

MICROBE

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MSSAMT



AMT

American Medical Technologists

Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

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President, Proctoring Chair, Job Info

Sieglinde Wildie MLT
25 Rural St.
Port Huron, MI 48060
H- 810-982-5651
W- 810-985-1525 Ext. 2438

Vice President

Loretta Sweet MT
8165 Lakeshore
Lakeport, MI 48059
810-327-6847

Secretary

Nathalie Dixon MT 2571
Chapel Dr. W
Saginaw, MI 48603-2808
989-799-1664

Treasurer

Nancy Winslow, RMA
9491 Waite Dr
Fenton, MI 48430
810-516-2025

Website & Newsletter Editor

Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, MT, AHI, RMA
1725 20th St
Port Huron, MI 48060
810-841-2297

District Councilor

Clara Boykin MT 1023 Dayton
Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104
H- 651- 644-3128
W – 651- 647-2220

Honorary Board Member

Phyllis Crowder MT
Past MSSAMT President

Board Members

Sandra Biggar MT
33638 Glen St
Westland, MI 48186
734-728-6328

Queen Bolden RMA
26345 Plum St
Inkster, MI 48141
734-392-4202

Patricia Dare RMA
PO Box 120
Hamburg, MI 48139
810-231-0637

Webb Gray MT
27494 Mayfair Ave
Brownstown, MI 48183-4815
734-692-5902

Carolyn Spear, MT
939 Major Street
Flint, MI 48507-2364
810-234-0966

Linda Witte RMA
622 Godfrey Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4941
616-234-4599

MSSAMT WEBPAGE: <http://mssamt.tripod.com>

NEW EMAIL : MICHSSAMT@GMAIL.COM

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American Medical Technologists

10700 West Higgins Road
Rosemont, IL 60018
800-275-1268/847-823-5169
Fax 847-823-0458

www.americanmedtech.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Total MSSAMT members: 3,262
Current active MSSAMT members: 2,583*
*Remember to pay your dues so your CEC's are credited to your membership !

MSSAMT MICROBE

Advertising Rates per Issue

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One Full Page	\$100.00

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IMPORTANT UPDATES!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFORMATION! DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, YOUR INFO & PREFERRED METHOD OF RECEIVING THE MICROBE MUST BE RESUBMITTED! YOU CAN DO THIS BY

VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:

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-OR-

EMAIL OUR NEW EDITOR AT

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-OR-

MAIL THE INFORMATION TO:

LISA RYDZINSKI

1725 20TH ST

PORT HURON, MI 48060

-OR-

CALL: 810-841-2297

Please include your full name, address, phone number, email address, AMT member number and how long you have been a member.

***Also, please indicate whether you would prefer to read the Microbe online or you would like to receive a paper copy. THANK-YOU for your patience as we update our information!

President's Message...

Hello My Fellow Members,

Just last week was Thanksgiving and it feels like winter is already here according to the frigid temperatures.

Our State Society had quite a challenging and also sad 6 months. Our State Editor and Treasurer had a stroke at the end of June. Thank God she survived it and slowly is getting better. If you want to send her a card, her address is:



Suellen Schobert, MLT
1516 N. Carolina St
Saginaw, MI 48602

I am sure she would enjoy each one of them.

We were fortunate;

Nancy Winslow, RMA is our new Treasurer

Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, MT, AHI, RMA is our new Website & Newsletter Editor

WELCOME ON BOARD!

There were just 4 delegates representing the State of Michigan at the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Because it was just 4 days long, it was very busy with many meetings and lectures. We also had night lectures. Then in October, only 7 members from Michigan attended the District Scientific Meeting in Middleton, WI. I know it would have been a hardship to go to Middleton, but I was hoping I would see at least a few more attending this seminar. Some of the speakers were excellent. After the seminar, some of us members were stranded at the Madison airport. All flights were canceled for two days because of the stormy weather in Chicago. I was lucky, another airline honored my ticket and I could fly home the next day.

In the meantime, our State Society had the business and board meeting. It looks like we are slowly getting back to our regular schedule.

Our new editor will be sending out an email blast regarding if any member wants to have a hard copy of the Microbe. We were unable to retrieve the previous names from the former editor's computer. (It has been a real busy 6 months!)

I would like to close by wishing every member and their families the most wonderful Christmas and a healthy and very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sieglinde Wildie

Sieglinde Wildie MLT, II
MSSAMT PRESIDENT

Great Lakes District

Councilor's Message...

Hello Great Lakes Members:

Great Lakes Conference

The State of Wisconsin was the location of our Great Lakes Conference that the Great Lakes District decided after much discussion and a couple of years planning.



The Great Lakes Conference held, October 4th and 5th, 2013 in Middletown, Wisconsin, at the Marriott West Hotel was a great meeting.

A very special thanks to every Committee member, attendee, guest, vendor and speaker.

We are so pleased to have our Executive Director, Chris Damon, National President, Mary Burden, MT, Board Members, Jeff Lavender and Heather Herring in attendance.

To every president in the Great Lakes District, my hat's off to you for your outstanding support for this venture of a conference in our area, in many years. Some of you went above and beyond the call of duty and for that I am truly thankful.

Thanks for your continued support.

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

Clara Boykin, MT

1023 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
Email: claraboykin1023@msn.com
Work - 651 999 4788 (Monday thru Friday)
Cell - 651 247 3231 Home - 651 644 3128



Editor's Message

Hello everyone! I am certainly no stranger to the MSSAMT! If you have attended any of the scientific meetings in Frankenmuth, Michigan in the last six years you have seen my face!



A little bit about me: I started out in the military in 1984 as a medical laboratory technician with cross-training as a medic. I went onto college and received a bachelor's in healthcare management and became an MT. I started teaching college courses in 1994 and became a registered medical assistant. I have worked as both a med tech and a medical assistant and now concentrate on teaching medical assisting and basic science classes at Baker College of Port Huron. I have an M.B.A. with a concentration in Healthcare Management. I am also an accredited Allied Health Instructor and a Registered Medical Assistant.

I live in Port Huron, Michigan with my husband, Mike of over twenty years. I have three children, Richard, Katie and Megan. Richard blessed me with my first grandchild, a daughter Emma this past spring. Katie is a sophomore at Michigan State University studying to be a high school biology teacher. Megan is a sophomore in high school and loves music and drama.

I love to read and enjoy anything to do with computers. (You're welcome President Wildie!) Please bear with me in the next few months as I transition into the role of newsletter/website editor. **I am asking everyone to please, again, update your personal information with us;** an unfortunate computer incident has eliminated access to our previous records.

You can update your information on the website (there is a new link), or call me at 810-841-2297 or email it to the **NEW EMAIL**

michssamt@gmail.com

I look forward to speaking and meeting with everyone!
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me! I will respond within 48 hours to any email,

Sincerely, Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, MT, AHI, RMA

NOROVIRUS GII.4 Sydney

Norovirus is a very contagious virus. You can get norovirus from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. The virus causes your stomach or intestines or both to get inflamed (acute gastroenteritis). This leads you to have stomach pain, nausea, and diarrhea and to throw up.

Anyone can be infected with norovirus and get sick. Also, you can have norovirus illness many times in your life. Norovirus illness can be serious, especially for young children and older adults.

Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the United States. Each year, it causes 19-21 million illnesses and contributes to 56,000-71,000 hospitalizations and 570-800 deaths. Norovirus is also the most common cause of foodborne-disease outbreaks in the United States.

The best way to help prevent norovirus is to practice proper hand washing and general cleanliness.

Norovirus Has Many Names

You may hear norovirus illness called "food poisoning" or "stomach flu." Food poisoning can be caused by noroviruses. But, other germs and chemicals can also cause food poisoning.

Norovirus illness is not related to the flu (influenza), which is a respiratory illness caused by influenza virus. Norovirus causes inflammation of the stomach or intestines or both. This is called acute gastroenteritis.

The most common symptoms—

- diarrhea
- throwing up
- nausea
- stomach pain

Other symptoms—

- fever
- headache
- body aches

Prevent Dehydration

Drink plenty of liquids to replace fluids that are lost from throwing up and diarrhea.

Sports drinks and other drinks without caffeine or alcohol can help with mild dehydration. But, these drinks may not replace important nutrients and minerals. Oral rehydration fluids that you can get over the counter are most helpful for mild dehydration.

If you think you or someone you are caring for is severely dehydrated, call a doctor.

If you have norovirus illness, you can feel extremely ill and throw up or have diarrhea many times a day.

This can lead to dehydration, especially in young children, older adults, and people with other illnesses.

Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days.

****Children who are dehydrated may cry with few or no tears and be unusually sleepy or fussy.**

Symptoms of dehydration—

- decrease in urination
- dry mouth and throat
- feeling dizzy when standing up

Transmission

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus. Anyone can get infected with norovirus and get sick. Also, you can get norovirus illness many times in your life. One reason for this is that there are many different types of noroviruses. Being infected with one type of norovirus may not protect you against other types. Norovirus can be found in your stool (feces) even before you start feeling sick. The virus can stay in your stool for 2 weeks or more after you feel better. You are most contagious when you are sick with norovirus illness, and during the first 3 days after you recover from norovirus illness. You can become infected with norovirus by accidentally getting stool or vomit from infected people in your mouth. This usually happens by eating food or drinking liquids that are contaminated with norovirus, touching surfaces or objects contaminated with norovirus then putting your fingers in your mouth, or having contact with someone who is infected with norovirus (for example, caring for or sharing food or eating utensils with someone with norovirus illness). Norovirus can spread quickly in closed places like daycare centers, nursing homes, schools, and cruise ships. Most norovirus outbreaks happen from November to April in the United States.

Treatment

There is no specific medicine to treat people with norovirus illness. Norovirus infection cannot be treated with antibiotics because it is a viral (not a bacterial) infection.

Enzyme Immunoassays: A new way to test for NOROVIRUS

Human noroviruses cannot be grown in cell culture. Therefore, diagnostic methods focus on detecting viral RNA or antigen. Most public health and clinical virology laboratories can test for norovirus using real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) assays.

Rapid commercial assays, such as enzyme immunoassays (EIAs) that detect norovirus antigen have recently been developed. However, these kits have poor sensitivity (50%) and are not recommended for diagnosing norovirus infection in sporadic cases of gastroenteritis. The **RIDASCREEN** Norovirus 3rd Generation EIA was recently cleared by Food and Drug Administration for preliminary identification of norovirus when testing multiple specimens during outbreaks. However, samples that test negative should be confirmed by a second technique, such as RT-qPCR. Thus, EIA kits should not replace molecular methods during outbreak investigations.

Learn more about norovirus

reference: <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html>

AMT 75th Educational Program and National Meeting Delegate's Report

AMT 2013

The AMT 75th Educational Program and National Meeting was held in Pittsburgh, PA July 7-12, 2013.

Sessions this year started on Sunday with a workshop on Flu shots and I got the flu. It explained that it is not the shot that can make someone sick after getting it. There are dozens of viruses that can cause flu-like symptoms. Other viruses that were discussed were the Adenovirus, Rhinovirus, Metapneumovirus, and Bordetella Pertussis. This coming fall's strains that will be in the flu vaccine will be 2-A's and 1-B. These can only be projections, so let's hope they have them correct to prevent serious outbreaks.

The Keynote speaker this year was Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, MD, J.D. who spoke on Forensic Science, Civil and Criminal Cases. It was very interesting to hear him speak on JFK's shooting, Bobby Kennedy, the OJ Simpson case and several others. He is an author of several books and will have a new one coming out soon.

Other sessions I attended were "What Constitutes Malpractice in Healthcare?" and "Patient Medical Conditions that Affect Dental Treatment." Did you ever think about this: your medical doctors rarely ask about dental treatments and if you see a dentist regularly, but when you go to the dentist they take a medical history including all the medications you're taking? There are a lot of medical conditions that will affect dental treatment. There is Diabetes, Pregnancy, Eating Disorders, Leukemia, Cardiovascular Diseases, Anemia, hemophilia, HIV, Hepatitis B and C and Total joint replacement. Poor dental health can affect the body in so many ways that I would not have thought about and learned in this session.

Some other interesting sessions attended were "Advanced Directives and End of Life Decisions", "Lymphedema: Causes & Therapy," these were both very informative. Does your family know your wishes if you were to be involved in a serious accident or become ill suddenly? It makes you think about those circumstances. Among some of the others attended was one on Designer Drugs given by an Intelligence Research Specialist from the Pittsburgh DEA. He spoke of many different drugs, what I heard in the audience when he spoke of drugs called "bath salts" they thought he was actually meaning the ones you take a bath with. Some others were the ban of the K2 drugs sold in gas stations and elsewhere and the ban on them. One session was on "Managing Your Way Through Change" by our Michigan member Jeff Lavender, which was very informative and I could relate it to the changes we are going through in my work place currently. We are opening a new clinic next month. Communication is a key element in keeping staff informed as to what is happening in your department or facility. Along with

the sessions is always the business portion of the conference. We only had 4 delegates this year. There were 266 in attendance this year. We had our district meeting on Thursday morning followed by the Town Hall session, Annual Reports and Legislative Reports. The AMT annual business meeting and the AMTIE were in the afternoon. New board members were voted on and elected.

A good time was had at the welcome party. I had the pleasure of making the state basket again this year and it was packed full of goodies. I try to get items that are Michigan made, along with some tourism items to show off the great state. The Awards Convocation was on Wednesday night. We had several awards from Michigan; Congratulations to all who received an award! We will hope for more recognition next year.

It was a lot of learning in 4 days, along with meetings and the fun times. Next year it is in Chicago, so 2 years in a row pretty close to home for us in Michigan. Hope to see you there!

Patricia Dare, RMA
University of Michigan Transplant Center

The Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2013

This year getting to the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA was a little bit unusual. The plane that took me there was a prop plane. I did not realize they are still in use.

This year was the first year our National Convention was shortened by one day. So, our opening ceremony was on Monday and our Keynote Speaker presented an excellent lecture on Forensic Pathology. This was immediately followed by a lecture on Malpractice in Healthcare, by lawyer J. Gismondi; also an excellent presentation. This year all the lectures I attended had superb speakers. Thanks to Diane Powell who put this all together. The welcoming party on Monday night had the theme of the Roaring Twenties. It was sponsored by Pearson Computer System; very enjoyable indeed. At that time, the state baskets get raffled off. Nancy Gabl from Illinois won the Michigan basket. Pat Dare always does a great job putting it all together. Again this year, at the Resolution Presentation, not one state had a request. Wednesday we had our big award presentation and dinner. Michigan had 3 award winners and also received the Michigan State Honor Roll. (for 15 years straight) Thursday was the big day of the Town Hall and Business Meeting. Mary Burden, our national president, and her officers were re-elected for another year. As a little bonus for me, I visited the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Art. Absolutely Wonderful! I could have spent all day there, but I only had time for three hours. Next year we meet again in Chicago. This is a city with much to see and also the home base of "AMT."

See You Then!,

Sieglinde Wildie, MLT, II

Mark Your Calendar

AMT 76th Educational Program
& National Meeting • July 6–11, 2014

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Find activities no matter what your budget:

- Soar to the top of the Willis Tower
- Go to a Cubs or Sox game
- Get cultured at the famed Art Institute
- Shop the Magnificent Mile
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The Drake Hotel

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For additional information:

Contact AMT:

10700 West Higgins Road, Suite 150
Rosemont, IL 60018
Phone 847/823-5169 • Fax: 847/823-0458
E-mail: mail@americanmedtech.org
Website: www.americanmedtech.org

The Drake Hotel

140 East Walton Place
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone 312.787.2200

Toll-free reservations 800.553.7253

Website: <http://www.thedrakehotel.com>



Upcoming Events:

AMT 76th Educational Program & National Meeting • July 6–11, 2014

The Drake Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

MSSAMT Scientific Meeting: October 9-11, 2014

Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

Dental Assistants Recognition Week- March 2-8, 2014

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week - April 20-26, 2014

Medical Assistants Recognition Week: October 20-24, 2014

For more information & upcoming events visit our online calendar!

MSSAMT WEBPAGE: <http://mssamt.tripod.com>

NEW MSSAMT EMAIL: MICHSSAMT@GMAIL.COM

MSSAMT MICROBE

Lisa Rydzinski, MBA, MT, AHI, RMA

1725 20th Street

Port Huron, MI 48060

Merry

Christmas