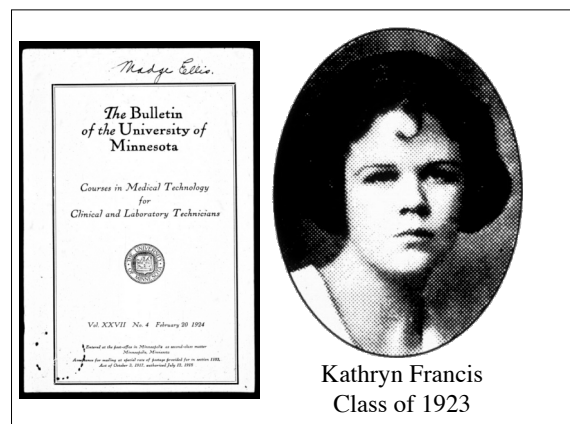
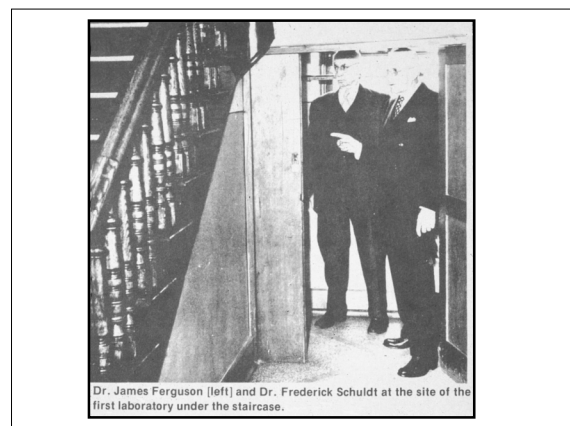
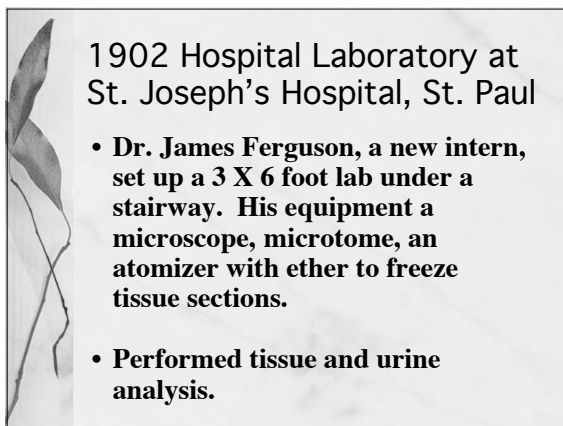
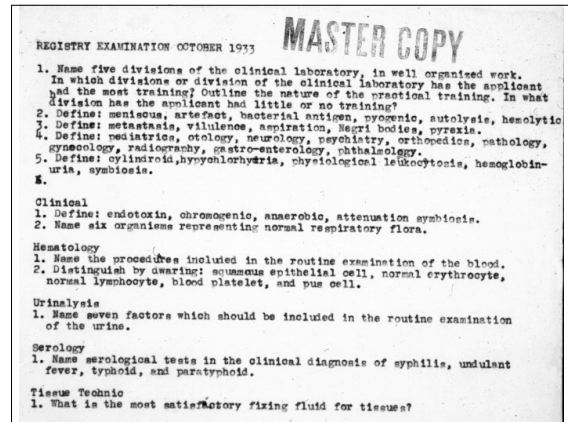




1932 MT Curriculum

- 12 months of clinical rotations
- General laboratory (hematology, chemistry, and bacteriology) - 4 months
- Tissues - 2 months
- Metabolism and electrocardiography - 1 month
- Serology - 1 month
- X-ray - 4 months



Accreditation is for Organizations

Accreditation is the process by which a nonprofit organization authorizes that an educational program has met standards predetermined in a specific field of practice

Accreditation

- The organization standards expected are developed and enforced by peer practitioners.
- NAACLS - National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science
 - They are recognized by the Council of Higher Education Association
- Programs are reviewed every 5-7 years
 - Self Study
 - Site Visit

Hospital Accreditation

- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- College of American Pathologists
- American Association of Blood Banks

Certification is for Individuals

Certification is the process by which a non-governmental agency or association grants recognition of competence to an individual who has met certain predetermined qualifications

Certification

- Certification affirms that an individual has demonstrated that she/he possesses the knowledge to perform essential tasks in the clinical laboratory.
- Requires that the individual pass some type of examination.



Certification Agencies

- NCA - National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel, Inc.
 - www.nca-info.org
- ASCP BOR - American Society of Clinical Pathology Board of Registry
 - www.ascp.org/bor
- Almost all employers require one or the other of these exams
- Web sites have order forms for review books, content guidelines, FAQs, practice questions

NCA Examination

- Application available online in the NCA Candidate Handbook
 - www.nca-info.examinations_application-handbook.asp
- Computerized examination
- Need to send:
 - Official transcript
 - Application with program director's signature
 - Application fee
- Application processed within 4 weeks
- Confirmation notice sent within six weeks

NCA Exam (continued)

- CLS Generalist Exam Fee = \$145
- Test location - AMP Assessment Centers
 - www.goAMP.com to schedule test (typically located in H&R Block offices)
- Acceptance of application is valid for 90 days
- Confirmation notice will contain a web site address & toll-free number to call and schedule an appointment to take the exam.

NCA Exam Rules

- Bring two forms of current identification, at least one a current photo ID
- Your photo will be taken before the exam
- If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be admitted and you forfeit your fee
- If you can't make your scheduled time, you must call to reschedule at least four business days prior to the originally scheduled exam time.

NCA Exam Rules

- Only **non-programmable** calculators are allowed
- No personal items (purses, briefcases, coats, hats, books, reference materials, pens, pencils, etc.) in Assessment Center (pencils, scratch paper provided)
- No documents can be removed
- No other electronic devices allowed (cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc.) - Return them to automobile

NCA Exam

- Practice test session provided before you begin timed examination. (Practice time not counted as exam time)
- 3 hours allowed for testing (Time used in breaks is part of your three hours)
- One question on screen at a time
- Can return to unanswered questions
- 150 scored questions + 30 pretest questions
 - Pretest questions are scattered throughout exam. These are new (untested) questions, not scored, for statistical purposes.

NCA Exam (continued)

- 150 scored questions
 - 30 questions on Chemistry (18)/Urinalysis (9)/QC (3)
 - 30 questions on Hematology (21)/Hemostasis (9)
 - 26 questions on Immunohematology
 - 26 questions on Microbiology (14)/Mycology (3)/Parasitology (3)/Virology (2)/Infection Control (2)/QA (2)
 - 19 questions on Immunology
 - 19 questions on Laboratory Practice (Safety (3), management (4), education (2), reagent preparation (2), instrumentation (4), specimen collection & handling(4))
- **There is no penalty for guessing.**

NCA Exam Results

- You will receive a score report when you complete your exam, which will indicate whether you passed or failed.
- Your raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly.
- Your scaled score is statistically derived and is scored between 0 and 99. The passing scaled score is 75 for each exam.

NCA Certification - CLS (NCA)

- Your certification is good for three years.
- After three years, you will need to be recertified. This can be done by either:
 - Retaking the examination :- (
 - Submission of 3.6 CEU (36 hours) of continuing education credits
 - Go on "inactive" status for one year for a \$40 charge

ASCP Board of Registry Exam

- Application and handbook available online at
 - www.ascp.org/Certification/CertifyingExaminations/cert_procedures/default.aspx
- Computerized examination
- Need to send:
 - Official transcript
 - Application
 - Application fee \$175
- Application and fee acknowledged within 45 days
- Schedule appointment within the three month period indicated on admission letter

ASCP BOR Exam (continued)

- MT Generalist Exam Fee = \$175
- Test location - Pearson Professional Centers
 - http://www.ascp.org/bor/certification/certifying_examinations/cert_procedures/scheduling/list.asp
- Must call 24 hours (or more) in advance to change scheduled time (no refunds for “no shows”) OR reschedule over the internet
- Bring drivers license or state ID with you plus a second ID containing your signature
- Bring admission letter
- Your photograph will be taken and you will be fingerprinted twice.

ASCP BOR Exam (continued)

- Can bring non-programmable calculator
- Writing materials will be provided
- No books, notes, study materials to test center
- No cell phones

ASCP BOR Exam

- Computerized Adaptive Testing
- 2 1/2 hours allowed for testing
- 90 scored questions + 10 “field test” questions
- 90 scored questions in “adaptive” test
 - Questions increase in difficulty until you give an incorrect answer. The next question will be easier.
 - The examinee must answer enough difficult questions to achieve a score above the pass point
 - A challenging item is one that's not too difficult and not too easy.
- Scaled scores are between 100 and 999, with 400 as passing.

ASCP BOR Exam (continued)

- 90 scored questions
 - 20% Chemistry
 - 20% Hematology/Hemostasis
 - 20% Immunohematology
 - 20% Microbiology
 - 7% Immunology
 - 7% Urinalysis and Body Fluids
 - 6% Laboratory Operations

ASCP BOR Results

- Examination scores will be sent to you within 10 working days
- You are permitted to take the exam five times.

ASCP Certification Maintenance Program

- Starting January, 2004, 36 hours of documented continued competency are now required every three years.
- This is the same amount of continuing education required by the NCA to maintain certification.
- This is equivalent to one hour a month.
- ASCP requires CE in particular areas

Release of Scores

- Both certifying agencies will share your results with the University of Minnesota's Division of Medical Technology if you allow them to.
- **PLEASE ALLOW THEM TO SEND US YOUR RESULTS!**
 - This allows us to evaluate our curriculum and our teaching

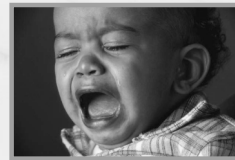
FYI

- Take all examinations that apply to you as soon as possible after graduation
 - NCA
 - ASCP
 - State Licensure Exams
- For students who have English as a second language, the pass rate is higher for the NCA exam

What's in a Name?

- Passing the NCA exam allows you to write CLS (NCA) after your name, as you will officially be a clinical laboratory scientist
- Passing the ASCP BOR exam allows you to write MT (ASCP) after your name, as you will officially be a medical technologist

But why can't we
have just
one exam!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



What's in a Name?

- ASCP and NCA are in discussions concerning how to combine the two exams into one.
- Issues involve:
 - Control - new organization?
 - Type of exam, scoring, etc.
 - Name - MT, CLS, MLS, ?

Web Discussion

What do you think would be the best name for the profession you are preparing for?

What name best describes your future career?