

MICROBE

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AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

Port Huron, MI 48060

1725 20th Street

Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, MT, AHI, RMA

MSSAMT MICROBE

Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Michigan

MSSAMT Fall Scientific Meeting: October 1-3, 2015

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW) - April 20-24, 2015

National Dental Assistants Recognition Week March 1-7, 2015

Hapuna Beach Prince Resort, Hawaii

AMT 77th Educational Program & National Meeting • June 22-25, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Membership Information

Total MSSAMT members: 4,419

Current active MSSAMT
members: 3,619*

*Remember to pay your dues so your
CEC's are credited to your membership!

American Medical Technologists

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MSSAMT MICROBE

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**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
AS A STATE SOCIETY!**

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President's Message.....

Hello my fellow members!

Recently our state society had the Annual Scientific Seminar, October 9-10-11, 2014, in Frankenmuth, Michigan. If you missed it, I am sorry; it was great! The lectures were excellent, the service outstanding.

We celebrated two members for their loyalty to our state society with a huge delicious cake and a plaque. We also had at the meeting two Michigan State Society Members who celebrated their 50 year membership with AMT. AWESOME!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Two dignitaries from the national office joined us at the meeting:

*Jeff Lavender, MT, National Vice President
Clara Bokin, MT, Great Lakes District Councilor*

Mr. Lavender, who resides in Michigan, will probably be visiting our scientific meetings more often.

In 2015 our state society is celebrating "60 Years" of existence. I hope you will join us by attending our next Fall Scientific Meeting on October 1-2-3, 2015. But before this fall event, many of our members will be flying to Hawaii to attend the National Convention in Kona (the Big Island). If you were at this last scientific meeting and want to be a delegate in Hawaii, you qualify for a stipend from our state society. Please call me at 810-982-5651.

Very soon our state magazine (Microbe) will go into print and online. Please call me and let me know if you want to have a hard copy. If do not call, I must assume you will read the microbe online. If you have contacted us within the last year, you do not need to again.

I would like to introduce to you our re-elected and newly elected board members:

*Sandra Biggar, MT
Jeff Kohn, RPT
Kathy McPherson, RMA
Sieglinde Wildie, MLT, II.*

May they have a productive three-year reign!

This year just flew by. I would like to close by wishing every member and their families a Wonderful Thanksgiving, and may your Christmas be Merry and may your Christmas be Merry and your New Year very happy and healthy!

Sincerely,

*Sieglinde Wildie, MLT II (AMT)
MSSAMT President*



District Councilor's Message....

AMT celebrated 75 years this year and we in the Great Lakes District were happy that the National Meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois. We were treated to a great meeting that Diane Powell and the AMT Staff hosted. The great Educational and National Meeting had inspirational key note speakers, enlightening general sessions and very informative specialty sessions. The Welcome Party was fun for everyone. AMT also celebrated with a book "75 Years of Certifying Excellence" which may be purchased on the AMT website.

Congratulations to all the award winners in the Great Lakes Area. We had eight members recognized and 4 states that received Honor Roll. We truly welcome our first time attendees, we want to see you back in 2015.

AMT National Officers elected at our Annual Business Meeting were Everett Bloodworth, MT-President, Jeff Lavender, MT-Vice President, Heather Herring, RMA-Secretary and Jeannie Hobson, RMA-Treasurer. The Board of Directors are, Chris Seay, MT, Peggy Oiler, MT, Ken Hawker, MT, Deborah Westervelt, RMA, Carole Aston, -Public Member, Kimberly Chevront, MT-Judiciary Councillor and Edna Anderson, MT-Executive Councillor. Congratulations to them all,

Mark your Calendars:

National Medical Assistants Week - October 20-24, 2014

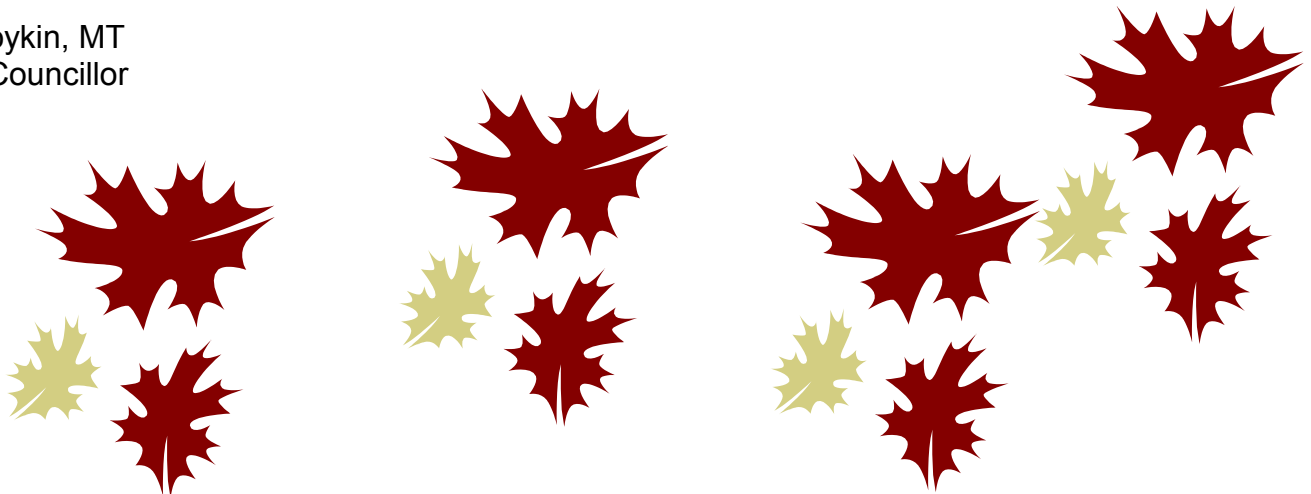
2015- AMT National Meeting in Hawaii - We will have gift cards at the Welcome Party instead of baskets for our 2015 Meeting.

Visit the AMT website. A special thanks for all those involved in this project. GREAT job!!

Great Lakes members, thanks for all your hard work throughout the year, its really appreciated.

If I can be of help, do not hesitate to contact me.

Clara Boykin, MT
District Councillor



Editor's Message

Fall is definitely in the air in Michigan; crisp days, crisp apples and another successful Scientific Meeting in Frankenmuth! For those that were unable to attend, you missed some very good speakers and the opportunity to meet with professionals like yourself. We covered a wide range of topics, from phlebotomy to the legal issues affecting medical professionals in the upcoming Michigan elections. The Fall Scientific Meeting date for 2015 has not been confirmed yet, but is usually the Thursday through Saturday of the second week in October, so save the date!

October 20-24, 2014 was Medical Assistant Recognition Week! I celebrated a little early at the Fall Scientific Meeting with some of the students from Ross Medical. During the official week, I was privileged to celebrate during a pizza lunch with the students from Baker College of Port Huron. It's encouraging to know that Michigan has some excellent medical assisting students out there! I would LOVE to see photos of how YOU celebrated MA Week!

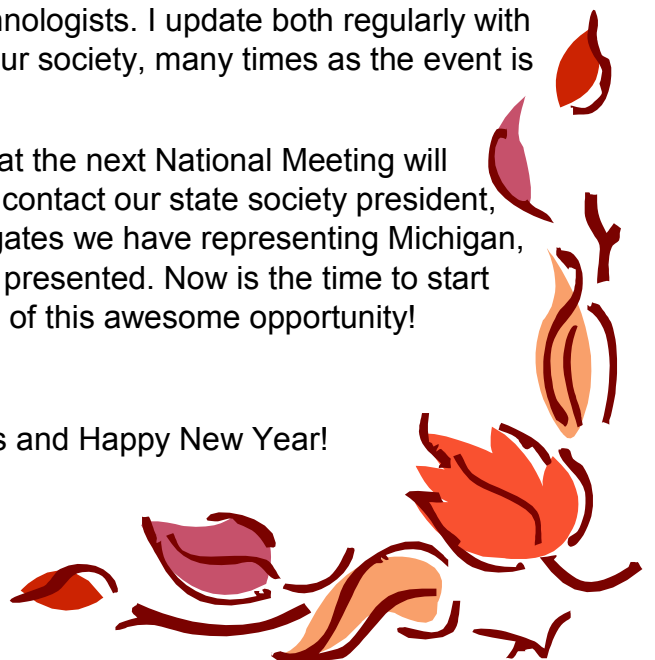


Onto some housekeeping items.... You may have noticed that this newsletter came out earlier than in the past. The publishing dates have changed and the newsletters will now be available in early November and early May. This will allow you to have access to information in a timelier manner and will not coincide with any major holiday season. It is very expensive to mail out large numbers of newsletters, so if you haven't let us know that you still wish to receive a paper copy in the mail please do so as soon as possible. Also due to the cost, the paper version will not include many photos, so I encourage everyone to visit our website at <http://mssamt.tripod.com> or our Facebook Page; Michigan State Society of American Medical Technologists. I update both regularly with articles, photos and any other pertinent information for our society, many times as the event is happening!

If you have been hibernating early, you haven't heard that the next National Meeting will be held in Hawaii!!! If you are planning on going, please contact our state society president, Sieglinde Wilde about being a delegate. The more delegates we have representing Michigan, the more say we have in deciding the issues that will be presented. Now is the time to start squirreling away some extra money and take advantage of this awesome opportunity!

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, AHI, RMA
MSSAMT EDITOR



Delegate Report.....

This is third year I attended the AMT National Meeting. 404 members joined me including 121 MTs, 98 RMAs, 25 AHI's and 24 RPTs. It was a historic gathering for the 75th year at the site of one of the earliest annual meetings, the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

I won't keep you in suspense any longer. Here my "Top 10" highlights of the conference:

10. Did you know you should get excited about the earthworm! Our keynote speaker, Bill Kurtis, led us on a study of environmental impacts and built a case that earthworms could be the key to reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
9. Dr Jane Yip demonstrated how different centers in our brain are activated by hooking up AMT member Jorge to a brain wave machine. Did you know that the highest level of brain activity happens when we are anticipating something unknown to happen?
8. We talked about the Triple Aim and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Do you know what the Triple Aim of healthcare is? That's right – improve quality, reduce costs, and increase access/satisfaction. We discussed how the PPACA would positively impact all three of the aims.
7. Nick Moore reminded us of the difference between Innate and Acquired Immunity. Would this have been a good session for you to hear?
6. Instructors are a lively bunch! We exchanged ideas about learning styles and the most effective ways to help our students retain knowledge.
5. We discussed the difference between EMR and EHR. Do you know it? EMR is the medical record of your physical health (usually a provider record). EHR tracks all aspects of a person including activity level, spiritual engagement, and medical record. It has many data 'in-putters' including self, electronic devices, and the medical community.
4. We reviewed an interesting case study to see how forensic lab work is used to identify criminals.
3. Our district counselors gave a great overview on Bylaws vs Standard Operating Procedures for those of us in leadership positions. (It may not sound like it, but it really was a fun session.)
2. A new partnership between AMT and the National Kidney Fund was introduced. Did you know that by controlling high blood pressure and diabetes, that kidney disease can be prevented? We hope to have many opportunities to partner in offering health screening opportunities and support each other's organizations as we work to improve the health of our communities.
1. It is always a privilege to have a voice in the business operations of American Medical Technologists including receiving committee reports and electing new board members. We are part of an organization that cares about us and the work that we do!



I appreciate the trust you placed in me in electing me to the Michigan State Society board. The AMT National Meeting gave me many opportunities to represent Michigan and to learn and grow in my skills as a healthcare professional. Next year the meeting is in Hawaii. I hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted, Linda Witte, MPA, RMA, CBSP

Delegate Report.....

The Convention in Chicago

This was the first time I rode to a convention; I usually fly. I felt comfortable because I knew I could ask my colleague, the driver, to stop anytime I knew it was necessary. When we arrived, there was a problem. The registration did not receive my check. I had to pay it again and cancel the first check at the bank when I got home.

Monday was busy. After the honor guard brought up the flags, our key note speaker showed us how to protect nature by working with it, not destroying it. My next lecture was on alternate blood products. It was very interesting, but so far no one has succeeded in duplicating red cells that are capable of carrying oxygen.

The nominating committee met to discuss this year's candidates. I was an alternate at the meeting, so I was present just to listen. The welcoming party that evening was fun. Our basket was won by North Carolina. I hope they enjoyed the contents.

Apparently AMT will be a partner with the American Kidney Fund. They are trying to make the public aware of how to prevent damage to the kidneys.

Tuesday afternoon, I attended the Resolution Presentation and Meet The Candidates. Several resolutions are being worked on and will be discussed at the next National Meeting. Afterwards, Lisa Rydzinski and I enjoyed a boat ride on Lake Michigan.

On Wednesday, besides taking in a few lectures, I had a trip to the home office. Now I can put a face to the names I hear over the phone. That evening was the award dinner and it was a very nice celebration.

Thursday is always a busy day. First is the Town Hall Meeting where all the committee reports are read. This is followed by the Business Meeting, where members vote for new and incumbent board members put forward by the nominating committee. Next was AMTIE, The American Medical Technologists Institute for Excellence. They distribute scholarships to students who need help with tuition.

It has been a busy week, but very educational. Next year the convention will be in Hawaii, how exciting!

I hope many of us are able to go.

Sincerely,
Sieglinde Wilde, *MLT, II*.



Delegate Report.....

This year the AMT National Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois at the Drake Hotel. It was a very lovely old hotel with interesting architecture. The convention opened with a viewing of the AMT 75th Anniversary Video. It is now available on the AMT website and is well worth looking at; our organization is rich in history!

The keynote speaker was Bill Kurtis and while I did not recognize his name, as soon as he spoke I knew him. He has narrated many documentaries and been a figure on television for a long time. He talked about his newest venture into tallgrass cattle farming and the impact it could have on the environment. Interestingly, the next day when our president, Siegi Wilde and I ventured out for some sightseeing, we stopped for dinner and one of the selections was Bill Kurtis's grass-fed beef.

The convention was filled with many interesting lectures. The most useful one for all allied health professionals working in CLIA laboratories covered the newest CLIA updates. CLIA, which stands for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, currently performs only 15% of their surveys on-site. The top five of the ten most common deficiencies are listed here:

Laboratories performing moderately complex testing do not have the required diplomas, CLIA certificates and medical technologist transcripts on site.

Laboratories do not have the required proficiency testing participation.

High complexity testing; deficiency same as #1

Labs are not enrolled in proficiency testing

There are unresolved/undocumented issues with quality control

Another extremely interesting lecture was directed specifically towards Allied Health Instructors. We discussed the different instructional techniques needed to impact the varied learning abilities of our students; visual, auditory, etc. It always amazes me that even after teaching for a long time, I can still learn new ways of reaching students and of course I love to share my own!

An afternoon outing afforded some of us the opportunity to visit the AMT home office. It was very interesting to see the processes that they use and to put faces with names. If you ever have to call AMT, be prepared to be amazed at the response time for your inquiries!

One of the best things about the National Convention was the chance to meet new people from all across the nation! I even ran into a woman I had previously worked with but hadn't seen in twenty years! It's definitely a must for any AMT member!

~~Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, AHI, RMA

Member Highlight.....

I have worked at Family Medical Center for a total of 23 ½ years. I left for about 18 months and went back to school and received my Associates of Science Degree and Day Care Educator degree. I have been back here for 15 years now and I love the work I do. I help people who don't have insurance coverage to get medications from the companies, I work with the BCCCP (Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program) to help women get PAPs and mammograms who don't have coverage, and the most recent job added is as an enrol-ler for the extended Medicaid and Market Place. I also work with an OB/GYN who comes here part time. I have a great job. I am helping people, which is why I wanted to be a medical assistant to begin with.

When I first heard of the Medical Assistant program, I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do. I didn't want to be a registered nurse in a hospital, I wanted to work in an office and see the same patients. It has been everything I thought and more. I have come to know families and watch them grow, and now I see their children having babies. It is awesome. They are comfortable with me because I have been around for a long time. It's one of the best things about my job.

Through the years I have worked with many different providers. I've assisted MDs, PAs, nurse practitioners, medical students that included family practice providers and OB/GYN providers. I have always enjoyed family practice assisting, but have found an awesome niche in OB/GYN. Women's health has become my special interest. I have also been on committees to help educate the community about women's health issues and where they can receive care. My other jobs are as an advocate who helps low income patients find help with medications and women with no or little coverage to get free mammograms and PAPs. These two programs really help a lot of patients. It's a lot of paper work, but worth it to get people in touch with the programs they need.

I have worn many "hats" all these years. As a RMA with the family practice providers, I have roomed patients, given injections, done EKGs, drawn blood, assisted in procedures such as PAPs and surgeries, educated patients, removed sutures just to mention a few jobs. All of this and much more is part of what medical assistants can do. As an assistant for OB/GYN I have assisted with colposcopies and biopsies. Also, I do referrals to insurance companies for the surgeries and C/section deliveries. Seeing a patient go through the months of pregnancy and know you helped them have a safe and healthy delivery is incredible. And sadly we sometimes have to deal with grief when things don't go well. We see the patient and consult them and refer them to therapist to make sure they cope with their loss, and that includes the whole family, not just the mom. They have all suffered a loss.

After I went back to college, I was working in a lab for one year. I did phlebotomy all day long. That really gave me great experience for when I went back to the Family Medical Center. Every different job I have done has increased my knowledge of being a medical assistant. Continuing our education is a big part of our responsibility. I go to conferences that are available through the MSSAMT. There are also conference available through local hospitals. You should learn new techniques and keep ourselves educated and always growing in our field. And you meet great people in the health care field. The conference I went to this year, I meet a lady doctor from India and she was fascinating to talk to and compare our cultures.

There were a few years when I didn't keep up my dues, but I have been a medical assistant for over 27 years now and it's the best job ever!!

I have 3 grown kids and 7 grandkids. I love animals, and currently have 2 chocolate labs. My oldest daughter lives with me and she has 2 dogs, 6 chickens, 3 ducks, a kitten, and a horse. I love to read, mostly nonfiction and Christian books. I teach Sunday School and I'm the Director of the Christian Education board at church. And have I mentioned that I love my job!

Luci Vardaman, RMA Ottawa Lake, Michigan

Why Immunize?

Why immunize our children? Sometimes we are confused by the messages in the media. First we are assured that, thanks to vaccines, some diseases are almost gone from the U.S. But we are also warned to immunize our children, ourselves as adults, and the elderly.

Diseases are becoming rare due to vaccinations.

It's true, some diseases (like polio and diphtheria) are becoming very rare in the U.S. Of course, they are becoming rare largely because we have been vaccinating against them. But it is still reasonable to ask whether it's really worthwhile to keep vaccinating.

It's much like bailing out a boat with a slow leak. When we started bailing, the boat was filled with water. But we have been bailing fast and hard, and now it is almost dry. We could say, "Good. The boat is dry now, so we can throw away the bucket and relax." But the leak hasn't stopped. Before long we'd notice a little water seeping in, and soon it might be back up to the same level as when we started.

Keep immunizing until disease is eliminated.

Unless we can "stop the leak" (eliminate the disease), it is important to keep immunizing. Even if there are only a few cases of disease today, if we take away the protection given by vaccination, more and more people will become infected and will spread disease to others. Soon we will undo the progress we have made over the years.

Japan reduced pertussis vaccinations, and an epidemic occurred.

In 1974, Japan had a successful pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination program, with nearly 80% of Japanese children vaccinated. That year only 393 cases of pertussis were reported in the entire country, and there were no deaths from pertussis. But then rumors began to spread that pertussis vaccination was no longer needed and that the vaccine was not safe, and by 1976 only 10% of infants were getting vaccinated. In 1979 Japan suffered a major pertussis epidemic, with more than 13,000 cases of whooping cough and 41 deaths. In 1981 the government began vaccinating with acellular pertussis vaccine, and the number of pertussis cases dropped again.

What if we stopped vaccinating?

So [what would happen if we stopped vaccinating](#) here? Diseases that are almost unknown would stage a comeback. Before long we would see epidemics of diseases that are nearly under control today. More children would get sick and more would die.

We vaccinate to protect our future.

We don't vaccinate just to protect our children. We also vaccinate to protect our grandchildren and their grandchildren. With one disease, smallpox, we "stopped the leak" in the boat by eradicating the disease. Our children don't have to get smallpox shots any more because the disease no longer exists. If we keep vaccinating now, parents in the future may be able to trust that diseases like polio and meningitis won't infect, cripple, or kill children. Vaccinations are one of the best ways to put an end to the serious effects of certain diseases.

In Michigan Legislative News.....

Medical Laboratory Personnel Licensure

In Michigan there has been no new development in the licensure proceedings since 2003 when the Michigan House introduced House Bill 4554. The Michigan Senate also introduced a licensure bill, but both efforts have failed.



CLFS (Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule)

There is a patch in place in regards to the Sustained Growth Rate (SGR) that applies to the CLFS. This means that CMS (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) can change the laboratory fee schedule based on technological advances and replace it with a process to adjust reimbursement based on market rates. CMS has been stopped from reducing reimbursements for all test codes simultaneously, although an overall reduction of 1.75% through 2015 is still in effect.

Electronic Health Records Systems

There is a requirement that only credentialed medical assistants can enter orders into the computerized physician order entry systems. This means that RMA's working in physician offices fall under this rule and we have seen a significant increase in newly credentialed medical assistants in AMT. We welcome our new members and encourage them to become active participants in the Michigan State Society of American Medical Technologists!

Webb Gray, MT
Legislative Chair





Aloha!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AMT Educational Program & National Meeting • June 22-25, 2015

KONA/KOHALA COAST, BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII

- 🌴 Kona side of Hawaii is known for its sparkling resorts, world-class golf courses, white sand beaches, big-game sport fishing and home-grown Kona coffee.
- 🌴 Hilo side of Hawaii is the gateway to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, historic small-town flavor and interesting shops, restaurants and museums, tumbling waterfalls and towering banyan trees.
- 🌴 Punalu'u Black Sand Beach is part of a habitat of turtles who can often be found basking on the sand in the morning sun.
- 🌴 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park – more than 333,000 acres and still growing – is a UNESCO World Heritage site. To appreciate the volcanoes, plan to spend a day exploring the Park.



Hapuna Beach Prince Resort



- Resort is located 30 minutes from Kona International Airport.
- Beachfront resort faces spectacular Hapuna Beach with white sand beach (named "Number One Beach in America" by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine).
- Each guestroom has a private lanai with ocean view.
- Spacious marble bathrooms with separate tub and walk-in shower
- In-room coffee maker, mini-refrigerator, iron & ironing board, hair dryer, safe
- 10% discount on spa service | 20% discount in hotel restaurants excluding alcoholic beverages
- Complimentary self-parking, Internet in guestrooms and admission to Fitness Center
- No resort fees
- Outdoor pool with cabanas and heated whirlpool
- Hapuna Golf Course designed by Arnold Palmer & Ed Seay (18 holes)
- Group room rate also valid for pre- and post extensions at nearby Mauna Kea Resort and sister hotel in Honolulu

AMT Convention room rate:

\$169.00 single or double occupancy
+ 13.416% tax.

Rate valid June 18 to June 30, 2015.

Third person charge is \$60.00 per night which includes a rollaway bed. Maximum guestroom capacity is three adults, or two adults and two children 17 years of age and under. Children 17 years of age and under while traveling with an adult are complimentary when they utilize existing bedding in the same room.

Hapuna Beach Prince Resort

62-100 Kaula'oa Drive
Kohala Coast, Hawaii 96743

Toll-free reservations
1-866-PRINCE6 (774-6236)

Hotel phone: 808/880-1111



AMT

American Medical Technologists

Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

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Recognizing Excellence in our Profession

Dental Assistants
Promote Healthy Smiles



National Dental Assistants
Recognition Week
March 2-8, 2014



AMT
American Medical Technologists
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Laboratory Professionals



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

April 20-26, 2014

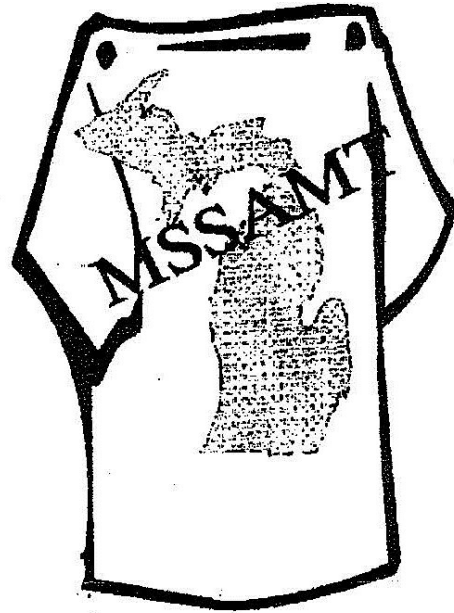
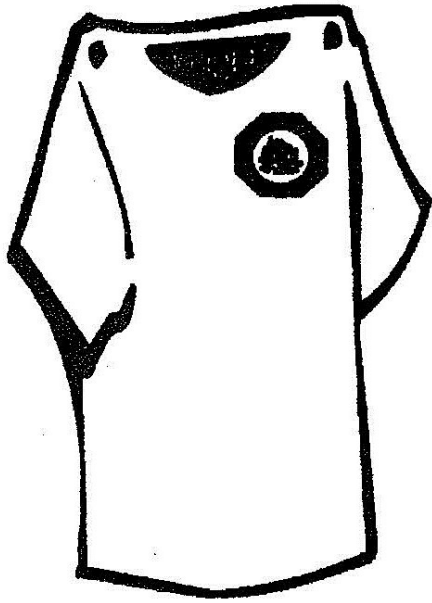
You are
changing lives
*one patient at
a time.*

*Celebrating Allied
Health Professionals*



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\$11.00

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XXX Large
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STATE - SOCIETY PINS



\$5.00

MSSAMT CURRENT EVENTS & PHOTOS

National & Fall Scientific Meetings



More photos available in our online edition & website! Visit <http://mssamt.tripod.com>