Karen Karni Elected ASCLS President

Karen R. Karni will become the eleventh Minnesotan chosen as president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. She will be sworn in at the 66th annual meeting of ASCLS (formerly ASMT) on July 25 in Atlanta, GA.

Karen is currently professor and director of the Division of Medical Technology, University of Minnesota. She graduated from our program with a BS in Medical Technology, received an EdM in science education from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and earned a PhD in education from the University of Minnesota.

As an active member of ASCLS/ASMT for more than 30 years, Karen has held a number of key positions in the organization. At the national level, she has been secretary/treasurer, served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Reference Committee and edited the Graduate Directory. She was ASCLS national member of the year in 1992, and has been a delegate to the society’s national meeting every year since 1976. Equally active on the state level, Karen served as president of the Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (then known as MSMT) in 1982.

Karen was instrumental in founding the National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel (NCA) and in organizing the first Clinical Laboratory Educator’s Conference (CLEC). She has long been active in the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). She was chosen its outstanding member in 1990, and was elected a fellow of the association in 1995.

Throughout her professional life, Karen Karni has devoted her energy and talent to the practice and promotion of clinical laboratory science. She has brought recognition and honor to the profession, the University, and the state of Minnesota. We congratulate her on this latest achievement, and wish her well as she assumes the presidency of ASCLS.
A Message from the Director

Every year a number of professions seem to be facing some sort of “crisis” or turning point. In 1985, for example, our Medical Technology program co-sponsored with Temple University, the first Clinical Laboratory Educator’s Conference, held in Minneapolis. The title of the conference was The Future of Clinical Laboratory Science—A Crisis in Education.

Thus, we—like many other professions, especially those in health care—have been in “crisis” for over a decade. For us, the signal year probably was 1983 when payment for laboratory services changed—from reimbursement for tests performed, to a set fee for patients with specific diagnoses. With the prospective-payment system, laboratories were redirected 180 degrees—from revenue centers to cost centers.

Doom and gloom were predicted. And, indeed for some organizations, doom and gloom occurred. In our field, for example, 281 MT (CLS) programs, nationwide, closed between 1983 and 1995 (from 638 to 357). Most of these programs were hospital-based, as these organizations shut down educational efforts in order to save monies.

During the past several years, the program in medical technology at the University of Minnesota has continued to prevail, and it has been due to a number of reasons:

- quality of graduates—a hallmark of our program since 1923.
- scholarship and creativity of faculty, who have been awarded a number of grants and contracts and who have performed important research and developed teaching innovations.
- need for our graduates, who currently comprise over 50 percent of entry-level medical technologists in the state of Minnesota.
- teaching effectiveness, evidenced by three Morse Alumni winners for excellence in undergraduate education, and in high scores by graduates on national certification examinations.

Still, persons ask, “What is the future in medical technology?” I think it is bright, although not shining brilliantly. Our profession has been affected not only by changes in health care, but also by automation, miniaturization, computerization, and changing roles for practitioners. It is the last change that I wish to address.

We continue to educate excellent entry-level laboratory generalists. The broad-based education of the medical technologist gives our graduates an edge—not only in scientific and technical knowledge and skills, but also in critical thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving. U of M students also have the opportunity to study in new and cutting-edge laboratory specialty areas—molecular diagnostics, flow cytometry, cytogenetics, and even forensics. Together, these are what make our graduates different from microbiologists or chemists, or even other laboratory science graduates.

However, future medical technologists must not only be competent in laboratory performance and evaluation of laboratory data, they must also be proficient in communications and leadership. They must be able to function effectively as members of interdisciplinary teams of health providers. They must also be committed to lifelong learning and to adapt to change. They must enter into patient care units, ambulatory and emergency care centers, clinics and HMOs. Our graduates must also be able to participate in decision-making and outcomes assessment. For example, what value did laboratory information provide in a patient’s outcome—not only in being able to leave the hospital but also in quality of life?

It is our challenge to provide U of M graduates such knowledge and skills. Thus, while the “crises” we have faced over a decade will continue, we will not shirk in our duty to educate professional laboratorians who can perform, think, lead, and engage in decision-making in health care. As Ruth Hovde used to remind us, “Make us proud.” We intend to continue the tradition.

Karen R. Karni, Director

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Karen Lofgren

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Grace Mary Ederer Wins
St. Catherine Alumnae Leadership Award

Grace Mary Ederer, faculty member in the Division of Medical Technology from 1952 to 1982, was recently awarded one of three College of St. Catherine Alumnae Awards for leadership. These awards recognize outstanding alumnae of the college who demonstrate leadership, service to humanity, and support of the college’s ideals. Recipients are nominated by colleagues, friends, and family members for such qualities as moral values, spiritual growth, service to others, and leadership. The following is excerpted from an article describing Professor Ederer’s qualifications:

"After a highly productive and fast-paced career, Grace Mary Ederer deserves to relax a little and enjoy the care and attention of others. Instead, she spends her days lavishing that care on friends and strangers, through her volunteer work and her frequent visits to Bethany Convent. She is described by the recipients of her kindness as a person who ‘seems to be doing good in many ways, but who does it so quietly that others are not even aware of it.’

"Ederer began her career of service after her graduation from St. Catherine in 1941. She entered the work force immediately, serving as a medical technologist and instructor in hospitals in Michigan and Minnesota for more than 30 years. In 1976 she became a full professor at the University of Minnesota, where she had earlier earned a master’s degree in public health.

"Throughout her career, Ederer also served on dozens of boards and committees, wrote numerous grants, taught a variety of classes and conducted research in yeasts and enzymes. In one ten-year period, she also published 27 articles in scholarly journals.

"Woven through each year of work is the thread of Ederer’s volunteer service, which she has transformed into a full tapestry since her retirement. Today Ederer splits her time between St. Mary’s clinics, the college, her church, and the many individuals who depend on her cheerfulness and constant friendship. In particular, she is known at Bethany Convent for her habit of bringing fresh-cut flowers to the sisters and helping them with correspondence and other personal tasks. Previously she had established a scholarship fund at the college to assist future students in the name of her longtime friend, Teresita Judd, CSJ, ‘37.

"Individually, these acts of kindness seem small; when viewed over a lifetime of service they reveal a faithful and devoted friend. Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ, ‘44, president and CEO of Carondelet LifeCare, expresses the feelings of many when she says, ‘Grace Mary is an ordinary citizen who expresses her deep love of God and neighbor by unselfishly giving of herself with quiet persistence for the benefit of others.’"

All of us at the University of Minnesota who have been privileged to know Grace Mary as a colleague, teacher, and friend are aware of her exceptional standards in professional endeavors and in life. It is fitting that the College of St. Catherine has recognized her with this Leadership Award, and we offer our sincere congratulations to this woman of excellence!

Division of Medical Technology Plans
75th Anniversary Celebration

Next year the Division of Medical Technology will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The Division is the oldest baccalaureate degree granting medical technology program in the nation, with its first two students graduating in 1923. Plans are underway for a continuing education symposium featuring alumni of the program presenting talks in their areas of research or scholarly activity. The celebration will coincide with the annual spring banquet. We hope that you will be able to join us on this important occasion, and we will inform you of specific dates and activities as soon as they are arranged.
1996 Major Contributors

The following persons contributed $100 or more to the Division of Medical Technology in 1996:

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<tr>
<td>CIGNA Foundation</td>
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<td>Verna L. Rausch</td>
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<td>Ann and Ellis Benson</td>
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<td>Marilyn Tucker Budge</td>
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<td>Dorothy Carlson Duffell</td>
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<td>Mary Jane Eaves-Raich</td>
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<td>Ethel Koster Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Betty Dworschak Roskos</td>
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<td>Melicent Hane Schmidt</td>
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<td>Mary T. Skupa</td>
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<td>Harriet Broman and J.R. Snoga</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Stone</td>
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<td>Phyllis Hanson and Verne Weiss</td>
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<td>Lila Wicklund Wegler</td>
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<td>Joyce Clarke Wian</td>
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1996 Graduation Ceremony

Graduation for the 74th class in medical technology was held on June 9, 1996 in the Phillips-Wangensteen Building on the Minneapolis campus. Lori Hauer Thorson, president of the Medical Technology Student Council, presided at the ceremony. The graduation speaker, traditionally chosen by the senior class, was professor Carol Wells.

Seniors Rebecca Biege and Stacy Read presented a slide review showing highlights of class activities—both academic and extracurricular. Robert Jechorek, scientist, announced the scholastic awards earned by the class, including scholarships and selection to the Dean’s List. More than half of the 1996 class graduated with distinction, and Reeman Ansari was recognized for achieving the highest grade point average in the class.

Cheryl Swinehart, assistant professor, led the graduates in reciting the Medical Technology Oath. Following the oath ceremony, degrees were conferred by Karen Karni, professor and director of the Medical Technology program. The graduation ceremony concluded with remarks by Barbara Striefel, president of the Medical Technology Alumni Society. A reception for graduates and their guests followed in the Sostanza cafe.

First row (left to right):
Katherine Chan, Macao
with distinction

Renee Bellrichard, Austin, MN
with high distinction

Lori Hauer Thorson, Alexandria, MN
with distinction

Janete Dela Cruz, Darien, IL
with distinction

Kim Poirier, Honolulu, HI

Ngoc-Hien Thi Nguyen, St. Louis Park, MN, with distinction

Second row (left to right):
Reeman Ibrahim Ansari, Eagan, MN
with high distinction

Rebecca Ann Biege, Madison, WI

Debra Mullins-Hirte, Cottage Grove, MN, with high distinction

Matthew Skarohlid, Princeton, MN
with distinction

Marie Lucene Enos, Delano, MN
with high distinction

Jennifer Ann Loh, Tofte, MN
with high distinction

Trang Nguyen, Houston, TX
Stacy Read, Granite Falls, MN

Linette Lovett, Madelia, MN
with distinction

Third row (left to right):
Ryan Lieske, Maple Lake, MN

Anthony Joseph Wells, Plymouth, MN, with distinction

Hailu Shitaye, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with high distinction

Tara Amber Quaas, Watertown, MN

Nathan Hauber, St. Paul, MN
with distinction

Brian Patrick Howell, Maple Grove, MN, with high distinction

Not pictured: Lydia Asubonten
Minneapolis, MN

Photograph by Anita Sime Jader
(class of 1977)
An animal model for Alzheimer’s disease was recently developed at the University of Minnesota. The genetically engineered mice developed both the behavioral and neuropathological symptoms of the disease. They will be used to study symptoms of Alzheimer’s, and to test new drug therapies.

A young Masonic Cancer Center patient became the first person taking oral insulin for the prevention of diabetes. Although taking insulin orally is not effective for treating established diabetes, studies in nondiabetic animals show it may prevent the immune system from destroying insulin-producing pancreatic cells—the cause of type 1 diabetes.

Minnesota’s first gene therapy trial began with the infusion of genetically corrected lymphocytes into a patient with Hunter syndrome. This life-threatening genetic disease results from a deficiency in an enzyme which breaks down mucopolysaccharides. The patient’s lymphocytes were isolated, genetically altered to produce the normal form of the enzyme, and then reinfused into the patient.

Researchers have devised a way to visualize and count particles of the AIDS virus. The virus can be quantitated both on the surfaces of cells storing the virus and in the interior of cells producing new virus particles. This technique will allow researchers to follow changing patterns of viral production and distribution during the course of infection, and is a promising tool for monitoring the efficacy of therapies.

University of Minnesota physicians performed the state’s first living-donor liver transplant in January. A 34-year-old father donated a portion of his liver to his 22-month-old son with acute liver failure. This new procedure should help alleviate the shortage of cadaver livers for transplantation, particularly for small children and infants.

Building Dedicated

The Basic Sciences/Biomedical Engineering building was dedicated at a ceremony on October 11, 1996. The celebration included presentation of contents of a time capsule, speeches, a ribbon cutting ceremony, a reception in the building’s atrium, and tours conducted by faculty. This building will be the center for nine interdisciplinary research programs clustered around five broad themes: neuroscience, structural biology, immunology, cellular and molecular biology, and biomedical engineering. Approximately 500 faculty and staff will be housed in the new facility.

On the Lighter Side...........

How cold was it??
An annotated thermometer for the winter of 1996/97:

- 60° Californians put on a sweater (if they can find one)
  Miami residents turn on the heat
- 40° Californians shiver uncontrollably
  Minnesotans go swimming
- 20° You can hear your breath
  Minnesotans put on T-shirts
- 0° Perfect skiing weather for Minnesotans
  Need jumper cables to get the car going
- -20° Minnesotans shovel snow off roof
  Minnesotans button top button
- -40° Minnesotans close the bathroom window
  The University of Minnesota remains open
- -60° Need jumper cables to get the driver going
  The University of Minnesota remains open
University Hospital Merges with Fairview Riverside

The University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic officially became the Fairview-University Medical Center (FUMC) on January 1, 1997, when it merged with the Fairview Health System’s Riverside Medical Center. The merger followed a lengthy process of negotiations between the two medical centers in an effort to halt the rapidly declining patient base at UMHC. Peter Rapp (previously the general director of UMHC) was named senior vice president of the Fairview Health System and CEO of FUMC.

An important factor in the University’s decision in proceeding with the merger was Fairview’s commitment to education and research. A newly elected board of trustees for FUMC has replaced the University Health System’s board of governors and will oversee its day-to-day management and compliance with Fairview policies and procedures. The board is comprised of seven members from the University (elected by the Board of Regents), seven members elected by the Fairview Association, the provost of the University’s Academic Health Center (AHC), the dean of the Medical School, and the co-chairs of the FUMC division’s medical staff. This gives the University a majority membership on the board.

The only immediately visible changes were the large banners outside the hospital saying, “Welcome to Fairview-University Medical Center.” The UMHC department of psychiatry and Fairview’s behavioral services became the first integrated department of FUMC when inpatient psychiatric services from UMHC moved to the Riverside campus on February 28.

Mixed emotions were prevalent as University employees became Fairview employees and multiple personnel and strategic issues were sorted out. No major changes in staffing or program locations occurred immediately in the laboratories, but plans are underway to determine at which site various procedures can be performed most economically.

AHC provost Frank Cerra was satisfied after the first Fairview System board meeting that this merger was the right decision. Hospital census currently is, “100 patients per day higher than it’s been in 2 years,” he said. “We have some very positive projections.” Many changes will continue as this new Fairview division strives to meet its goal of becoming a world class provider of health care.

Kathy Hansen Named Director of FUMC Labs

Kathy Hansen has been chosen as director of Laboratory Services for the new Fairview-University Medical Center. She assumed her official duties on January 1, 1997. Her duties in this new position include the direction of laboratories on both the University and Riverside campuses with special attention to opportunities for laboratory integration. Future plans include utilization of specialized diagnostic laboratories at the University as a core laboratory resource for the entire Fairview Health System. Kathy has excellent qualifications for the position. She has worked in the laboratories of the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic for over 30 years, most recently serving as the administrative director of the clinical laboratories.

Kathy has also served as president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, executive secretary for the Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, ASCLS Region V director, and has been selected twice as the Minnesota Society for Medical Technology Outstanding Member of the Year. We congratulate Kathy and wish her the best as she assumes this new challenge.

Did you know........???

The University of Minnesota produces a weekly medical information TV show called “Health Talk and You.” This public television program, hosted by Dr. Greg Vercellotti, is aired live on KTCL, Channel 17, every Tuesday night from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and repeated Thursday on KTCA, Channel 2, at 1:30 p.m. Each week, a common medical subject is discussed by a panel of University health professionals, taking phoned-in questions from viewers. Recent topics have included: “Taking Medicine,” “Ovarian and Uterine Cancer,” and “Emergencies and Intensive Care.”
Alumni News

Frances Larson Hanson (1931) writes, “This year is the 65th anniversary of my graduation. When I married in 1934, women were not readily accepted in the work force.” After raising two children, Mrs. Hanson worked as a medical technologist, helped organize the Medical Technology Alumni Association and was its second president.

Alice Thomas Griffith (1932) earned an M.S. in biochemistry from the U of M. From 1958 to 1972, she was a faculty member at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

Arva-Dorothy Phelps Taylor (1940) worked for four years as a medical technologist. She and her husband, a U of M graduate in chemical engineering, now operate a ranch in Columbia Falls, MT.

Muriel Johnson French (1946) was an instructor in the tissues laboratory at the University of Nebraska Hospital. In 1978 she received a B.S. degree in art from Nebraska Wesleyan University, and one of her oil paintings is in the permanent art collection there.

Elaine Topka Schumann (1946) of Boulder, CO, worked in a variety of laboratory positions before retiring in 1994. She hopes to accompany her son Dan, a graphic designer, as he begins work in Prague, Czech Republic.

Margaret Strunk Saetre (1946) worked in the laboratory of Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, CA, one of the first HMOs in the nation. In 1968 her husband was appointed a district judge and they moved to Thief River Falls, MN.

Connie Olson Bakken (1946) was featured in an article in the November-December 1996 issue of Minnesota Alumni, the magazine of the Alumni Society. Ms. Bakken is president of two banks in the Twin Cities and spends her leisure time racing her Pantera at the Brainerd International Raceway.

Joseph Jerome (1954) retired in 1996 following 40 years of laboratory work—most recently as laboratory manager—at the Fort Dodge Medical Center in Iowa.

Kay Draves (1959) retired after 27 years of research in the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Previously she was chief chemist at the West Virginia University Medical Center. She was president of the U of M’s Medical Technology Alumni Society and currently volunteers for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Joan Aldrich (1960) earned a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Texas at Dallas in September 1996. Her dissertation title was “Cellular and Structural Characteristics of the 25 and 39 Kda Tectonins of Physarum polycephalum.”

Clareyse Nelson (1961) retired in May 1996 after 34 years in the blood bank of UMHC, including 31 years as an administrator. She was president of the MN Society for Medical Technology and MN Association of Blood Banks.

Gerry Havrilta Anderson (1963) was an official observer to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in September 1995. She represented American women employed in science and technology.

Gail Hoppenrath Bolin (1967) is network manager in a junior high school in Fargo, ND. She supervises and maintains hardware, software, and file servers for five computer laboratories. She teaches computer classes and has helped over 1000 students to develop computer skills.

Joan Ebbjonsen Damhof (1971) worked for 24 years in the chemistry and endocrinology laboratories of UMHC. She then switched careers and now is a realtor. Joan is also actively involved in community service activities.

Linda Fredrickson (1971) spent 16 years as a medical technologist at Metropolitan Medical Center. She then joined 3M Health Information Systems and currently works as a database analyst at Health Partners.

Gayle Carlson Lancette (1972) is the director of the Microbiology Branch of the Food and Drug Administration in Atlanta. She is currently coordinating laboratory renovation, including the addition of 49,000 square feet of space.

Margaret Gross Whiting (1976) worked for six years as a medical technologist at St. Francis Hospital in Waterloo, IA. She is now an artist, using her handmade paper, prints and photographs in books about the environment.

Todd Jensen (B.S. 1981, M.S. 1987, Ph.D. 1990) and Janice Putnam (B.S. 1988, Pharm.D. 1994) were married in June 1995 in a rain forest in Granada, Todd is employed in industry and Janice is a pharmacist.

Anne Hanson (B.S. 1981, M.D. 1988) completed a residency program in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University and a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at the University of Maryland. She is now an assistant chief medical officer for the Baltimore City Circuit Court Medical Service.

Catherine Zimmer (B.S. 1981, M.S. 1993), an environmental health specialist for Anoka County, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in September of 1996. She writes, “The entire convention experience was a wonderful and educational happening. It presented occasion to re-affirm the democratic process in which we, as American citizens, are privileged to participate.”

Peggy Shepard Sarantoni (1981) ran the Grandma’s Half Marathon in Duluth in June 1996. She works part time at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and in sales for Discovery Toys.

Tina Putzier Hallidy (1985) is working as a clinical virologist at the Medical College of Georgia while completing a B.A. in music at Augusta College. She plans to gain an advanced degree in music therapy.

Kay Sirianni (1992) is completing an M.S. degree in forensic science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of New York) in Manhattan.
Responses to Alumni Survey

Last year we asked you to take part in a survey of University of Minnesota medical technology alumni, conducted in conjunction with the San Diego State University School of Public Health. Your willingness to participate was gratifying. Of 1905 surveys distributed and considered valid, 1338 usable responses were received (70.2%). Demographics of these alumni and their responses to several selected questions include:

- **Respondents by Decade of Graduation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Years</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1929-1939</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940-1949</td>
<td>266</td>
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<td>1950-1959</td>
<td>162</td>
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<td>258</td>
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<td>13</td>
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- **Respondents by Age and Years of Employment**

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<th>Age</th>
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<th>23-91</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years worked</td>
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<td>1-50</td>
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- **Responses to Career-Related Questions**

1. For those working, how would you describe your current job satisfaction, where 10 = totally satisfied and 1 = totally unsatisfied.

   Mean response = 6.9

2. For those currently employed, place yourself on a continuum of competence, where 10 = outstanding and 1 = incompetent.

   Mean response = 8.3

3. For those working, has the medical technology/clinical laboratory science profession measured up to the expectations you had at graduation?

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Personal satisfaction</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work hours</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial compensation</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional advancement</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional recognition</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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From these data, it appears that we continue to educate professionals who consider themselves competent. Once graduated, however, they believe the field has not met their expectations in terms of professional advancement or recognition. These findings are consistent with earlier research in the field. Nevertheless, four out of five graduates from our program find personal satisfaction in their work—perhaps because they recognize the meaningful contributions they make to health care.

A follow-up study of a volunteer subset is expected later this spring. We thank you for your cooperation in the initial survey project.

Alumni Society

The Medical Technology Alumni Society is part of the Alumni Society of Allied Health Professionals. Current officers of the Medical Technology Society are Barbara Streifel, president, Phyllis Weiss, secretary, and Karen Karni, acting treasurer. The Allied Health Society has approximately 825 members and exists to promote the professional interests of the allied health fields and to develop a liaison among prospective students, undergraduates, and alumni. Membership in this organization offers both personal and professional benefits and is a link to the Medical Technology program and the University itself. For more information or to join the alumni society, please contact Carmela Kranz at 626-4707 or 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867).

Cookbook Update

In 1993 medical technology alumni produced a cookbook to raise funds to support the education of our medical technology students. Approximately 1000 cookbooks have been sold to date. Several members of the alumni group organized a “cookie sale” during Lab Week last April and again in December. Close to $500 was raised for the Medical Technology Scholarship fund during these two events.

To order a “Laboratory Tested Recipes” cookbook, contact Lillian Sarkinen in the Medical Technology office.
Attention: Class of 1947

Plans are being made for a reunion of the class of 1947 at the annual alumni banquet, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from the Medical Technology program. Events will include an afternoon tea in the medical technology conference room and a slide show of the history of the University. For further information, please contact Dorothy Dodsworth Peterson at (612) 869-1809 or Catherine Gladson Manlove at (612) 224-1261.

U of M Home to Society’s Archives

Last year, the Division of Medical Technology became the home of archival materials from the American Society for Medical Technology/American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Former ASMT presidents Nellie May (Patsy) Bering and Roma Brown had collected memorabilia and historical records dating back to the Society’s inception in 1933. At the time of Professor Bering’s retirement from Temple University, they decided that these materials should be entrusted to an institution with historical perspective. The logical place was the University of Minnesota, with the nation’s oldest baccalaureate program in medical technology.

Twenty-five boxes of records were shipped to Minneapolis. Ms. Brown and Ms. Bering spent four days referencing the materials, which now fill three five-drawer files and 20 linear feet of shelving. These materials chronicle not only the history of the society, but also advances in clinical practice and in education, particularly in certification and accreditation.

The Division has every journal published by ASMT/ASCLS, and our conference room houses a fine collection of antique laboratory equipment and artifacts. We often send copies of early articles to colleagues, and have already retrieved a number of documents for doctoral students from the recently acquired archives. We thank Ms. Brown and Ms. Bering for sharing these historical materials with us.

Items from Previous Issues of Tech’s Talk

1947—Ancker is “going modern.” Last year they purchased two new Evelyn Photoelectric colorimeters, one for hematology and one for chemistry.

1957—The fourth class of laboratory assistant students is now in the hospital phase of the one-year training program. This program is designed to train qualified high school graduates in a limited number of laboratory procedures.

1967—The clinical laboratories move into the southwest court area of the hospital. Following curriculum revision, students no longer spend a full year in the clinical laboratories but receive most of their instruction in student laboratories.

1977—The American Society for Medical Technology withdraws from the activities of the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and endorses the formation of a new certifying agency.

1987—Mildred King Rohwer (class of 1933) provides funds for the first endowed professorship in medical technology in the country—another first for the University of Minnesota.

Can You Help Us?

For the past several years, we listed the names and graduation dates of alumni with whom we had lost contact in the preceding year. Because the response has been tremendous, we are asking for your help again this year. If you know any of these individuals, or any other alumni who are not receiving Tech’s Talk, and can supply us with a current address, please call or write to Lillian Sarkinen (address and phone number of the Medical Technology office are listed on page 2).

Rosemary Benster LeCaptain, 1954
Verneil Priebe, 1946
Melva Hegland, 1946
Helen Johnson Moutang, 1944
Marjorie McClanahan Hager, 1943
Doris Nelson McNairy, 1941
Mary Murphy, 1941

G. B. Williams, 1940
Freida Kunze, 1939
Arlene Burglove Frost, 1938
Gladys Nyborg MacKenzie, 1936
Betty Smith Hall, 1934
R. E. Cross, 1930
Madeleine Rice Lynch, 1930

If you have changed your address, please let us know so that we can continue to keep in touch. Many have been diligent in doing this because this year, out of a possible 2,625 alumni, we are mailing Tech’s Talks to nearly 2,180. Thank you!
Gold and Silver Classes Honored

Each year we continue our tradition of honoring the 50th and 25th anniversary classes. This year they include the following:

### Class of 1947 (50th Anniversary)


### Class of 1972 (25th Anniversary)


*Address unknown  
**Deceased

If you are a member of either class, please make a special effort to attend the annual alumni banquet. The reservation form is on the last page. Classmates from 1947 and 1972 will be seated together, so you will have the opportunity to renew friendships.

We appreciate having the correct addresses of alumni. You can help by sending us any addresses of those graduates with whom we have lost contact. Thanks!
Faculty News

Faculty members in the Division of Medical Technology continue to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the combined missions of teaching, research and service. For their achievements, Karen Karni was promoted to Professor and Karen Lofsness was promoted to Associate Professor in 1996. Carol Wells received two grants this year—one from NIH and one from the Minnesota Medical Foundation. Faculty members also continue to publish in their areas of expertise. Some recent publications are listed below:


U of M Faculty Participate in the 22nd World Congress of Medical Technology

The 22nd World Congress of Medical Technology met June 23-28, 1996 in Oslo, Norway, and attracted 2000 attendees from 45 nations. The 50 participants from the United States included 3 University of Minnesota faculty members: Nancy Brunzel, Karen Karni, and Karen Lofsness. Alumni Jennifer Subra Krueh (from the Duluth Clinic) and Joan Aldrich (from the University of Texas at Dallas) also attended.

Minnesota authors and their presentations included:

- **Karen Lofsness**: A Model for Developing Computer Aided Instruction in Hematology (oral presentation);
- **Jennifer Krueh**: Serological Evidence of Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis (HGE) in Norway (oral presentation);
- **Karen Karni**: Employment Patterns for Clinical Laboratory Personnel (poster).

In addition to the scientific sessions, the conference included an award ceremony and president's reception held near the Kon-Tiki Museum, a civic reception hosted by Oslo's mayor at the City Hall, and a traditional Norwegian evening at the Norwegian Folk Museum.

Members of the International Association of Medical Technology (IAMLT) will hold their 23rd World Congress in 1998 in Singapore, Malaysia. Vancouver, Canada, will be the setting for the meeting in the year 2000.
Medical Technology Student Council Activities

Even though our students spend a lot of time in classrooms and laboratories, they still find time to organize and participate in worthwhile activities through the Medical Technology Student Council. During the first week of school the council held its annual pizza luncheon to introduce senior students, faculty, and staff to each other. It also sponsored a fall quarter get-acquainted breakfast for junior students.

Council members are active in CHIP (Council for Health Interdisciplinary Participation), an organization comprised of students from all health-related disciplines. Last fall, CHIP held a weekend retreat entitled “Breaking Boundaries, Building Connections,” which several medical technology students attended.

This winter some of the seniors served as judges in the science fair held at St. Matthew’s School in St. Paul, another annual council project. Activities planned for spring quarter include a junior/senior luncheon (hosted by the seniors) and a medical technology-logo sweatshirt sale. Juniors on the council will also usher and serve refreshments at the graduation ceremony.

Student council membership is open to all junior and senior medical technology students. This year’s officers are: president, Steve Mattson; vice-president, Brad Wigton; and secretary/treasurer, Andy Sandquist.

The Changing Face of our Student Population

Think back to your class in medical technology. If you were in the program from its inception through the 80’s, your classmates were predominantly female, recently graduated from high school, and of a homogeneous ethnic background. When you completed your degree, you most likely obtained a position in a hospital clinical laboratory.

Over the past several years, student demographics have changed dramatically. Fifty-three percent of our junior and senior students call Minnesota their home, but 15% are from other states, and 32% are from other countries. This past year, our international students came from Vietnam, Ethiopia, Oromia, Belarus, Iran, Guyana, the People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong. African American students make up 17% of our student population, and 28% are Asian/Pacific Islander.

The age, gender and educational background of our students have also shifted over the years. The current average age of our students is 26, with a range of 20 to 42 years. Although female students are still in the majority, 43% of our students are male. A substantial proportion of our incoming students have previous degrees—16% have either bachelors of arts or sciences and 5% have associate degrees.

Placement data for recent graduates shows that the majority (65%) still work in hospital laboratories, but the remainder are employed in reference laboratories, industry, clinics, or enrolled in graduate degree programs.

Some things have not changed—the quality of our students, and the rigorous coursework required prior to admission to the program. The cumulative grade point average of our students is 3.1 (A = 4.0). Prerequisite courses include general biology, human anatomy, mathematics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, statistics and physics.

Rising Tuition Costs for Medical Technology Students

Tuition costs for University of Minnesota students have risen steadily over the years. Students in medical technology average about 15 credits per quarter. The following table shows average tuition rates per quarter for our resident and nonresident students for the past 10 years.

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Medical Technology Scholarship Funds and Recipients

Recipients of the Hovde-O’Brien Scholarship are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, and future potential. Ruth Hovde was the director of the Division of Medical Technology for 20 years from 1964-84. William O’Brien established the first rotation of medical technology students through the clinical laboratories, and was the head from 1925-39. This year, six senior students received awards from this fund. Recipients were Therese Martin, Steven Mattson, Nestor Nacionales, Soosan Nichols, Andrew Sandquist, and Bradley Wigton.

In 1986, Lorraine Gonyea-Stewart, an emeritus member of our faculty, established the Gonya-Stewart Scholarship Fund and the Gonya-Stewart Loan Fund. This year three seniors, Inessa Molodan, Kristine Monson-Jobe, and Hailu Shitaye received awards.

In 1990, Yvonne Chenoweth Cook established the Yvonne C. Cooke Scholarship Fund. Award winners are chosen on the basis of scholarship and merit and are asked to repay the funds when they are able to do so. This fund provided assistance for eleven medical technology students: Renee Bellrichard, Rebecca Biege, Waiman Chan, Janete Dela Cruz, Denise Edelstein, Marie Enos, Lori Hauer, Brian Howell, Kristine Monson-Jobe, Ngoc-Hien Nguyen, and Emily Yim.

The Betty Rae Kramer McConnell Scholarship Fund was established in 1992 in honor of Betty McConnell, a 1945 alumna of our program. This fall, Stacy Read and Emily Yim received scholarships.

The Medical Technology Alumni Fund, supported by the Medical Technology Alumni Association, awarded its first scholarship this year to Stacy Read.

These scholarship funds are only available to medical technology students, and both the faculty and the students in the Division of Medical Technology express appreciation to the providers of these funds. Due to the generosity of our alumni, we were able to award a total of $15,000 in scholarships, distributed among 21 individuals this year. Because of the continued decline in monies available for federally funded student loans, it is hoped that the medical technology student scholarship funds will continue to grow in the years to come.

Contributions may be sent to the Division of Medical Technology, Box 609 Mayo, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

State Spring Meeting Scheduled

The 1997 Minnesota Collaborative Laboratory Meeting will take place May 14-17 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. This meeting is sponsored by eight professional organizations:

- Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (MNSCLS)
- Clinical Laboratory Management Association, MN Chapter (CLMA)
- Minnesota State Society of American Medical Technologists (MSSAMT)
- American Association of Clinical Chemistry, Midwest Section (AACC)
- American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
- Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT)
- Minnesota Society of Cytology (MSC)
- Minnesota Society of Pathology (MSP)

The program will feature three keynote speakers. R. Jeffrey Ringer will discuss “Communication” on Wednesday. Thursday’s keynote speaker will be Lemuel Bowie on “The Laboratory’s Role in Healthcare Outcomes,” and on Friday Mike Osterholm will discuss “Emerging Infections and Foodborne Infections.” Other topics scheduled for the meeting include: tick borne diseases, “mad cow” disease, automated Pap smears, managed care, cytogenetics, molecular biology, and point of care testing. Many presentations will be directed toward individuals involved in cross training to a new area.

Several vendors will present roundtable “infomercials” on Friday morning, offering breakfast and a talk by the hosting company. Social events will include a “happy hour” in the exhibit area on Wednesday and an Italian buffet and pizza party on Thursday evening.

For more complete information or a registration brochure, contact Geri Hotz, 2969 Aurora Lane, St. Cloud, MN 56303. Her telephone number is (320) 240-2212, or FAX to her attention at (320) 240-2146.
14th Annual
Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference
"The art and science of education"

February 26 - March 1, 1998
Radisson Hotel Metrodome
(University)
Minneapolis, MN

◆ Exhibits
◆ Break-outs
◆ Keynote Sessions
◆ Welcome Reception
◆ Topic-specific Roundtables
◆ Posters/High Tech Demonstrations
◆ Accreditation/Certification Updates
◆ Social Get-together at the Weisman Art Museum

The first Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference (CLEC) was co-sponsored by the medical technology programs of the University of Minnesota and Temple University and held in Minneapolis in 1985. The conference will again return to Minneapolis in February of 1998. Pat Solberg will be serving as program chair of the meeting.

CLEC has developed into the primary national meeting for the Education Scientific Assembly (ESA) of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). Over the past 12 years, the conference has been held at such sites as: Seattle, Albuquerque, Dallas, Indianapolis, and Birmingham.

The goals of the conference are to provide high quality educational programs to meet the unique needs of clinical laboratory science educators; to provide the opportunity for sharing of information; for interacting on challenging issues, problem solving, and networking; and to provide enrichment and growth opportunities for educators. The CLEC meeting benefits all clinical laboratory science educators whether in CLS (MT), CLT (MLT), SBB, or other programs in hospital and university-based settings, including both undergraduate and graduate levels.
Keillor to Headline Alumni Society Meeting

Author and entertainer Garrison Keillor, '67, will return for the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) 1997 Annual Meeting June 4 in Northrop Auditorium. Keillor will present a show about the University that is expected to feature stories, music, visuals and student performers. A tribute to retiring University President Nils Hasselmo and Pat Hasselmo will also be part of the evening.

Call the Alumni Association at 624-2323 or 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867) for details and ticket information. As more information becomes available, it will be found on the UMAA's website (http://www.umaa.umn.edu).

Mary Damron Wins Distinguished Alumni Award

Mary Damron was awarded the third annual Medical Technology Distinguished Alumni Award in May 1996. She was honored for her role as a teacher and mentor in the chemistry laboratory, her contributions to the teaching program, and her long-time support of the University and the profession.

Mary graduated from our program in 1932. After completing a refresher course with the class of 1962, she joined the chemistry lab at UMHC. She headed the urinalysis section and taught both medical technology students and residents. Many students and staff remember Mary's enthusiasm for microscope work and her contagious excitement when students were able to identify difficult casts.

Mary remains active in the American Association of University Women and various church groups. She is looking forward to becoming a great-grandmother this year. She notes that she is busier in retirement than when she was employed full time. Those of us who were students or colleagues of Mary's will agree—she is one of those individuals who will always be involved, active, and contributing. We congratulate her on this richly deserved award.

Frieda Claussen Deceased

We are saddened to report that Frieda Claussen died in St. Paul on June 28, 1996 at the age of 98. Ms. Claussen, who was well known among laboratorians, had a long and productive career at St. Paul's Miller Hospital. She began working there on December 1, 1920—the day the hospital opened—and headed the laboratory until she retired.

Ms. Claussen also played an instrumental role in the development of medical technology as a profession. During her remarkable career of more than four decades, she helped organize the Twin Cities Society of Medical Technology, the Minnesota Society (MSMT), and finally the American Society (ASMT). She served as president of all three organizations.

Friends and colleagues recall Frieda's dedication, her high professional standards and most of all, her warmth and graciousness. Her contributions to medical technology will long be remembered.

University to Convert to Semester System

Beginning in September 1999, the University of Minnesota will convert to a semester-based academic calendar. The University is one of very few comparable institutions still on a quarter system. Changing to semesters will bring us "into step" with other major research universities. The fall semester will begin after Labor Day and end with exams just before the Christmas holiday. Spring semester will run from mid-January to mid-May. A three-week "intersession" is scheduled between the spring semester and the beginning of summer sessions.

There are currently 649 degree programs at the University that must be converted. Within the Division of Medical Technology's year-four curriculum alone, at least 16 courses need to be redesigned to fit the new semester schedule. Despite the effort required to complete this task, it is also a great opportunity to rethink and modify course content, to formulate new relationships and approaches to teaching, and to develop a clinical laboratory science curriculum that will set a standard for the future of our profession.
Clinical Laboratory Science Master's Program

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Clinical Laboratory Science master's degree program. The program prepares students for careers in research, teaching or industry, after specialized instruction and research in one of six major areas of laboratory medicine: clinical chemistry, hematology, immunohematology, immunology, molecular genetics or microbiology. Twenty-two students are currently enrolled in the program.

Clinical Laboratory Science students have been active in presenting their work at meetings or in journal articles. Papers accepted in the past year include:


Lisa Pierson, A. Rosenberg, S. Allauzen and M. Blumenthal: Comparisons of Total IgE Levels, Specific IgE Levels, Skin Test and Affinity Distribution Function of a Polyclonal Response in Patients with Allergic Disease. Presented at American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology meeting, February 1997, San Francisco, CA.


Two of our students received awards for their work. Lucia More's presentation at the Society of Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Scientist Symposium was named "Best Scientific Presentation." Susan Sonntag received the Baxter Graduate Student Research Award at the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science meeting. This award will help fund her thesis research with her adviser, Dr. Ron Jemmerson.

Five students completed their degree programs this year:

Dan Zhu, advised by Dr. Dan Vallera, completed her research on “Production and Characterization of Anti-CD3F(ab’)2 Immunotoxin.”

Aparna Kondagunta successfully defended her thesis research, “A Study of the Role of the scpA Gene in Virulence of M Type 6 Strain of Streptococcus pyogenes.” Her adviser was Dr. Pat Cleary.

Lucia More presented her research, “Morphological Manifestations of Parvovirus B19 Infection in Bone Marrow” at her final oral examination. Dr. Craig Litz was Lucia’s adviser.

Wendy Wagner’s research project, “Characterization and Detection of Citrobacter rodentium” completed the requirements for her master’s degree. Wendy’s adviser was Dr. Connie Gebhart.

Yi-Ju Hung, advised by Dr. Amy Skubitz, completed her studies of “Identification of the Cell Surface Molecules Involved in the Adhesion of Ovarian Carcinoma Cells to Endothelial Cells”.

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Let's Keep in Touch

Have you often wondered what has happened to the classmates you haven't seen since graduation? Once again, there will be a display at this year's Medical Technology Alumni Society Annual Banquet that will give attendees the opportunity to find out what their colleagues are doing.

Each year, the “Let's Keep in Touch” display is a big success at the Banquet. Please help us continue this tradition by contributing some personal information about your life since graduation. (Even if you sent information last year, please contribute again this year.) Submitted information will be displayed on bulletin boards at the banquet. Whether you can attend the banquet or not, we would like to hear from you.

It is not necessary to limit the information you submit to that requested on the form. Letters and especially pictures would be appreciated, and the pictures will be returned if you wish. Otherwise, we will place the photos in your student file. Yes, we still have a file on each of our graduates!

Name: ____________________________ Year of Graduation: ________
Name while in school (if different)
Address: __________________________

Phone Number: ____________________

Career Information: __________________________

Family Information: __________________________

Special Interests: __________________________

Please mail to: Division of Medical Technology
Box 609 Mayo
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0374

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Annual Banquet News
for Alumni and Friends

Join us at Jax Cafe for this year’s banquet. Friends and spouses are welcome! Jax Cafe is located about three miles from the University, and there is ample free off-street parking.

Date: Monday, May 5, 1997
5:30 p.m. Social Hour with Cash Bar
6:30 p.m. Dinner with Program to follow

Place: Jax Cafe
1928 University Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN (612) 789-7297

Menu: Roast Sliced Ribeye
Bordelaise Sauce, Oven-browned Potatoes
or
Honey Dijon Chicken
Honey Glazed, Rosemary New Potatoes
or
Baked Filet of Salmon
Pineapple Relish, New Potatoes

Salad: Chef’s Vegetable
Bread Basket, Beverage with all
Dessert: Jax Carrot Cake

Cost: Alumni Association Members-------$25.00
Nonmembers------------------------$26.00
Seniors (Age 60 and over)----------$23.00

Program: To be announced

Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1947 (50 years), 1972 (25 years), and to the 75th graduating class of 1997.

Deadline for reservations: April 28, 1997. Send your reservations in early because seating is limited.

This is the only mailing that you will receive for the Medical Technology Alumni Society Annual Banquet. Please mark your calendar, and return the reservation form below.

Please reserve _____ places for me at the Medical Technology Alumni Dinner.
I enclose $_______ as payment. Roast Ribeye _____ Honey Dijon Chicken _____ Baked Salmon _____

Please reserve _____ seats for me at the 1947 table.
Please reserve _____ seats for me at the 1972 table.

M.A.A. Member: Yes ___ No ___
Name (please print)_________________________ Class ______ M.A.A. #________________________
Address ______________________________________

Make check payable to: Medical Technology Alumni Society

Mail by April 28, 1997, to: Division of Medical Technology
Box 609 Mayo
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0374
The entire laboratory staff of the University Hospitals in 1953. How many individuals can you identify?

Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology
University of Minnesota
Box 609 Mayo
420 Delaware St. S.E
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0374

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested

Helen Nordine Hallgren 65
11513 Galtier Drive
Burnsville, MN 55337