

ELABORATIONS

News and Issues for Washington's Clinical Laboratories

Volume XVI Issue 5

September/October 2011

18th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

The 18th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference will be held on November 7, 2011, at the Tukwila Community Center in South Seattle. 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. He is presenting **“Health Care Reform and the Federal Budget Deficit: How the Political Debate is Driving Policy for Labs and Pathologists.”**

With the national spotlight on soaring federal deficits, the political debate is intensifying over ways to cut the federal budget including policy initiatives to reduce Medicare spending. At the same time, the need to raise the national debt ceiling offers another legislative vehicle for forcing budget cuts that will likely impact Medicare. The continuing controversy surrounding the health care reform law and its related implementation will be central issues along with budgetary policy during next year's presidential and congressional elections. This presentation examines the latest policy and business implications for the laboratory industry. It includes the outlook for lab and pathology payments and policy along with how changing market trends including the advent of accountable care organizations will impact diagnostic services and providers.

Emily R. Studebaker, JD, from the Seattle law firm of Garvey Schubert Barer, practices exclusively in the area of health law. She advises ambulatory surgery centers and other physician-owned entities on regulatory compliance and transactional matters.

She is presenting **“Accountable Care Organizations and Integration under Healthcare Reform.”** The long-awaited Accountable Care Organization regulations were published in March 31, 2011. This presentation will address eligibility requirements, patient attribution, and participation in Medicare's shared savings program. She targeted this presentation to those who have familiarity with health care delivery systems in Washington and would like additional information about issues that may impact the development of ACOs in Washington.

Bryant T. Karras, MD, Informatics Officer/Sr. Epidemiologist with the Washington State Department of Health is presenting **“Electronic Lab Reporting and Meaningful Use.”** **Kathy Lofy, MD**, Medical Epidemiologist with the Washington State Department of Health is presenting **“The Importance of Electronic Lab Reporting for Public Health Surveillance.”** The Department is working to develop capacity to receive “meaningful use” messages

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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

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

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from electronic medical records and health information exchanges. The goal is to establish automated systems for reporting notifiable condition lab results to our Public Health Reporting of Electronic Data (PHRED) system. Meaningful use stimulus incentives offer an unprecedented opportunity for public health to improve public health surveillance.

May C. Chu, PhD, serves as the Director of the Laboratory Science Policy and Practice Program Office (LSP-PPPO) in the Office for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Sciences (OSELS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Chu recently completed over six years of service at the World Health Organization (WHO) and briefly served as the Associate Director for Laboratory Science in the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases in the Office for Infectious Diseases before joining LSPPPO/OSELS in November 2010.

Her presentation is titled **“Vision 2020 and Beyond: Laboratory of the Future.”** Laboratories are being challenged more and more about being efficient, us-

ing the right technology, preparing the workforce for the future, and determining what core information they must provide. What should they consider? What should they adopt? Dr. Chu will present her vision of what the clinical laboratory will look like in 2020 and beyond.

Ellen Jo Baron, PhD, is Professor Emerita, Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine. She was Director of the Clinical Microbiology and Clinical Virology Laboratories at Stanford University Medical Center for 15 years before joining Cepheid in 2009. She has been working in clinical microbiology for over 40 years.

In her session titled **“Laboratory Acquired Infections: What, Where, When, Why,”** Dr. Baron presents data from several studies on laboratory-acquired infections and will discuss the relative efficacy of prevention strategies. The talk will conclude with recommendations for laboratory workers and managers.

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.

Location: The Conference is held at the Tukwila Community Center with easy access from Interstate 5 and the airport. Click on “Updates” on the left of the screen for information and a registration form for the 2011 Conference or contact Leonard Kargacin at leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov. The \$95.00 per person registration fee includes a continental breakfast, breaks and lunch. Make your plans to attend today. **You still have time to register.**

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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NOTE: Letters to the editor may be published unless specified otherwise by the author.

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>

Laboratory Quality Assurance Website Resources

Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA) has many resources available through its website. All of the materials listed in this article can be accessed by going to the LQA website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm> and scrolling down the listing on the left hand side of the screen to Links and Extras.

Supplemental Material (Select the side-bar “Supplemental Material”):

• Educational materials

- Biannual Verification of Accuracy Suggestions
- Calibration and Calibration Verification Compliance Guide
- Good Laboratory Practices with Waived Test Systems
- Medical Test Site Survey Checklist (All Specialties)
- Pre-inspection Self-assessment Checklists
 - Aerobic cultures
 - Chemistry Testing – Moderate Complexity Only
 - Dermatology Testing
 - Gram stains
 - Hematology Testing – Moderate Complexity Only
 - Microscopic examinations
 - Moderate complexity testing kits
 - Proficiency Testing or Biannual Verification of Accuracy
 - Quality Assurance Plan Development

- Forms (Select the side-bar “Supplemental Material”):** Forms to notify LQA of changes in demographic information, personnel and test menu

Newsletters: (Select the side-bar “Newsletters”): Copies of the Elaborations newsletter from the past three years can be found here.

Practice Guidelines (Select the side-bar “Practice Guidelines”): Copies of all practice guidelines developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory council are located here.

Updates (Select the side-bar “Updates”): This tab will contain any updated information about the Medical Test Site (MTS) licensing program.

Other Links (Select the side-bar “Other Links”): Links to the following are included under this tab:

- Continuing education opportunities
- Laboratory professional organizations
- Laboratory personnel certification
- Laboratory accrediting agencies
- Laboratory training programs
- Proficiency testing companies
- Miscellaneous Links
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)
 - Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI - formerly NCCLS)
 - Department of Labor & Industries – Safety Information
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Office of the Inspector General
 - Washington State Public Health Laboratories

LQA - New Address & Phone Numbers

LQA Seattle Office New Mailing Address

LQA
20435 72nd Ave S Ste 200
Kent, WA 98032

LQA Seattle Office New Phone Numbers

Susan Walker: (253) 395-6745
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Calendar of Events

Training Classes:

18th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference
November 7 Tukwila

2012 ASCLS-WA Spring Meeting
April 26-28 Kennewick, WA

2012 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium
October 2012 Portland

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).

