



Newsline

California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology
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Celebrate Lab Week 2025!

By Carol Wong



PHOTO BY C. WONG

Medical Laboratory Professional Week (MLPW) is taking place now, April 20-26, 2025. In a salute to the retro Scooby-Doo cartoon, this year's ASCP theme is Mystery Machine of Diagnostics: Another Case Solved by the Lab. Medical laboratory professionals uncover the truth with the help of laboratory diagnostic instruments, problem solving skills, and teamwork. CAMLT thanks all the dedicated California laboratory professionals who, despite challenging circumstances, continue to maintain the highest professional standards. CAMLT celebrates the diversity of our CAMLT membership. In the original TV show, Fred (Leader), Velma (Analytical), Daphne (Enthusiastic), and Shaggy (Easy-going) all contributed in different ways towards solving the mystery.

Wishing everyone a Happy Lab Week!

National Medical Laboratory Week 2025

Lab Week is April 20 - 26, this year and the theme is the Magical Mystery of Diagnostics. Medical Labs across the state are preparing to celebrate with lunches, games, guest speakers and other activities.

Lab Week is a chance to honor those who work in our profession. Pathologists, Clinical Laboratory Scientists, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Lab Assistants and Phlebotomists all deserve a big thank you for their dedication and service. 70% of medical decisions are based upon lab results. We are truly an important part of the healthcare delivery system.

On the Central Coast we have a gathering featuring the director of the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department Laboratory. Dr. Glen Miller will talk about bird flu, measles and other issues affecting public health laboratories.

On April 29th, immediate Past-President, Valerie Trenev will go before the SLO County Board of Supervisors to receive our SLO County Resolution. This was facilitated by SLO County Supervisor, District 3, Dawn Ortiz Legg. Although this technically occurs after Lab Week, it is still meaningful. The County Board of Supervisors meeting is televised as well.

Another proclamation/resolution is in the works at the state level with the help of Dawn Addis, (R) 30th District! (A copy of the request is on page 8.) We don't know for sure yet, if it is approved but we remain hopeful. It is suggested that anyone who wants to submit a proclamation request should do it very early as the "consent agendas" fill up fast! Other groups vie for recognition as well. Contacting your local representatives is best. Please do reach out to your representatives. They enjoy hearing from us.

Fresno Chapter will also celebrate in a big way - as one of our most active chapters, they have a proclamation in place and will celebrate this important week.

Message From the President



Advocacy in Bloom: Stand with CAMLT This Season

Dear CAMLT Members and Laboratory Colleagues,

As spring renews our world with energy and growth, it's also a pivotal time for **renewing our commitment to the future of medical laboratory science**. Right now, two bills in Sacramento could shape our profession for years to come—and your voice is needed to ensure they reflect the high standards we uphold.

1. AB 304 (Chen) – SUPPORT!

CAMLT-Sponsored Grant Program for Lab Training

This bill would fund critical training programs for clinical lab personnel, addressing workforce shortages and strengthening our field. **Just as spring nurtures new life, AB 304 invests in the next generation of lab professionals.**

✓Action: Contact lawmakers to champion this bill.

2. AB 481 (Rubio) – OPPOSE!

Risks Patient Safety & Undermines Licensing

This proposal would allow unlicensed personnel to perform complex testing under loose standards, jeopardizing quality care. **Patient safety must never wilt under convenience.**

🔴Action: Urge your Assemblymember to reject AB 481.

Why Your Membership Matters

CAMLT's advocacy depends on **your support** to thrive—like sunlight and rain for a garden. Together, we've grown stronger: securing licensure protections, advancing education, and now fighting for AB 304. But without engaged members, harmful bills like AB 481 could take root.

This Spring, Let's Grow Our Impact:

- ◇ **Join/Renew your membership** to fuel our advocacy.
- ◇ **Respond to CAMLT alerts**—your voice changes laws.
- ◇ **Share this message** with colleagues who care about our profession.

With gratitude for all you do,

Marc Bernaldez, CLS
President, CAMLT

P.S. Happy Laboratory Professionals Week!

CAMLT Legislative Update

<https://www.camlt.org/legislativeupdate>

AB 304 (Chen) - Training Programs: clinical laboratories and personnel: grants **CAMLT position: SPONSOR**

Introduced: January 23, 2025

Status: Appropriations Committee

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), in coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), to establish a grant program for clinical training programs to train new clinical laboratory scientists (CLSs) or medical laboratory technicians (MLTs). This bill is contingent on an appropriation by the Legislature.

Prior Legislation. AB 2702 (Chen), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, was similar to this bill, except it would have required CDPH, rather than HCAI, to establish the grant program. AB 2702 was held in this committee.

For bill text, go to <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB304/id/3076813>

AB 481 (Rubio) – Healing arts: clinical laboratories: personnel **CAMLT position: OPPOSE**

Introduced: February 10, 2025

Amended: April 2, 2025

Status: April 3, 2025 – Re-referred to Appropriations Committee

AB 481 eliminates the personnel requirement of CLS or MLT licensure to perform clinical laboratory tests in California as long as the **unlicensed** person meets the requirements under CLIA for moderate or high complexity testing and is supervised by a licensed person. Thus, expanding those activities that an unlicensed person may perform. Expanding the tasks an unlicensed person may perform could jeopardize the health and safety of patients in California.

For latest bill text (amended), go to <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB481/2025>

CAMLT/NEWSLINE

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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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Report on Meeting with Assemblymember Mia Bonta

One of CAMLT's missions is to be aware of CA legislative issues affecting laboratory personnel and report them to our members and interested parties. To accomplish this CAMLT has a legislative advocate, Public Policy Advocates (PPA). Our advocates report on bills affecting the laboratory, help legislators introduce bills (Currently AB 304 (Chen) grants for clinical laboratories and personnel for training), and meeting with legislators that decide the merit of such legislation.

One such legislator Mia Bonta, Chairperson of the Heath Committee, held a meet and greet fund raising event in Sacramento on March 11th. I attended along with Audra Hartmann of PPA. I went to the event to introduce myself as a representative for CAMLT and offer the organization as a resource for laboratory issues. Also, there were several others who are concerned with laboratory issues, especially the lack of personnel, at the event. A rather hot topic.

The March 11th event was especially timely with CAMLT's Bill AB 304 (Chen) going to her committee soon after.

Funding for PPA comes out of the general fund. Lab PAC cannot be used for hiring of an advocate. This is the major portion of the budget. (General fund donations are always welcome!) Money well spent I think, IF we can help a member of the assembly, such as Mr. Chen introduce bill such as AB 304.

There is another bill this year, AB 481. This bill has been reviewed by the Legislative Committee of CAMLT and is listed as Opposed. I think it will be a BIG fight. As I personally read it, personnel standards would revert to CLIA. No CA License. Tech making an Arizona rate of \$10.00/hr. (from a reliable source) could come to CA. I'm sure they would expect much more than California's average rate, don't you think?

This is why CAMLT is so important to you. If you are not a member, please join so we can support you.

Abbie K. Beran, District 1 Consultant



L to R, front: Assembly Member Ash Kalra, Assembly Member Mia Bonta, and Abbie Beran, CAMLT District I Consultant. Back, center: Matt Lege - SEIU Legislative Advocate.

Fresno Cheaper by the Dozen Seminar - March 15 & 16, 2025

CAMLT was pleased to have Valley Children's Hospital host our seminar on their campus! This year's Cheaper by the Dozen had both in person & virtual attendees. The lecture topics were wide and varied. We learned about the latest on Prevention and Surveillance of Avian "Bird" Flu, Technologies used to Monitor Diabetic Patients with Hemoglobinopathies and Healthcare Management for Local Patients to name a few.



We all had great opportunities to see old friends, chat, and have a FUN time. For those unable to make it this year, here are a few pictures for you to enjoy. We were so thankful for Deli Delicious donating their great sandwiches as part of our lunch menu.



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The Fresno Chapter core group had a great time providing interesting talks and refreshments. Here are a few of the volunteers that facilitated this weekend's seminar.



If you missed out on this great Cheaper by the Dozen Seminar weekend, please think about attending next spring. We welcome your attendance and camaraderie.

SUMMER SEMINAR



6 CEU

**07/19
2025**

Main Conference
Room
8:00am-3:00pm

Innovations in Medical Laboratory Technology

SCPMG Kaiser Permanente
Regional Reference Laboratory
11668 Sherman Way
North Hollywood, CA 91402

SPEAKERS FROM
Kaiser Permanente
Diasorin



CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION
FOR MEDICAL
LABORATORY
TECHNOLOGY



April 1, 2025

Assemblyperson Dawn Addis
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

Dear Honorable Assemblyperson Dawn Addis,

April 20th - 26th is Medical Laboratory Professionals Week honoring the 265,000 medical laboratory professionals and 15,000 board certified pathologists who save lives everyday by performing and interpreting medical laboratory tests.

The 2025 Lab Week Theme - Mystery Machine of Diagnostics - recognizes that laboratory professionals perform tests that can discover a problem even before symptoms occur. Such early warnings may allow simple intervention, such as diet or exercise, to prevent a health problem.

As team members of one of the largest industries in the United States, the dedicated efforts of laboratory professionals often go unnoticed by the general public, as well as by the very institutions employing their services. With the public now demanding the assurance of quality health care and professional accountability, organizations representing practitioners of this critical science have a responsibility to ensure that the public is well informed about clinical laboratory competency.

The California Association of Medical Technology (CAMLt) will use this week:

- To recognize the vital contributions made to health care by those professionals engaged in clinical laboratory science.
- To recognize the professional dedication of the practitioners of clinical laboratory science to the health care consumer.
- To educate the public, government and private sectors about the key role-played by the clinical laboratory professional to the health care consumer.
- To enhance the image of clinical laboratory professionals in the public and private sectors.

Please join CAMLT in recognizing these important professionals who affect all of our lives with a mention in your agenda, from the State Assembly, recognizing Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. I have enclosed an example of a proclamation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Trener
President of the SLO-SB Chapter of CAMLT
Immediate Past-President of the State Office of CAMLT

Proclamation/Recognition

(Wording suggested to Dawn Addis when proclamation requested)

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 20 - 26, 2025

Whereas, professionals who practice in the medical laboratory are invaluable members of the patient's health care team; and

Whereas, these well-educated and highly trained health professionals who perform and evaluate medical laboratory tests to detect, diagnose, monitor treatment, and help prevent diseases, save countless lives each day; and

Whereas, their dedication to quality medical testing and exceptional patient care is demonstrated daily in thousands of laboratories; and

Whereas, laboratory medicine is an honorable profession, vital to sustaining a high standard of health care;

I, Dawn Addis, Assemblyperson, District 30, to resolve that we recognize April 20-26, 2025 as National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in California and that we show our appreciation for the efforts of all involved in bringing quality healthcare to the residents and visitors of our fine state.

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Council President Mike Karbassi

Proclamation

WHEREAS, professionals who practice in the medical laboratory are invaluable members of the patient's health care team; and

WHEREAS, these well-educated and highly-trained health professionals who perform and evaluate medical laboratory tests to detect, diagnose, monitor treatment, and help prevent diseases, save countless lives each day; and

WHEREAS, their dedication to quality medical testing and exceptional patient care is demonstrated daily in thousands of laboratories in Well-being; and

WHEREAS, laboratory medicine is an honorable profession, vital to sustaining a high standard of health care.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Jerry Dyer and the Fresno City Council, proclaim April 20-26, 2025 to be:

“Medical Laboratory Professionals Week”

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and
affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 20th day of April 2025.


JERRY P. DYER, Honorable Mayor


MIKE KARBASSI, Council President


ANNALISA PEREA, Councilmember District 1


NICK RICHARDSON, Councilmember District 6




MIGUEL ARIAS, Council Vice President


TYLER MAXWELL, Councilmember District 4


NELSON ESPARZA, Councilmember District 7

WANT MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT:
TEL: 510/961-3602
WEBSITE: WWW.CAMLT.ORG

CAMLT OFFICE
500 Delaware Rd.
Burbank, CA 91504