The Hidden Profession That Saves Lives

By: Michelle Nelson



History of Clinical Medicine

- *Humans first diagnoses was based on what ancient physicians could observe with their own eyes and ears.*

- *Eventually the ancient Greeks came about the idea of the value of examining body fluids to predict some types of diseases.*

- *Louis Pasteur discovered the concepts of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria around the year 1861.*

- *In the 19th century there were many improvements in the microscopes which allowed further exploration of the cellular and microbial. The scientist also were making great progress in bacteriology, microbiology, and histology.*

- *Public Hygiene became more of an argument to maintain in the 1960s to '70s.*

When lab work began making a difference

- *By the 1850's, diagnosing patients with the help of a stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, and laryngoscope began to expand the physician's sensory powers in clinical examination.*



How they can save a life

- *This career is one of the most most under-recognized health professions with excellent job prospects.*
- *Medical laboratory science involves diagnostic laboratory testing from A to Z. These professionals do everything from providing your cancer testing results, to predicting the correct antibiotic to prescribe, to typing the correct blood for surgery. MLS professionals provide answers to life-and-death decisions every day.*

Lab participation within a hospital

- *One of the first things that a Physician will look into is the type what the blood cells look like. One of the first test there run in the CBC collection which tests for your white and red blood cells.*



What type of schooling do you need in becoming a CLS

- *An entry-level job for technologists usually requires a bachelor's degree in medical technology or life sciences.*

- *There are prerequisites required to get into a program for medical laboratory technology. Once that is completed you can apply to a 2 to 3 year program to receive your bachelors in clinical laboratory science.*

- *Some courses my be offered through a university or hospital-based program that students attend during their senior year of college. College graduates who major in other sciences that meet the prerequisites required can also apply to a medical laboratory science program.*

Interviewing a CLS

- *Brad DePew, was always interested in how the brain functions. 30 years ago brad wanted to look into what kind of career he would be be able to go into. He new he wanted to do something that figures out how the body works. He was suggested to try Medical and Clinical laboratory technician. He decided to go to Michigan state for 4 years with a one term internship. He said it was a really tough program even without any kind of social life. When he finally finished he came to California because there were a lot more job opportunities. He got a internship and met his wife. He really enjoyed what route he decided to take with his life because he knew that he would be saving lives. later on in his career he became the charge in the chemistry and says that no matter how much time goes on there is always things to learn in the lab.*

Where jobs can be found

- *In hospitals, clinics or commercial laboratories.*
- *Clinical laboratory supervisors, managers, administrators, and directors.*
- *Technical representatives, sales representatives or research and development specialists in the laboratory industries.*
- *The infection control officers in any hospital or clinic.*
- *Teachers for employee training programs or any type of formal academic programs.*
- *The scientist in governmental laboratories.*
- *Veterinary laboratories you could be the clinical laboratory technician.*

A day in the life of a CLS



- *Many of the things you will do is analyze body fluids, such as blood, urine and tissue samples, and have a recored of any normal or abnormal findings. You will study blood samples for use in transfusions and will identify the number of cells. There will be a lot of laboratory equipment that you will have to work with, such as microscopes and cell counters. Discussing results with physicians or your partners in the lab with what you find.*

What the future holds for clinical medicine

- *Clinical science in the UK has been presented with a range of opportunities in recent years. This review summarizes the participation of clinical scientists to changing the face of laboratory medicine. Recently the UK Government has created initiatives to modernize the scientific services and helped develop the people who work in it. Recent changes for those who do professional practice and the need for maintenance of professionals were also discussed.*

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