

# ELABORATIONS

News and Issues for Washington's Clinical Laboratories

Volume XIII Issue 6

August/September 2008

## 15th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

by Leonard Kargacin, DOH/LQA

The 15th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference will be held on November 10, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel at SeaTac International Airport. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about the status of health care from a variety of experts.

Dennis Weissman, president of Dennis Weissman & Associates, LLC, in Washington, DC, is the keynote speaker for the Conference. His presentation is titled "**Lab Reimbursement & Policy Insider: Interpreting the National Election & What It Means to Healthcare Providers.**"

This session examines key national political and policy dynamics shaping reimbursement and policy changes affecting laboratories and pathologists under the Medicare program. The presentation will also present an analysis of the 2008 U.S. election outcome and discuss how it will influence future national healthcare reform efforts as well as the impact it is liable to have on laboratory and pathology providers.

Elizabeth A. Wagar, MD is the Laboratory Medical Director at UCLA Health System, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Wagar's talk is titled "**No Need to Panic: Critical Values in Your Laboratory.**" If you have wondered how other laboratories manage critical values, this presentation provides you with some of the

answers. Several important studies are described that provide an overview of how multiple laboratories approach the development of critical values lists and critical values notification policies. Benchmarks for laboratory critical values reporting and best practices for critical values notification will be discussed. Insights from examples of activities that are statistically associated with quality critical values reporting will be examined. Ten general recommendations for improving laboratory critical values will sum up the session. This session is sponsored by the College of American Pathologists.

continued on page 2

### Inside This Issue

- 2 15th Annual Lab Conference, cont'd
- 3 Primary Containers Revisited - Petri Dishes
- 3 Advanced Course in Blood Cell Morphology
- 4 Primary Containers/Calendar of Events

### Practice Guidelines

The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the following website:  
[www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm)

Anemia	Lipid Screening
ANA	PAP Smear
Bioterrorism Event Mgmt	Point-of-Care Testing
Bleeding Disorders	PSA
Chlamydia	Rash Illness
Diabetes	Red Cell Transfusion
Group A Strep Pharyngitis	Renal Disease
Group B Streptococcus	STD
Hepatitis	Thyroid
HIV	Tuberculosis
Infectious Diarrhea	Urinalysis
Intestinal Parasites	Wellness

# 15th Annual Lab Conference, continued from page 1

## Global Health: Is Seattle a Center for Global Health?

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) is an international, nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH works to improve global health and well-being. Matthew Steele, PhD, MPH, is the Clinical and Field Research Coordinator for PATH. His presentation discusses the company and its mission to improve the health of people around the world by advancing technologies, strengthening systems, and encouraging healthy behaviors. PATH meets the complex health needs of an expanding world with a multi-pronged approach that moves solutions from innovation to impact. This is done by supporting new ideas through inception, development, and testing; paving the way for introduction in low-resource countries; and working with governments and communities to integrate and expand the most successful ideas.

## CDC Perspective on Emerging Issues in Global Health:

Robert Martin, DrPH, MPH, is the Associate Director of the Coordinating Center for Health Information and

Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Dr. Martin will speak on the CDC's Global Health Programs. He will discuss how what is happening in the developing countries, and ultimately, how it affects our health care system. This is especially true for Washington State because we are a major world trade and travel center.

**Hot Topics for the Clinical Laboratory:** The remainder of the Conference program will be devoted to a discussion of other issues important to the clinical laboratory and pathology industry.

## Who Should Attend?

- Laboratory Directors
- Laboratory / Office Managers
- Department Supervisors
- Bench Personnel
- Billing Personnel
- Compliance Officers

The Conference offers something pertinent for everyone whether you work in a physician office laboratory, an independent laboratory, or a small or large hospital.

**Conference Location:** The Conference this year will be held at the Doubletree Hotel at SeaTac International Airport with easy access from Interstate 5 and the airport. Look for your copy of the conference program and registration information in the middle of September. If you do not receive your Conference Registration Flyer or have questions, contact information is found on page 2. Visit the Laboratory Quality Assurance website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/laq.htm> for information and a registration form for the 2008 Conference. The \$95.00 per person registration fee includes a continental breakfast, breaks and lunch. **MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND TODAY!**

*ELABORATIONS* is a free monthly publication of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA).

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## Website addresses:

**DOH home page:** <http://www.doh.wa.gov>  
**LQA home page:** <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm>  
**PHL home page:**  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>

## 15th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 10, 2008  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel at SeaTac  
International Airport

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

# Primary Containers Revisited - Petri Dishes

by Laura Kentala, DOH/PHL Training Program

Over the last four months we have had a series of articles in Elaborations to help clarify how to package and ship infectious materials. The topic of the first article was primary containers. In that article, I stated that Petri dishes could never be used as a primary container. Since the article was published, I have discovered more information on the topic of Petri dishes as primary containers.

With assistance from some colleagues in laboratories around the state and a few phone calls to the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), I was able to track down the person who is an author of the Codified Federal Register (CFR) that addressed the primary container requirements. During the discussion, I learned that Petri dishes are acceptable as primary containers as long as they are sealed in a manner that makes them leakproof. This means that the Petri dish must have a complete seal around the lid with a watertight tape or Parafilm. The Petri dish is then placed in a leakproof plastic bag. The author clarified the regulation concerning the primary container stating that the regulation was never intended to mean that the primary container must be manufactured to be leakproof or siftproof. It is for this reason that Petri dishes can be used as primary containers.

We hope this clarifies this aspect of packing and shipping for you. It can be very confusing. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 206-418-5404 or send an e-mail to [laura.kentala@doh.wa.gov](mailto:laura.kentala@doh.wa.gov).

## Advanced Blood Cell Morphology Training Class

**Date, Time & Location:** September 11, 2008, from 8:45 am to 4:00 pm at the DOH Public Health Laboratories in Shoreline, WA.

**Course Objectives:** This one-day course will cover the following subjects: selected cases involving WBCs, RBCs and/or platelet pathology; examination of red and white cell morphology using slide presentations and quizzes; microscopic examination of actual case slides; lab challenges - examination of unknown specimens to test your abilities.

**Course Prerequisites:** In order to be eligible to take this course, the student must have either taken a basic microscopy class or have at least six months experience using a light microscope.

**Continuing Education Units:** Students will receive 0.6 CEUs for completion of this course. Applicants must plan to attend the entire workshop to receive CEUs.

**Tuition:** \$115.00 if registered on or before September 5, 2008, or \$125.00 thereafter.

### Advanced Blood Cell Morphology Training Class Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Message Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**How to Register:** Complete the registration form and mail to the Department of Health, Training Program, 1610 NE 150th Street, PO Box 550501, Shoreline, WA 98155-9701; fax to 206-418-5445, or e-mail to [p hl.training@doh.wa.gov](mailto:p hl.training@doh.wa.gov). A registration form is available at our web site: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/phl/training/train.htm>.

A confirmation packet will be sent to you by mail. The packet will contain your registration confirmation, payment instructions, and a map to the training location. **Please DO NOT send money with your registration form.**

All breaks, laboratory materials, manuals, and use of equipment are included. Students are responsible for their own transportation, meals, and lodging.

Can I use a Petri dish as a primary shipping container?

See the article on page 3 for updated information.

Calendar of Events

PHL Training Classes: (http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/phl/training/train.htm)

Advanced Course in Blood Cell Morphology
September 11 Shoreline

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium
October 15-18 Portland

15th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference
November 10 Seattle

2009 ASCLS-WA Spring Meeting
April 2009 Spokane

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 2. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to ELABORATIONS at the address on page 2. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available upon request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TTY/TDD 1-800-833-6388).



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