

Thursday, May 24

W01: 0930-1230

Best Practices in Tube Handling + What Would You Do?

Dennis J. Ernst, MT(ASCP), NCPT(NCCT)

Session Description:

The first half of this workshop, Best Practices in Tube Handling, key components of sample handling that constitute best practices to assure sample integrity are discussed. Content includes proper tube handling before and after filling, the order of draw, storage/transportation practices, gel-barrier dynamics and the challenge of maintaining sample integrity in samples drawn in outreach settings.

In the second half, entitled What Would You Do?, case studies in phlebotomy-related injuries are circulated to groups of participants for discussion as if they were jurors deciding if the standard of care was violated. Each group determines if the healthcare professional or facility is innocent or guilty. A thorough discussion of the standards as it pertains to each case ensues after the verdict is reached.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Implement best practices in sample handling as they pertain to the precentrifugation phase of preanalysis
2. Discuss how precentrifugation temperatures and processing delays affect the stability of specific analytes
3. Minimize the impact of sample handling on samples drawn remote to the testing facility
4. Discuss the standard of care as it pertains to phlebotomy-related injuries
5. Identify the most common injuries poor phlebotomy technique inflicts upon patients

Speaker Bio:

Dennis J. Ernst MT(ASCP) is the Director of the Center for Phlebotomy Education, Inc. in Corydon, Indiana. Besides being a highly recruited international lecturer, he has authored over 50 articles on phlebotomy, two textbooks and three desk references. He chairs the CLSI working groups that write the standards for specimen collection, and writes the Phlebotomy Today newsletter, read monthly by over 14,000 healthcare professionals worldwide.

As a subject-matter expert, he has appeared on Dateline NBC, and quoted by the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Weekly Reader, and, yes, even the National Inquirer. He is regularly recruited by the CDC to participate on Evidence Review Panels that develop Best Practices for the industry, and serves as an expert witness in phlebotomy-related litigation.

Thursday, May 24

W02: 0930-1230

Becoming a Better BS (Bad Science) Detector: Practical tools for becoming an effective scrutinizer of published scientific information

Valentin Villatoro, MEd, BSc (MLS), MLT

Amanda VanSpronsen, MSc, BSc (MLS), MLT

Session Description:

The old adage is true: you can't believe everything you read! The state of scientific research has reached a critical point. It is pushed and pulled from multiple directions, including predatory publishing, "publish or perish" academic communities, and media sensationalism. The result is a glut of scientific information riddled with bias and error. How do we weed out the bad to find the good? In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn more about the extent of the problem. Then, you'll learn how to apply a variety of tools and techniques in order to hone your BS (Bad Science) detecting skills!

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand several types of biases in research, including publication bias, selection bias, and measurement bias
2. Use tools in order to develop a systematic approach to critical appraisal
3. Critically appraise different types of published scientific information, including graphs and figures, news reports, and peer-reviewed literature
4. Compare different reports on the same research and identify the superior publication

Speaker Bio:

Amanda VanSpronsen is an Associate Professor in MLS at the University of Alberta, and her research interests include MLT professional development and appropriate laboratory utilization. For the past four years, she has facilitated a senior-level course focused on contemporary topics in Medical Laboratory Science, such as patient safety, private/public debates, and the sociology of the healthcare system.

Valentin Villatoro completed his MEd in Health Sciences Education, and has built expertise in online learning platforms, including ways to engage and educate students, healthcare professionals, patients, and the public. He has taken on the role of clinical hematology instructor and clinical coordinator for the MLS program.

Thursday, May 24

W03: 1330-1630

Ten Commandments of Phlebotomy + Phlebotomy CSI (Injury case studies)

Dennis J. Ernst, MT(ASCP), NCPT(NCCT)

Session Description:

In the first half of this workshop, the presenter suggests 10+ rules of specimen collection that should be considered as “commandments”. Attention is given to customer service, technique, training, and safety. In the second half, 12 patient/blood collection scenarios are offered for group discussion, after which the presenter suggests appropriate responses and shares how others have responded when posed with the same scenarios.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. List at least ten important considerations all phlebotomists must employ when drawing blood
2. Discuss the CLSI standards and OSHA guidelines as they pertain to specific aspects of specimen collection
3. Discuss proper ways to handle demanding patients
4. Discuss the correct approach when patients and employees challenge facility policy

Speaker Bio:

Dennis J. Ernst MT(ASCP) is the Director of the Center for Phlebotomy Education, Inc. in Corydon, Indiana. Besides being a highly recruited international lecturer, he has authored over 50 articles on phlebotomy, two textbooks and three desk references. He chairs the CLSI working groups that write the standards for specimen collection, and writes the Phlebotomy Today newsletter, read monthly by over 14,000 healthcare professionals worldwide.

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Thursday, May 24

W04: 1330-1630

Save Lives by Investigating Workplace Incidents

Eoin O'Grady, PhD, CRSP

Session Description:

Investigating workplace incidents is a key element in the occupational health and safety management system that can save lives. In this highly interactive and hands-on workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the importance of incident investigation. Participants will problem-solve and discuss incidents suffered in a laboratory setting. Participants will be better prepared when it's their turn to be part of an investigation team where the ultimate goal is not to assign blame, rather to identify a root cause and prevent recurrence.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of incident investigation
2. Develop investigation skills for a workplace incident
3. Be better prepared to correct and prevent workplace incidents

Speaker Bio:

Eoin earned a PhD in Microbiology from University College Cork, Ireland and worked for over ten years at Containment Levels 2 and 3 in both university and biopharmaceutical settings in Europe, the United States and Canada. He has held positions in health and safety since 2011 and is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional. Eoin is the Occupational Health & Safety Consultant to CSMLS. Eoin continues to develop his interests in teaching, health and safety and leadership.

Thursday, May 24

W05: 1330-1630

Transfusion Medicine: "Capture" The Antibody! (Hands On/Wet Workshop)

Marie-Hélène Robert, TM, RT

Suzanne Cho, BSc(Pharmacology), MLT, SBBCM, Lean Certified

Session Description:

An overview of Capture-R® Solid Phase Technology used in blood bank laboratories for the screening and identification of IgG clinically significant antibodies. This workshop will introduce the principle of Capture-R Technology and the technical procedural steps. Each participant will then get involved with hands-on experience using Capture-R® Technology in identifying a mystery antibody! Included with this workshop, a 20 minutes bonus session to learn how to perform antibody "Rule-out" as well as an opportunity to win a few prizes playing Blood Bank.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand the principle of Solid Phase Technology used in Immuno-Hematology
2. Understand the principle of Capture-R® technology
3. Identify Material used to perform Screen and Identification using Capture-R® Technology
4. Perform a "-live" Screen and Identification of a mysterious antibody using Capture® technology
5. Interpret positive and negative results using Capture-R® technology

Speaker Bio:

Marie-Hélène Robert has more than 15 years of MLT experience, primarily in blood bank labs. Before joining Immucor as a Blood Bank Support Specialist, she had the opportunity to work as a Transfusion Safety Officer in both pediatric and adult facilities in Quebec and also as a medical technologist in the United Kingdom. She understands the challenges faced by blood bank med techs on a daily basis, and values the importance of supporting continuous education in the field in order to maintain expertise.

Suzanne Cho is the Immucor Blood Bank Business Manager for Western Canada. Suzanne graduated BSc. Pharmacology from University of Alberta in 2000. She obtained her Medical Laboratory Science certificate with Honors from NAIT in 2009 and Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) from University of Texas Medical Branch in 2015. Suzanne's laboratory experience includes diabetes and G.I research at University of Calgary and positions at Canadian Blood Services, first at Vancouver Reference Laboratory then the National Testing Office. Currently she is working on the completion of Black Belt certification in Six Sigma, she completed her Green Belt in 2017.