September Career Highlight: Clinical Lab Science

Most everyone has been to the doctor’s office for a routine physical exam or an illness. Often, physicians will request that “lab work” be done to further gauge your health or confirm a diagnosis. Did you know that the sample of blood, fluid, or tissue that you provide is then analyzed by Clinical Laboratory Scientists?

Clinical Laboratory Scientists, also called Medical Technologists, perform a range of laboratory tests from simple blood tests to diagnosing cancer. They play a critical role in the detection and treatment of diseases. Traditionally a hands-on field, technology is rapidly changing this profession to an analytical one.

Clinical Laboratory Scientists work in a variety of settings, often specializing to perform more complex analyses, like genetic testing and bacteria identification. This growing field is often viewed as a background for forensic science; popularized in movies, books, and television series such as CSI (Crime Scene Investigators).

Most professional Medical Technologists have a bachelor’s degree. High demand for Medical Technologists has increased the number of opportunities and starting salary for graduates.

The U of M offers a program to receive training as a Medical Technologist. The Bachelor of Science program, offered by the Division of Medical Technology and housed in the new Center for Allied Health, allows undergraduate students with no prior training to enter into this diverse field. Students are admitted to the preprofessional or professional program and prerequisite courses are required. To learn more about the University’s program, look here: http://medtech.umn.edu/.

For more information about this vital field, visit the Health Careers Center website at www.healthcareers.umn.edu.
 HCI Overview
The Health Careers Investigators (HCI) summer program was a huge success!

Seventy-five area high school students came to campus to participate in hands-on experiences and learn what it is like to be a nurse, surgeon, dentist, veterinarian, mortician, and public health worker.

Students also met with current students and health professionals in the programs, to learn about their day-to-day lives and what they love about their jobs.

Threaded throughout the program were some of society’s hottest health issues, such as pandemic flu outbreaks, methamphetamine use, and the fight against obesity.

Dates for the 2007 program have yet to be set, but plans are underway to replicate this already popular event. Stay tuned!

Volunteering Opportunities

Many health programs require their applicants to have volunteering experience. Check out our online Guide to Volunteering Requirements at www.healthcareers.umn.edu/hcc/hccfaqs/volunteer/guide/.

GoldPASS

University students and alumni can view postings for volunteering and internships on the University’s GoldPASS system: http://goldpass.umn.edu. Setting up an account is easy and free!

Experience Builders Workshop

Learn more about great experiences in hospitals, clinics, community organizations, research labs, and abroad at this workshop on October 10. See the “Upcoming Events” section for details.

Deadline Reminder

Start thinking about upcoming application deadlines for the program(s) you are interested in applying to. Contact those schools now, even if you think you won’t be applying until next year.

Begin The Application Process Early

Learn the criteria and begin working on the application process now. Obtaining volunteer/work experiences, taking prerequisites, writing your resume, contacting references, and studying for the MCAT (or GRE or other entrance exam for a graduate-level program) if required, can all be done in advance of completing the actual application.

Upcoming Events

Register for an event by visiting www.hccevents.umn.edu. Workshop and information session room locations are provided after registration.

Medical Technology Information Session
Mon, Sept 18, at 1:30 p.m.

A Physician’s Life
Tues, Sept 19, at 2:30 p.m.

Scientific and Technical Writing Information Session
Wed, Sept 20, at 1:00 p.m.

MD/PhD Information Session
Thurs, Sept 21, at 12:00 p.m.

Preparing for Medical School
Tues, Sept 26, at 2:30 p.m.

Pharmacy Information Session
Tues, Sept 26, at 1:00 p.m.

Health Careers Fair:
Exploring Your Future
Thurs, Sept 28, at 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Coffman Union’s Great Hall

Writing a Personal Statement for Health Professional School
Fri, Sept 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Interviewing for a Health Professional School
Wed, Oct 4, at 9:00 a.m.

Experience Builders: Exploring Volunteer, Research, & Other Health Care Options
Tues, Oct 10, at 2:30 p.m.

September is:

5-a-Day Month
www.5aday.gov/

Adult Immunization Week
www.nfkd.org/

Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month
www.recoverymonth.gov/

Baby Safety Awareness Month
www.jpma.org/

Childhood Injury Prevention Week (9/1-7)
www.asafeaspossible.org/ncipw.html

Cholesterol Education Month
www.nhlbi.nih.gov/

Food Safety Education Month
www.sraef.org/

Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
www.thegcf.org/

Healthy Aging Month
www.healthyaging.net/

Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month
www.lls.org/hm_lls

Menopause Awareness Month
www.fda.gov/womens/menopause/

Osteopathic Medicine Month
www.osteopathic.org/

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
64.132.170.241/newnocc/updateie.asp

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
www.fightprostatecancer.org/

Sickle Cell Month
sicklecelldisease.org/

Suicide Prevention Week (9/10-16)
www.suicidology.org/

www.healthcareers.umn.edu

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