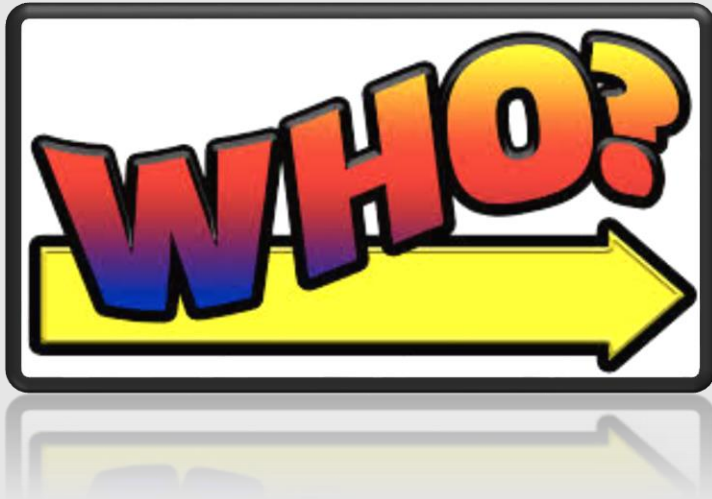




Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Who Plans the WCLN Conferences?



- WCLN is a Collaborative Network - WSLH relies on LabTAG guidance.
- Needs Assessment - LabTAG focuses on needs of the clinical laboratories
 - Based on their own laboratory experiences
 - Review comments and suggestions on program evaluations
- Diversity - LabTAG works hard to ensure all labs, no matter their size, have a voice and feel included in the WCLN
- Goal - Elevate all WCLN laboratories.
 - No lab gets left behind or is alone facing technology changes, updates, or challenges

What Topics Do We Focus On?



- Due to frequent changes in antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST), we spend about every other year discussing updates to AST at our WCLN Technical Conference
- Realized microbiology technology was changing and held our first spring technical conference in 2009 on Molecular Diagnostics
 - 11 laboratories presented information on molecular testing they were performing.
- In 2011 we continued the discussion highlighting available molecular platforms as well as other developing technologies such as Maldi-TOF
 - Discussed the pros and cons
 - Validation, verification, QC and PT
 - The sales pitch to administration
- In 2013 we brought quality into the discussion by asking how do we provide quality laboratory services.
- In 2014 started talking about the future of automation and how new technology will impact patient care
- In 2016 we first discussed syndromic multiplex panels and waived PCR testing



Culture Relevance and Best Practices



- 2018 held our first conference on culture relevance and best practices
 - Urine Cultures
 - Wound Cultures
 - Lower Respiratory Cultures
- Lots of great discussion
- Emphasis on culture best practices
- Presented options not directions
- In 2019 we were back to talk more about syndromic multiplex panels and laboratory automation

COVID-19 Pandemic



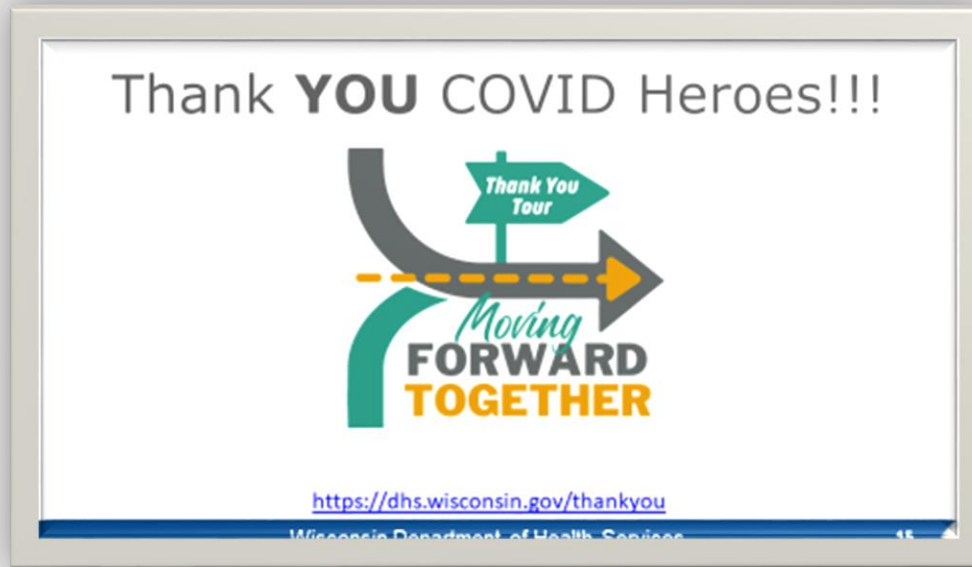
- Stop and re-focus!
 - In 2020 we cancelled a planned AST conference that was put on hold until 2022.



2022 and We're Back!



- The 2022 WCLN technical conference was acknowledgement that WI laboratories had survived the COVID-19 pandemic
- We were so thankful for our WCLN partnerships .
- Our hard work was acknowledged by Deputy Secretary Deb Standridge



However,

- The pandemic didn't stop other threats from developing
- Antibiotic resistant organisms were a huge emerging threat, so we discussed AST

LabTAG Creates Award to Honor WCLN Member



In 2022 the first recipient of the Peter A. Shult Award was honored.

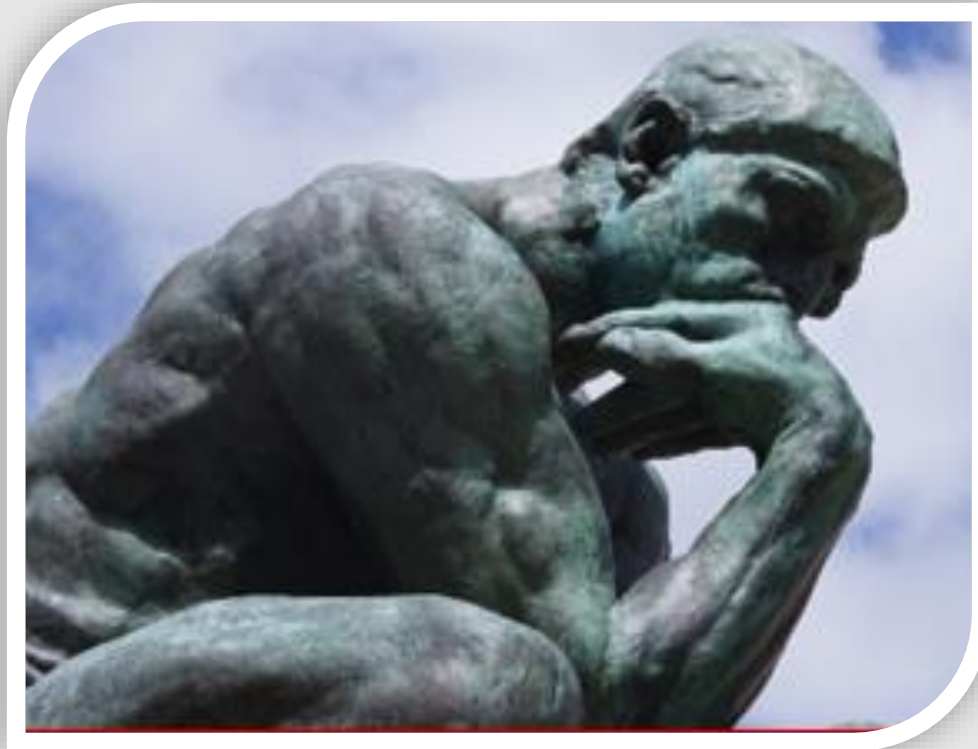


In 2023 the second recipient of the Peter A. Shult Award was honored.

Technology Advances Alone Aren't Enough



- 2023 WCLN Conference focuses on the need for all members to develop critical thinking skills
 - Can you recognize when to question results from advanced technologies?
 - How do we teach critical thinking skills?



“Performing Clinically Relevant Microbiology”



- 2024 - LabTAG suggested revisiting various specimen types to look at what testing laboratories are doing today to perform clinically relevant microbiology.
 - Is culture still relevant or have the new technologies replaced culture?
 - How and what results do we report to enable clinicians to provide the best possible patient care.
 - Each of you has a voice in the discussion that we want to hear!

