph & Marilyn T. Budge
Ruth A. Cardinal
Jean Hyslop Carlson
Steven A. Carlson
Ruth G. Chamberlain
Stanford & Elise Church
Gerry M. Cochran
Stella Cook
Virginia R. Coxe
Colleen A. Crampton
Mary Damron
Larry M. Davidson
Kay L. Draves
Grace Mary Ederer
Nancy G. Field
Linda L. Fredrickson

Muriel French
Reggie L. Gausman
Nancy A. Geier
Mardie G. Geiser Wollenhaupt
Marjorie & Andrew Giesen
Ingrid B. & Lars U. Graff
Karin J. Grossman
Marilyn R. Haglund
Harris J. & Helen M. Hallgren
Ronald & Jean S. Halvorson
Annette L. Hanson
Carol Luck Harris
Marlene J. Hedenstrom
Jacquelin A. Heggernes
Heins Riverside Farms
Robert P. Hirte
Karen and Richard Huff
Phyllis Jacobs
Lisa J. Jarvis
Linda E. Johnson
Steven D. Johnson
Dorothy K. Karlen
Elizabeth M. Kearney
Barbara M. Koblinski
Patricia L. Koors
Usha R. Kota
George Kuprian
Carol J. Lahti

Gayle A. Lancette
Frances G. Larson
Jean J. Linné
Catherine G. Manlove
Betty L. McMartin
Arlene M. Meadows
Diane M. Michalik
Linda A. Mikyska
Barbara J. Moser
Gerald R. Mulcahy
Carol A. Mulder
Jean H. Mulvahill
Clareyse E. Nelson
Cynthia A. Ness
Toni D. Okada
Jeanne C. Olsen
James R. Olson Jr. & Sheryl
Fisher Olson
Lilias W. Opie
Lou Ann Page
Kathryn M. Parranto
Elizabeth H. Perry
Gloria J. Peterson
James H. and Elberta L.
Prestegard
Kathryn L. Rantala
Frederick L. Rayman, Jr.
Anne M. Ringgenberg

Debra C. Rodahl
Delores & John L. Roesler
Ruth M. Rosendahl
Laura G. Rude
James G. Ruggles
Thomas & Shelley K. Russ
Margaret C. Rutherford
Jean M. Rysavy
Rodney J. Sandberg
Marlys J. St. Cyr
Norynne M. Schiminsky
Melicent E. Schmidt
Janet E. Schultz
Cheryl Scott
Joanne E. Stemper
Kathleen P. Tekautz
3M Foundation Inc.
Katherine & Wayne J. Vagts
Elizabeth A. Van Der Hagen
Aija K. Vikmanis
Nettie M. Warwood
Mary K. Weimer
Lila Wengler
Kristi L. Werdin
Joyce M. Wian
Donna J. Wieb
Merle K. Woo
Andrew R. Yue

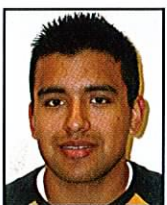
Student Profiles



Mahamed Ali grew up in Somalia, but was forced to leave the country during the civil war. After living as a refugee in Kenya for five years, he came to Minnesota where he obtained his MLT/CLT degree at North Hennepin Community College. His MLT job at Abbott Northwestern motivated him to pursue his dreams and continue his MT education at the University of Minnesota. He currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two beautiful children.



Before attending the University of Minnesota, Chelsea Wallace lived in Apple Valley, MN and attended Apple Valley High School along with her two brothers. One of her favorite experiences since coming to the University was the month she spent backpacking through Europe. She is proud to serve as class president for the MT Class of 2005, and as the Minnesota student representative for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Minnesota.



Matt Kramer is from New Hope, MN. Matt was interested in a career in the health sciences and liked the idea of starting out in a baccalaureate degree program. Matt is currently a member of the Minnesota National Guard, and before starting the medical technology program, was deployed in Kosovo for eleven months. Matt is looking forward to working in a variety of disciplines in the clinical laboratory.



Every morning before she headed off to school, Amy Walsh's father would have her say to him, "I am a winner and I can do anything." This continues to be something she strives to do each day. Amy is Vice-President of the Class of 2005 and the medical technology representative on the Academic Health Center's Student Consultative Committee. Amy's ultimate career goal is to become a forensic specialist for the FBI.



Two years ago, as a microbiology major, the job market was limited and uncertain for Abdusemed Muktar. Abdusemed learned about medical technology when he asked his clinical microbiology professor if there were jobs where he could use the procedures he was learning in his laboratory classes. He switched his major to medical technology and has not looked back. Abdusemed is originally from Ethiopia, where he enjoyed playing soccer. He continues to play soccer, and also enjoys spending time with his two young children.

Alumni News

Joyce R. Schellbach Johnson (1948) is living in Albert Lea, MN. Her husband, Duane Johnson, passed away in February, 2004.

Janice Annis Sharp (1954) lives in Beavercreek, Ohio with her husband, Earl. She has four children and nine grandchildren, and Earl has two children and one grandchild. Janice's career was varied, having served as University of Minnesota Health Service supervisor from 1955-1961, and a researcher for the VA coagulation laboratory, and the St. Paul Health Department.

Karen Bisset Schreiner (1960) passed away on July 18, 2004.

Donna Messerli Meyer (1964) was recognized for her distinguished service and leadership as President of the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards.

Kathleen McJunkin (1982) graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. She is currently working at Southdale Pet Hospital. Prior to veterinary school, she worked at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics.

Nestor Nacionales (1998) is currently in the Chicago area and has returned to school full-time in the area of international studies with the intention of pursuing an advanced degree. He is currently the Program Director for the cycling team he rides for, XXXRacing-Athletico.

Ryoko Kono (2001) is currently employed by Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in their HIV laboratory. In July, she had the opportunity to go to Uganda for three weeks to set up instruments and train individuals in their HIV lab. Her employer is Dr. Brooks Jackson, formerly from the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota.

Can You Help Us?

Incorrectly addressed mail has been returned to us on a number of individuals. If you know the current address for the individuals listed below (or any other alum who has not been receiving Tech's Talk), please call or write to Claire Bjorklund (see page 2).

Margo Murra Godoi '00
Andrea Jensen '99
Nancy Hale Bartosh '64
Susan Johnson Forsberg '66
Susan R. Olson '73
Eleanor H. Johnson '73
Bruce J. Hoff '75
Marcine J. Heger '76
Karen Meixner Tucker '81
Virginia L. Bray Patterson '46
Marguerite Donovan Ahlstrom '43

Class Reunions from the Medical Technology 2004 Banquet



Class of 1929

Dorothy Smith Schommer



Class of 1954

Front row from left to right: Ella Braunstein Mogilevsky, Patricia Scott Keairnes, Marilyn O'Brien Bartlett, Nancy Melchior Dingman, Joseph Jerome.
Back row from left to right: Nancy Nepp Gabella, Gerry Olafson Cochran.



Class of 1979

Front row from left to right: Cheryl Howland Bowsfield, Colleen Casey Crampton, Sharon Campbell Wurst, Shelley McArdle Pulkrabek, Christine Grewell.
Back row from left to right: Paula Gustafson Mattson, Ronald Halvorson, Jean Forsman Halvorson.

Identification of 1954 Class Photos on page 12. A. G. Olafson; B. Joseph Jerome; C. Ella Braunstein Mogilevsky; D. Nancy Nepp Gabella; E. Patricia Scott Keairnes; F. Nancy Melchior Dingman; G. Marilyn O'Brien Bartlett.

Anniversary Classes Honored

Each year we continue our tradition of honoring the 75th, 50th and 25th anniversary classes.

Class of 1930 (75th Anniversary)

Esther Burton
*Velma Corwin Armstrong
*R. E. Cross
Merle Erckenbrack Rieke
*Thelma Evends Payette

*Vivian Gunstad Dahms
*Mazie Hoff Hove
**Isabelle Jeffery
*Mary Kierstad Addington

*Mary Neemes Bracher
*Madeline Rice Lynch
*Margaret Sorenson Cushman
**Grace Williams Keefe

Class of 1955 (50th Anniversary)

Elizabeth Anderson Ozmon
Barbara Arndt Towner
Joyce Carlson
Marjorie Clarke
Robert V. Coyne
Marna Cutts
Mary Dahlstrom Piper
**Doris Ellingsen Blanz
*Eleanor Harvey Duerr
Maryann Henricksen Calvin

Mary Henry Wetherbee
Inez Krantz Schade
*Nancy Lee Ohm
Karna Lindquist Boyer
Aldora Loe Miller
Sara McCarron Muller
Carolyn Miller Hakim
Diane Muir Patty
Gerald Mulcahy
Marianne Novotny Hirscher

Mary Olsen Sather
*Rene St. Germain
JoAnn Tangen Nelson
*Elizabeth Terhune Fagan
Ann Unseth Peterson
*Mary Walden Hove
Janet Wold Cunningham
*Delores Wynnemer
Arlene Zaske Rohkohl

Class of 1980 (25th Anniversary)

*Pamela Anderson Evans
Becky Benesh Meierhofer
Linda Berglund Pidde
*Laura Bergmann
Susan Crisman
Dana deCastro Anderson
Elizabeth Eyrich
Jayne Funk Gillen
*Carol Gilkerson Bauer
Elizabeth Haberkorn
Michael Halloran
Lori Holdridge Opsal
Terri Johnson Poindexter

Susan Klein Iisakka
Katherine Knott
Barbara Helle Kohn
Linda Kolupailo Mathison
Kathleen Kuskowski Wessel
Carol Lahti
Elizabeth Lindeke
Janice Lohman
*Karla Lundell
*Paula Jean Maasek Shuart
Cheryl Mattson Rozeboom
Linda Nelson Thompson
Elizabeth Neuvar

Marilyn Olson
Susan Piasecki
Kathryn Rantala
Debra Rodahl
Monica Rosin
Judith Rued Slegh
Bridget Smith Wiemken
Daniel B. Thomton
*Anh H. To
Yen H. Tran
Connie Wendel Luebke
Anthony Williams

*Address unknown

**Deceased

If you are a member of an anniversary class, please make a special effort to attend the annual alumni banquet. The reservation form is on page 11. Classmates from the anniversary classes will be seated together, so you will have the opportunity to renew friendships.

We appreciate having the correct addresses of alumni. You can help by sending us any addresses of those graduates with whom we have lost contact. Thanks!

Claryse Nelson Named Distinguished Alumnus for 2004

On April 26, 2004, during our Annual Spring Meeting and Dinner, Claryse E. Nelson (1961) was presented with the Medical Technology Alumnus of the Year Award. This award was based on Claryse being a friend of and contributor to the program and to the profession for over 40 years. Following graduation, Claryse worked in the blood bank of the University of Minnesota for 35 years until her retirement in 1996. She started her career as a staff technologist, then was promoted to supervisor, laboratory manager, and finally administrator. She taught U of M medical technology students within the clinical laboratory and provided didactic lectures in our immunohematology class, as well as the management course.

Claryse has contributed to the profession in numerous and myriad ways. She served on a variety of committees within the Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and was elected its president in 1991. She co-chaired the development of the videotape series "Current Topics in Blood Banking" that was developed by Minnesota blood bankers in the early 1980s and sold nationwide. This series received critical acclaim for its content and relevance.

Claryse was the second medical technologist to lead the Minnesota Association of Blood Banks in the mid-1970s. For over 20 years she has been an auditor for the national organization, the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), visiting and inspecting various blood banking sites. Within the AABB, she co-founded the Chief Tech's Forum, a group that remains strong today. She has also been a member of the AABB computer committee as well as its transfusion practices committee, and has presented at national and state meetings.

An activist, Claryse has championed the causes of candidates in her neighborhood, the state, and our nation. She mentors those with chemical dependencies, and has been a part of many bicycle treks, raising monies for worthy charities. Several years ago, during an important birthday, she declined gifts but suggested monies for her favorite charities. Over \$1,000 was raised, with \$500 dedicated for the University's Alumni Medical Technology Scholarship Fund.

Claryse also is an avid traveler and has visited over 30 countries, often biking. In her "spare" time, she is currently organizing her extensive collection of scarves, for which she is well known. Those of us who know Claryse can comment easily on her up-beat style, joyous countenance and great smile.



Help Us Save Postage



Each year, quite a few Tech's Talk newsletters are returned because the addressee is "Temporarily Away." If you leave town for the winter and know you will be gone when Tech's Talk is mailed in early March, please notify us to not mail a copy to you, or provide an alternate address where you we

can send it. This saves postage and keeps your home safer by not letting everyone know you are gone for an extended period of time. If you have moved and Tech's Talk has been forwarded to you, please notify us of your new address.

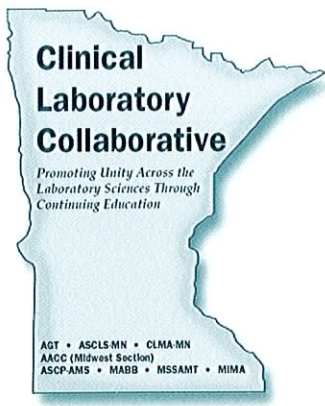
Do you have an e-mail address? We would appreciate your sharing it with us. Please send an e-mail to medtech@umn.edu or complete the Let's Keep In Touch form on page 10. If you've changed your e-mail address, please give us your new one.

Fairview Opens CLS Program

The number of Medical Technology programs in the State of Minnesota has increased by one. Fairview Health Services has created a new program in Clinical Laboratory Science. The first class of five students began their studies in June 2004 and will graduate in May 2005. Carol McCoy, Ph.D., CLS (NCA), who serves as program director, had served as Program Director at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

During the twelve-month program, students spend the first 20 weeks in lectures and student laboratory sessions, followed by 28 weeks of rotation in Fairview Hospital sites. The newly renovated student classroom and laboratory space is located in the Fairview Riverside Professional Building. The program is prepared to accept up to 8 students.

A relationship with the University of Minnesota Medical Technology Program has already developed. Both Cheryl Swinehart (faculty) and Salli Clysdale (teaching specialist) teach in the U of M program during fall and spring semesters, and in the Fairview program during the summer. The addition of another program is both needed and welcomed.



State Collaborative Spring Meeting

The 2005 State Laboratory Meeting will be held May 11-13 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. "On Track to Duluth" is this year's theme. Featured keynote speakers are:

- Wednesday: "Do You Need a Physical?" by Dr. Mark DePaolis
- Thursday: "Nine Principles for Success in Work and Life" by Kathlyn McConnell
- Friday: "CSI in the Real World" by SuzAnne Weston-Kirkegaard

Unlike past years, Wednesday's session will not start until noon, although exhibits and registration will open at 10 A.M. The three days of sessions will include a wide variety of topics including menopause, error management, hematology case studies, cardiac markers, bloodstain pattern interpretation in forensics, bioterrorism, stem cells, and much more.

A number of vendors/exhibitors will be present on Wednesday and Thursday, with door prize drawings and refreshments in the exhibit hall. A silent auction for the Children's Miracle Network (specifically Gillette Children's Healthcare) will take place in the exhibit hall on the 11th and 12th. The brochure for the meeting is available online at the ASCLS-MN web site (www.mnscls.org) under upcoming events. For complete information or a registration brochure for the meeting, contact:

Renee Carlson
(218) 786-4139
Rcarlson@smdc.org

Let's Keep In Touch

As in the past, we are asking you to send us an update of what you've been doing personally and professionally. Contributions, including letters and pictures, will be displayed at the alumni banquet. Pictures will be returned if you wish. Please be sure to have your name and address on the back and a note asking that it be returned. Thanks for keeping in touch.

Name: _____ (_____) Year of Graduation: _____
Name while in school (if it has changed)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Career Information: _____

Family Information: _____

Special Interests: _____

Please mail to the address on page 2.

Annual Banquet News

for Alumni and Friends of Medical Technology

Join us in the Campus Club of Coffman Memorial Union for this year's annual banquet and reunion. Friends and spouses are welcome!

Date: **Monday, April 25, 2004**
 5:30 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
 6:30 p.m. Dinner with the program to follow

Place: **Campus Club**
 403 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue
 Minneapolis, MN (612) 625-9696
 Parking garage available (for fee)
 Contact the Med. Tech. Office if you would like a map mailed to you

Menu: **Beef Medallion**
 Served with wild mushroom au jus and horseradish
 creme fraiche, whipped potatoes, and grilled vegetables
 or
Stuffed Chicken
 Boneless chicken breast stuffed with avocado and feta cheese, whipped potatoes, grilled vegetables
 or
Wild Mushroom Ravioli
 Served with sweet potato alfredo sauce

Salad: Fresh baby greens, grape tomatoes, and red onion in orange thyme vinaigrette
Dessert: Mint Ice Cream with Cookie

Cost: Alumni Association Members \$30.00
 Nonmembers \$32.00
 Seniors (age 60 and over) \$29.00

Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1930 (75 years), 1955 (50 years), 1980 (25 years), and to the 83rd graduating class of 2005.



*This is the only mailing you will receive for the Medical Technology Alumni Society Annual Banquet.
 Please mark your calendar and return the reservation form below.*

Deadline for reservations: April 18, 2005. Send in your reservations early because seating is limited.

Please reserve _____ place(s) for me at the Medical Technology Alumni Dinner.

I enclose \$ _____ as payment.

Beef Medallion _____ Stuffed Chicken _____ Mushroom Ravioli _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me at the 1955 table.

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me at the 1980 table. M.A.A. Member: Yes _____ No _____

Name (please print) _____ Class _____ M.A.A. # _____

Address: _____ Phone # (area code _____)

Guest Name (please print) _____

Make check payable to **Medical Technology Alumni Society**. Reservations should be received by **April 18, 2005**.
Mail to: Division of Medical Technology, MMC 609, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

High-Tech ... Bio-Tech ... Med-Tech ... That's Us!

A headline in the Pioneer Press reads, "Governor Pushes Biotech," another, "Deadly Form of Leukemia put into Remission in U Study." Other key tech words that may have caught one's eye include: umbilical cord blood transplants, adult stem cells, tumor vaccines, natural killer cells, suicide gene therapy.

What do these words have in common? Medical Technologists.

More precisely, they are some of the cellular engineering methods used by the twelve clinical laboratory scientists (aka medical technologists) in the Cell Therapy laboratory. This lab is in the Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics Building on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota and is managed by Fairview Health Systems under the direction of Dr. Jeff McCullough.

The previously mentioned newspaper article, "Hopes High for Cancer Therapy: Deadly Form of Leukemia put into Remission in U Study," and a WCCO radio news report were prompted by a presentation December 5, 2004, at the American Society of Hematology's annual meeting in San Diego. University of Minnesota researchers found that donor natural killer (NK) lymphocytes were able to put patients with poor-prognosis acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) into remission.

Cell Therapy's behind the scenes part in this research typically would begin with the receipt of a donor apheresis product in the afternoon, and continue until the following afternoon with the infusion of the IL-2 activated NK cells. Somewhere in between, clinical laboratory scientists would complete twenty-five pages of records documenting all the procedures performed under cGMP. For example, to help prevent graft vs. host disease, a German engineered machine, the CliniMACS Miltenyi, depleted the CD3 labeled T-cells using magnetic microbeads coated with CD3 antibody.

This advanced cellular engineering protocol is one of seventy-nine Bone Marrow Transplant Program clinical protocols supported by Cell Therapy. The lab is also involved in translational development, cord blood processing and banking and has developed a remarkable array of databases to assist in the maintenance of their quality assurance program. There is a long list of research proposals to be advanced to the product development phase and eventually to clinical use.

Medical technologists have proven to be remarkably capable in handling these complexities and as the competition for biotech heats up, so does the demand for scientists...of the clinical laboratory variety.

Can You Match These 1954 Graduates with the Reunion Photograph on Page 7 from the 2004 Medical Technology Alumni Spring Banquet?



A



B



C



D



E



F



G

Names of these graduates and the identification of these photographs can be found on page 7.

Division of Medical Technology
Dept. of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology
University of Minnesota
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Minneapolis, MN 55455

Forwarding Service Requested