



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Allied Health Sciences

DIVISION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy during this pandemic. The role of the clinical laboratory profession has never been more “front and center” than it has been since the start of COVID-19. Did you ever think you would hear about sensitivity, specificity, throughput, turn-around-time, PCR, antigens and antibodies on the national news? What has often been missing in news reports is a discussion of the laboratory professionals who perform and interpret those laboratory tests. Our work has never been more important and it is an exciting time for students entering the profession.

COVID-19 disrupted the spring 2020 semester and continues to affect the way we are approaching the 2020-2021 academic year. When the university pivoted to remote learning in March, the CLS faculty converted all of our face to face courses to online formats including laboratory courses. Fortunately, the seniors had completed most of their clinical rotations and the clinical laboratory staff helped us create relevant learning experiences for their virtual rotations. The first year CLS students had a solid background in laboratory procedures and they could apply that knowledge to online assignments. The MDS students were already in online courses so they were not affected by this change in the spring semester, but we were not able to have them come to campus for a one-week laboratory in the summer as we had planned.

We had hoped that we would be back to normal for the fall semester but that has not happened. Just one week into the semester, the university decided that all undergraduate courses would be online. The university has allowed health affairs instruction to continue with some in-person learning and as of now, we have students in most clinical rotations and we are offering a limited number of laboratory sessions for first year CLS students. All lecture courses are being delivered online. The first year MDS students are all in online courses and the second year MDS students are in clinical rotations. Some of our clinical sites were not able to take students this fall due to the overwhelming demands of COVID-19 testing.

We are grateful for the dedication and cooperation of our students who have had their expectations for their academic year turned upside down. We also thank the clinical laboratory instructors and administrators who were able to accommodate clinical rotations this fall. The faculty and students in the Division of CLS are working hard to ensure that we maintain the excellence of the academic programs, even during a pandemic.

NEW TRACK IN THE MASTER'S DEGREE LAUNCHES



the student's progress and discussing plans for the student's capstone project. All required courses are offered online making this an ideal program for working professionals.

One of the new MLS students, Robert Goode, is a supervisor at Duke University Hospital's Central Automated Laboratory. He said the medical field requires a lifetime of learning, which spurred him to explore the master's degree program. He hopes to gain skills in molecular testing, leadership skills, and a better understanding of the nuances of clinical research studies — all in an effort to improve patient care and outcomes. "If you look at UNC's reputation, it speaks for itself. I'm honored to be part of the first class," he said.

A new option in the Master's of Clinical Laboratory Science (MCLS) degree was launched in the summer of 2020. This new track, the **MCLS – Medical Laboratory Science** track is designed for certified laboratory professionals who wish to deepen their scientific knowledge, prepare for teaching roles, or advance in administrative roles. The program includes advanced coursework in molecular diagnostics, research design, laboratory administration and educational methods.

Thirteen students started the program this summer. The typical student is a certified laboratory professional who is working full time and taking the MLS courses on a part-time basis. In many cases, the students' employers are assisting with tuition. Each student has an advisor who is tracking

Miranda Holt, a 2020 graduate of the UNC CLS program, accepted a position in the Transfusion Medicine Service in UNC McLendon Clinical Laboratories. She stated that "Doing this master's program makes me more confident that I'll be able to continue to impact patient care in different ways."

The CLS faculty is excited about this new option in the Master's degree program and the opportunities it will provide for laboratory professionals who wish to advance their knowledge and careers. Dr. Vicky LeGrys is serving as the coordinator for this program and she is available to speak with anyone who is interested in pursuing this degree (vlegrys@med.unc.edu).

More information on the degree is also available on the CLS website: go.unc.edu/mls

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BRUNCH

The Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS) hosted a brunch for scholarship recipients on November 9, 2019 at the Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill. At this event, each Division in the DAHS recognized the accomplishments of scholarship winners and thanked the generous scholarship donors.

The Division of CLS was proud to recognize 10 scholarship winners and the donors who made the scholarships possible. The scholarships and the student recipients were:

JESSIE C AND ALLENE W. ALPHIN CLS SCHOLARSHIP:
Olivia King

LANNING TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP:
Lexie Edwards

LOUISE WARD SCHOLARSHIPS:
Anna Brooks, Sydney Newhall, and Nicole Pynaker

RALEIGH PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP:
Gabrielle Frimpong

WAKEMED HEALTH AND HOSPITALS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP:
Elizabeth Gillon

UNC HOSPITALS VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP:
Morgan Fisher

UNC HOSPITALS VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION AHS DIVISIONAL FELLOWSHIP:
Morgan Fisher

MDS CORPORATE PARTNER SCHOLARSHIPS:
Jordan Ferguson and Christina Miller

Lexie Edwards, a second year CLS student, participated in a student panel and shared the impact that receiving a scholarship has made in her educational experience.



LEFT: Louise Ward Scholars Sydney Newhall and Anna Brooks. MIDDLE: Cheshire Cole with Gabrielle Frimpong and Elizabeth Gillon (Raleigh Pathology and Laboratory Associates Scholarship and Wake Med Health and Hospitals Annual Scholarship recipients). RIGHT: Lexie Edwards

PROGRAM UPDATES

The graduates of the MDS and CLS programs continue their success on certification exams. 100% of the December 2019 MDS graduates passed the MB(ASCP) exam and 100% of the May 2020 CLS graduates who have taken the MLS(ASCP) exam so far have passed. The mean scores for the UNC students were well above the national average in every sub-section of the exams. Congratulations, Graduates.

An independent research course was added as an elective course in the CLS program. Students who have completed the course have presented their research at the North Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science annual meeting and a paper submitted by one student has been accepted for publication in the journal, Clinical Laboratory Science.

To prepare CLS students for their future roles in the clinical laboratory, the CLS faculty decided to increase the molecular diagnostic testing content in the curriculum. Molecular laboratory exercises were added to a first year student laboratory course and additional clinical rotation days in the molecular microbiology laboratory were added to the seniors' schedule.

The curriculum in the Master's of Clinical Laboratory Science – Molecular Diagnostic Science track was revised so that students can graduate after completing their clinical rotation in December. The first class of students graduated from the revised curriculum in December 2019 and they were pleased to be able to enter the workforce one semester earlier than previous classes.

2019-2020 ANNUAL DONOR LIST

The UNC Chapel Hill Division of CLS proudly recognizes gifts from donors from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to the education of future laboratory professionals.

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$2,000 and up)

Phyllis Hale Hollowell and Marvin Edgar Hollowell Jr.
Kay Alphin Johnson and Marvin Earl Johnson
Margaret Gould Johnson and L. Eugene Johnson III
Judith Smith Redding and Spencer Walker Redding
Susan Lanning Taylor and Steven Douglas Taylor

LEADERS (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Jane Lysko Isbey and Edward Kenneth Isbey III
Anne Whittington McLendon
and William Woodard McLendon
Linda Gardner Phillips and Julius Caesar Phillips Jr.

SUSTAINERS (\$500 to \$999)

Susan Jean Beck
Megan Trull Benbow
Susan Grandpre Krebs and Thomas Robert Krebs
Shannon Dudley Vann and Ryan Carpenter Vann

PARTNERS (\$250 to \$499)

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Erin T. Vinesett

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Anthony L. Fore
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Mark Allan Hamby
Patricia Allison Hoffman and Eric L. Hoffman
Donna C. Hollowell and Robert P. Hollowell
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Jan Talbert Kopf and Henry Bernard Kopf
Celia Chapman McCarty and David M. McCarty
Linda M. McKinney and Christopher D. McKinney
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Crystal Redfern
Deborah Lynn Radisch and Andy Standen
Mary M. St Louis
Cheryl Hall Whelan and James Whelan

FRIENDS (\$1 to \$99)

Jane Martin Allaman and Gail Lee Allaman
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Angela Peterson
William Peterson
Rebecca Taylor Ranson and Lester A. Ranson
Carol M. Steiner
Pamela P. Stubbs
Margaret W. Watkins
Laura C. Wiser
Mary Lemmons Wiser and Jack M. Wiser
Linda L. Woodard



CONGRATULATIONS CLS CLASS OF 2020



MDS CLASS OF DECEMBER 2019 GRADUATIONS

Five MDS students graduated from the program in December 2019. Students presented the results of their applied research projects on December 9, 2019. The five students and their projects were:

Jordan Ferguson: Method Validation of DPYD Clinical Testing through Sanger Sequencing

Lauren Klingerman: Verification of the Roche MagNA Pure 24 Nucleic Acid Extraction System for Parvovirus B19 and Toxoplasma gondii Laboratory Developed Tests

Christina Miller: Validation of the QIAGEN PyroMark Q48 for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Z and S Mutation Detection

Abbie Sargent: Validation of a Real-time PCR Assay for Detection of bla(IMP) Metallo-Beta-Lactamase Genes

Jade Tran: Validation of Tecan Evoware Script for Pre-PCR setup of the Factor V Leiden Assay

MDS Graduates accepted positions in Almac Diagnostics, Q2, the NC Veterinary School and Hospital and the NC State Laboratory for Public Health.

CLS CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATIONS

The traditional commencement ceremony in Kenan Stadium and the CLS reception in Wilson Library were cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Students, faculty and families were disappointed that we did not have the opportunity to honor this great group of students. The students and faculty met in a zoom meeting at the end of the semester so that the faculty could congratulate the graduates. Students shared that they had accepted positions at UNC (Core Lab, Transfusion Medicine Services, Microbiology and Immunology), Duke (Transfusion Services, Bone Marrow Transplant Lab), WakeMed Raleigh (Microbiology), the Durham VA and the Carolina BioOncology Institute in Huntersville, NC.



In spite of the challenges of social distancing, the CLS class of 2020 pledged to contribute \$2,750 to the CLS program over the next five years. Senior Class Campaign co-chairs, Kristy Huczel and Ferriel Siapno, inspired 100% of the class to contribute to the campaign.

The Outstanding Senior Student Award was presented to Kristy Huczel. She was recognized as a student who was always more than willing to assist all departments and did so with enthusiasm. She had a positive attitude and went above and beyond in all aspects during her clinical rotations. Congratulations, Kristy.