

23rd Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

The 23rd annual Clinical Laboratory Conference will be held on November 14 at Foster Links Golf Course in Tukwila. 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, D.C., is the keynote speaker for the conference. He is presenting “**Key Political and Policy Shifts Affecting Labs: What to Expect in 2017 and Beyond.**” Though health care had been a central issue during the past two presidential election cycles, it never quite gained the same status during the historic 2016 race even as the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) hung in the balance. At the same time, a series of critical policy and market trends presented growing challenges for clinical laboratories in getting paid by Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers.

Following to the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA), the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued final regulations authorizing Medicare to use private payer rates to reprice nearly all clinical diagnostic lab tests on the Part B Clinical Laboratory Fee schedule. Applicable labs are now required to turn over private payer pricing data to CMS during a three-month period beginning in January 2017 with the new payment system effective in 2018.

This session will analyze the 2016 election results and

explore what they mean to the future of U.S. health care policy. In addition, the speaker will explain the latest guidance affecting PAMA implementation along with the outlook for other key policy changes affecting lab and pathology services, including the status of FDA's guidance on laboratory developed tests (LDTs).

Julie Villanueva, PhD, is the Laboratory Preparedness and Response Branch Chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. She will present “**2016 Zika Virus Outbreak in the United States.**” Dr. Villanueva will provide an overview of the outbreak and the CDC response in the United States. Her presentation will include the Zika virus and history of known global outbreaks, the Zika response in the U.S. in 2016, and a discussion of the benefits and challenges of the diagnostic tests that are available for Zika virus and Zika virus infection.

Monica Wellner is the laboratory manager and Pediatric Laboratory Utilization Guidance Services (PLUGS)

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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 [LQA website](#).

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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program director at Seattle Children's Hospital. **Sarah Clowes Candadai, MS, CGC**, is a laboratory genetic counselor at Seattle Children's Hospital. They will present **"Genetic Test Utilization Management: Demonstrating and Sustaining the Value of a Utilization Management Program."** Genetic test utilization management (UM) focuses on performing the right test for the right patient at the right time. A UM program must be designed to facilitate collaboration between the laboratorians and clinicians, and can be guided by metrics to be sustainable and target the areas of greatest effect for the institution, reference laboratories, and patients.

The speakers will describe the impetus for and implications of a laboratory test utilization management program; identify strategies for building and implementing test utilization review at different types of institutions; discuss different models for test utilization management programs, and assess effective approaches for functioning within the culture of an institution and provider satisfaction; and identify approaches to tracking order improvements and cost savings that result from the test utilization management to demonstrate the benefits of test utilization programs for institutions, reference laboratories, and patients.

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Eric Q. Konnick, MD, is an acting assistant professor in the genetics and solid tumors laboratory in the department of laboratory medicine at the University of Washington. He will present **"Dissection of the current state of the FDA proposal to regulate laboratory developed tests and possible alternatives."** Dr. Konnick will discuss some of the background behind the 2014 FDA draft guidance on laboratory-developed tests (LDTs), specific items described in the guidance, and some of the concerns that have been raised to the proposal. He will compare the alternative proposals that have been publically discussed.

Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH, is the State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases and Deputy Health Officer. He will present **"Notifiable Conditions Reporting."** Dr. Lindquist will cover the current public health surveillance system, highlighting the laboratory requirements for notifiable conditions reporting as well as a description of the new Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS) and the role labs will play in the electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) as part of WDRS.

Who Should Attend?

- Laboratory directors
- Laboratory and office managers
- Department supervisors
- Bench personnel
- Billing personnel
- Compliance officers

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

Location

The conference is held at the Foster Links Golf Course with easy access from Interstate 5 and the airport. A copy of the program is on the [Laboratory Quality Assurance website](#) or contact [Leonard Kargacin](#). The \$95 per-person registration fee includes a continental breakfast, breaks and lunch. Make your plans to attend today. You still have time to register.

Notifiable Conditions Reporting

by Scott Lindquist, MD, State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases, Deputy Health Officer

The Washington State Department of Health works with our local and state public health partners to prevent and control the spread of diseases and other conditions in our communities. Our ability to do this work successfully depends on Washington's notifiable condition reporting system, which provides essential information to public health for investigation and surveillance. As vital participants in this essential reporting system, laboratories play a key role in ensuring our ability to address cases, and potential outbreaks, as efficiently as possible.

With that in mind, we are reaching out to you today to request your help to confirm that all information required for notifiable condition laboratory reporting is being sent to Public Health, as required under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101, Notifiable Conditions. Here is the link for the [Notifiable Conditions Reporting Laboratory poster](#).

Notifiable Condition Laboratory Reporting Requirements: There are specific data element requirements for 1) notifiable condition result notifications to public health and 2) specimen submissions sent to reference labs, as listed below.

Required Data Element	Notifiable Condition Result Notifications to Public Health WAC 246-101-225(1)	Specimen Submissions to Reference Labs WAC 246-101-205(3)
Patient Name	(j) Name of patient	(a) Patient name
Patient Address	(m) Full address of patient, or patient Zip Code at a minimum, when available in laboratory database	(b) Full address of patient, or patient Zip Code at a minimum, when available in laboratory database
Patient DOB or Age	(l) Date of birth or age of patient, when available in laboratory database	(c) Date of birth or age of patient, when available in laboratory database
Patient Sex	(k) Sex of patient, when available in laboratory database	(d) Sex of patient, when available in laboratory database
Provider Name	(f) Requesting health care provider's name	(e) Name of the principal health care provider
Provider Phone Number	(g) Requesting health care provider's phone number	(f) Telephone number of the principal health care provider
Provider Address	(h) Requesting health care provider's address, when available	(g) Address of the principal health care provider, when available
Test	(i) Test result	(h) Type of test requested
Specimen Type	(a) Type of specimen tested	(i) Type of specimen
Specimen Collection Date	(d) Date of specimen collection	(j) Date of specimen collection
Reporting Laboratory Name	(b) Name of reporting laboratory	
Reporting Laboratory Phone Number	(c) Telephone number of reporting laboratory	
Date Specimen Received by Reporting Laboratory	(e) Date specimen received by reporting laboratory	

How You Can Help: Please make time for you and your staff to review the list above and confirm that all elements are present, both in your notifiable condition result notifications and in your submissions of specimens to reference labs. Depending on your specific notification and send-out systems, this may require coordinating with multiple members of your laboratory and/or information technology (IT) teams to fully review the information that is being sent out for both of the following:

- Your notifiable condition results notifications (electronic or paper)
- Your documentation sent out with reference lab specimens (electronic or paper)

We recognize that this will require an investment of time and resources on your part. The time you and your staff invest now will 1) reduce the number of follow-up calls generated from public health investigators calling to fill in information gaps and 2) improve our public health community's ability to act expeditiously in their important work protecting the health and well-being of the people of Washington State.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

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23rd Annual Clinical Lab Conference

What?

The 23rd Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

When?

Monday, November 14, 2016

Where?

Foster Links Golf Course
Tukwila, WA

Plan to attend.

There is still time to register!!!

Calendar of Events

Training Classes:

[2016 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium](#)

October 12-15 Portland

[23rd Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference](#)

November 14 Tukwila

[2017 ASCLS-WA Spring Meeting](#)

April 27-28, 2017 Kennewick

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.



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