



Newsline

California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology
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When: October 9 & 10, 2026

Program and Registration Details Published on CAMLT Website

Unable to attend the convention in person or virtually this year? We will miss you, but rest assured you can still earn CEUs with CAMLT's distance learning courses online at www.camlt.org. If you would like to volunteer at the Convention (discounts are available) leave a message on our website contact <https://www.camlt.org/contact>

Message From the President



It is with great excitement and pride that I welcome you to the 87th Annual Meeting of the California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology (CAMLT).

This year, we are thrilled to return to California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), a place that represents education, opportunity, and the continued growth of our profession. As laboratory professionals, we know that our greatest strength comes from the knowledge, experience, and passion we bring together.

For 87 years, CAMLT has stood as a voice for medical laboratory professionals throughout California. Our history is built on professionalism, advocacy, education, and a commitment to advancing the laboratory profession. This year, we celebrate not only where we have been, but also where we are going.

“Empowering Lab Professionals: Education, Innovation, and Advocacy” is more than a theme, it is a call to action. As our profession continues to evolve, we must come together to share ideas, embrace innovation, advocate for our profession, and inspire the next generation of laboratory professionals.

I hope this Annual Meeting brings together all minds, all perspectives, and all areas of our profession: from students and new professionals to experienced laboratorians, educators, leaders, and advocates. Together, we can learn from one another, celebrate our accomplishments, and strengthen the future of laboratory medicine in California.

Thank you for being part of CAMLT and for your continued dedication to the patients and communities we serve. Your commitment is what keeps our profession moving forward.

Welcome back to CSUDH. Welcome to our 87th year. And welcome to another year of advancing our profession, together.

With gratitude and pride,

Marc Bernaldez, CLS, President
California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology (CAMLT)

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Marc Bernaldez, President

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to CAMLT/ *Newsline*, 500 Delaware Rd., Burbank, CA 91504.

Scientific articles submitted for publication in the CAMLT/ *Newsline* should be approximately 1,000 words in length or about three pages, double spaced, typed materials. Please include references when appropriate. Since the articles are relatively short, the editors do not feel that an abstract is necessary. However, all articles should be accompanied by a picture of the author.

Articles describing procedures should include materials and methods as well as results. All graphs and charts should be reducible. Abbreviations (except for those in common scientific usage) should be defined and introduced parenthetically when first used in the text.

Advertising correspondence should be addressed to CAMLT/ *Newsline*, 500 Delaware Rd., Burbank, CA 91504, (510) 961-3602, e-mail: office@camlt.org.

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CAMLT 87th ANNUAL MEETING

2026 CAMLT CONVENTION EVENTS

CAMPUS PARKING - The CSUDH campus is located at 1000 E Victoria St. Carson, CA 90747. Park at **Lot 2**. Parking is \$10 per day and available at the self service kiosks. Plan to arrive early for availability and traffic. We will provide a map where to park on campus. Please be aware that CSUDH is cashless. Only credit cards will be accepted on campus.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS – **Friday, 10/9 and Saturday, 10/10** at the CSUDH campus. A wide variety of topics will be offered this year.

REGISTRATION (for Meetings) - Early bird discount - (10% savings) ends for Website on September 8th. Attendees (members) that register on the CAMLT Website will receive a membership discount at checkout by using code - 26EARLYBIRD. If you register by Mail-in or Walk-in, you will not receive discounting. The online registration deadline is October 2nd. [Onsite registration available on Oct 9 & 10.](#)

This year, there are several different package or individual item options to choose from. If you cannot attend in-person, you can attend virtually (educational sessions only). You have the option of selecting one of our in-person or virtual packages. In-person packages include food, CEUs, social events & transportation. Alternatively, you might prefer an educational only or social only option. For further details, click the CAMLT website link [Home | CAMLT](#)

- **EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS ONLY** - See session purchase information on CAMLT Website for details. Available In-person and virtually.
- **SOCIAL EVENTS ONLY** - See session purchase information on CAMLT Website for details. Available In-person.
- **EDUCATIONAL / SOCIAL PACKAGES** - Available In-person click [IN PERSON - 87th Anniversary CAMLT Annual Meeting & Symposium | CAMLT](#) select package desired.
 - FRIDAY & SATURDAY COMBO - REGISTRATION, 12 CE & SOCIAL EVENTS
 - FRIDAY - REGISTRATION, 6 CE, LABPAC & LUNCH, FUN-NITE
 - SATURDAY - REGISTRATION, 6 CE, LUNCH, DINNER
- **EDUCATIONAL** - Available Virtual Attendance
 - FRIDAY - REGISTRATION, 6 CE - Click [VIRTUAL ONLY - Friday - 87th CAMLT Annual Meeting & Symposium \(1\) | CAMLT](#)
 - SATURDAY - REGISTRATION, 6 CE- Click [VIRTUAL ONLY - Saturday - 87th CAMLT Annual Meeting & Symposium | CAMLT](#)

EXHIBITS AND RECRUITERS at CSUDH on **Friday & Saturday 10/9 & 10/10** from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE at CSUDH on **Friday, 10/9**. Come hear about CAMLT's Government Affairs Committee. **Listen to our legislative advocate. FREE 1.0 CEU will be awarded for in-person participants.** This is always a very special event.

STUDENT FORUM at CSUDH, **Friday 10/9** Student Members in laboratory affiliated programs all over California have been invited to present a slide presentation featuring their research projects. A keynote speaker will give a short talk. CLS, MLT, CPT as well as undergrads with an interest in laboratory science, in addition to annual meeting attendees are invited to attend. Registered Student Members have a chance to win 20 - \$100 Stipends from CAMLT's Education & Research Foundation. Presentation winners will receive \$250, \$150 & \$100 CAMLT E&R money awards. This program is free and there is no CEU.

FUN-NITE - Friday, 10/9 Join us for a fun-filled night at SoCal Vibes located at 17812 S Main St. in Carson (<https://www.socalvibesco.com/>). Come and network with fellow laboratory colleagues over small bites and mild libations. (\$40 each, students \$20).

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION - **Saturday, 10/10** to be determined.

Register on-line at www.camlt.org using your member's login or through the general event registration Website portal. If you prefer not to pay on-line download the registration form, write a check and mail to CAMLT, 500 E. Delaware Rd., Burbank, CA. 91504

Speaker Schedule
CAMLT 85th Annual Meeting
Oct 9 & 10, 2026

Friday, Oct 9:

07:15 - 07:55 - Sign in / Registration / Welcome

08:00 - 09:30 Leadership for the Laboratory Professional

- Betty Demus, BA, MA, CLS (CA) - Adventist Health

9:30 – 10:00 - Break

10:00 - 11:30 Maintaining Compliance in a California Approved and Nationally Accredited CLS Training Program

- Sarah Turkel, Dina Amirian, Phillip Lansang

11:30 - 13:00 - Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:30 In quest for generating anti-tumor engineered bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs)

- Jahan Abdi

14:30 – 15:00 - Break

15:00 – 16:30 – Silent Exposures: The Clinical Laboratory's Role in Tracking Environmental & Toxicant Risks

- Hadassa Alexander

Saturday, Oct 10:

07:15 - 07:55 - Sign in / Registration / Welcome

08:00 - 09:30 Reducing Stress During a Mass Trauma Protocol

- Wylen Won

9:30 – 10:00 - Break

10:00 - 11:30 AI implementation in CLS education, training and QA

- Qichao Ji

11:30 - 13:00 - Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:30 Assessing ROTEM-guided transfusion algorithm adherence to reducing total blood transfusions and costs in major bleeding.

- Justin Hanenberg DCLS, MLS(ASCP)

14:30 – 15:00 - Break

15:00 – 16:30 Pros, Cons, and Drawbacks: The Complicated Nurse-Lab Relationship and How to Improve Communication and Process for POC Compliance (Part A) ; Tubes and Troubles: Navigating the World of Catheter-related Infections (Part B)

- Eliana Ochoa-Bolton & Danielle Ventenilla

CAMLT Welcomes New Co-Chairs to the Governmental Affairs Committee!

Welcome to our new Governmental Affairs Committee Co-Chairs, Laura Laasko and Josie Schrage!

We are very excited to have these two very motivated and talented leaders join us in this capacity. The role of the CAMLT Governmental Affairs Committee is to keep the Executive Board and membership informed about upcoming legislation that affects our profession, and to communicate with our Sacramento advocate in devising strategies to advance, protect and promote our profession.

Their work is crucial to our survival as a profession.

See the CAMLT website for past legislation that CAMLT helped to either defeat or advance.

The majority of CAMLT's budget goes to fund our lobbyists at Public Policy Advocates (PPA) who help to make our legislative goals reality. Please consider a donation to help fund this important work. See our website or send in a check today! Make your check out to CAMLT and earmark it for PPA.



Pictured L to R: Josie, Valerie, Marilyn, Ann, Laura, Luke. Who are they and what are they doing in Sacramento?? Read the next page to find out all that CAMLT is doing about AB 144 and license fee increases.

CAMLT Pushing Back on Drastic License Fee Increases 2026

Goal: Triennial renewal

Are you aware that your license fee with LFS has risen dramatically? This staggering increase is 335% for CLSs and MLTs, 300% for Lab Assistants and Phlebotomists. Other categories of personnel are affected too (Lab Directors, Genetic Counselors, etc.) Physical laboratories themselves have also endured a 40% to 60% increase in their fee. However, the brunt of the increases has been on personnel. Not only that, the renewal period has now been changed to annual. This adds up to a very big increase and it has hit the laboratory profession in California like a tsunami.

This came about because Governor Newsom asked LFS to become self-funded. LFS was given free rein to raise license fees as much as they wanted with no limits. After that law (AB 144) was passed by the Legislature with no opportunity for feedback or weigh-in by the public and stakeholders, LFS came back with a request to fund the acquisition of 29 new inspectors for a price tag of 4.7 million dollars per year for three years! That is more than 14 million dollars! This bold move was also approved by the Legislature and attempts to clarify exactly what the inspectors are going to inspect is unclear at this time as our labs are inspected by Joint Commission, COLA and CAP. Lots of questions - not many answers yet.

There is an amazing effort going on right now, involving 22 organizations that includes many professional organizations, hospital systems and blood banks, spearheaded by ASCP Nor Cal. A group of six visited the Senate Budget Hearings on Health, back in May, led by Ann Chicocki.

This alliance is confronting the fee increases head-on because we are really concerned that the steep increase in license fees will trigger a rash of non-renewals - especially among travelers (upon whom we already rely heavily), part-timers and older workers close to retirement. There is already evidence of non-renewals in rural areas - and that is not good. The goal is to change our renewal from annual to triennial. This would balance out the impact and spread the increase over three years instead of one.

CAMLT has partnered with the ASCP Alliance and is directing our lobbyist, Audra Hartman, with PPA, based in Sacramento, to be involved in the effort to modify AB144. Recently, contact with the Governor's Office was initiated. They asked us for language that would change the law AB144 to reflect a triennial renewal period. That effort is ongoing.

15 Senators and/or Assemblypersons have been contacted and through numerous Zoom meetings, the goals of the ASCP Alliance have been shared. We are looking for a superhero of a Senator or Assemblyperson to help us by either carrying a bill to modify AB144 or to help look into the feasibility of an audit of LFS. Do you know any representatives personally?

Please reach out to your own representatives and share your concerns. These are the Senators or Assemblypersons that are aware of the issue: Limon, Addis, Hart, Chen, Laird, Menjivar, Weber Pierson, Bonta, Caballero, Padilla, Dahl, Schultz, Hoover, Niello, Stern and Richard Figueroa of the Governor's office. If you reach out, you can cite our initial contact.

A big shoutout goes out to Marilyn the Scientist - Instagram creator who is helping so much with visibility and spreading the word! Check out Marilyn on Instagram - she helps people prepare for the ASCP exam.

The ASCP Alliance leadership will meet with LFS/CDPH leadership on August 26th at 3:30 pm online. This meeting is meant to give LFS/CDPH a chance to explain how this massive fee increase happened, with no transparency or a chance for people to weigh in on the decision. Also, for the ASCP Alliance to ask for triennial renewal.

The ASCP Alliance Core Leadership includes Ann Chicocki/ASCP, Dr. Justin Hanenberg/ASCLS, Laura Laasko/ASCP/CAMLT, Dr Luke Valencia/Folsom Lake College, Marilyn Virgo/CLS, Media Personality, Josie Schrage, CAMLT, and Valerie Trenev, CAMLT. Also serving as advisors are Elma Kamari Bidkorpeh/PAMET CA/USA, Matt Schulze - ASCP National, lobbyist. Contributors: Kyneshia Aslanian, CLS CAMLT, Matt Broad - With Union Labor in Sacramento and dozens of other professionals across California and nationally!

In other news: **CLTAC** will resume with the first meeting in almost two years, on August 27th. This meeting will not have the fee increases on the agenda, despite repeated requests to do so. Thank you for your interest. Please become a member and support our efforts to protect, promote and advance laboratory professionals.



The Fresno and Tulare/Kings Chapters gathered to acknowledge 17 Hospital / Medical Center Laboratory Professionals of the Year. Every year for decades Fresno Chapter has reached out to our regional laboratories to participate in this event.

Mark Briones welcomed 38 people to this event. A family style dinner was in the back room of DiCicco's Italian Restaurant with great food and conversation. Sharon Weber made 3 gift baskets that were raffled off for the FUN of it!



Continued on page 7

14 of 17 Laboratory Professionals of the Year attended dinner. All honorees were introduced, given a framed certificate, a 50% membership discount coupon and a short speech mentioning their co-worker's kudos. CAMLT is honored to be able to recognize these Laboratory All-Stars!



Here are Fresno / Tulare-Kings Chapters' 2026 honorees:

- Yesenia Alvarez - Adventist Health – Hanford
- Pam Landin - Adventist Health – Reedley
- Genice Mora - Adventist Health – Selma
- Mollie Ortiz - Adventist Health – Tulare
- Tracy Vang - Central California Blood Center
- Yee Thao - Clovis Community Medical Center
- Kurt Tagimacruz - Community Regional Medical Center
- Anita Mejia - Dignity Health - Mercy Medical Center
- Liliana Ramos - Fresno Heart and Surgical Hospital
- Linda Felix - Kaiser Permanente Medical Center – Fresno
- Justin Lovell - Kaweah Health Medical Center
- Pamela Eusebio - Memorial Hospital - Los Banos
- Kyneshia Aslanian -Sierra Pacific Orthopedics
- Alyssa Kamberg - Sierra View Medical Center
- Amanda Gonzalez - Saint Agnes Medical Center
- Hope Hoffman - Valley Children's Healthcare
- Matthew Todd - VA Central California Healthcare

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2027 STATE OFFICES AND COMMITTEES

Nominations are now being accepted for CAMLT State Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Don't delay - the Nominations Committee needs time to determine eligibility and to contact the prospective candidate. Any Professional Member, Retired Member, or Lifetime Member is eligible to run for office provided they have been a Delegate for at least one previous House of Delegates and has been a member for at least one year prior to nomination. If you are interested in serving in a State office as a member of the Board of Directors, or in a State Committee Chairperson position, or know of someone who is a good candidate, submit the nomination to the CAMLT office at: office@camlt.org.

The following positions are open: President-Elect (one-year term)

Secretary (one-year term)

District II Consultant (two-year term)

District IV Consultant (two-year term)

Nominations Committee (one-year term) – Five positions (Districts I through V)

VOLUNTEER - IT WILL FEED YOUR SOUL.

NOMINATIONS FOR CLS OF THE YEAR AWARD WANTED!

Now is the time to submit nominations for the prestigious **Clinical Laboratory Professional of the Year Award**. Contact the CAMLT Office, office@camlt.org, for details on qualifications and deadlines for submission.

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Marc Bernaldez	President
Valerie Trenev	Immediate Past-President
Ilene Dickman	Treasurer
Joyce Ma	Secretary
Abbie Beran	District I Consultant
Carol Wong	District II Consultant
Mark Briones	District III Consultant
Cheryl Jackson-Harris	District IV Consultant
Debbie Revier	District V Consultant

2026 Convention Committee

Marc Bernaldez (Chair)
Mark Briones
Ilene Dickman
Cheryl Jackson-Harris
Joyce Ma
Payman Nasr
Valerie Trenev
Alan Wolfe

WANT MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT:
E-MAIL QUESTIONS TO: OFFICE@CAMLT.ORG
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