Message from the CPRC Chair

Donald Schnitzler, BS, CT(ASCP)

You are probably familiar with the idiom, “you can’t teach an old dog, new tricks.” Well, I am old, (alright older). Needless to say, I have been doing things a certain way, often times what I consider the right way, for a long time. Whether it is at home with family, or at work with colleagues and students, I am a creature of habit; comfortable with the status quo, the plain, the ordinary, the routine. You might have once even pictured me as a poster child for “Opposing Change.” This year though I was reminded more than once that no matter our age or experiences, we can always learn something new and make changes in the familiar for the better.

During July, I attended my last CAAHEP Summer Committee on Accreditation (CoA) Workshop as Chair of the CPRC. The meeting, like many others, was full of useful accreditation information and insights into the roles and responsibilities of the CoAs. One presentation though, “What is YAM?” caught me by surprise. More than once as the speaker guided us through the web site and video explanations, I thought, “How come, I haven’t seen this before” or “This is so cool.” Well, remember I said that I am old, and when I had time to scroll through the narrative pages, video vignettes and other links on my own, I realized I had been there before. So surprise, that new trick can be as simple as a reminder of something forgotten and the change as easy as bookmarking an excellent site for future reference to the CAAHEP accreditation process. Your Accreditation Mentor (YAM) is intended for Program Director use, so be sure to check it out. You might even bookmark it for easy access. (You will find additional information about YAM on the pages of this CPRC News.)

Other times, change takes a little more effort, and most likely all Programs made similar efforts this past year evaluating their curricula against the new entry-level competencies. I’d love to say here at Marshfield, “been there, done that, I am finished with all the updates,” but no such luck. There are still changes, additions and what not to be made to my own curriculum. It is a work in progress; and I’m OK with that.

Like me, you probably found some of the needed curriculum revisions were easily made, and that some revisions were easier simply because of the resources available at the CELL Web site. Even so, for all of us there are probably a few competencies still posing a challenge, or two, to implementation. Whether you have a success story to share, or are looking for how-to advice about incorporating the new competencies into your program, come to the Strategies in Cytotechnology Education session in Dallas prepared for a conversation.
I won’t pretend to have all the answers, but I am confident the audience will willingly share their collective experiences and knowledge to help us all learn about what works, or might work, as we modernize our Program curriculum and meet the new entry-level competencies.

As one of the “older” program directors I know that I can still learn a new trick or two. I may like the status quo, but I also realize the importance of change. Incorporating the new entry-level competencies into our curriculum is one of those important and necessary changes facing program officials now. We all need to follow-through with that process to ensure new graduates are prepared to meet current workplace expectations.

I commend you all for your efforts, and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming ASC Scientific Meeting in Dallas.

--Schnitz

What is happening in the next month?

American Society of Cytopathology 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting is
November 13th – 17th in Dallas, Texas

CPRC Strategies in Cytotechnology Education Workshop
Friday, November 14, 2014, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

The Strategies in Cytotechnology Education workshop, kicking off the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting, is rapidly approaching on November 14th. Entitled The Next Frontier: Training for Future Practice Models, the session is shaping up to be particularly provocative.

The first portion focuses on the status of the Programs and the newly approved entry-level competencies (ELC). The moderators, Donald Schnitzler, CT(ASCP), CPRC Chair and Stephanie Hamilton, EdD, MB, SCT(ASCP)C, CPRC Vice Chair, would like participants to give feedback on the following areas:

• Share how the Programs are incorporating the new ELCs,
• Provide examples of specific CELL Web site resources used, and
• Discuss areas of difficulties in implementing the ELCs.

So come prepared to share your successes and challenges with your colleagues!

The second portion of the workshop, led by Karen Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP) and David C. Wilbur, MD, is dedicated to building a plan for a solid and sustainable career in cytopathology. They are seeking real-time information to verify our currently proposed path, so please contact your colleagues and former students to find out what is actually going on in the labs today. Specifically, they are interested in knowing the following:

1. How many of the new ELC activities are cytotechnologists performing regardless of years of service?
2. Is anyone working totally out of the scope of the new ELCs (i.e., similar to the Mayo model)?
3. Is anyone working cross departments (e.g., molecular, histology, informatics, etc.) and/or have multiple certifications?
4. What tasks do you think a cytotechnologist could perform that is currently being done by a resident or pathologist?

So, put on your thinking caps, roll up your sleeves and join us for a fun, informative and stimulating Meeting! See you soon.

ASC Foundation 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, November 15th – 6:00 am registration check-in and 6:30 am race begins along a course around the Hilton Anatole.

This is the third year for this fun event, so let’s see you out there, getting your day off to a healthy start, which helps raise funds to support the ASC Foundation mission and initiatives.

ASC President’s Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

Saturday, November 15th, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Enjoy this networking event to reconnect with colleagues and make new friendships, while visiting Exhibitors and viewing Posters.

Emerging Roles for Cytotechnologists: Real-life Examples

Saturday, November 15th, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Moderators: Amy Wendel Spiczka, MS, MP, HTL, SCT(ASCP)CM and Lynnette Savaloja, MS, SCT(ASCP)
Panelists: E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)CM, Maria Friedlander, MPA, CT(ASCP)CMIAC, Po Chu Fung, MBA, SCT(ASCP), Shannon Rowley, CT(ASCP), Renee Root, BS, CT(ASCP)

Moderators will engage panelists from unique spectrums of the workforce, who will 1) provide examples of advancement and growth in the evolving marketplace, 2) explore the issues and challenges surrounding theses professional transformations, and 3) emphasize the valued relationship between skilled cytotechnologists and pathologists that will continue to be critical for success in future professional developments and potential innovative opportunities.

This session is included in Basic Registration, at no extra cost, but pre-registration is required.

Career Planning and Growth: Valuable for Today, Tomorrow and Beyond returns for the 4th year on Sunday, November 16th, 7:00 am – 8:30 am. Attendance is included in basic registration fee but pre-registration is required. This session focuses on career development for residents, fellows, cytotechnologists, and student cytotechnologists. Presenters offer tips and suggestions on how to prepare for your future and make the most of careers in cytopathology. NEW this year, there will be one-on-one, ten-minute review sessions of CVs and resumes for those interested.

This session is included in Basic Registration, at no extra cost, but pre-registration is required.

ASC Foundation’s Lone Stars and Black Diamonds Reception/Art Auction

Sunday, November 16th, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

All Meeting attendees are invited to this reception to recognize Foundation contributors and ASC Award recipients, and view and bid on Foundation Art Auction items.
Have you registered for the Cytology Education Learning Lab Web site? Have you encouraged your students to register for this site? [http://cytologyedlab.org/](http://cytologyedlab.org/)

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Response to the CELL Web site has been overwhelming and surprisingly global. Many comments have been submitted, most expressing gratitude for sharing resources and providing a focused web site for cytology resources.

As of October 28th, there are 828 registrants, with 181 international registrants and a full range of medical professionals – cytopathology, pathology, cytotechnology, histotechnology – at all levels from students, residents, fellows, educators, supervisors, etc. If you are attending the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Dallas next month, be sure to visit the Poster Sessions and review *Poster #1: If You Build, It, Who Will Come? An Analysis of the Registrations of the Cytology Education Learning Lab (CELL) Web site* (Marilee Means, PhD, SCT(ASCP), Liron Pantanowitz, MD, Deborah MacIntyre Sheldon)

As we move into 2015, the CELL Resource Committee reaches out to you, Program Directors, to dig into your resources and share with the Committee. You may know that 100% of 25 Program Directors responding indicated they would be willing to share resources with other Programs and educators. Why don’t you make a 2015 New Year resolution to help others by contributing to the CELL Web site? Thank you for contacting Deb MacIntyre Sheldon to begin the process – [dmacintyre@cytopathology.org](mailto:dmacintyre@cytopathology.org)

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**Congratulations!**

**2014 Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award**

- **Melody Castellon**
  UCLA School of Cytotechnology
  Los Angeles, California

- **Tamara Cobb**
  Medical Education Training Campus (METC) Cytotechnology Program
  Fort Sam Houston, Texas

- **Sarah Goletz**
  Indiana University School of Medicine Cytotechnology Program
  Indianapolis, Indiana

- **Mohini Mehta**
  University of Rhode Island School of Cytotechnology
  Providence, Rhode Island

- **Jeffrey Wilks**
  Medical Education Training Campus (METC) Cytotechnology Program
  Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Desiree Carrillo, CT(ASCP) graduated from the Cytotechnology Program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine with a Bachelor of Science in Cytotechnology and works at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California.

Guimin Chang, PhD, MB, CT(ASCP)\textsuperscript{CM} graduated from the School of Cytotechnology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center after extensive medical education in China and works at Lakes Region General Healthcare in Laconia, New Hampshire.

Mihaela Kracun, CT(ASCP)\textsuperscript{CM} graduated from the School of Cytotechnology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York after receiving a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York in Albany and works at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Holly Lefler, CT(ASCP)\textsuperscript{CM} graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine Cytotechnology Program with a Bachelor of Science and works at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Sean L. West, CT(ASCP) graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine Cytotechnology Program with a Bachelor of Science and works at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

**CAAHEP News**

Robert A. Goulart, MD, ASC Commissioner
Kerry Weinberg, MA, MPA, RT(R), RDMS, RDCS, FSDMS

In late July, prior to the CAAHEP Summer Workshop held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the CAAHEP Board of Directors selected new Hospital-based Program Commissioners. We are pleased to announce that CPRC Chair, Don Schnitzler (Schnitz), will start wearing another CAAHEP hat as one of the Commissioners – congratulations Schnitz!

The CAAHEP Board formally approved the creation of the Recommendations Review Committee (RRC). The purpose of the RRC is to provide an in-depth review of accreditation action recommendations to the CAAHEP Board of Directors. Under the leadership of Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP), CAHHEP Board member and the CPRC Commissioner to CAAHEP, the RRC has proven to be a valuable addition to the review process of CAAHEP.

The July Workshop, attended by Ms. Naik and Mr. Schnitzler, provided information and new insights into upcoming challenges for CoAs regarding proposed requirements in program accreditation. Currently, there is a push by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to place greater demands on accreditors for greater transparency and open disclosure of accreditation actions. This transparency might include access to self-studies, accreditation team reports, and accreditation communications. In the coming year, CAAHEP has planned a Strategic Plan meeting to help the Board of Directors be proactive in meeting the challenges that accreditors are facing.
**CAAHEP Blog:** Check out the new Blog (http://caahep.blogspot.com/posting) by CAAHEP President Thomas Skalko, the "Hot Issues Facing Higher Ed."

Finally, the **2015 CAAHEP Leadership Conference** will be held in January in Orlando, Florida.

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**Your Accreditation Mentor for Program Directors**
http://www.caahep.org/

The **Your Accreditation Mentor** (YAM) is designed for program directors beginning the CAAHEP accreditation process. The website is a great place to start to get to know the terminology used with CAAHEP accreditation, what to expect throughout the process - from submitting the self-study through the site visit, the different CAAHEP accreditation statuses, contacts to the committees on accreditation, frequently asked questions, and more!

The site is a combination of narrative pages, examples, and videos from program directors, deans, former CAAHEP Board members, and committee on accreditation staff. CAAHEP Committees on Accreditation highly recommend the YAM for new program directors and deans or for an accreditation refresher.

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**Status of Programs (since May 2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td>Total number of accredited cytotechnology programs in United States and Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td>Active programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Inactive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Kansas Medical Center (8/2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (8/2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of North Dakota (9/2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>New, developing program pending accreditation with ‘Candidacy’ status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Notification of request for Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Detroit Medical Center, School of Cytotechnology (9/2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, ACL Cytology School (8/2014)</td>
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</table>

**Kinds of Programs (as of 10/1/13)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td>Certificate-only programs (a total of 21 programs offer a Certificate program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>Degree-only programs (a total of 18 offer a Degree program - 4 offer a Masters level program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>Offer both Certificate program and Degree program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following data based on the last graduating class (2012-2013) of 30 programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Available</th>
<th>Filled</th>
<th>Not filled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>262</td>
<td>Total # student places available in accredited programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>Total # student places filled</td>
<td>(64.10%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Total # student places not filled</td>
<td>(34.90%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes Data are based on % for three-year average, 2013-2011

- **Attrition**: 8.65% (30 programs)
- **Student Retention**: 91.36% (30 programs)
- **Positive Placement**: 87.68% (30 programs)
- **ASCP-BOC-% Graduates Attempting**: 95.56% (30 programs)
- **ASCP-BOC Pass Rate/Success**: 93.95% (30 programs)
- **Employer Survey Return Rate**: 79.03% (30 programs)
- **Graduate Survey Return Rate**: 78.98% (30 programs)

***Attrition:*** Of 30 active programs responding, 8 programs had students who withdrew.

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**Changing of the CPRC Guard......**

It has been two years since there have been changes in the CPRC membership, but in November we bid farewell to and welcome three CPRC members.

After serving seven years on the CPRC, the past three of them as Chair, Don Schnitzler won’t be going too far as he moves on to the CAAHEP Alternate Commissioner, a position held by past CPRC Chairs. Karen Nauschuetz, MD, (ASCP member) and Nadeem Zafar, MD, (ASC member) are moving on to other ventures, and the CPRC thanks them for their extraordinary commitment during their terms.

New CPRC Chair, Stephanie Hamilton, will partner with Dr. Jennifer Brainard, CPRC Vice Chair, to guide the CPRC during the next two years. Please welcome them along with the following new CPRC members when you see them in Dallas next month!

- **R. Marshall Austin, MD, PhD** (ASCP member) is the Medical Director of the Anisa Kanbour Cytotechnology Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
- **Robert L. Hutton, Sr., MD** (ASC member) is a Co-Medical Director of the Medical Education Training Campus (METC) Cytotechnology Program in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- **Larry W. List, PA, CT(ASCP)** (ASC member) is the Program Director of the Cytotechnology Program at Saint Louis University in Missouri.
Finally, one person who has been a “fixture” with the CPRC and CAAHEP for more years than she will admit, Nancy Smith, is turning in her CPRC “keys.” CPRC records indicate that Nancy joined the CPRC in November 1989, becoming Vice Chair in November 1992, Co-Chair in November 1993 with Dr. Ron Luff, followed by a year as Chair until November 1995. In the summer of 2000, Nancy became the ASC Commissioner to CAAHEP, a position she held until July 1, 2014. During that time period, she was greatly involved with CAAHEP, serving as a Board Member and Liaison to the Medical Assisting CoA, which she plans to continue. The CPRC, CAAHEP, the ASC, and all in the profession owe much to Nancy for her passion for and commitment to the profession and its future. Thank you, Nancy!

Members of the 2015 Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

Stephanie Hamilton, EdD, MB, SCT(ASCP), Chair
Jennifer A. Brainard, MD, Vice Chair
Karen Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)IAC
Robert L. Hutton, Sr., MD
Larry W. List, PA, CT(ASCP)
R. Marshall Austin, MD, PhD
Amber Donnelly, PhD, SCT(ASCP), ASCP Commissioner to CAAHEP
David C. Wilbur, MD, CAP Commissioner to CAAHEP
Maria Friedlander, MPA, CT(ASCP), ASCT Commissioner to CAAHEP
Robert A. Goulart, MD, ASC Commissioner to CAAHEP
Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP), CPRC Commissioner to CAAHEP
Donald Schnitzler, CT(ASCP), Alternate Commissioner to CAAHEP
Kerry Weinberg, MA, MPA, RT(R), RDMS, CAAHEP Liaison
Deborah Maclntyre Sheldon, CPRC Coordinator

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Kerry.Weinberg@liu.edu
dmacintyre@cytopathology.org