

Workshop Descriptions

1. Bioprospecting in the Berkley Pit – Finding bioactive natural products in an unnatural world. Potential anticancer compounds in the Berkley Pit. The focus of study of Butte's pit centers around the isolation and characterization of potential anticancer compounds. Several microbes have been found that produce potent inhibitors of the signal transduction enzymes, MMP-3 and caspase-1. Presented by Andrea Stierle PhD of Montana Tech 1 hour
2. Chest Pain and Heart Issues – Cardiac Markers, BNP, Troponin. Given by Sharon Hecker MD. 1.5 hours
3. Comparison of Blood Bank Methodologies – A discussion of various methodologies including LISS, PEG, Gel, and Solid Phase. Pros and Cons of each as well as making correct choices will be discussed. Presented by Sandy Drake of Immucor 1.5 hours
4. ASCLS Updates – General Session by Dot Ahler MTASCLS President, Linda Masin MTASCLS President Elect, and Susie Zanto Region VIII Director 1 hour
5. Easy to Use and effective techniques for stress relief – Participants will experience and learn a simple process for releasing stress and tension. This process can be used at home or work and is useful for physical, emotional and mental stress. Participants will learn what it feels like to use simple self-hypnosis techniques and gain a greater understanding of their minds, subconscious, and the connection between mind and body. Basic 1 hour. Patrick Marsolek-director of Inner Workings Resources
6. Assessing Thyroid Function – This presentation discusses the collaborative role of the clinical laboratory in the diagnosis and management of thyroid disorders. Dr. David Schaffner PhD of Beckman Coulter 1 hour
7. Heparin Monitoring – Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of APTT and Heparin Xa assays for monitoring heparin activity as well as pre-analytical considerations that will impact test results. Given by Dan Kozar of Diagnostica Stago 1.5 hours
8. Lab testing for Antiphospholipid Antibodies / Lupus Anticoagulant – Given by Diane Nelson MT (ASCP) SH. Sponsored by Diagnostica Stago 1 hour
9. Helicobacter pylori Disease State – The discovery of H. pylori, the anatomy of the stomach, cell biology and survival techniques of H. pylori. Disease, diagnosis, and treatment guidelines. Given by David Francis of Meretek 1 hour
10. Venous Reflux – A discussion of the disease (varicose veins) and various treatments. Shannon Tipton MD. 1 hour
11. Blood Bank Potpourri of Current Topics of Interest – “TRALI”, Chaga's, ISBT update and other current topics will be discussed. Michelle Nelson MT (ASCP). 1 hour
12. Clostridium difficile and other Changing Bacterial Pathogens – History, diagnosis, therapy, and recent changes of virulence will be discussed. John Pullman MD. 1 hour
13. Antimicrobial Susceptibility – Developing an antibiogram, Kammy will discuss results from the survey of 2006 and John will go over an antibiogram tool that he has developed. Kammy Johnson CDC: Assigned Epidemiologist at Montana DPHS and John LaRue: Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinator of Montana DPHS. 1.5 hours
14. Hypercoagulation – The common causes of hypercoagulation, laboratory tests and their limitations as well as clinical consequences. Dr William Dittman sponsored by PAML. 1.5 hours
15. Flu Pandemic Overview – Carol Kirk Laboratory Network Coordinator for the state of Wisconsin sponsored by Montana DPHS. 1 hour
16. Developing Your Lab Flu Pandemic Plan – Carol Kirk sponsored by Montana DPHS. 1.5 hours

17. Business Etiquette for the Laboratory Professional – Review the benefits of proper business etiquette and help build your confidence as a professional. Topics include proper business communications, business attire, male/female interactions, receiving and giving gifts, etc. Patty Ehrhardt MS, MT (ASCP). Sponsored by PAML. 1.5 hours
18. Student Poster Presentations – The four Benefis students will present their posters. Benefis students. 1 hour
19. Coding and Medicare Reimbursement in the Laboratory – Topics will include limited coverage policies, covered vs noncovered IDC-9-CM codes. Janet Whitmoyer. 1 hour
20. JAK2 Mutation – Dr. Dittman will discuss JAK2 mutation testing for myeloproliferative disorders. Intermediate 1 hour Dr. William Dittman
21. Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Osteoporosis – The title says it all. Kirwin Webb MD. 1.5 hours
22. Red Cell Variant Morphology – Review of RBC abnormalities of morphology. Speaker will correlate findings with disease states and discuss instrument data found in various disorders. Keila Poulsen MT (ASCP), H, SH, CLS (NCA). 1.5 hours
23. Platelet Function – Platelet function and various ways to determine function. Debbie Greenberg sponsored by Dade. 1 hour
24. White Cell Variant Morphology – Review of WBC abnormalities of morphology. Speaker will correlate findings with disease stated and discuss instrument data found in various disorders. Keila Poulsen MT (ASCP), H, SH, CLS (NCA). 2 hours
25. Making Stress Free Social Security Decisions – Various Social Security issues will be discussed to help us understand the issues that exist and help take the stress out of making decisions that will affect our future. Janet Hunter District manager of the Butte Social Security Administration. 1 hour

Workshop schedule, speakers, and topics are subject to change.
For updates please see www.ascls-montana.asclsregionviii.org

Student Presentations

The 2007 Clinical Laboratory Science students at Benefis Healthcare will give their presentations in the afternoon of Friday April 13th.

PCR: Is Your Lab Ready – How to identify testing that could be done cost-effectively in small labs and if PCR is right for you. Presented by Shannon Gretch

Prevalence of Pertussis in U.S. Populations – Will discuss the distribution and prevalence of pertussis infection among adults in the U.S. with emphasis on a new booster vaccination; detailing who should receive the booster and why. Presented by Sarah Anderson

Lamellar Body Count as a Measure of Fetal Lung Maturity – Compare current methods for determining fetal lung maturity and introduce lamellar body counts as an emerging method; discussing specificity, reliability, and method availability to most clinical laboratories. Presented by David Sechrist

Cardiac Biomarkers for Risk Reduction/Prevention – Will introduce cardiac biomarkers which may be introduced in the future as diagnostic tools for prevention of acute myocardial infarction. Presented by Robert Senecal