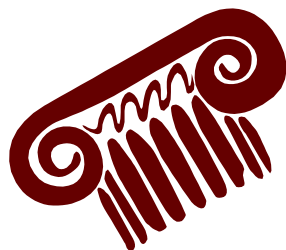


Micro Morphs

ASCLS House of Delegates Approves Bioterrorism Position Paper: : Role of Clinical Laboratories in Bioterrorism Preparedness



Inside this issue:

Call for Abstracts

Role of Clinical Labs

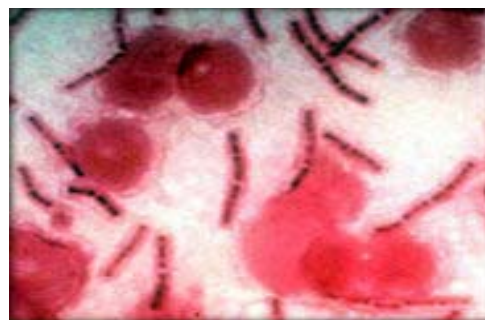
Introduction: A Historical Perspective

Biological weapons are the oldest of the nuclear, biological, and chemical triad of weapons of mass destruction. Recorded throughout history, references to the use of biologic agents scattered into embattled cities and populations to deliberately cause sickness and death can be traced back more than 2000 years. The discovery of biological warfare research programs in countries hostile to the United States have caused increased concern in the intelligence community over the past several decades. The capability to respond effectively to threats and to deal with the consequences of future attacks has become a major challenge and requires an immense national effort. Reductions in morbidity and mortality can be achieved by rapid medical response and early post attack medical intervention, all of which require organized planning, preparation, and training.

Background:

The clinical laboratory serves as a first line of surveillance of infectious disease agents and is responsible for the early detection and identification of the etiology of biologic agents. Clinical laboratories are staffed with practitioners who are skilled and perform these duties daily, whether the cause of the event is naturally occurring or terrorism. Clinical laboratories are critical players in planning strategies for early detection and prevention of further disease spread.

However, many clinical laboratories are limited in their level of preparedness. Although the first case of anthrax diagnosed in



B. anthracis. Courtesy CDC website

October 2001 was appropriately recognized locally in Florida and confirmed by the Florida State Public Health Laboratory, not all laboratories have staff specifically trained in bioterrorism (BT) agent recognition and referral. Some locations lack the appropriate facilities to safely work with BT agents, and others are simply unwilling to work with potential BT infected specimens.

A national system of laboratories, the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), has been established in response to bioterrorism preparedness planning. Clinical laboratories have access to this network, and local hospital and independent laboratories (Level A) laboratories) will be expected to perform "rule out" procedures, and refer specimens to higher level laboratories (Level B, C or D laboratories) within the LRN. All clinical laboratories are encouraged to become part of the LRN structure to ensure they receive the proper training and awareness required to differentiate between contamination and a true BT event. Currently, only a small portion of the potential Level A

ASCLS Office Moves

Our mailing address will change as of September 6 to be:

ASCLS
6701 Democracy Boulevard
Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20817-1574
301-657-2768
301-657-2909 (FAX)

Note that the phone numbers are NOT changing. Update your address books accordingly, please, and get the word out far and wide!!

Bioterrorism cont'd from page 2

ASCLS encourages the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) to ask clinical laboratory science education programs to include chemical, biological, nuclear, radioactive, and explosive exposures training in their curriculum. This training would allow the clinical laboratory workforce to have the appropriate knowledge base in the event of chemical or biological exposures.

In addition, financial incentives need to be provided to colleges and universities and clinical laboratory science education programs to encourage them to educate new clinical laboratory scientists to address the severe shortage of competent, prepared, and available professionals capable of recognizing a possible BT event

ASCLS supports ongoing training of clinical laboratory practitioners in the management of biological warfare agents and bioterrorist threats.

Continued training and development of technical skills of clinical laboratory practitioners in bioterrorism preparedness are crucial to ensure that practitioners possess the latest information on BT agents. In addition, competency and proficiency must be assessed

and maintained. Training and education of the health care community, and specifically the laboratory community, requires a collaborative effort involving many major professional organizations. ASCLS supports the use of innovative delivery modules that may include but are not limited to:

- An interactive website to provide rapid dissemination of information
- Video streaming
- Distance learning or electronic series of technical materials
- Newsletters and other publications

Roundtables, workshops and scientific sessions during local, state, regional and national meetings.

ASCLS supports and encourages partnerships among government research institutions, private industry and civilian clinical laboratories in research and development efforts.

The need to develop new tools for medical management and intervention of biologic threats is imperative. ASCLS supports increased research and development of improved and more rapid diagnostic and identification methods for biologic agents, new and better drugs for treatment or prophylaxis, and safer vaccines.

ASCLS encourages the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) to ask clinical laboratory science education programs to include chemical, biological, nuclear, radioactive, and explosive exposures training in their curriculum.

Call for Abstracts

POSTERS AND TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS

2003 CLINICAL LABORATORY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2003

New Orleans, Louisiana

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Education Scientific Assembly

Abstracts must be postmarked by **OCTOBER 1, 2002**

Abstract submission form (page 4) must accompany all submitted abstracts.

2003 ASCLS Annual Meeting

July 22-26, 2003

Philadelphia, PA

Abstracts must be submitted according to instructions provided in the ASCLS website and must be postmarked by January 15.



2003 CLINICAL LABORATORY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

This form must accompany all submitted abstracts.
Abstracts must be postmarked by OCTOBER 1, 2002

Abstract Title:

Presenting Author:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone:
() _____

Fax Number: () _____ ASCLS
Member
Number: _____

E-mail Address:

Format Requested: [] Poster
[] Technology Demonstration

Signature of Presenting Author:

Mail this form, original abstract, and disk by **OCTOBER 1, 2002** to: **ASCLS**
6701 Democracy Boulevard Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20817-1574

2003 CLINICAL LABORATORY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL

1. Abstracts must be submitted according to the instructions provided and be received no later than OCTOBER 1, 2002. Failure to follow format instructions will result in rejection of the abstract.
2. A nonmember may submit an abstract for presentation if an ASCLS member coauthors the abstract. All presenting authors must register for the meeting.
3. The technology demonstrations are for authors only, not retailers. Those individuals who wish to exhibit their programs for market purposes must buy an exhibit booth from CLEC.

PREPARATION OF COPY

All abstracts must be typed double-spaced on plain, white 8 ½ x 11- inch paper with one-inch margins. Recommended typeface is Times New Roman,

12- point type. Abstract text format is flush left. Text length (not including title and author information) must be 200 to 250 words, not to exceed 250 words. A single space return should be used to separate title, author information, and abstract.

1. Title: Use a concise title that reflects the abstract content. Capitalize the first letter of the first word and all other words except prepositions, conjunctions, and articles. Underline scientific genus and species names of organisms. Acronyms, abbreviations, and initialisms cannot be used in a title.

2. Author/Institution: Type authors' names, first name first. Asterisk (*) the name of the presenting author. Academic degrees are limited to the highest degree earned. Authors should use the NCA credential (when applicable). On the next line type the institutional affiliation of the authors. Do not include any other information (i.e. department, division, etc.). On the next line, list the city and the state of the institution.

3. Abstract: Begin typing the abstract on a new line and flush with the left margin. The abstract should be a one paragraph concise summary of the:

1) problem, 2) method/design/intervention used, 3) results/outcomes measurements, and 4) conclusions/applications/implications.

4. P.A.C.E. Credit Questions: In order to be granted continuing education contact hours, participants attending the poster and technology demonstration sessions must submit answers to questions related to the problem, methods, and outcomes presented in the respective poster/demo sessions. For this purpose, three multiple-choice questions must be submitted along with the abstract. These questions are in addition to the 250 maximum word limit for the abstract.

5. Disk: Submit one copy of the abstract and three multiple-choice questions on computer disk (MS Word or WordPerfect). The disk label must clearly indicate author, phone number, abstract title, current date and year, type of computer used and name/version of the word processing program.

APPLICATION FORM

The application form must be fully completed and submitted along with the original abstract and three multiple-choice questions (one hard copy and one copy saved on disk). Mail all materials by **October 1, 2002** to: ASCLS CLEC 2003, **ASCLS 6701 Democracy Boulevard Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20817-1574**

ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

Appointed representatives of the ASCLS Education Scientific Assembly will review abstracts. Submitters will be notified by mail for acceptance/rejection of the abstract in December 2002. Date and time of presentation will be included in the acceptance letter. NOTE: Abstracts not postmarked by the deadline will be rejected without review or author notification.

MODE OF PRESENTATION

The program committee will schedule both poster sessions and technology demonstration sessions. For poster sessions, each author is provided an approximately 4-foot-high x 8-foot-wide bulletin board on which to display a summary of the paper. For technology demonstrations, a table with electrical service will be provided for set-up. Authors are responsible for providing their own equipment and making any special arrangements for hook-up. Authors remain at their poster/demonstration site for the duration of the time specified to present and answer questions from attendees.