

# 59<sup>th</sup> Annual IMSS 2022

A Year to  
Remember



## INTERMOUNTAIN STATES SEMINAR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

**Oct. 6-8. 2022 Note: all session times are MDT**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

**General Session: 8:30-9:30 am**

**Session 1: Turning Adversity into Quality in the Clinical Laboratory**

**Speaker: Dr. Michael Astion**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor:**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

In this session we go right at some of the tougher issues in improving lab quality. These include managing disruptive behavior, improving work culture, managing pathologists who prefer to avoid harder lab quality issues, and turning around sections of the lab that are in distress. The methods discussed are not expensive, but they are not easy. Tips, tricks, and procedures will be shared to make the quality journey a little bit easier. You will laugh, you will cry and we will all grow and improve.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Define two types of disruptive behavior in your lab and 1 way to overcome disruptive behavior to improve lab quality.
- Describe two approaches to improving quality in a section of the laboratory that is significantly underperforming
- List two reasons why laboratory staff can become disconnected from the patient's experience, and two ways to overcome this disconnection.

## **General Session: 9:45-10:45 am**

### **Session 2: Advocating with the C-Suite**

**Speaker: Rick Panning**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor:**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Advocacy for our profession is often described in terms the activities we care out with regulators, legislative and the public. This session will describe the benefits of advocating within our workplace organization, specifically with the leadership (i.e. the C-Suite). Raising awareness and demonstrating how the laboratory impacts the quality and finances of a healthcare institution will elevate the profession

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Describe why proactive advocacy within your organization's C-Suite leaders is beneficial for both the laboratory and the broader organization
- Discuss what is important to your organization's leaders and adapt your strategies to be in alignment
- Demonstrate how your advocacy with the C-Suite and other healthcare leaders impacts the staff in your laboratories and the performance of your organization.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022**

### **Breakout Sessions: 1:30-2:30 pm**

#### **Session 3: Choosing the Correct ANA Methodology**

**Speaker: David Tomichek**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor: Bio-Rad**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

This session examines the various methods for ANA detection: IFA, EIA and MBIA. It discusses the strengths and weaknesses of each method and their role in choosing the appropriate algorithm.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Define the various methods for ANA testing.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each ANA technology.
- Utilize the various methodologies to create the appropriate testing algorithm for their laboratory

#### **Session 4: Handling those Tricky Specimens... What's a Tech to Do?**

**Speaker: Becky Socha**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor: Sysmex**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Autovalidation of normal results in today's clinical laboratories provides lab techs with time to investigate abnormal and problematic samples. This session will discuss factors that can adversely affect sample integrity and suggestions for troubleshooting spurious WBC and RBC counts. Cases will

be reviewed to identify causes of unreportable WBC counts, flagged reticulocyte counts, and abnormal RBC indices. Steps will be followed using clues from the sample and the patient's history, so problematic samples results can be accurately reported.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Distinguish true abnormal from spurious results.
- Use scattergram and histogram patterns to help recognize problem samples.
- Describe the steps for investigating problematic samples to obtain and report accurate results.

### **Session 5: Implementation of POC Molecular COVID Testing During a Pandemic**

**Speaker: Mary Hammel**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: Cepheid**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Implementing a point of care molecular platform on a large scale during a pandemic presents unique opportunities and barriers. This session will provide an overview of how a large hospital system was able to accomplish this task quickly.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Observe implementation process of POC PCR in a clinic setting
- Understand potential barriers/risks to a large POC analyzer implementation in a clinic setting
- Review regulatory/safety considerations of implementing COVID testing in a clinic setting

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022**

**Breakout Sessions: 2:45-3:45 pm**

### **Session 6: NTproBNP - Past, Present and Future**

**Speaker: Alexander Fohl, PharmD**

**Level: Basic**

**Sponsor: Roche**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

This session will be a discussion of the use of NTproBNP and how it has impacted the treatment and monitoring of Heart Failure and potential future use in Type 2 Diabetes.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Explain the benefit of NTproBNP
- Describe the use of NTproBNP in Heart Failure management
- Discuss the future utility of NTproBNP with Type 2 Diabetes

### **Session 7: And The Verdict Is...**

**Speaker: Shanise Keith**

**Level: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: Center for Phlebotomy Education**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

This presentation will discuss real-life legal cases involving phlebotomy-related injuries, how they were caused, and how to avoid them. Cases will be examined to determine how injury could have been prevented if the standards had been properly followed, and who was ultimately at fault – the healthcare professional or the facility.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify the most common injuries poor phlebotomy technique inflicts upon patients
2. Associate errors in technique, judgment, and supervision with phlebotomy-related injuries
3. Evaluate their personal vulnerability or the vulnerability of their facility to phlebotomy-related lawsuits.

**Session 8: So You Want to Be a Consultant?****Speaker: J.R. Constance****Level of Instruction: Intermediate****Contact Hour: 1.0**

Session will begin with of a brief overview of non-CLIA Laboratory consulting focused on cost savings and process redesign, with the remaining time consisting of group participation in a semi-game show atmosphere where the host will ask consulting related questions and then give audience an opportunity to choose from multiple choice answers using their smart phone or tablet, with discussion following each question. Prizes will be awarded.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Speak about several different types of non-CLIA related Laboratory consulting
- Discuss real world examples of laboratory cost savings and operational improvement
- Describe some best practices in Laboratory operations

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022****General Session: 4:00-5:00 pm****Session 9: Moving the Practice of Transfusion Medicine into the Future of Healthcare****Speaker: Dr. Walter Kelley****Level of Instruction: Intermediate****Sponsor: American Red Cross****Contact Hour: 1.0**

The challenges of professionals working in the current blood banking environment will be discussed. The variety of training and educational pathways will be discussed. Opportunities for individual growth and professional education will be presented. The impact of cutting edge developments in blood banking on career directions and opportunities will be discussed.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Describe challenges to current education and training pipelines in blood banking
- Discuss opportunities for career advancement and knowledge enhancement in blood banking
- List new areas of advancement and opportunities for blood bank professionals

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

### **General Session 8:30-9:30 am**

#### **Session 10: As Time Goes By**

**Speaker:** Jewell Zweegman

**Level of Instruction:** Basic

**Sponsor:** Billings Clinic

**Contact Hours:** 1.0

As time goes by, will you make sure that you remember the good times, have you learned from the bad. We all need to reflect but on what? As Time Goes By hmmm.....

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Knowledge of reflection and goal setting.
- Learn basic principles on being a good team worker.
- Distinguish between honoring a memory and learning from it whether good or bad.

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

### **General Session 9:45-10:45 am**

#### **Session 11: Community Power in Advocacy**

**Speaker:** Debbie Shell

**Level of Instruction:** Intermediate

**Contact Hours:** 1.0

This session will update participants on current legislative and regulatory issues that clinical laboratories and their professionals are facing; we will also share strategies that can enhance a strong community that successfully advocates on behalf of the profession.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss current legislative and regulatory issues impacting clinical laboratories and professional staff
- Explain the importance of a powerful advocacy community
- Describe tactics and strategies used in successful advocacy

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

### **Breakout Sessions 1:30-2:30 pm**

#### **Session 12: Microbiology and Your Grocery List**

**Speaker:** Andrea Prinzi

**Sponsor:** bioMerieux

**Level of Instruction:** Basic

**Contact Hours:** 1.0

Can the organisms that make us sick also play an important role in food production? Learn about the microbes that show up in both the clinical microbiology laboratory and the food on your dinner plate.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Describe the clinical and diagnostic characteristics of Fusarium, Saccharomyces, and Enterococci
- Understand the role of various microorganisms in food production
- Articulate the possible risks to human health associated with the use of microorganisms in food production

### **Session 13: Work Life Balance, Achievable but Takes Effort**

**Speakers: Rick Panning**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor:**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Work-Life balance is a topic often discussed as a goal we all try to achieve but often seems unattainable. This session will review some basic principles that we all can put into place to help us work toward balance in our work and personal lives. This starts with being clear on what our values are and how we prioritize them. Equally important is how we prioritize what we are trying to achieve at work and focusing on those things that are the most important. At a time when personnel shortages seem to be prevalent in our profession and burnout seems all too common, our ability to achieve this much-needed balance is more important than ever.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Describe how many factors are competing for time in your life.
- Describe methods and the effort required to achieve balance in your life.
- Discuss the consequences when one part of your life gets out of balance

### **Session 14: Cytokines and COVID-19**

**Speaker: Lisa Peterson**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: ARUP**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Cytokines are important mediators of inflammation. In this session, we will review the current knowledge of COVID-19 associated cytokines, their roles in host immune and inflammatory responses, the clinical significance and utility of cytokine immunoassays in COVID-19 patients, as well as the challenges in implementation and interpretation of cytokine immunoassays.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Explain the role of cytokines in inflammation
- Describe the use of cytokine testing in patients infected with SARS-CoV-2
- Discuss the challenges associated with cytokine testing

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

**Breakout Sessions 2:45-3:45 pm**

**Session 15: Parasite Panels vs. Routine Methods: Pros/Cons**

**Speaker: Lynne Garcia**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: Medical Chemical Corporation**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

The session will discuss newer practical diagnostic methods (including molecular panels), review of organism pathogenicity of panel targets, pros and cons of molecular methods vs routine methods, issues related to non-pathogens, and reporting comments. As neglected parasitic infections become more widely recognized, the need for better patient care continues to expand.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- List pros/cons of molecular panels compared with routine methods
- Discuss diagnostic issues related to non-pathogenic organism testing
- Discuss the importance of test result comments related to organism pathogenicity

### **Session 16: Clinical Chemistry Review**

**Speaker: Toni Clinton**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: LabCorp**

**Contact Hour: 1.0**

This discussion will provide a review of basic clinical chemistry. The physiological importance of key analytes will be presented and discussed using case histories. The impact of preanalytic variables on methods and results will also be discussed.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of preanalytic variables on clinical chemistry results.
- Describe how routine clinical chemistry analytes impact physiological function.
- Relate the significance of clinical chemistry results in the diagnosis of specific disease states.

### **Session 17: Designing and Moving a Clinical Laboratory: Lessons Learned**

**Speaker: Robyn Sorrell**

**Level: Basic**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

This session will explain the key steps in designing a new laboratory, including the importance of staff input and buy-in. The design and construction process will be examined and key milestones highlighted. The essential planning steps for moving an established laboratory and lessons learned will be discussed.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Identify the key steps in the design of a new laboratory
- Describe the essential planning steps for moving a laboratory
- Discuss the lessons learned from labs that have moved and recommendations to avoid crucial mistakes

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

**Breakout Sessions 4:00-5:00 pm**

### **Session 18: First Do No Harm: Ethical Dilemmas in the Clinical Lab**

**Speaker: Beth Warning**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Contact Hour: 1.0**

This session provides an overview of ethics, ethical decision making, and examples of ethical dilemmas that may be encountered in the lab.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the basic tenets of healthcare ethics
- Discuss the ethical decision-making process
- Identify ethical situations specific to the laboratory which may warrant additional action

### **Session 19: TEG**

**Speaker: Michael Brown, MD, FCAP**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor: Yellowstone Pathology Institute**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Thromboelastography (TEG) is an old method with revived interest in its ability to comprehensively assess coagulation status in a variety of clinical situations, including cardiac surgery, trauma, bleeding patients and preparation for interventional procedures. We will discuss the technical aspects of TEG testing, the broad range of clinical applications, and how its use can greatly reduce unnecessary transfusions.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the methodology and technology of TEG testing.
2. List 3 clinical situations in which TEG testing is useful.
3. Explain how TEG testing has the ability to reduce unnecessary transfusions

### **Session 20: Can We Make the Umbrella Big Enough? Safely updating blood donor eligibility to ensure adequate availability of blood products.**

**Speaker: Dr. Walter Kelley**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: American Red Cross**

**Contact Hour: 1.0**

The US FDA has updated blood donor criteria. It is critically important that laboratory professionals understand these updates. Knowledgeable laboratory staff can address the concerns of other medical professionals regarding the safety of the blood supply, and serve as a source of correct information to the public. Discussion of ongoing scientific investigation of blood donor safety will also be discussed.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Relate the historical context for pertinent blood donor screening criteria
- List recent changes in blood donor criteria



- Discuss how removing non-scientifically justified barriers to blood donation increases blood product availability

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022**

### **Scientific Assembly Breakfast 7:30-8:30 am**

#### **Session 21: Scientific Assembly Roundtables**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

These informal round table presentations and discussions will center on issues that are recently impacting laboratory practice in the represented area of knowledge. The facilitator will present at least one “Hot Topic” for discussion and lead the roundtable participants in a discussion about issues pertinent to their area of expertise. The group will brainstorm about possible solutions to problems and “best practices” will be shared:

Choose one to attend

1. **Management: Abbey Wichman, Facilitator**
2. **Microbiology: Erika Buchanan, Facilitator**
3. **Hematology: Kristine Hodson, Facilitator**
4. **Immunohematology: Anne Moss, Facilitator**
5. **Chemistry: Lisa Platter, Facilitator**

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Summarize the findings represented in one roundtable presentation.
- Discuss 2 ideas discussed in the roundtable presentations that will help the participant perform his/her job more effectively.

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022**

### **Breakout Sessions 8:45-9:45 am**

#### **Session 22: Patient Blood Management Certification; One Hospital’s Journey**

**Speakers: Melissa Siemsen and Jennifer Wolcott**

**Level of Instruction: Basic**

**Sponsor: Intermountain Healthcare**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Patient Blood Management Certification through the Joint Commission is a fairly new and unknown process. This session will explain more about Patient Blood Management, and what is involved in becoming a PBM certified institution. The presenters will offer a glimpse into how St. Vincent Healthcare became the 7th hospital in the United States to attain this certification.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Provide an overview of patient blood management
- Describe steps taken to grow patient blood management program
- Discuss how the speakers’ facility achieved PBM certification

### **Session 23: Shining a *Freelite* on Monoclonal Gammopathies**

**Speaker: Dr. Aigars Brants**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: [Binding Site](#)**

**Contact Hours: 1.0**

Have you been looking to learn more about monoclonal gammopathies? Get *enLITEened* with Dr. Brants on how *Freelite* results, together with other relevant tests are used to diagnose and monitor multiple myeloma, the 3rd most common hematologic cancer.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Define monoclonal gammopathies
2. Describe methods used to detect monoclonal proteins
3. Explain why multiple methods are necessary for the initial detection of monoclonal gammopathies
4. Describe how *Freelite* results are used to in diagnosis, risk stratification and monitoring

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022**

### **Breakout Sessions 10:00-11:00 am**

### **Session 24: 50 Years of Hematology, Past and Present**

**Speaker: Keila Poulsen**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Contact Hour: 1.0**

This workshop will travel through 50 years of advancing, learning, evolving, and celebrating all that a lifetime of *Hematology* can bring. A discussion on how and why morphology has expanded from FAB to WHO. Finally, the evolution of instrumentation plus the advancement in treatments will demonstrate improvements in diagnosis and prognosis.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Review the classification evolution of hematology malignancies from FAB to WHO
- Discuss advancement of treatment protocols
- Describe the advancing Craft of Hematology in diagnosis, the profession and life

### **Session 25: The Performance and Utility of POC and OTC Molecular Tests for Detection of Pathogens**

**Speaker: Steve Young**

**Level of Instruction: Intermediate**

**Sponsor: [TriCore Laboratories](#)**

**Contact Hour: 1.0**

This session will be a discussion of the performance characteristics of several molecular point of care (POC) and over the counter (OTC) assays that are now commercially available to healthcare facilities or directly to the patient/consumer. Dr. Young will also present several ideas regarding deployment of these tests in any healthcare facility.

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the underlying technology of POC and OTC assays
2. Describe the performance of selected POC and OTC assays for infections agent detection
3. Generate ideas of how these assays might help each participant's institution provide better patient care

