health care agency
WHAT'S UP
keeping staff informed & current
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PHL staff represent HCA at TB Conference

Three Orange County Public Health Laboratory (PHL) Microbiologists Minoo Ghajar, Mariam Zhowandai, and Sunita Prabhu, represented HCA at the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) 8th National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis held in San Diego from August 19-21, 2013.

Last year, OCPHL was awarded an APHL/Centers for Disease Control grant Study on the Performance Evaluation of Molecular Methods for Tuberculosis (TB). This study was conducted in collaboration with HCA's TB Control Program.

During the August conference, PHL staff member Minoo Ghajar participated as a guest speaker and provided a discussion on *"Performance Evaluation and Clinical Application of NAAT in Orange County, CA."*

Mariam Zhowandai and Sunita Prabhu also presented a scientific poster on the *"Evaluation of the Cepheid GeneXpert MTB/RIF Assay"* (co-authors included Richard Alexander and Michelle

Public Health Lab staff members pictured (left to right) Sunita Prabhu, Minoo Ghajar and Mariam Zhowandai attended the APHL 8th National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis held in San Diego from August 19-21, 2013.

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Halloween Health and Safety Tips

Autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. It's also a good time to encourage nutritious snacks, physical activity, and focus on safety.

Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests?

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters - crackers, popcorn, trail mix
- Serve up a variety of fruits, vegetables, and cheeses at your festive shindig
- Use party games and trick-or-treating as an opportunity to get some exercise
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles
- Keep candle-lit jack o' lanterns and luminarias out of reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended

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Compliance Past, Present and Future

2013 marks the 13th year of HCA's Compliance Program since its inception in 2000 with Dave Riley serving as the first Chief Compliance Officer for HCA. Under his direction, Mr. Riley built the foundation for HCA's Compliance Program by creating the following:

- HCA Compliance Committee
- Code of Conduct
- Policies and Procedures
- Annual Training
- Compliance Issue Reporting and Investigation Procedures
- Sanction Screening for Ineligible Persons
- Auditing and Monitoring for Compliance

The compliance landscape has changed significantly since 2000. The countywide HIPAA Privacy Officer responsibility was also assigned to the Chief Compliance Officer for HCA. In recent years, HIPAA Privacy issues rival compliance issues in numbers and complexity. The trend observed throughout the compliance field is that privacy incidents are being reported in record numbers and enforcement for privacy violations are increasing.

The HCA Compliance Team is constantly working to keep up with the changing laws and regulations affecting health care privacy and security in California and across the nation. The healthcare world can be a high-risk and challenging environment that demands a proactive compliance approach. Being certified helps demonstrate expertise in helping mitigate compliance-related risks.

Nikoo Tabesh, HCA Privacy Analyst and Caroline Matthew, HCA Compliance Analyst recently obtained their Certifications in Healthcare Privacy Compliance (CHPC). This certification requires knowledge of relevant

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Tips on Defensive Driving

When people think of job hazards at the Health Care Agency it is usually in reference to the health hazards that are often associated with working in the medical field and with the public. However, HCA's greatest hazard has nothing to do with a medically related exposure. In fact, the hazard is often found in almost every department throughout the Agency. Still guessing what that hazard might be? The answer is driving a vehicle.

Surprisingly, driving a vehicle for HCA on County time is one of the greatest hazards that HCA employees are potentially exposed to. In fact, it can be such a serious hazard that CEO Risk Management Safety Loss and Prevention requires all County employees who drive as part of their job assignment to take Defensive Driving Training when they initially begin their assignment, and continue with refresher training every two years thereafter.

The HCA Safety Office would like to remind HCA employees that although there are many actions and conditions that drivers are unable to control while driving a vehicle, there are a few techniques that drivers can do that may assist in preventing many common vehicle accidents such as rear end collisions.

Allow adequate following distance. The National Safety Council, California Department of Motor Vehicles, and CEO Risk Management all encourage drivers to follow a "three second rule" to ensure enough braking distance between vehicles. For more information regarding the "three second rule" please visit www.driversedguru.com/driving-articles/drivers-ed-extras/the-3-second-following-distance-rule/

Watch vehicle speed. Speed plays a huge part in how much braking distance is needed between vehicles. The faster a vehicle is moving, the more braking distance it requires to stop!

Staying current on Defensive Driver

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HCA Radiology Techs recognized

National Radiologic Technology (RT) Week from Nov. 3-9, 2013, celebrates the important role that medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals play in patient care and healthcare safety. The images produced are vital in the medical evaluation process and in the lives of many patients.

This year's RT Week theme focuses on ***"R.T.s: Positioning Ourselves for Excellence."*** The radiology profession is ever changing due to the advances made through research and development on a worldwide scale. New equipment, software and radioactive isotopes are always on the horizon.

The field of radiology is very diverse and includes all diagnostic imaging, as well as therapeutic modalities. The Health Care Agency utilizes the diagnostic imaging modality daily. The primary use is for screening and treatment follow-up of communicable tuberculosis (TB). Public Health has two clinics that are fully equipped with digital technology to serve the public in this endeavor to keep everyone safe and disease free: one in Santa

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HCA Radiologic Technologists pictured (left to right) are Duane Nielsen ARRT, CRT Imaging Services Supervisor; Norma Guillen ARRT, CRT Technologist; and Tuan Nguyen ARRT, CRT Technologist.

Barrera selected as CCS Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Aldo Barrera, Office Specialist with the California Children's Services (CCS) program, on being selected as the CCS employee of the quarter on September 5, 2013.

As an Office Specialist, Aldo answers phone calls from providers and families, renews authorizations for medical services, and provides office support to the medical staff. Aldo is recognized by his peers as an exceptional employee who is dedicated, approachable, and eager to help the CCS nurses and families.

Candidates are nominated for the CCS employee of the quarter by their peers for their outstanding and significant contribution to CCS or the

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Pictured (left to right) are CCS Division Manager Lynn Einarsson Woods and Aldo Barrera.

Halloween Tips
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- Drive safely and keep your eye out for trick-or-treaters

Going trick-or-treating? Have a SAFE HALLOWEEN!

- **S**words, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- **A**void trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- **F**asten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- **E**xamine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- **H**old a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- **A**lways test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- **L**ook both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- **L**ower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- **O**nly walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- **W**ear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- **E**at only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- **E**nter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.
- **N**ever walk near lit candles or luminarias. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control Halloween Health and Safety Tips website at www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/index.htm.

NOVEMBER HEALTH OBSERVANCES

American Diabetes Month
Lung Cancer Awareness Month
National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
National Family Caregivers Month
National Healthy Skin Month
National Radiologic Technology Week 3-9
Great American Smokeout. 21
Public Health Thank You Day 25

Defensive Driving Tips
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Training; one of the best ways to prevent vehicle accidents and even a traffic ticket or two is to attend a Defensive Driver Refresher course to obtain up to date driving laws and prevention tips. In fact, HCA conveniently offers Defensive Driver Refresher Training for HCA employees at their own work location!

For more information on how to arrange a Defensive Driver Refresher Training for your specific HCA work location or for any other Defensive Driving related questions, please contact the HCA Safety line at (714) 834-SAFE.

Aldo Barrera
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work environment, their leadership skills, being a team player, and commitment to the children and families served by the CCS Program.

CCS is a statewide program that provides medical case management for children with special health care needs and medically necessary physical and occupational therapy through the Medical Therapy Program. The program provides services to more than 13,500 children from birth to 21 years with qualifying medical conditions. Goals of the CCS program are to promote a child's optimum health potential, increase the level of functional independence and improve the quality of life for the child and their family.

For more information about the CCS program, visit the CCS webpage at http://ochealthinfo.com/about/medical/ccs/.

TB Conference

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Wood) during the conference. The PHL has been using the Cepheid instrument since June 2011 for rapid, direct detection of TB and resistance to Rifampin (one of the drugs used for treatment of TB) from respiratory specimens. Rifampin-resistance is used for early detection of Multiple-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB.

Minoo Ghajar served as a guest speaker at the APHL TB Conference held in San Diego.

Compliance Update

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regulations and expertise in compliance, privacy, and compliance operations. HCA is preparing for our future by ensuring we have well trained qualified individuals in the Compliance Program to address any type of privacy or compliance concerns that we may encounter.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Thea Bullock, MPA, CHC,
  Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer . . . . . (714) 834-3154
- Caroline Matthew, MPH, CHC, CHPC,
  Compliance Analyst . . . . . (714) 834-4399
- Linda Le, CHP, CHPC,
  Deputy County Privacy Officer . . . . . (714) 834-4082
- Nikoo Tabesh, CHPC, Privacy Analyst . . . . . (714) 834-5172
- Erika De Anda, Compliance Specialist . . . . . (714) 568-5614

Radiology Techs

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Ana and the other in Westminster.

The Radiologic Technologists in Public Health exhibit excellence daily during each exam, protecting each and every individual patient by using radiation safety practices that are not only necessary for the patient, but the radiation worker as well.

Unlike the skeletal images displayed in windows or hung in various areas on Halloween, Radiologic Technologists deal with the skeleton on a more professional level. Not only the skeleton, but all parts of the body have a way of imaging to provide an important diagnostic tool for healthcare.

With all of today's new technological advances, the chest X-ray is still the most common - given approximately 90% of the time among the millions of exams throughout the world. Another little known fact is that the imaging profession utilizes 264 shades of gray!

For more information about National Radiologic Technology Week or the field of Radiologic Technology, visit the American Society of Radiologic Technologists website at www.asrt.org/events-and-conferences/national-radiologic-technology-week.

health care agency
WHAT'S UP
keeping staff informed & current

WHAT'S UP is a newsletter for employees of the County of Orange, CA, Health Care Agency.

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