

## **Talking Points with Legislators**

**Purpose:** It is imperative to educate legislators about clinical laboratory science and the patients who rely on educated, qualified laboratory personnel for accurate and reliable testing results before bills effecting laboratory science are heard in committee or voted on. We want legislators to come to CAMLT first to access the impact of bills to the quality of patient test results before bills are introduced or amended.

- **Who is CAMLT?**
  - The California Association for **M**edical **L**aboratory **T**echnology is a voluntary, not-for-profit professional association of dedicated laboratory professionals throughout the State of California.
- **Our mission**
  - Part of CAMLT's mission is to maintain and improve high quality in laboratory testing by fostering education and working to ensure that legislators understand the impact of new bills in maintaining high quality laboratory results.
- **What is a clinical laboratory test?**
  - Laboratory tests take human biological samples such as whole blood, urine, spinal fluid and other body fluids and perform various analytical tests ranging from urine pregnancy through DNA analysis requested by physicians.
- **Why is it important to maintain high quality laboratory tests?**
  - Over 80% of clinical and diagnostic decisions are based on the results of laboratory testing.
  - Accurate and timely laboratory test results directly correlates with better patient outcomes.
  - Maintaining the integrity of the lab personnel standards is essential for accurate and timely laboratory test results.
- **Who works in the laboratory?**
  - Laboratory Tests are classified as waived, moderate, or high complexity based on the necessary skill and educational level of the testing personnel needed to perform a particular test.
  - Most testing personnel are Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS) who have at the minimum, a bachelor's degree and have completed a post-graduate training program in a DPH (Dept of Public Health) approved laboratory. After passing a licensure examination, they perform waived, moderate and high complexity laboratory testing, including analyzing body fluids, cells, and tissue samples. A CLS must maintain instruments to assure the highest level of accuracy. They supervise unlicensed staff, phlebotomists and Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT). The CLS manages daily activities, direct quality assurance, finances, and technological improvements in the laboratory. In addition, the CLS may direct waived laboratories.
- **Who represents CAMLT in Sacramento?**
  - Public Policy Advocates (PPA) engage in the legislature on CAMLT's behalf.