

# Micro Council Meeting Minutes

1900

11-1-12

**Facilitator:** Jerry      **Note taker:** Michael Majors

**Attendees:** **Welcome new and returning representatives!** Jennifer Baldwin Bonney, Nick Fuller, Tiesha McCain, Ashley Peterschick, Tony Vang, Phyllis Verduin

**Absent:** Krystal Colwill (excused)

**Review and sign-off of the minutes is mandatory for all Micro staff prior to next meeting.**  
[Deadline 12-6-2012](#)

## Old Business

**Agenda item:** Send out Procedure      **Presenter:** Jerry/Phyllis

**Discussion:** The isolate Send out Procedure is near completion. Phyllis was able to get the specific information that the state lab needs on their form. The procedure just needs to be finalized. There are currently multiple forms used when taking isolates to the Send out department. We should review these forms and consolidate into one and include checkbox for category A/B designation.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Finalize details for procedure	Phyllis	12/6/12
✓ Consolidate forms	Phyllis/Jerry	12/6/12
✓ Distribute and post final version	Michael	12/6/12

**Agenda item:** Plate storage cupboard      **Presenter:** Nick

**Discussion:** The rearrangement of the shelves early in the week has created some space issues for 2<sup>nd</sup> shift on the middle shelf. It was decided that we do not need to be saving Kirby Bauer plates, as long as the isolate is saved on another plate (i.e., BAP iso). Effective immediately, discontinue storing all large Mueller Hinton plates. This should help free up more space.

**Agenda item:** PCR Clerical Check      **Presenter:** Jerry

**Discussion:** This function continues to be a valuable QA check. It is important that this is done soon after results are reported. If leaving the clerical check for the next shift, be sure to communicate with someone on the next shift. A suggestion was made to create separate keyboards for each assay so that only one analyte appears on the keyboard rather than all 3. This would eliminate the risk of someone accidentally entering the wrong report.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Evaluate possibility of adding separate keyboards and report back to JC	Jan	12/6/12

**Agenda item:** Quality Control Testing      **Presenter:** Nick

**Discussion:** Nick is still working on a summary of weekly QC testing.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Compile a summary of routine QC activities.	Nick	12/6/12

**Agenda item:** Less expensive glass slides      **Presenter:** Jerry

**Discussion:** The new slides were ordered but have not arrived yet.

## New Business

**Agenda item:** Staffing      **Presenter:** Jerry

**Discussion:** Cassandra (CLS student) has been training in Micro specimen processing. She will not be available to work in Micro on the weekends but might be able to fill in some during the week. Jerry has offered the position vacated by Justin to John Lord and he has accepted. He will start on 11/19.

**Agenda item:** PCR Computer Barcode Scanner **Presenter:** Jerry

**Question submitted:** Can we get a barcode scanner for the computer in the PCR resulting area?

**Discussion:** Jerry submitted a request for a scanner and is waiting for response.

**Agenda item:** Schedule for 1500 tech **Presenter:** Group discussion

**Question submitted:** Can the 1500 tech come at 1400 instead to help finish up work on 1<sup>st</sup> shift?

**Discussion:** Jerry needs more information. The need to change does not seem evident. Whoever submitted this question please discuss directly with him.

**Agenda item:** Direct Smear Preparation **Presenter:** Jennifer

**Discussion:** There are ongoing issues with preparing direct smears. Insufficient material is sometimes applied to the glass slides and the material is not being concentrated into a central, quarter-sized area. This has led to some inaccurate Gram stain reports, which affects culture results.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Review smear preparation protocol (squeeze and roll!)	All staff in set-up area	Immediate
✓ Request inadequate or improperly prepared smears to be remade	All Gram stain readers	Ongoing
✓ Review smears that don't match culture results	All plate readers	Ongoing

**Agenda item:** Extra plates on CFL with organisms seen in direct smear **Presenter:** Jennifer

**Discussion:** Gram stain readers are forgetting to add additional media when organisms are seen in the direct smear of CFL specimens. These are often peritoneal fluids that have a variety of organisms and the culture work-up is impaired by not having the additional media. This delays culture results and time is spent retrieving the specimen. One suggestion would be to create a pop-up to remind the person entering the GS results to add media if organisms were seen. This would function similarly to pop-up we currently have for reminding plate readers to comment on anaerobes on wound cultures.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Evaluate the possibility of adding a pop-up message in LIS for CFL Gram stains and report back to Jerry	Jan	12/6/12

**Agenda item:** Anaerobes **Presenter:** Jennifer

**Discussion:** There seems to be a variety of approaches to handling and working up anaerobe cultures. Some people are performing work on day 1 and holding their plates out while other run their plates back up right away. Michael indicated that the procedure for anaerobe cultures is slated to be redone. In the meantime, people should not be working up anaerobes from wound cultures on the first day unless there is something obvious to work up. The anaerobe plates should be run back up in an anaerobe jar **as soon as possible**. The majority of staining and testing performed on the anaerobe plate should be performed on day 2.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Update and distribute anaerobe work up procedure	Michael	12/6/12

## Safety

As a result of the Culture of Safety Survey, safety topics/concerns will be discussed at each Micro Council meeting. Urgent safety concerns should be immediately addressed with Jerry. However, safety issues related to general practices can be addressed and discussed through the Micro Council. Please send suggested topics to the council via Jerry or a MC representative.

**Agenda item:** Door on Reagent Prep Room **Presenter:** Jerry

**Safety Issue:** A request was made to remove the door on the reagent prep room if it is not essential. There is a lot of traffic through this door with carts full of plates and buckets full of liquid O&P waste. The door makes it difficult to get through.

**Discussion:** Jerry requested that the door be removed. The door has been kept open to evaluate the impact on the room and the negative airflow cupboard. If no issues are noted, and the removal is approved, the door will come off.

**Agenda item:** Fume hood for O&P testing **Presenter:** Michael

**Safety Issue:** Many people are still noticing chemical smells coming from the O&P hood. Can this be addressed?

**Follow up:** Asepsis was recently onsite to check all of our hoods. They noted that the O&P fume hood was not pulling any air through. They recommended that the filters be changed. New filters were installed and are now scheduled to be changed every 6 months instead of every 12. Asepsis will return to evaluate that the hood is functioning properly.

**Agenda item:** Culture Storage Cupboard **Presenter:** Jerry

**Safety Issue:** The lower shelves of the cupboard are difficult to access for culture storage and retrieval.

**Follow up:** The new sliding drawers were installed on the lower shelves to improve accessibility. The drawers are a big improvement!

**Agenda item:** Specimen Pipetting **Presenter:** Nick

**Safety Issue:** Some people are forgetting to pipette specimens in the safety cabinet. This has been observed with specimens processed for cryptococcal antigen.

**Reminder:** From Microbiology Safety Guidelines, "Pipetting of clinical specimens should be performed in a biologic safety cabinet." If you see someone that has forgotten this, please remind them.

## ***R&D & Technical Update***

**Technical:** Sternum incision/wound cultures

**Note:** Cultures from sternum incision/wounds should be handled differently than other wound cultures. This specimen source usually indicates that an invasive procedure has been performed on a patient. The patient may also be seriously immunocompromised. All positive cultures should be reviewed on Rounds. Organisms such as coagulase-negative staph and *Corynebacterium* may be worked up regardless of whether or not they were seen in the direct smear. Michael will update the Wound culture and Rounds procedures.

**Technical:** Reporting the absence of yeast on CGEN cultures.

**Note:** We currently report yeast on CGEN cultures. However, we do not report the absence of yeast like we do for GC and Group B strep. This has occasionally created confusion with clients. For the sake of consistency, we will begin reporting the absence of yeast on Gram stain and culture when applicable. Michael will update the procedures.

**Technical:** Vancomycin MIC Results for *S. aureus*

**Note:** Pharmacy has requested that we report MIC values for *S. aureus* isolates when the MIC is  $\geq 2$ . Studies have shown that successful treatment with vancomycin may be diminished with isolates that have an MIC of 2, even though this is interpreted as susceptible. Michael will build an Epicenter rule to flag isolates with MIC values of 2 or 4. Confirmatory testing should be performed by E-test and any isolates with an MIC  $\geq 2$  should be brought up on Rounds. These isolates should be infrequent.

**Project:** Helicobacter pylori Testing

**Status:** Thank you to those of you that have been saving positive CLO tests! **Please continue to give positive CLO tests to Michael.** We've been able to recover several clinical isolates this way. Further evaluation of the E-test method is *slowly* underway. A new test code will be built for *H. pylori* culture and susceptibility testing (whether AST is performed in-house or not). AST should be performed on all culture isolates. Please continue to bring up any positive cultures on Rounds.

**Technical:** Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae and Vancomycin Resistant Staph aureus

**Note:** The WA state lab has requested isolate submission for CRE and VRSA. While we have not yet encountered a VRSA isolate, we do occasionally get CRE isolates. Michael will build pending rules in Epicenter that will provide a reminder for submitting these isolates.

## ***Kudos***

If you would like to officially thank someone or recognize them for something, please submit kudos!

- Thank you to Jon for going out of his way to make sure SPS tubes were delivered to a client quickly.
- Thank you to everyone that was willing to participate on Micro Council. We're happy to have Jennifer, Tiesha and Tony on the council now!

## ***Next Meeting***

**Date/Time:** Thursday, December 6 at 1900