

**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY YEAR END REPORT: 2000-2001**  
**August 1, 2001**

**ACCREDITATION: A REALITY**

This past May, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science received the official letter and certificate confirming NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) accreditation. A five year approval was awarded, the longest period of time possible for an initial accreditation. The on-site visit had been completed at the end of September, 2000. The three-member team scrutinized every aspect of the program, met with university administrators and program officials at affiliated hospitals, and toured the university facilities and the new dedicated CLS laboratory.

Having met the educational standards and inspections of the national accrediting agency, the CLS Department is poised to further develop the CLS major and clinical experiences to meet future health care demands. Students are assured of an exceptional educational experience preparing them for the practice of Clinical Laboratory Science.

**DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE**

A name change from the "Department of Medical Technology" to the "Department of Clinical Laboratory Science" has been approved. "Clinical Laboratory Science" more closely describes the major (and profession) than the ambiguous title, "Medical Technology." The state and national professional organizations adopted the "Clinical Laboratory Science" title in 1995. Most educational programs are following this example.

**DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

***TWO DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS ESTABLISHED***

The "Friends of UWSP Department of Clinical Laboratory Science Award" was presented to Dr. Kathy Belgea, M.D., who retired this past January from her position as the Medical Director of the CLS Program at Wausau Hospital and a member of the UWSP CLS Advisory Committee. She served in these positions for over 26 years, providing clinical guidance for many UWSP students. This award will be presented annually to an individual who has been actively involved in enhancing Clinical Laboratory Science education.

The "Outstanding Alumni" Award will be presented annually to a CLS graduate who has made significant contributions to the profession and the community. This year's recipient was Kristen Kleckner, a 1985 graduate of UWSP. Kristen has been very active professionally and within the community. In addition, she periodically taught courses here at UWSP. Kristen has been an outstanding representative of the program and UWSP.

***SIX-MONTH PRACTICUM***

As a part of the accreditation process, six-month clinical practicum rotations have been designed. Traditional rotations were nine or twelve months in length. Greater than 50% of the hospital laboratories in the nation had eliminated educational programs as a cost-cutting measure. These shortened rotations relieve some of the time constraints on affiliated clinical laboratories and serve as an attractive option.

In reviewing our indicators, the program has been successful, although sufficient data are not yet available. CLS faculty continue curriculum discussions involved with the program redesign.

### ***WEB-BASED COURSES***

Development of web-based courses continues. Programs are also being utilized to complement on-campus courses and to improve communication with clinical affiliates. Standardized student assessments for clinical rotations will be explored.

### ***DEPARTMENT ADVISING UPDATE***

Fifteen students will be applying for Clinical Practicum positions this fall, and twelve students will begin their Clinical Practicum rotations. Approximately 125 students were advised as Medical Technology or Nursing majors in each of the past two semesters. Many Clinical Laboratory Science and Pre-Nursing majors continue to be non-traditional, second degree, and transfer students.

## **MED TECH STAFF NEWS**

***Susan Raab*** has been developing two additional six month clinical practicum sites for students. These hospitals will be in a position to accept students this fall. Another site will be developed for Fall 2002. This will bring the number of six month sites to a total of five. (There are four remaining nine month and two twelve month clinical sites.) Susan hosted the NAACLS on-site team visitation, prepared responses, and revised the curriculum. She remains involved in teaching courses with UW La Crosse via distance education technology and with Web-based course development.

***Joyce Bulgrin*** has developed a Web-based course in Medical Terminology to be offered during the Winterim. She presented a poster at the annual Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference in St. Louis this past February and attended the state convention held in Madison this past April.

***Michelle Shulfer*** has become the faculty advisor for the student organization, Sigma Mu Tau. In February, she presented a Molecular Techniques seminar for the Chemistry Department Seminar and co-authored the CLEC poster session on clinical course adaptation for the Web. Her interest continues in the areas of molecular pathology and student recruitment.

***David Chitharanjan*** has re-designed the Molecular Pathology course (CLS 465) along with Michelle Shulfer, UW Stevens Point, and Dr. Tim Uphoff, UW La Crosse. He has returned to teaching freshman chemistry after more than thirty years of teaching organic chemistry and biochemistry.

***Tammy Goman***, CLS Office Manager, is now serving as co-advisor to the CLS student organization. This past year she could be found under reams of paper for the accreditation reports. Then the curriculum revisions and Department name change added to the "paper-load!"

## **STUDENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### ***SECOND ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY***

This year the UWSP Department of Clinical Laboratory Science held the second annual Student Presentation Day. Research projects and case studies developed by students as part of their clinical Practicum were presented to faculty, staff, students, and guests on April 6th. Students also prepared

posters that were displayed throughout the day in the Science Building. Presentations and posters covered an array of clinical topics. The Clinical Laboratory Science students exhibited poise, enthusiasm, and knowledge of their subject material. This experience will promote future professional growth, personal development, and presentations at professional meetings.

#### ***STUDENTS PRESENT AT STATE CONVENTION***

Junior, senior, and clinical students attended the Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (WISCLS) state convention held in Madison from April 11-12. The clinical students submitted and presented their posters at this event. With nearly 500 attendees over the two days, these graduates had the opportunity to share and discuss their case studies or research projects with laboratory professionals. The students learned about the advantages of professional "networking!"

#### ***NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS***

All of the 2000 CLS graduates who took the national certification exams received passing grades. UWSP CLS students compete very well on a national level.

#### ***NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS***

Phill Oettinger was notified that he is the recipient of a national scholarship through Alpha Mu Tau. Five of these scholarships are awarded to students competing from throughout the nation. Two UWSP students, Stacey Ciesielski and Kelly Beeck received American Medical Technologists Scholarships. Ten of these scholarships are awarded nationally. Again, this serves as evidence of how well UWSP students compete at the national level. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students!

#### ***DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT AWARDS***

An awards reception was held on Friday, April 6, in the Legacy Room, UWSP. Department scholarships in an amount totaling \$3145 were distributed to students who will begin their Clinical Practicum experience this Fall. Five students received the CPS Dean's Awards. Additional scholarships of nearly \$1600 were also distributed this spring from the Partners with St. Joseph's Hospital of Marshfield and the Royal Arch Foundation.

#### ***SIGMA MU TAU STUDENT ORGANIZATION***

Medical Technology, Nursing, and other health professional majors participate in this organization. Social and educational programs highlighted the year. The most popular education program proved to be a presentation on crime scene investigation. Members also participated in fund-raising activities, celebrated Medical Laboratory Week, and attended the state convention for laboratory professionals. Students donated to the Tammy Feltz Memorial Scholarship Fund and a local literacy project.