

EVIDENCE of NEED

Interest of Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners

Doig K & Beck S. Surveys of support for the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science. Poster presented at the ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference, Savannah, GA February 2008.

A survey sent to 975 medical laboratory scientists (response rate 30%) showed that 65.2% of the respondents would be interested in pursuing a doctorate degree in clinical laboratory science and that 28% thought it would be a good option for laboratory practitioners who currently choose to become physicians or physician assistants.

Nadder T. The Development of the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science in the US. The Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Vol 24 No1. http://www.ifcc.org/media/224753/07_Nadder.pdf

“In 2009, the ASCLS DCLS ad hoc Committee (renamed the ASCLS DCLS Oversight Committee) conducted a larger national study to assess interest in a new doctoral level degree program for medical laboratory scientists. This electronic survey was emailed to ASCLS members and directors of educational CLS programs who were asked to disseminate the survey to their students. The results of the survey were not only informative in regards to interest but also with respect to the characteristics of potential applicants for future DCLS programs. Of the 1,452 respondents, 849 (61%) were very interested or interested in completing a DCLS program and 23% envisioned starting a program as soon as one is offered. The majority of the respondents worked in a hospital setting (51.0%). When asked which type of degree program would be most advantageous to meet their professional goals, 23% responded the clinical doctorate, 7% the Ph.D., and 34% a combined clinical doctorate/Ph.D. degree program. A majority (57%) of the respondents indicated that the time that can be devoted to completing a DCLS educational program including the clinical rotation was less than 4 years while 37% responded 4-5 years. In addition, half of the respondents indicated that they were unable to relocate; but 93.6% would be interested in enrolling in online courses. With regards to important factors for consideration in decisions to attend a DCLS program, the majority of the respondents cited cost or financial support and length of program. Lastly, life stage was identified most often as the reason for little or no interest in the program. The large number of survey respondents and the high interest in a DCLS program strongly suggests that new programs will attract applicants and meet enrollment projections.”

Need in the Healthcare System

- **Lab Tests Online** receives approximately 75 questions a day with 20% from healthcare providers including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, etc. This clearly indicates a need for the expertise of the medical laboratory scientist in the post-analytical and pre-analytical phases of laboratory testing.