

NPHL Updates

By Peter C. Iwen, PhD, D(ABMM), Associate Director, NPHL

What an interesting time to be involved in laboratory medicine! New ideas and processes seem to be a common occurrence as described in some of the topics presented in this Spring newsletter. Tony Sambol provides an overview on the subject of chemical terrorism preparedness, a problem that only recently became something for consideration in the laboratory. He highlights the efforts of the NPHL in providing training to medical personnel throughout the state on this issue.

Robbin Williams, a health surveillance specialist at the NE DHHS, provides an update on the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus in our state. Over the years, we have continued to strengthen our working relationship with the DHHS which became even more important during this pandemic.

Gerald Capraro presents an article to update on the new activities as pertaining to GC/CT testing at the NPHL.

He is the newest member of our team, came from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC to become a clinical microbiology fellow in our nationally accredited Committee on Postgraduate Educational Programs (CPEP) for postdoctoral training. Jerry began his 2 year training in July 2009 and has now become an integral part of the public health laboratory.

This issue extends our articles on meeting the laboratorian and CLIA updates from Dr. Sarewitz's audioconference. Joan Mares, UNMC Business & Compliance Manager provides the updates on the changes to the regulatory standards that affect all individuals working in the laboratory. This month we also highlight our latest laboratorian, Dan Griess, a medical technologist who became the CEO at Box Butte General Hospital. Highlighting individual laboratorians is one means for us to show how fortunate we are in Nebraska to have such talented and dedicated individuals in our medical practices.

The NPHL wants to emphasize the support we receive from our laboratory partners "in-the-trenches" and that without this support, we would not be able to provide the services necessary to help keep our citizens healthy. As always, we welcome your suggestions on topics for this newsletter and on how we can better serve you.