



## Danbury Hospital

### Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

### *Technically Speaking*

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### **Great MDs Need Great MTs!!**

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A Medical Technologist (MT) is a vital member of the Laboratory team. This team works together to ascertain the presence or absence of disease and to provide data needed to assist in the management of disease. MTs analyze human blood, tissues and body fluids using a wide variety of precision instrumentation. The expertise of MTs is inextricable to the production of accurate and precise results that comprise an estimated 70% of the patient's medical records and are essential to the diagnosis, treatment and follow up of disease. There is no doubt that spurious or delayed laboratory services result in poor outcomes.

Medical Technologists, highly educated and motivated men and women interested in helping others, possess a bachelor's degree with a major in medical technology or in one of the life sciences. In addition, MTs undergo a one-year formal internship at an accredited hospital. To become a board certified medical technologist, MTs are required to pass a comprehensive and challenging examination given by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) or an equivalent agency with deemed status. Some MTs are also involved in research and development of scientific methods to advance the study of disease processes. At Danbury Hospital, each individual technologist has a number of critical responsibilities that directly link to our organization's vital signs for success.

Work force shortage issues in laboratory medicine are well documented and well known within the profession. Unfortunately, this shortage and its adverse effects on the delivery of quality health care are not obvious to the public or even to other health care professionals. The MT's "behind the scenes roles" have turned them into a faceless workforce that is unrecognized and perhaps underappreciated by physicians and nurses.

It is crucial that other healthcare professionals recognize and acknowledge the tireless contributions that MTs make to the well being of the patient. Their sometimes repetitive, high volume work consists of exhausting and meticulous 8-12 hrs shifts of intensely focused and concentrated tasks that include zero tolerance for errors.

All other health care professionals must help to make sure that laboratory professionals are recognized and rewarded for their value to America's health care. A triumphant health care organization cannot be imagined without the expertise of these unsung heroes. MTs need to be appreciated in order to sustain a flourishing health care system in which nursing; radiology and laboratory act as a backbone.



You can help by being supportive each time you encounter a MT in the laboratory, on the phone or in person!!!

**References:**

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