

Chapter Chatter

Issue

Late Fall 2008

Special points of interest:

- Letter from the Prez
- Legislative Fly-In
- ORV conferences

Inside this issue:

Greetings	1
Health Care Policy	2
Six Rivers Fall Conference	4
Pictures from Fall Conference	6
Good Practice Sharing	6
Upcoming conferences	7

Greetings from the President!

Spring is the traditional time when most thoughts turn to renewal – green grass, baby animals, colorful flowers, kids escaping school in summery clothes, growing things of all kinds everywhere you look. It's always exciting and invigorating to start over in a fresh year.

But it's really fall when we begin to prepare for spring by planting bulbs and mulching plants against the coming cold....we know we have to get through winter and we plan to be ready for spring.

Fall is also the time when Six Rivers prepares and plans for the renewal of our chapter. New officers and Board members are installed and Strategic Planning for the next year begins at the Six Rivers Fall meeting at Deer Creek State Park. We review the by-laws (newly updated and voted in by the membership) and the Success Standards to see how we stack up against other chapters and what we need to accomplish next year. The committee chairs give the End of Year report listing what each group worked on during 2008.

This fall, our President elect Renee Cuevas will become the next President of the Six Rivers chapter and begin the renewal process that breathes new life into organizations like CLMA.

I have enjoyed my term as President but I am looking forward to the new energy Renee and her 2009 Board will bring to the chapter and to the National organization. Renee has always been a bright energetic force for CLMA and I know she will take us far in the new year.

August, 2008

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Health Care Policy Committee

HCPC updates - November 08 – Chair, Paul Labbe:

CLMA has taken the lead in promoting a modernization of the clinical laboratory fee schedule. The Clinical Laboratory Diagnostic Fee Schedule Modernization Act of 2008 (**HR 6761**), which was introduced on July 31, 2008, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a negotiated rulemaking committee to develop a modernized, consensus-driven clinical laboratory fee schedule. The CLMA and the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) applaud the leadership of Representatives Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Michael Burgess (R-TX) for introducing key legislation that will modernize the clinical diagnostic laboratory fee schedule. CLMA encourages you to write your representatives asking for their support of this rational approach to controlling health care costs, while reimbursing appropriately for the testing utilized for patient diagnosis. Please utilize the links to writing your Senator or Representative at: <http://sixriversclma.org/links/links.html>

Are you ready to move from ICD-9 to ICD-10? The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modifications (ICD-10-CM) will be replacing the 30 year old ICD-9 classifications, and is targeted to be implemented on October 1, 2011. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is receiving comments on this proposed expansion of disease code sets to improve the health care technology and monitoring of quality through pay-for-performance, bio-surveillance, and other critical activities. All health care providers are required to utilize the current ICD-9 codes under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 2000. ICD-10 is the next step in improving an outdated coding system to address a host of new procedures and diagnosis. That being said, there is costs and education involved in bringing everyone up to the new standards, so be sure to keep current with this proposal.



With the election over and the new political horizon, here are a few things to consider for the future of our profession:

Practical Considerations for Developing Constituent Relationships with Congressional Members and Making CLMA PAC Contributions to Candidates

- Attend a town meeting that your Member of Congress might hold and introduce yourself as a local constituent and professional person in the district who wants to become more politically active.
- Your Member of Congress may be receptive to working with a small ad hoc or informal advisory group in the district that can provide expert advice on issues affecting CLMA and your profession. Consider working with your lawmaker to cultivate this arrangement. He or she may appreciate your willingness to bring a representative group of professional people together from across the state or district to share insights on CLMA/industry issue interests, as well as the local business community and economy.
- Another effective way to cement a good relationship with a Member of Congress or potential lawmaker is to participate in their re-election or election campaign. Volunteering to work in your Member of Congress' campaign is an excellent way to become a valued constituent and to experience the fun of campaign politics.

For this information and more go to: www.clma.org

2008 FALL CONFERENCE WRAP UP

2008 FALL CONFERENCE October 2nd and 3rd, 2008 Deer Creek Conference Center



Program and Education Committee Update:

Fall Conference Wrap-Up

We recently wrapped our two full-day fall conference that included one WHOLE day devoted to Point of Care Testing. We collaborated with the Ohio POCT Network and had a great turn out. This joint endeavor was well received and will hopefully continue!

Prior to the first day of the conference we held the Six Rivers Strategic Planning meeting in the Pin Oak room. Here we welcomed the new board and planned for the year ahead.

Thursday was a full day dedicated to POCT:

- **POCT Compliance Round Table**- Moderator: Christopher Young/Panelists: Patty Delabar, Pat Kraft, Jade Wilson
- **Implementing POCT in the ED**- Pam Kotynski and Bonnie Sheedy, TriHealth
- **Anticoagulation Management Models**-Lori Hammer, University Hospitals Case Medical Center

Thursday night was our networking dinner at the “haunted” Harding Cabin, with over 60 vendors and members in attendance.

On Friday we were quickly back to business with vendor exhibits and the meeting:

- **SorryWorks! Making the Case for Full Disclosure**- Doug Wojcieszak
- **Six Rivers CLMA Installation of Officers and Annual Report to the Membership**
- **Does Your Legacy Matter? The Art of Succession Planning**- Debra Beach and Irina Lutinger



Deer Creek Conference Center and State Park
Mt. Sterling, Ohio

2008 Fall Conference Wrap Up (con't)

There were a total of 22 vendor and sponsor registrations sent in. We are so appreciative of their support! If you see any of the vendors below, please thank them for supporting our chapter!

Abbott Diabetes Care & Point of Care Divisions

Axis-Shield
B & B Microscopes
Biosite
ChildLab
HemoCue, Inc.
Instrumentation Laboratory
Inverness Medical
ITC Medical
LabCorp
MAS
MedLab

Nova Biomedical

Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc
Radiometer America, Inc
Rees Scientific
Response Biomedical
Roche
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics
South Bend Medical Foundation
TechSolve, Inc.
Telcor, Inc.

A special “thank you” goes to everyone who helped in some way in the event, it was a team effort! Special mention to Cynthia Griffith and Jenny Murray who organized the Networking Dinner; and Wanda Smith-Broerman who organized the silent auction for CLT/CLS student scholarships! Because of Wanda's work and everyone who donated, we were able to raise over \$800 towards the scholarship funds.

It was a wonderful meeting and everyone enjoyed catching up.

Save the Date for next year! The meeting is the first week of October each year. So mark your calendars for 2009! Our fall conference will be held on September 30th and October 1st, 2009. The format will be back to one day, with breakouts on POCT and general/management topics.

Thank you to the following speaker sponsors:



Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
a *Johnson & Johnson* company



2008 Fall Conference at Deer Creek



Top Left: Chris Young and a Panel discussing Compliance issues
Top Right: Exhibitor Hall
Bottom Left: Pam Kotynski and Bonnie Sheedy, TriHealth
Bottom Right: Paul Labbe speaking on CLMA PAC.
For more pictures visit: www.sixriversclma.org

**Six Rivers CLMA Chapter Good Practice
Sharing Challenge
Call for Good Practice Submitters**



What is Good Practice Sharing (GPS)?

Good Practice Sharing is the submission of actual case studies from laboratories that have resulted in improved processes and outcomes which serve as a resource for CLMA members to use to aid in the improvement of quality and safety initiatives in laboratory services. These case studies can be accessed from a common database on the CLMA website.

Staffing shortages, technical advances, defect reduction strategies, declining reimbursement, patient safety goals, requests for quicker, higher quality test results and a strong emphasis on customer satisfaction are the issues that are driving laboratories to focus on process improvement.

Six Rivers Chapter of CLMA is challenging members to embrace quality improvement within your own laboratories by sharing your good practices with your peers. One way to accomplish this is to submit a good practice to the CLMA website.

If you have greatly improved a process within your laboratory and are willing to share the improvements with your colleagues, please take the time to enter your good practice on the CLMA website at www.clma.org.

Visit the National CLMA website at www.clma.org to discover how to enter your GPS!!!

Patsy Bryant
GPS Liaison

The resource for laboratory professionals.

Upcoming events

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Save the Date



CLMA and AACC Presents:
The Ohio River Valley Regional Conference
“Shooting for Success”

at
Indianapolis Marriott North

March 24-26, 2009

Sponsoring Chapters: Greater Indiana, Bluegrass, and Six Rivers CLMA Chapters, and Ohio Valley Society AACC Chapter

Additional information will be posted in November on the conference website:
www.ohiorivervalley.org

For additional local CLMA conferences visit:

- www.clma.org
- Go to chapters
- And select chapter programs for a meeting close to you.

Six Rivers Chapter

CLMA

THE RESOURCE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS