Building the Future: Career Opportunities in Clinical Microbiology

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Session Objectives:

- Discuss ways to move up the career ladder in a hospital or reference clinical laboratory
- Describe non-traditional career options for clinical microbiologists
- Discuss ways to enhance your career now through participation in professional organizations and more.
Hospital Laboratory Advancement: Traditional Paths

- Staff Technologist
- Lead/Senior Staff Technologist
- Technical Specialist
- Supervisor or Manager
- Clinical Consultant
- Administrative Laboratory Director
Hospital Laboratory Advancement: Traditional Paths

- Technical Specialist
  - Discipline expert
  - Advanced degree and/or certification
  - Interacts with Clinicians
  - Develops laboratory tests and quality assurance
  - Teaches and trains staff, assesses competence
  - Evaluates new technology
  - Resource for emergency management
  - Clinical research participant
Hospital Laboratory Advancement: Traditional Paths

- Supervisor/Manager
  - Technical Competence
  - Laws, Regulations, and Certifications
  - Operational Processes
  - Oversees Quality Management
  - Communications
  - Human Resource Management
  - Financial Oversight, Basic Business Knowledge
  - IT Fundamentals and Data Management
  - Safety, Coding/Billing, Legal, Purchasing
Hospital Career Advancement for CM: Non-Traditional Paths

- Infection Prevention
- Information Systems – Application Analysts, Data Warehouse, Clinical Informatics
- Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Analysts
- Regulatory Readiness
- Hospital Safety
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Contracting/Purchasing
## Skills for Advancement

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Skills Present in a Clinical Microbiologist</th>
<th>Skills to Develop for Career Advancement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>Non-Technical Communication</td>
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<td>Provide the Answer</td>
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<td>Patience with People</td>
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My Lessons Learned: Suggestions for Career Advancement

- Develop proficiency in production “bench” work
- Seek additional degree/certification or study independently
- Volunteer – at work and outside of work
- Take on the less attractive assignments
- Seek opportunities to be the teacher
- Hang out with like-minded people
- Establish collegial hospital relationships with non-lab staff
- Learn from history, debrief with colleagues
- Observe and mimic behaviors you want to adopt
- Let your boss know your career interests
- Remain curious
My Lessons Learned:
Suggestions for Career Advancement

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Thank You