



## President Notes – Natasha Hundley

It's hard to believe February is already here. Schedules are hectic as 2010 plans are in full swing. On the bright side, spring is around the corner and Kansas City can hopefully get rid of the snow. One of the toughest challenges each year is not being overwhelmed with execution of plans and scheduled activities. This month I am sharing a few tips learned over the years regarding time management and employees.

- **Delegate** - At work and home, delegation is a powerful tool to accomplish more. Identify routine activities you're holding onto, such as scheduling, compiling data or reports, handling routine customer or vendor issues, training, researching, or even technical duties. Pick the right person, based on knowledge, skill, and experience, to handle the project, and give them the freedom to get it done. No micromanaging, nitpicking over methods, or breathing over their shoulder. You'll be amazed how associates (this works for kids and spouses too!), when held accountable and with support, manage to complete projects you thought would fall apart without your input.
- **Ask for help** - Recognize your limits and don't be afraid to enlist an expert for tasks that extend beyond your expertise. It's best to call a co-worker, friend, or invest where needed *to get the job done correctly the first time*. Making the right investment up front saves time and headaches in the long run.
- **"Don't Sweat the Small Stuff..."** This is one of my favorite books by Richard Carlson. Make a prioritized "To-Do" list and plan to accomplish the top 10 items over the next month. If the task didn't make the top 10, it can wait until the next month. Focusing only on priorities takes away the feeling of being overwhelmed with minutia. Bonus - you'll have a nice list to check off and feel a sense of accomplishment.
- **Say "No."** Although this may not be an option when the C-Suite is making the request, there may be room for artful negotiation or a way to

scale down the request to something more manageable. Saying no to cooking every day, volunteering at church or kid's school activities, or to that associate that seems to always "need a quick minute," are items that are much easier to gracefully decline.



## Scheduled Meetings – Save the Dates

**February 25, 2010.** Networking at 9am; Business meeting at 9:30am; Speaker Constance Fitz 10am to 11:30am. Location: Providence Medical Center, 8929 Parallel Parkway, Keenan Auditorium A, Kansas City KS. Topic: Confusion and Clarity – CLIA Personnel Regulations.

**April 14, 15 and 16, 2010,** 7 am to 4pm. Patchwork of Knowledge collaborative conference. Location and speakers are to be announced.

**May 21, 2010** – Annual Meeting. Time, speaker and topic will be announced. Location Cerner



## Board Activities

Refer to Meeting Minutes on "Members Only" KC CLMA web page for additional information regarding board activities.



## Membership News

KC CLMA Chapter currently has 75 members, including three new members. Please join the BOD in welcoming Mike Lindaman, SueAnn Casey and Chris Miller, all from Physicians Reference Laboratory to KC CLMA. There are 8 members lapsing at the end of February plus 8 lapsed last month!!! These sixteen have been long-term KC CLMA members so we are hopeful that all will renew shortly.

If you know any former members, please remind him/her of the benefits of belonging to CLMA and ask them to rejoin! Please email Pet with suggestions to recruit and/or retain at [Pet.Maniquis@Providence-Health.org](mailto:Pet.Maniquis@Providence-Health.org)



## Sub-Committee Activities

RALS-MAS Eurotrol, Hemocue and Radiometer are sponsoring Point-of-Care webinars on March 11 and September 16. Information and registration may be found at <http://www.pointofcare.net>

The Heart of America Point-of-Care Network will hold their next meeting on October 15 at Providence Medical Center, KC, KS.

<http://www.pointofcare.net/Heartland/index.htm>

Please contact a BOD member listed at the end of this newsletter if you would like to volunteer on a sub-committee: Education, Legislative, Point-of-Care, Marketing/Membership or Safety.



## Safety Shorts

The following is an excerpt from the 12-31-09 HCPRO Hospital Safety Connection newsletter titled "What The Joint Commission, OSHA, and EPA have in store for the New Year":

The **Joint Commission** shows no signs of letting up on life safety compliance, as evidenced by the latest citation statistics that put *four fire protection provisions among the top 10 most cited standards* in hospitals.

According to the November *Joint Commission Perspectives*, the following life safety and environment of care standards were trouble spots:

- LS.02.01.20 (top cited standard, with 45% of hospitals receiving findings), which requires hospitals to maintain their means of egress
- LS.02.01.10 (second most cited at 43%), which requires hospitals to design and maintain building features to minimize the effects of smoke and fire
- EC.02.03.05 (tied for fourth most cited at 38%), which requires hospitals to inspect, test, and maintain fire protection equipment
- LS.02.01.30 (sixth most cited at 36%), which requires hospitals to maintain building features to protect people from smoke and fire

OSHA has a new director in place, so expect increased activity in general out of the agency. Labor officials have said that OSHA will publish a formal request for [information about airborne infectious diseases](#) in March, which is likely to become a significant issue for hospital safety professionals to follow.

The Environmental Protection Agency capped off an active year for healthcare in 2009. It will be interesting to see if there is any movement on a [proposed rule to reclassify hazardous pharmaceutical wastes](#). Also on the horizon is a new compliance deadline for the oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule, which could affect hospitals.



## Urgent Request for Volunteers

Heart-to-Heart International responded immediately to the earthquake in Haiti. Please visit their website at <http://www.hearttoheart.org/> in order to make donations or provide other types of assistance.

Multiple trips to Guatemala planned this year. Dates include: March 14-20, May 5-12, June 7-13, June 20-26 and September 25-October 2. Volunteers are needed for all of the trips; medical teams are needed on the March 14, June 7 and Sept trips. Cost per person is \$975 plus airfare. Price includes: in country expenses, team meals, ground transportation, tips, taxes, medical evacuation insurance and program administration expenses. Please contact Heart-to-Heart International at 913-764-5200 or [Jorge.coromac@hearttoheart.org](mailto:Jorge.coromac@hearttoheart.org) if you have questions or interested in volunteering for any of these mission trips.

KC CLMA continues to provide personnel two evenings a week at JayDoc FREE Clinic in Kansas City, KS in conjunction with Heart-to-Heart. There are openings in February and March schedules. No phlebotomy experience required. Volunteers must demonstrate competency. Contact Pet Maniquis at [pet.maniquis@Providence-Health.org](mailto:pet.maniquis@Providence-Health.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



## Good Practice Sharing

Have you made improvements to TAT's, specimen rejection rates, critical result reporting, LEAN

initiatives? Contact Kathy Darling [kdarling@saint-lukes.org](mailto:kdarling@saint-lukes.org) or Shirley Weber [sweber@kumc.edu](mailto:sweber@kumc.edu) for more information.



## Legislative Update

### Laboratory Community Unites for Advocacy

LASCLS, ASCP, CLMA, and AMT members will meet with their House Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill March 15-16 as a unified front on behalf of the laboratory profession. Deb Faller, Co-Chair of Legislative Committee will attend on behalf of KC CLMA. Attendees will provide a visible and informed voice before Congress. Sessions will familiarize attendees with organizational structure of Congressional offices, committees and staff; they will return with first-hand knowledge of the political system in action, having made a difference on behalf of their profession and the patients they serve. Deb will report at March meeting.

### Health Care Reform – To Be or Not To Be?

The fate of the health care reform legislation that has passed both House and Senate is now unclear. In the President's State of the Union message he urged legislators to "take another look at the plan we've proposed....Do not walk away from reform. Not now. Not when we are so close. Let us find a way to come together and finish the job for the American people."

For pathology and laboratory medicine, the legislation has elements that are both positive and negative. Expanded access to pathology and laboratory medicine for our nation's patients could improve health outcomes and reduce per patient expenditures. From a systems perspective the multitude of factors now converging on the nation's health care system are already in place. Still there are provisions within the legislation that accelerate government oversight and regulation. Whether or not this legislation becomes law, the coming changes in health care delivery will be dramatic and their impact on pathology and laboratory medicine will be profound.

### Regulations on EHRs

To further the adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Health Information Technology (HIT), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released two regulations to shape its incentive payment system. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed rule to provide incentive payments to eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals

participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs that adopt and meaningfully use certified electronic health record (EHR) technology.

**CLMA members are encouraged** to check out current legislative issues on the CLMA website at [www.clma.org](http://www.clma.org), we encourage all members to get involved!



### KC CLMA Board of Directors

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